

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar. Public registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GZPxMHesRhyaHJvS5I0gJA

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

AGENDA

Scheduled times are subject to change.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Natural Resources events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
 - b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Parks Advisory Board” box.
6. UPDATES & REPORTS
 - a. Park District updates – Dan/Mark
 - b. Quarterly report – Q1 2020 – Daylan

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Glade Reservoir 1041 update – Daylan

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of e-bike pilot project special permit/modification to regulations

9. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Daylan Figgs

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 7/7/2020 at Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC), 4200 W. County Road 38E, Fort Collins, CO 80526

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

14. ADJOURN

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- Q1 2020 Report
- LCDNR NISP 1041 comments

Attached Separately:

- Minutes of last meeting

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm



OPEN SPACE SALES TAX ACTIVITY
March 2020 Distribution

REVENUES:

SALES TAX	\$	1,003,299.12
MV USE TAX	\$	92,580.93
BUILDING USE TAX	\$	129,621.90
INTEREST	\$	2,212.35
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	1,227,714.30

EXPENDITURES:

PERSONNEL & OPERATING	\$	4,078.70	\$	11,110.44
			\$	11,110.44
NET REVENUE:	\$	1,223,635.60		

% SALES TAX DISTRIBUTED TO INCORP. AREAS (USED AS A BASIS) 50%

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION

2019 State of Colorado Statistics

	2018 <u>POPULATION</u>	% OF INCORP <u>AREA</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	167,347	59.36	\$ 363,155.47
LOVELAND	77,226	27.39	\$ 167,586.18
ESTES PARK	6,301	2.23	\$ 13,673.64
BERTHOUD	7,632	2.71	\$ 16,562.01
WELLINGTON	9,894	3.51	\$ 21,470.72
WINDSOR	7,329	2.60	\$ 15,904.48
JOHNSTOWN	2,235	0.79	\$ 4,850.12
TIMNATH	3,970	1.41	\$ 8,615.20
TOTAL INCORP.	281,934	100.00	\$ 611,817.80

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SALES TAX GENERATION

2019 Larimer County Statistics

	2018 <u>GENERATION</u>	% OF INCORP <u>AREA SALES TAX</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 13,743,866	53.93	\$ 329,980.46
LOVELAND	\$ 7,720,582	30.29	\$ 185,331.32
ESTES PARK	\$ 1,539,645	6.04	\$ 36,958.93
BERTHOUD	\$ 263,974	1.04	\$ 6,336.64
WELLINGTON	\$ 232,991	0.91	\$ 5,592.91
WINDSOR	\$ 298,484	1.17	\$ 7,165.07
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 851,021	3.34	\$ 20,428.62
TIMNATH	\$ 836,707	3.28	\$ 20,085.02
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 25,487,271	100.00	\$ 611,878.98

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON HIGHEST YIELD TO INCORPORATED AREAS:

FORT COLLINS	\$ 363,155.47	53.41
LOVELAND	\$ 185,331.32	27.26
ESTES PARK	\$ 36,958.93	5.44
BERTHOUD	\$ 16,562.01	2.44
WELLINGTON	\$ 21,470.72	3.16
WINDSOR	\$ 15,904.48	2.34
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 20,428.62	3.00
TIMNATH	\$ 20,085.02	2.95
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 679,896.57	100.00

DISTRIBUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT:

FORT COLLINS	\$	326,792.32
LOVELAND	\$	166,773.90
ESTES PARK	\$	33,258.20
BERTHOUD	\$	14,903.64
WELLINGTON	\$	19,320.83
WINDSOR	\$	14,311.94
JOHNSTOWN	\$	18,383.08
TIMNATH	\$	18,073.89
TOTAL INCORP	\$	<u>611,817.80</u>
TOTAL UNINCORP	\$	<u>611,817.80</u>
TOTAL	\$	<u><u>1,223,635.60</u></u>

\$ 0.01

YEAR TO DATE

PAID TO DATE

\$	983,701.19	\$	85,943,015.73
\$	502,018.17	\$	40,068,186.22
\$	100,112.90	\$	6,651,217.62
\$	44,862.52	\$	3,156,963.67
\$	58,159.03	\$	3,010,796.37
\$	43,081.41	\$	1,710,221.96
\$	55,336.23	\$	1,154,454.77
\$	54,405.52	\$	1,374,630.53
\$	<u>1,841,676.97</u>	\$	<u>143,069,486.87</u>
\$	<u>1,841,676.98</u>	\$	<u>105,513,179.65</u>
\$	<u><u>3,683,353.95</u></u>	\$	<u><u>248,582,666.52</u></u>



2020

Larimer County Natural Resources

QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT
1ST QUARTER (JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH)



Reservoir parks receive federal funds to improve aging infrastructure

Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs represent the two largest and most heavily visited reservoirs in Larimer County, and in the top 10 statewide. The Department manages the reservoir parks through an agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation to provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Without significant improvements to their aging infrastructure, these areas will not be able to keep up with increased visitor demands.

The Department received approval and now awaits final documentation for a grant from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for \$7 million dollars with a \$3 million dollar match to reconfigure and pave existing parking lots to help ease traffic congestion, improve safety and capacity, and mitigate surface run-off. As noted by Jennifer Almstead, Department Fund Development Specialist, "This grant award rounds out a successful two-year funding streak for the Department, which overall has secured 6 different grants totaling over \$11 million dollars."



Federal grant will support reconfiguration and paving of existing parking lots to ease congestion, improve safety, and mitigate surface run-off.

Shoring up Eagle Campground at Carter Lake



Volunteers at work this January at Eagle Campground.

In January, volunteers assisted staff over four days to renovate 22 campsites in the upper Eagle Campground at Carter Lake. These campsites have not been renovated in years, and the 130 hours of volunteer help allowed maintenance staff to finish within a much shorter period. Renovation included installing erosion retaining walls on the uphill sides of campsites, while the downhill sides were shored up with rock walls to level the camping area. Crusher fines were applied and tamped down for a new surface.

Waterline and electrical upgrades coming to Horsetooth

Staff are working to make improvements to critical infrastructure at Horsetooth Reservoir. The plan to replace an aging waterline at Inlet Bay was completed this quarter with its work beginning this fall. The new waterline will improve drinking water reliability and reduce staff time needed for ongoing repairs. Horsetooth also plans to replace aging electrical pedestals in the most popular camping loops. "We want to show our visitors that we are investing their fees in improved services," said Visitor Services District Manager, Mark Caughlan.



Cabin road renovations at Hermit Park Open Space



This March, contractors began actively reconstructing and resurfacing 1.1 miles of roadway along the cabin loops at Hermit Park Open Space. Original to the 1970-80s, the roads have degraded over time with sections down to the bedrock. Big Thompson Maintenance crews were spending large amounts of time and money merely keeping the roads accessible. This project was identified and funded as part of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plan with total project costs in excess of \$371,000. "We are excited to make this investment to be able to repair and re-engineer these roads to our high standards; it will not only save time for our crews but will improve our visitors overall experience at Hermit Park Open Space," said Chris Fleming, Visitor Services District Manager. Completion of this project is estimated in mid-May.

Poudre River Trail garners additional support

During this quarter, the remaining trail easements and crossing agreements to complete the Larimer County section of the Poudre River Trail were nearly finalized. In addition, the county applied for another grant for \$400,000 to CDOT's multi-modal options fund (MMOF) to complement the previously awarded \$2 million GOCO grant and further leverage Department funds. The project was approved for funding and ranked #2 in the region. The section of the project between River Bluffs Open Space and Timnath will be designed in 2020 with anticipated construction in 2021. "We are excited to have the easements and funding in place to construct the County's final section north of River Bluffs Open Space, and complete the 45-mile regional Poudre River Trail," said Zac Wiebe, Planning and Resource Specialist.



Cyclists enjoying the Poudre River Trail.

New noxious weed mapped in upper Poudre Canyon

Last fall, common tansy, a State of Colorado designated noxious weed, was detected and mapped in the upper Cache La Poudre Canyon on private land. This newly discovered infestation was spotted by a grant funded Natural Resource Department land stewardship crew dedicated to the early detection and rapid response of noxious weeds. The common tansy infestation was treated, and staff will continue to monitor this year for any plants that were missed or new infestations that may have gone unnoticed.



Common tansy



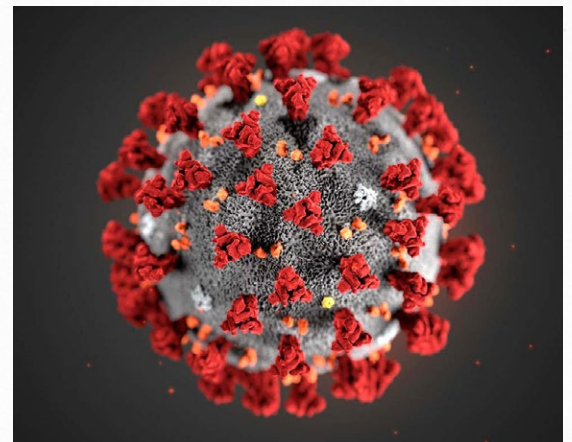
Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Chris Gardner

Courageous actions in face of rabid mountain lion

We are extremely proud of Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Trainee Chris Gardner for their courageous actions in keeping the community safe at the scene of a mountain lion attack on March 11 at Riverview RV Park in Loveland, near Hwy 34. The rabid mountain lion had attacked a construction worker, threatened residents, and attacked a Sheriff Deputy taking her to the ground. Ranger Gardner was able to kick the lion off the deputy, ending the attack. The rangers were successful in keeping the aggressive animal away from the campground, and eventually chased the lion to the east where it was euthanized.

COVID-19 Update

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic began to cause significant disruption in Larimer County at all levels of our community. The Department began implementing its Continuity of Operations Plan in response to the pandemic with the top priority to sustain operations while keeping our public and staff safe in its midst. The implications of the pandemic on our community continues at press time, and the entirety of its impact is unknown. Despite this uncertainty, the Department continues to work together to balance its measured COVID-19 response and the unprecedented demands it has created.



Financial Summary

Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado lottery proceeds, the open spaces sales tax, user fees on open spaces properties, user fees on reservoir parks properties, and the weed district property tax. Below are the January 1 through

March 31 revenue summaries, annual and daily permit sales, and camping reservation nights compared to the same period the previous year. Notably, significant reduction in annual permit sales this quarter may be attributed to the community's response to the ongoing pandemic.

Year to Date Revenue (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Colorado Lottery	\$255,325	\$161,563	-37%
Open Spaces Sales Tax	\$530,614	\$612,419	+15%
Open Spaces Generated User Fees*	\$179,745	\$192,491	+7%
Reservoir Parks Generated User Fees*	\$861,203	\$1,031,263	+20%
Weed District Property Tax	\$272,830	\$326,172	+20%

*User fees include those for entrance, camping, special events, group use areas, and penalty assessments

Year to Date Number of Permit Sales (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces			
Annual Permits	184	22	-88%
Daily Permits	6,035	6,386	+6%
Reservoir Parks			
Annual Permits	838	289	-66%
Daily Permits	4,388	5,900	+34%

Year to Date Camping Reservation Nights (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces	9	5	-44%
Reservoir Parks	1,657	1,426	-14%



Larimer County
Department of Natural Resources
Quarterly Board Report
Published: April 2020

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Loveland, CO 80537
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larimer.org/naturalresources



Memorandum

TO: Rob Helmick, Senior Planner, Larimer County Planning

FROM: Daylan Figgs, Director, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

DATE: May 15, 2020

RE: Natural Resources Department staff comments on the Northern Water Integrated Supply Project 1041 Land Use Application

Summary

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed information submitted by Northern Water (Northern) related to the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and offers the following comments and suggested permit conditions for consideration.

Larimer County Natural Resources Master Plans - Background and Summary

The Larimer County Board of Commissioners have adopted both the 2017 Reservoir Parks Master Plan (Parks Master Plan) and 2015 Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan (Open Lands Master Plan). Both plans were used by Larimer County Department of Natural Resource (DNR) staff in their review of the Glade Reservoir Recreation Concept Master Plan and supporting documents submitted as part of the NISP 1041 permit application. The wetland mitigation and wildlife conservation plans were also reviewed in preparation for developing comments.

Parks Master Plan

The Parks Master Plan outlines future activities and recreation development needs at the existing Larimer County-managed reservoir parks (Horsetooth, Carter Lake, Pinewood and Flatiron) and also looks to the future in an effort to identify future recreation needs that meet the growing population in northern Colorado. The County's goals related to reservoir parks is to ensure a system that supports the County's vision, anticipates future growth and recreation demand, ensures a nationally-recognized park system, provides a diversity of recreational experiences, celebrates the natural environment, integrates with a larger recreational network and manages resources in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

As stated in the Parks Master Plan, demand for flatwater recreation in the county is high and meeting future demand for similar recreation will be difficult. Currently within the existing Larimer County-managed reservoir parks, there are approximately 10 acres of flatwater-based recreation available for every 1,000 Larimer County residents. When considering population



growth, the Parks Master Plan reported that to maintain this current ratio and level of service, an additional 2,250 acres of flatwater recreation is needed by the year 2040. Glade Reservoir is projected to add 1,600 surface acres to the recreation portfolio. When combined with Chimney Hollow Reservoir (approximately 700 acres), future flatwater recreation demands could be met with the addition of these two reservoirs.

In addition to the water-based recreation opportunities on Glade Reservoir, Northern also proposes land-based recreation opportunities at Glade that are similar to the existing park reservoirs and help achieve several potential recreation activities (camping, trails, picnicking, etc.) listed as “desired” activities in the Parks Master Plan.

Open Lands Master Plan

The Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan is also referenced in Northern’s Recreation Concept Master Plan. The Open Lands Master Plan helps guide the County’s land conservation efforts to specific geographic priority areas. Recreation priorities are also identified and include a focus on trail-based recreation, camping, fishing, water-based recreation, picnicking, and wildlife viewing.

Glade Reservoir is not located within an identified Land Conservation Priority Area as defined in the Open Lands Master Plan but does provide conservation value by helping to establish wildlife habitat and visual buffers on the west side of the reservoir. Northern’s Recreation Concept Master Plan works to meet recreation goals such as trail-based recreation and access for outdoor activities (fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, picnicking, camping, hunting, etc.).

NISP Recreation Concept Master Plan - Background and Summary

The proposed Recreation Concept Master Plan provides a conceptual layout for how recreation facilities and other recreational components can be integrated at Glade Reservoir. The reasoning behind providing a conceptual plan and not a final detailed plan in the application is the recognition of the time between securing permits needed for NISP and the actual opening of the site for recreation. By taking this approach, Northern is allowing for additional public outreach and planning to occur at a future date commensurate with construction of the reservoir and associated recreation amenities. Northern commits to leading this future collaborative planning process to develop a *Recreation Development Plan* that will include layout and design of recreation amenities, prior to reservoir construction that includes the public, Larimer County and NISP participants.

While the exact layout and design of the recreation amenities are yet to be determined, Northern has committed to a wide variety of recreation types that include developed and non-

developed campsites, multi-use non-motorized recreation trails, a visitor and education center, establishment of a cool water fishery, fishing access, motorized and non-motorized boating, developed boat ramps and ADA accessible trails and interpretive overlooks.

Northern has committed to constructing the facilities and other recreation amenities included in the recreation plan as part of the reservoir construction project. The NISP Water Activity Enterprise (WAE) will own all facilities constructed as part of the *Recreation Development Plan* and has agreed to pay the capital improvement maintenance costs for the infrastructure owned by WAE. As proposed, WAE and the County will enter into a 25-year lease agreement for the County to act as the recreation manager at Glade Reservoir. The County shall own all revenue generated as the recreation manager and can determine a recreation fee structure as needed to meet funding needs and WAE will not be responsible for addressing managing revenue shortfalls. WAE will pay for additional site security at Glade Reservoir outside of the *Recreation Management Plan*. Last, Northern Water has proposed it maintains the right to modify a recreation facility design or location at any time if, in its sole discretion, it determines it is necessary to comply with NISP operations or maintenance, NISP permit conditions, or other issue that present a conflict with the primary water supply purpose of the Project.

Overall, the financial commitment by Northern as proposed totals \$21.8M with a request that 25% of this total be provided by the County (\$5.5M) to help support development of the public recreation components of the project. Proposed to be included in the \$21.8M are the recreation commitments set forth in the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan, NISP's purchase of the additional property adjacent to the reservoir to support recreation activities (former KOA site), costs associated with bringing the former KOA site to compliance with County code and regulations, and costs incurred by the parties to develop the *Recreation Development Plan*.

Northern has proposed a method for project funding and accounting that allows the County an option to pay its agreed-upon portion up front or in annual payments once construction commences. Northern will hold the funds in escrow to draw upon for construction of the facilities agreed to in the *Recreation Development Plan*. All numbers referenced in the 1041 application are based on 2019 costs and will require inflationary adjustment.

As noted in the Parks Master Plan, recreation use in Larimer County is expected to increase and adding a new water-based recreation site like Glade Reservoir is a rare opportunity. However, if Larimer County DNR is to manage the site, it is important the recreation plan is implemented to meet recreation demand and operate in a financially sustainable manner while protecting

key natural resource values. In fact, the Parks Master Plan identified the following criteria to evaluate each potential reservoir park partnership:

- Does the property meet demand for public use and diversify recreation opportunities?
- Can enough revenue be generated at the reservoir park to cover the cost of managing recreation and park resources?
- Does the park have valuable natural or cultural resources?
- Does the purchase make additional recreational capacity possible in proximity to existing park and staff resources?
- Is Larimer County the best agency to manage the park?
- Does Larimer County's management increase public access and recreation opportunities or merely divert management from another agency's responsibility?

DNR recommends the following permit conditions:

1. Northern and the County enter into a legally binding agreement that outlines the timeline for the *Recreation Development Plan* to be finalized.
2. Included in the agreement are the financial obligations of each party as outlined in the 75%/25% splits above, and the recreation facilities the parties agree to share and the recreation facilities that are the sole responsibility of Northern and/or the County.
3. The *Recreation Development Plan* must be determined by the County to provide for a diversity of recreation use and at a scale that meets public demand, as well as protect key natural resource values.
4. The County must determine the *Recreation Development Plan* is designed and implemented in a manner to generate the revenue needed to cover the cost of managing the Glade Reservoir recreation and natural resources.
5. The Recreation Concept Master Plan and financial commitment based within are in fact, conceptual and the financial sustainability of the concept plan has not been fully determined. Northern and Larimer County may need to modify their respective financial commitment upon completion of the *Recreation Development Plan* to ensure revenue generated at Glade Reservoir is sufficient to cover the cost of managing the recreation and natural resources. Other funding options include collaborative efforts to secure alternative funding sources through grants and/or donations.
6. The costs included in the 1041 submittal are calculated in 2019 dollars and need to be adjusted to meet present day value at the time of construction.
7. Northern will be responsible to fund all recreation amenities required as a condition of permit approval by other public agencies. This includes but is not limited to recreation commitment actions and strategies of the NISP Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP), including the identified Glade Reservoir Recreation and

Wildlife Adaptive Management Program. These prior commitments are separate and independent from any consideration made in the 1041 review process.

8. If Northern modifies a recreation facility design or location agreed to in the *Recreation Development Plan* to comply with NISP operations or maintenance, Northern will be responsible for payment of lost revenue to the County if the modification is temporary and for payment of lost revenue to the county and replacement of the facility in-kind if the change is to be permanent.

Camping and Campgrounds Summary

Northern has proposed a camping experience at Glade within a 170 acre recreation area that ranges from developed campsites that support recreational vehicle (RV) camping, tent camping in developed sites to hike-in camping in more remote sites. A series of campgrounds that support between 120-150 campsites are identified in the conceptual layout of the site. Recreation trails are shown throughout the site connecting the various camping experiences with the reservoir, visitor and education center and other amenities such as interpretive loops and ADA accessible trails. In addition, showers, restrooms and camping related amenities are included as part of the recreation plan.

DNR recommends the following permit conditions:

1. Northern will construct as part of the *Recreation Development Plan* the on-site storage and distribution systems for potable water, and on-site wastewater treatment facilities as appropriate for anticipated recreation and administrative facilities.
2. Provide a minimum of 150 campsites with the final configuration of number and type of campsites, restrooms, shower houses and other facilities based on the ability to meet public demand, diversity of experience and the ability to cover management costs with revenue generated from the Glade Reservoir site.

Other considerations:

1. The County may require improvements to roads to support safe access to recreation facilities or for other purposes. Any transportation improvement funded as part of the *Recreation Development Plan* will be limited to transportation upgrades solely required to support recreation use.

Boating and Water-based Recreation Summary

Northern has proposed water-based recreation activities including motorized and non-motorized boating (including hand launch craft such as kayaks and stand up paddleboards) and fishing. To provide watercraft access to the reservoir, Northern has proposed boat ramps to be located on the east embankment. While the boat ramp length has not been finalized, Northern

provided information to indicate that a boat ramp with a length of 520' will provide access when the reservoir is at 50% capacity or greater (90% of the time); a ramp 370' in length will provide access to the reservoir when it is at least 60% capacity (80% of the time). Northern also proposes boat trailer parking near the east abutment of the dam along with other improvements that include restroom/shower building, rental or concession building and fishing piers with accessible parking and trails.

Glade Reservoir at full capacity is approximately 1,600 surface acres, slightly smaller than Horsetooth Reservoir. By comparison, at Horsetooth Reservoir the county provides 360 boat trailer parking spaces. In addition, the Inlet Bay Marina provides access for an additional 300 vessels that are kept on slips and mooring balls, bringing the total boat access capacity to 660 vessels.

Northern outlines a key component to effectively managing motorized and non-motorized recreation is to create distinct boating management zones within the reservoir. Glade's unique natural topography, creates two valleys in the reservoir, making it conducive to designating one valley for motorized and the other for non-motorized boating.

DNR agrees the location and length of the boat ramps need to be designed in a manner to reach water levels in nearly all occasions. With this in mind, DNR recommends that of the four ramps proposed at Glade, at least two be at a length to reach boatable water 90% of the time (currently proposed at 520') and two be at a length to reach boatable water 80% of the time (currently proposed at 320').

In addition, staff recommend that access be provided to the right abutment (west side of the reservoir) for hand launch craft. This would allow for separate and safe entry for all boating types and creates the ability to separately manage the west side of the reservoir for wakeless boating. Specifically, this separate hand launch area avoids the safety issue of hand launch craft crossing the dam face of the reservoir to access the west side managed for wakeless activities. Providing two separate boat launch locations will help delineate to the boating public where wake and wakeless boating are allowed. Facilities constructed to support hand launch craft should provide similar quality and water level access to the reservoir as the trailer launched boat ramp. DNR staff recognize this request will need to be presented to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife for consideration relative to the approved 2017 CPW Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan.

DNR recommends the following permit conditions:

1. Based on the size of Glade and expected demand for trailered boat access, provide a minimum of 200 trailer spaces on land to support boat access on the east abutment.
2. Northern work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to allow access to the west abutment for hand launch watercraft and a parking area with a minimum of 100 spaces for hand launch (non-trailered) watercraft and access to the trail and public lands located along the west side of the reservoir. If allowed by CPW, this component will be added to the *Recreation Development Plan*.
3. At the east abutment, construct at a minimum, 2 boat ramps of sufficient length to access boatable water 90% of the time, and two ramps of sufficient length to access boatable water 80% of the time. Northern has proposed the lengths to accomplish this goal to be 520' and 370', respectively.
4. Construct 2 Aquatic Nuisance Species inspection stations and 1 decontamination area in appropriate locations as determined in the future *Recreation Development Plan* as part of the boat ramp design and construction.

Other considerations:

1. Northern work with the County to establish a marina if needed to expand boating opportunities at Glade Reservoir. The marina may be by concessionaire or managed by the County.

Trails and Day Use Activities Summary

Northern proposes a series of trails be designed as part of the *Recreation Development Plan* that support a variety of uses and abilities including a focus on ADA compliant trails where feasible in the less-steep terrain. Natural surface trails to support trail-based recreation and fishing access are proposed for the east and west sides of the reservoir. Additionally, a series of trails that connect the recreation area, visitor center, interpretive areas and the reservoir are shown in the conceptual layout of the site. Careful consideration is being made to provide access to and within the recreation area in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as feasible and specific ADA components are proposed for the interpretive areas, trails around the visitor center, campsite areas and reservoir waterfront.

Day use areas are not clearly identified but recreational activities considered in this category of use are provided in the conceptual plan. These include trail-based activities, picnicking, water-based activities, fishing access and non-trail based recreation (wildlife viewing, etc.). Parking to support day use activities is not clearly identified in the concept plan but is expected to be a substantial need and would be additional to the recommended boat parking spaces.

A 125-145 space parking area to support Poudre Canyon recreation is required by the approved Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP). Northern proposes this to be outside of the Glade Reservoir area. The FWMEP requirement for this parking area is to be a “reduced fee area”.

DNR recommends the following conditions:

1. Provide a minimum of 350 day use parking spaces within the Glade Reservoir fee area that includes at least 100 spaces at the west abutment to access the west side trail and hand launch boating area.
2. Provide a minimum of 30 day use parking spaces on the north end of the reservoir to support access to the reservoir and trails.
3. Locate the FWMEP “reduced fee” lot away from the Glade Reservoir entrance but include this parking area in the overall *Recreation Development Plan*, but the construction, replacement and maintenance of this parking lot will be at the sole expense of Northern.
4. Larimer County manages, sets fees and collects all revenue generated from the Poudre Canyon “reduced fee” lot as part of the *Recreation Development Plan*.

Open Space and Environmental Considerations

The NISP project is subject to multiple federal, state and local regulatory approvals related to environmental impacts. As such, DNR comments on this subject matter are primarily intended to ensure communication and coordination prior to and during the mitigation processes.

The 2015 Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan identifies priority land and river conservation areas and activities for the Department of Natural Resources. Glade Reservoir is not located within an identified Land Conservation Priority Area as defined in the Open Lands Master Plan but does provide conservation value by helping to establish a wildlife habitat and visual buffers on the west side of the reservoir.

Staff has reviewed the wetland mitigation plan and the wildlife conservation plan and recommends the following permit conditions:

Wetland Mitigation Plan

DNR recommends the following permit conditions:

1. Infrastructure and construction activities will comply with setbacks from wetlands and/or sensitive vegetation or wildlife communities required in the most current Larimer County Land Use Code.



2. Larimer County will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Wetland and Open Water Mitigation Plan that is currently in the draft phase.
3. The maintenance and monitoring plan prepared for USACE for evaluating post-project wetlands and outlining measurable goals and objectives shall also be shared with Larimer County.
4. Northern will be fully and financially responsible for any adaptive management activities or corrective actions necessary to meet the objectives of the maintenance plan.
5. Wetlands created for this project will be assessed using the FacWet method. Scores shall meet or exceed the scores of the impacted wetlands and strive for Reference Standard condition.
6. Plantings and/or seed mixes used to establish wetlands, riparian or upland habitat shall conform to adopted Larimer County specifications and be reviewed and approved by Larimer County prior to installation.
7. The FEIS describes approximately 50 acres of wetland inundation at the proposed reservoir site yet the wetland mitigation plan submitted in this application indicates plans to mitigate 31 acres. A clarification of the discrepancy is requested. In absence of clarification, the larger mitigation acreage will be required.

Other considerations:

1. Section 8.2.5 *Wetland definition*, states "The desktop analysis and field verifications likely overestimated potential wetland and open water areas". Staff requests clarification on the reason for this assumption.

Wildlife Conservation Plan

DNR recommends the following permit conditions:

1. Continue to include Larimer County in the development of the stream channel and habitat improvement plan for the Cache la Poudre River.
2. Consult with Larimer County DNR regarding land conservation around Glade Reservoir. This land conservation effort is outlined in the FWMEP, as a responsibility of Northern's to offset the permanently impacted acreage of the reservoir site.

Other considerations:

1. Northern outlined commitments made in the FWMEP and 2018 NISP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Conceptual Mitigation Plan (CMP) that provide complementary benefits to recreation along the west side of Glade Reservoir. Northern is clear these commitments are separate from the Recreation Concept Master Plan



funding commitments. Larimer County DNR requests to be included in the development of these plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northern Integrated Supply Project 1041 Permit Application. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daylan Figgs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the start of the name.

Daylan Figgs
Director
Larimer County Department of Natural Resources