

Letter: NISP compromise a win for growth, the river

Mike Pruznick 6:07 a.m. MT Feb. 8, 2017



Photo

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To make progress on the NISP issue, the question we must ask is, "Why are we divided?"

The answer is simple. In general, and of course there are exceptions, conservatives tend to prioritize growth over the river while progressives tend to prioritize the river over growth. Both sides are very passionate and believe strongly in their priority, which is why NISP is controversial, emotional and dividing our community.

The good news is there is a solution that enables growth while protecting the river. There is no need to fight over NISP. By working together we can build a healthier, more resilient community that is better insulated from economic and weather uncertainties.

The solution is on-site local water via rain barrels, gray water, and toilet-to-tap systems. Decades ago, when NISP was conceived, these solutions were not ready for local use and NISP was the best solution. However, with the passage of time, not only have these technologies advanced to the point that they are now ready, but NISP is no longer big enough to meet projected demand (SDEIS 1.2.10). Why solve half the problem when we can solve the whole problem?

For the conservatives, on-site water turns a big government project with never ending tax increases into a competitive private sector solution, eliminates NISP's artificial growth cap, stops reduced flows from negatively impacting river-based economic activity, reduces government dependence and bureaucracy, and much more.

For the progressives, taking less water out of the river will result in a healthier, more vibrant river that improves the environment and increases local quality of life. Rain barrels will capture clean roof water and minimize storm water carrying contaminants into the river.

Raw water with its organic material can reduce the need for lawn and garden chemical treatments. Best of all, no more watering lawns with fluoride. The benefits are endless.

There is much more to say, but I'm out of space, so check out what CSU has been doing since 2013: <http://coloradowaterwise.org/resources/Documents/Annual%20Event/Landscape%20Irrigation%20Using%20Graywater.pdf>.

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