The Corps evaluated recreation effects to both land-based activities (e.g., hunting, hiking, camping, biking, etc.) and water-based activities (e.g., fishing and boating) and facilities. The following factors were considered:

- Changes in stream flows at different locations and at different times of the year
- Effects to aquatic habitat and fish
- Changes in the number of available boating days on the North Fork and Cache la Poudre River at different locations
- Changes in the physical characteristics of affected reservoirs
- The location and duration of construction activities
- Effects to wildlife

The evaluation found that the Project Alternatives would have either no effect or a negligible effect on land- and water-based recreation activities, with the following exceptions.

- Fort Collins’ Proposed Action would result in major adverse effects to river characteristics and aquatic habitat upstream of Halligan Reservoir and moderate to major adverse effects on the fishing experience and fishing activity levels in that area. Inundation would also reduce the length of the North Fork publicly accessible for fishing.
- Fort Collins’ Proposed Action would result in moderate beneficial effects to aquatic habitat immediately below Halligan Dam, resulting in a minor to moderately improved fishing experience for the limited number of anglers with legal access to that area. In other stretches of the North Fork downstream of Halligan Reservoir, Fort Collins’ Proposed Action would result in negligible to major beneficial effects to aquatic habitat and negligible to moderate beneficial effects to fishing activity, depending on location.
- Fort Collins’ Proposed Action would inundate about 19.5 acres of the Cherokee State Wildlife Area Middle Unit. That inundation would reduce the total acreage available for hunting and other recreational activity by a small amount (less than one percent of total Cherokee State Wildlife Area Middle Unit land).

What about recreation at the expanded Halligan Reservoir under Fort Collins’ Proposed Action?

As mitigation for loss of recreation (primarily fishing) along about a one-mile reach of the North Fork upstream of Halligan Reservoir (about 0.41 mile of that reach is currently accessible to the public) and as mitigation for inundation of portions of the Cherokee State Wildlife Area Middle Unit:

Public Access: Fort Collins is considering opening a portion of Halligan Reservoir and the adjacent shoreline to public recreation, which could include fishing from shore, fishing from a human propelled watercraft such as a kayak or belly boat, and wildlife viewing.

Parking Area: Fort Collins is also considering the potential of constructing a small parking area and a vault toilet near the area where the Access Road meets the enlarged reservoir.