A Visualization Prioritization Process identified changes affecting visual resources and provided a metric for assessing changes associated with the Project Alternatives. This process used key observation points determined from a GIS viewshed analysis tool. Key observation points were selected in areas where alternative infrastructure would be visible, with an emphasis on the viewshed of the new, rather than existing, elements of each alternative. To the extent possible, key observation points were selected to provide a range of elevations and distances from visible infrastructure. When selecting key observation points, the focus was on areas where the most people would be able to see elements of the alternatives.

The analysis found that, although infrastructure would be visible from public areas for all Project Alternatives, overall effects on visual quality would be small. Fort Collins’ Proposed Action and the Expanded Glade Alternative would have no change in visual quality scores.

The Gravel Pits Alternative and Agricultural Reservoirs Alternative have some shared infrastructure, which would be generally visible from public areas. However, many baseline views in this area already include artificial landforms, resulting in a reduction in the overall visual quality score by one point.

Research was conducted to gather preliminary data on cultural, historical, and paleontological resources known to exist at each Project Alternative study area and to assess the relative potential for the occurrence of unrecorded cultural resources. Each study area included the proposed disturbance area plus a one-mile buffer around these areas.

At a site-specific level, direct effects to previously recorded and unrecorded cultural resources include the loss or destruction of cultural resources due to reservoir inundation or earth disturbance associated with dam rehabilitation or enlargement, pipelines, access roads, and staging area construction.

A more intensive Class III survey will be conducted in the area of potential effect prior to construction of the chosen alternative. A Treatment Plan and potentially other measures would be developed with appropriate parties to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources.

If paleontological resources are uncovered during construction, contractors would be required to stop work, and a paleontologist would be immediately notified.

The Corps evaluated the following potential effects to current land ownership patterns and to existing and planned land uses from implementation of the Project Alternatives:

- Changes in land ownership, on an individual parcel basis or at a regional level
- Changes in specific activities or allowable uses of individual parcels of land, potentially including public access to certain areas
- Conflict with current land use codes or comprehensive plans
- Effects to agricultural land uses, activity, and production
- Effects related to specific construction activities

NOTABLE LAND USE EFFECTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Under all Project Alternatives, except Fort Collins’ Proposed Action, ownership of Halligan Reservoir and all related facilities would revert from Fort Collins back to NPIC.
- The amount of purchased property would be:
  - Fort Collins’ Proposed Action – about 61 acres
  - Expanded Glade Alternative – about 63 acres
  - Gravel Pits Alternative – about 275 acres
  - Agricultural Reservoirs Alternative – about 61 acres
  - No-Action Alternative – 0 acres
- The No-Action Alternative would be the only one to affect agricultural operations, resulting in about 800 irrigated acres converted to dryland farming.
- Activities included as part of each Project Alternative are consistent with the Larimer County Master Plan, Larimer County Comprehensive Plan, and Larimer County zoning regulations.