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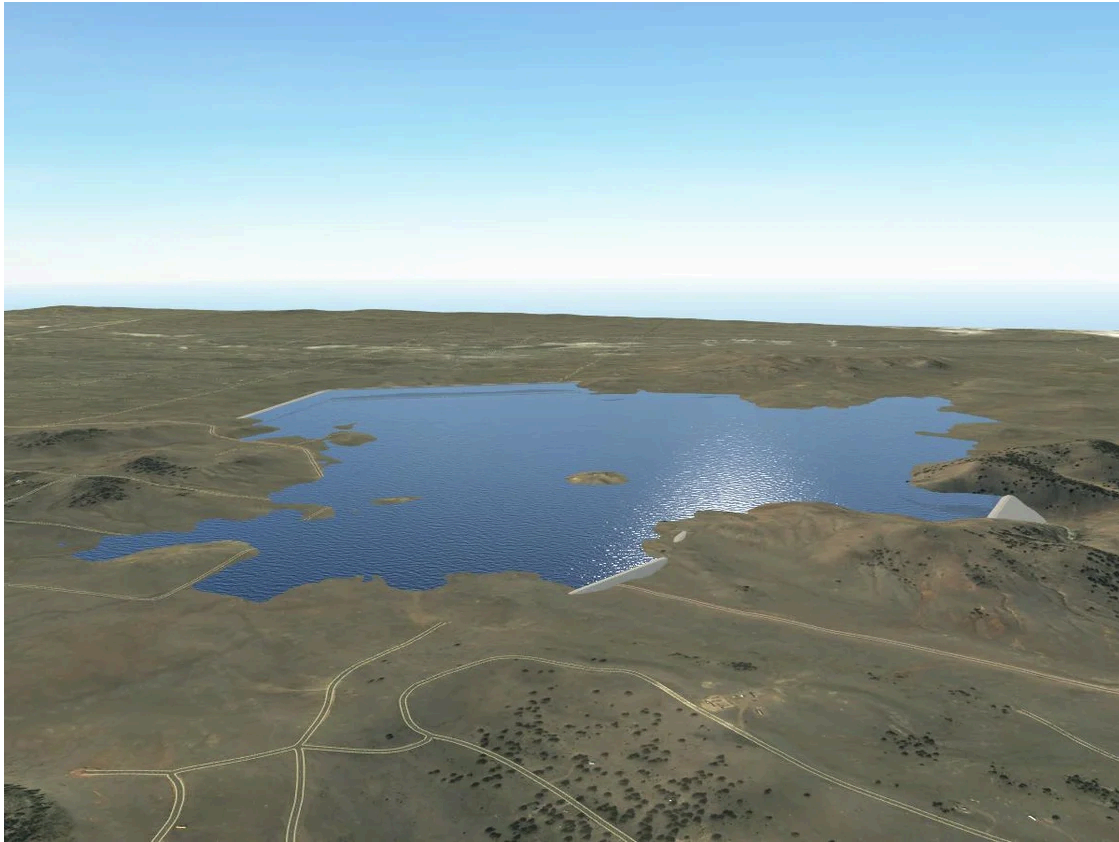
July 2023



Welcome to Aurora Water's Wild Horse Reservoir eNewsletter

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Rendering of the future reservoir

Wild Horse Reservoir Planned to Meet Future Needs

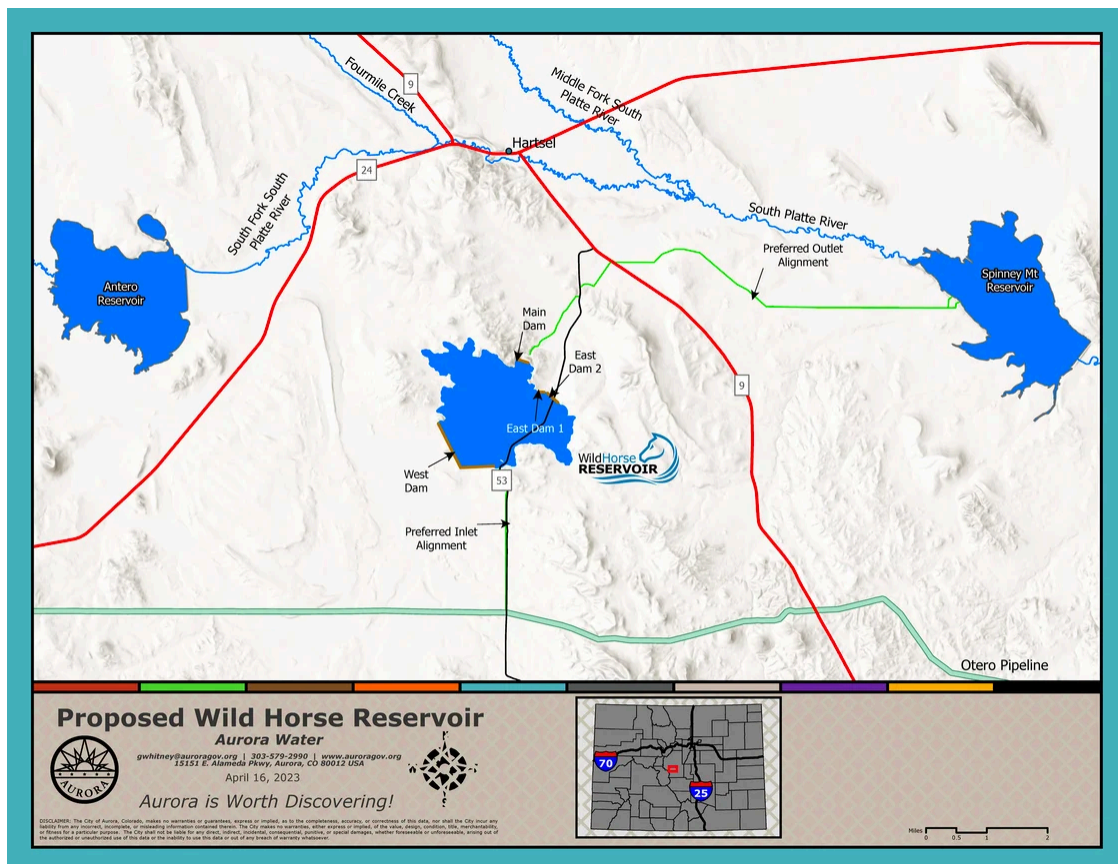
Aurora Water has been planning a new reservoir near Hartsel, Colorado in Park County for several years. Wild Horse Reservoir will be built about 6 miles west of Spinney Reservoir. A reservoir in this location is needed to meet the city's future water needs. Aurora Water has a comprehensive water supply plan that includes implementing the most aggressive water conservation measures in the state and operating Colorado's largest water reuse project. However, conservation and reuse alone will fall short of meeting the future demand.

Location and Water Source

Wild Horse will be an off-channel reservoir (no river or stream flows into or out of the reservoir) that requires no new water rights or decrees. Wild Horse will help Aurora better manage water from the three rivers it draws from – the Arkansas, Colorado and South Platte. Aurora will use water it owns the rights to and currently moves to Pueblo or Spinney reservoirs. To use a savings account analogy, Aurora already has the money (water), it needs to save in another bank (reservoir).

The Park County location was selected due its proximity to the Otero Pipeline, an existing pipe that already transports Colorado and Arkansas River water into Aurora's system. The area selected for construction has the right topography. The location will have few environmental impacts and depth of the lake will help minimize evaporative loss.

The new reservoir will not impact existing intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) or decrees and Aurora will continue to honor all its agreements to protect river flows. The city is working closely with Park County and local residents as it advances the project.



How Wild Horse Will Work?

Wild Horse Reservoir would be filled with water Aurora currently stores in Spinney Mountain Reservoir. This water originates in the Arkansas and Colorado river basins and moves through the Otero pipeline, which is shared with Colorado Springs Utilities. From there, the water would be piped into its Spinney Reservoir and then into the South Platte River to travel to the city. After the lake is built, fishing, non-motorized boating and nature viewing will provide recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike, providing economic stimulus to the county.

Aurora is advancing the dam's design and preparing to start permitting with the US Bureau of Land Management, who will oversee environmental studies. Stakeholder outreach and communications for permitting will begin later this year.

Check Out the Wild Horse Website for Updates

Aurora's Conservation and Reuse Delivers Big Water Savings

Aurora is one of the few large Front Range cities not located near a river or major water source making water scarce. As a "newer" city, Aurora built its water system later than other municipalities. The city stretches its current water supplies through aggressive conservation and reuse measures – which has earned Aurora the reputation as a state leader in water conservation.

Aurora's conservation ethic has cut household water use by over 36% since 2000. The city's multifaceted approach has helped the community achieve one of the lowest water use rates per person in the state (approximately 115 gallons per person per day) and the highest reuse rate in the state. Aurora has been reclaiming water for irrigation since the 1960s and uses the most advanced purification technology in the country to reuse water for drinking. The city is using and treating less water today than in 2000, despite a more than 40% increase in population. Aurora implements permanent restrictions every irrigation season regardless of the weather.

Here are a few other ways Aurora saves water:

- **Expanding Prairie Waters:** Aurora was the first and largest municipality in Colorado to capture and reuse water. Aurora Water is currently enlarging the Prairie Waters system to almost double Aurora's potable water reuse capacity.
- **History of conservation programs:** Aurora's aggressive conservation program history has led to long-term water savings. These efforts include-
 - Pioneering the use of reclaimed water for irrigation of parks, golf courses and landscaping at city buildings.
 - Implementing an aggressive turf replacement program.
 - Eliminating new ornamental water features.

- **Non-functional turf ordinance:** Aurora passed an ordinance to ban nonfunctional turf in new developments, golf courses, medians, curbsides and residential front yards.
 - This supports Prairie Water by reducing water that can't be reused.
 - Replacing nonfunctional turf in city parks.
- **Water fees that incentivize conservation:** Aurora aligns water use and development fees to incentivize developers to conserve water.
 - Implementing water budgets for all residents (use more/pay more).

All of these efforts are having a big effect. Outdoor water use in Aurora accounts for only up to 44% of use compared to 50%+ by many other municipalities.

Field Work Underway this Summer



Aurora Water has started drilling for the fourth year at the Wild Horse Reservoir (Project) site near Hartsel in Park County. The geotechnical investigations, which began on June 6, are to support the design work for the dams and pipeline will take about five months to complete.

Planned work for 2023 includes about 70 borings (a small horizontal hole) along the proposed ten miles of pipeline alignments. Three drilling crews will be used for the geotechnical investigations.

The investigations this summer and fall will provide design-level geotechnical information to support key engineering aspects of the project.

Visit the Project Website

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