

September 2024



Aurora Water Answers Wild Horse Reservoir Questions at Hartsel Days

Aurora Water attended Hartsel Days in Park County on August 10 and 11 to share information and answer questions regarding the status and construction of Wild Horse Reservoir. We spoke one-on-one to about 200 attendees.



Common questions included:

Q: What is the status of the project?

A: The project is still in the permitting phase. It is anticipated construction may begin in the late 2020s and occur seasonally over approximately five to six years, including reclamation. The reservoir would then need to be filled. The project is targeted to be completed in the late 2030s.

Q: Does Aurora own the water? What does ‘no new water rights’ actually mean?

A: Yes, Aurora already owns the water rights that will be placed in a new reservoir. Under Colorado law, a water right is the right to store, divert, and use water. For Wild Horse Reservoir, there are no new water rights, meaning that Aurora Water already has the right to use the water that will be stored in the reservoir. Given our current

storage capacity and locations, not all water rights can be stored and used throughout the year.

Q: What types of recreation will be allowed?

A: Any specific amenities have yet to be determined. For reference, we currently work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife at Aurora's Spinney Mountain Reservoir to manage recreation.

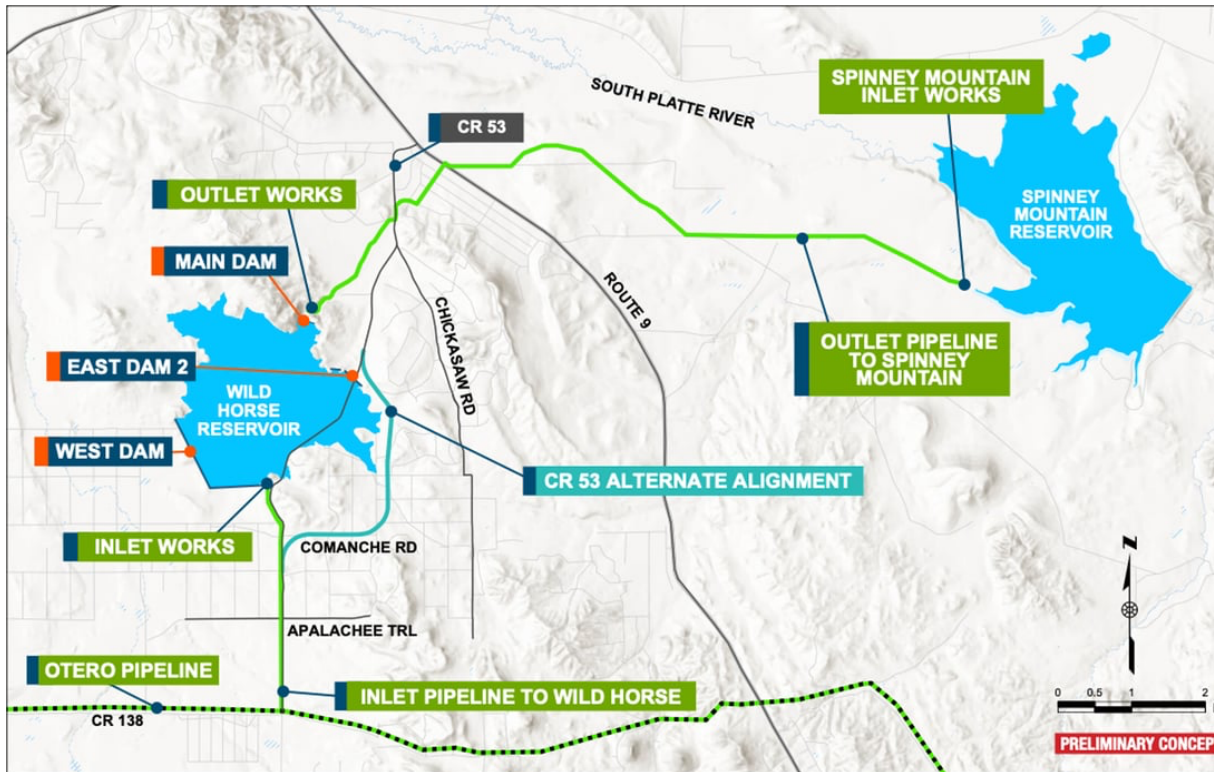
Additional questions and answers from Hartsel Days can be found at wildhorsereservoir.org/wild-horse-faqs.

County Road 53 Improvements and Realignment Update

Aurora Water is working with Park County to relocate portions of CR 53 that the proposed Wild Horse Reservoir will impact. The alignment below is proposed as it will result in fewer stakeholder impacts and will be easier to maintain over time. Realignment work is anticipated to begin after permitting is complete. In the meantime, Aurora Water is working with Park County to provide \$250,000 to assist with maintenance for CR 53, which was heavily impacted by spring snowstorms and mud.

As with any major infrastructure construction, various components of the Wild Horse Reservoir construction would require the movement of trucks and machinery through roadways in Park County. During relocation work on CR 53, some roads may be closed for short periods. However, access to all properties in the area will be maintained.

Any traffic reroutes would be clearly marked before and during road closures or construction. Construction areas would be appropriately marked with signs and fencing. Safety will be our top priority.



For More Information:

Updates: WildHorseReservoir.org

Questions: WildHorseReservoir@AuroraGov.org

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