



**NEWS RELEASE
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Aurora Water continues Wild Horse Reservoir-related field activities

May 6, 2025 (AURORA, CO) –Aurora Water is advancing its efforts to permit the proposed Wild Horse Reservoir, a critical project designed to improve water storage and system resilience. As part of this process, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is conducting a federal review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate proposed projects and their alternatives to ensure environmental, cultural and community impacts are thoroughly assessed before any decisions are made.

The review includes analyzing multiple alternatives to the Wild Horse Reservoir, such as a potential reservoir site south of the proposed location and an expansion of Spinney Mountain Reservoir. Aurora Water will conduct environmental and cultural surveys at these alternative sites from late April through August. With property owner permission, some surveys may extend onto private lands. These surveys are non-invasive and will not involve ground disturbances or cause property damage.

Geotechnical fieldwork is projected to begin early to mid-May on property owned by a private property owner, pending approval. This work, involving large equipment like drill rigs, will provide critical data for BLM's permitting process.

Additionally, maintenance on the Otero Pipeline is planned for August through November. Work will include replacing sections of the pipeline and installing new isolation valves. This work will occur on the east and west sides of County Road 53 along Coweta Trail and will require a temporary detour on County Road 53 to replace the pipeline under the road.

The Wild Horse Reservoir project is currently in the pre-permitting phase. As a part of the permitting process, the BLM will prepare an Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) to assess the proposed project and its alternatives. The formal EIS process, including opportunities for public input during the scoping phase, is expected to begin in 2026.

For more information, visit www.wildhorsereservoir.org.