

FACT SHEET



Aurora Water is proposing to build a new reservoir—Wild Horse Reservoir—near Hartsel, Colorado, that would provide the critical water storage required to ensure reliable water delivery and maintain emergency water reserves.

About Aurora Water

Aurora Water's mission is to deliver safe, reliable, high quality, and sustainable water, sewer, and stormwater services for over 400,000 residents living in Aurora, Colorado. Because it is a large city not located near major water sources, Aurora Water has had to be creative and forward-thinking in its approach to meeting its community's water needs, such as:

- **Conservation:** Aurora Water's conservation initiatives have reduced water use so that less water is being treated today than in 2000 despite population growth.
- **Reuse:** Aurora Water has the largest water reuse system in Colorado.
- **Storage:** Aurora Water manages complex systems that transport water up to 150 miles and store enough water to supply the city for one year in case of emergency.

Importance of Water Storage

While Aurora Water is a national leader in water conservation and reuse, these efforts alone are not enough to sustain our emergency water reserves in the long term. With increasing risks and evolving climate conditions, additional water storage is needed to help ensure dependable supply during drought and resilience in the event of system outages or system emergencies.

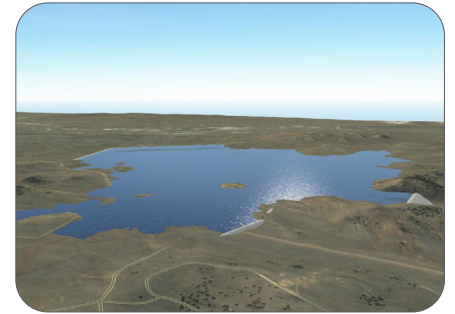
The proposed Wild Horse Reservoir—in combination with ongoing water conservation and reuse efforts—was deemed to be the best approach to ensuring reliable water delivery for community needs and maintaining the required one year of emergency water reserves.

About Wild Horse Reservoir

- Would store approximately 90,000 acre-feet of water, becoming the largest reservoir managed by Aurora Water.
- Supplied from Aurora Water's existing Colorado and Arkansas River water rights so no new water rights or decrees would be required.
- Would be off channel, meaning it would not have any river or stream flowing into or out of it.
- Elevation and depth of the reservoir would reduce evaporation.

Wild Horse Reservoir Benefits

- Ensures reliable water delivery for community needs.
- Maintains accessible emergency water reserves during severe and prolonged drought or system emergencies.
- Allows Aurora Water to better manage its existing water rights.
- Provides recreational amenities and economic opportunities for Park County.



Why Build Now?

Because reservoirs can take many years to get approved, designed, built, filled, and become operational, Aurora Water needs to act now so that the required one year of emergency water reserves can be maintained.



From Top: Artist rendering of Wild Horse Reservoir; fieldwork being conducted in Park County.

Subscribe to the Wild Horse Reservoir eNewsletter by scanning the QR code or visiting WildHorseReservoir.org.



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WATER**

For More Information:

Website: WildHorseReservoir.org

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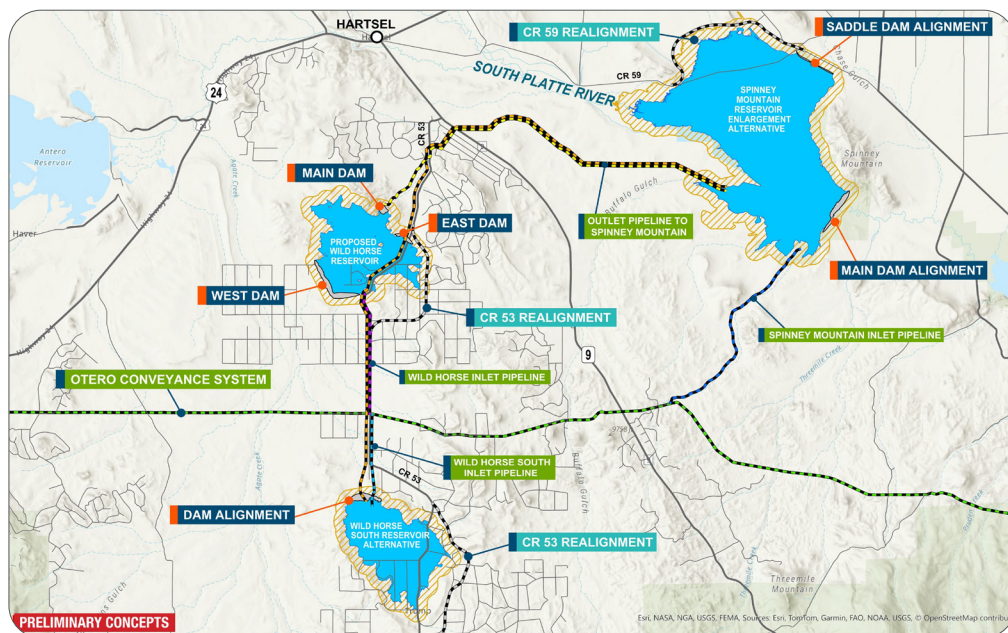
Current Status

- Wild Horse Reservoir is currently in the planning and pre-permitting phase.
- Aurora Water recognized the importance of providing recreational opportunities at the proposed reservoir in Park County and is working with local, state, and federal agencies to develop a draft recreation proposal.

Environmental Review Process

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will manage the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is a public-facing, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental and social impacts from Wild Horse Reservoir.

- Development of the EIS is expected to begin in 2026 and take about two years to complete.
- BLM will host public scoping meetings and accept public comments from interested parties during the NEPA process.
- In the NEPA process, BLM plans to analyze:
 - Wild Horse Reservoir (known as the proposed action).
 - No Action Alternative – Denver Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) (if the proposed action is not approved).
 - Wild Horse South Reservoir Alternative.
 - Small Wild Horse Reservoir plus Denver Basin ASR Alternative.
 - Spinney Mountain Reservoir Enlargement Alternative.



Map of proposed Wild Horse Reservoir and potential alternatives.

Wild Horse Reservoir Location

- The proposed location is near Hartsel, Colorado, and about six miles west of Spinney Mountain Reservoir, an existing reservoir in Aurora Water's system.
- Close to the existing Otero Conveyance System, which currently transports about half of Aurora's water supply from the Colorado and Arkansas River basins to Spinney Mountain Reservoir.
- Located in the South Platte River basin to maintain accessible emergency water reserves in case of drought or system emergencies.

How Wild Horse Reservoir Would Work

- Water would be supplied into the reservoir through a new inlet pipeline connected to the existing Otero pipeline.
- A new outlet pipeline would transport water from Wild Horse Reservoir to Spinney Mountain Reservoir.
- Water from Spinney Mountain Reservoir would flow down the South Platte River to Aurora.

Construction

- Pending receipt of all required permits, authorizations, and approvals, Aurora Water's goal is to begin construction on Wild Horse Reservoir around 2030.
- Estimated costs are being evaluated for Wild Horse Reservoir and the various alternatives.

For More Information:

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