

FACT SHEET



Aurora Water is proposing to build a new reservoir—Wild Horse Reservoir—approximately six miles west of Spinney Mountain Reservoir near Hartsel, Colorado.

Why Build Wild Horse Reservoir?

Aurora Water is a national leader in water conservation and reuse. However, conservation and reuse alone cannot maintain Aurora's emergency water reserves. Wild Horse Reservoir would provide the critical water storage that Aurora Water requires to ensure reliable water delivery for community needs and maintain emergency water reserves during severe and prolonged droughts or system emergencies. Water stored in the proposed reservoir would be supplied from Aurora Water's existing Colorado and Arkansas River water rights so no new water rights or decrees would be required.

Why Park County?

The Wild Horse Reservoir site in Park County (see map on other side) was selected due to its proximity to the existing Otero Conveyance System, which transports approximately half of Aurora's water supply from the mountains to Spinney Mountain Reservoir. The proposed location for the new reservoir ensures that Aurora Water could access emergency water reserves in the event of an Otero system outage.

The Park County location also features favorable topography and environmental conditions. The high-altitude location and the proposed depth of Wild Horse Reservoir would help reduce water evaporation. Aurora Water's initial studies have not identified any jurisdictional wetlands or endangered species at the proposed site.

Aurora Water initiated contact with Park County before evaluating the location, demonstrating a commitment to transparency and collaboration. Since then, a strong working relationship has been established with both parties working together toward a common goal.

Park County Benefits

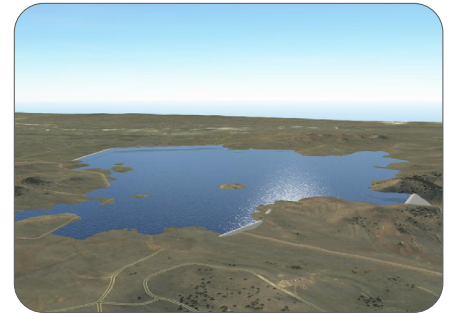
If the project is authorized, it would bring significant economic benefits to Park County and the surrounding region. Once permits are secured, construction would occur seasonally over approximately five years, excluding site restoration. At peak construction, a workforce of up to 600 workers is anticipated. Aurora Water is exploring options for worker housing, including partnership opportunities with Park County.

In addition, providing recreational opportunities in Park County at the new reservoir site is important to Aurora Water. Aurora Water is coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies to develop a draft recreation proposal.

How Wild Horse Reservoir Would Work

Wild Horse Reservoir—which would store approximately 90,000 acre-feet of water—would be off channel, meaning no river or stream would flow into or out of it. 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 as needed. Water from Spinney Mountain Reservoir would then flow down the South Platte River through several existing reservoirs (including Eleven Mile Reservoir) before reaching Aurora.

Aurora Water's initial modeling shows that water released from Wild Horse Reservoir would have minimal impact on Spinney Mountain Reservoir or streamflow in the upper South Platte River known as the "Dream Stream." Additional environmental evaluations will be conducted in the next phase of the process.



From Top: Artist rendering of Wild Horse Reservoir, field work being conducted, and fisherman in a kayak on a lake.

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



For More Information:

Website: WildHorseReservoir.org

Email: WildHorseReservoir@auroragov.org

**AURORA
WATER**

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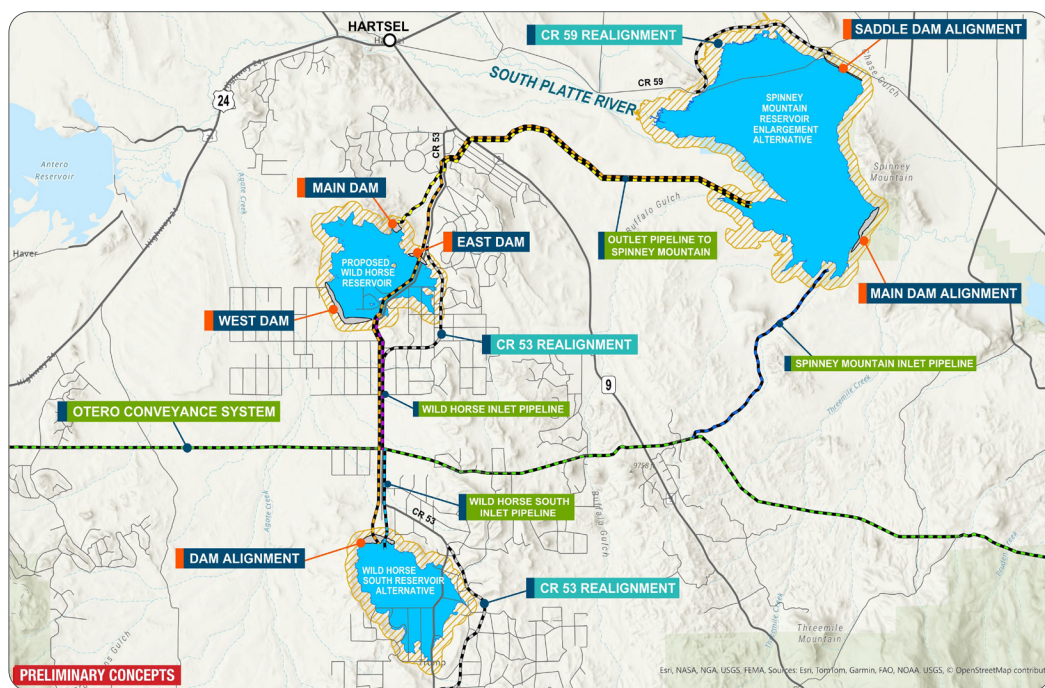


Current Status

Wild Horse Reservoir is currently in the planning and pre-permitting phase. Aurora Water is working with local, state, and federal entities to secure the necessary permits and is conducting field studies—including geotechnical exploration/drilling—and design work.

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. The NEPA process is expected to formally 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 addition to the proposed Wild Horse Reservoir—known as the proposed action—BLM currently plans to analyze a No Action Alternative and three other action alternatives: Wild Horse South Reservoir, Small Wild Horse Reservoir plus Denver Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), and Spinney Mountain Reservoir Enlargement.

The project also requires state dam safety, fish and wildlife, and highway crossing permits, among others. Aurora Water will also apply for a 1041 permit from Park County. The county would also need to approve rezoning and road realignment and improvements for County Road (CR) 53. Most of the property needed for the proposed site was privately owned and undeveloped. Aurora Water has already acquired a significant portion of the land necessary to build on the proposed reservoir site and is making fair market value offers to remaining landowners.



Map of Wild Horse Reservoir and potential alternatives in Park County.

Wild Horse Reservoir Components:

- ~1,700 surface acre reservoir footprint
- Three dams ranging from 30 ft to 150 ft tall and nearly 10,000 linear feet long in total
- Outlet works, valve house, and pipeline connecting Wild Horse Reservoir with Spinney Mountain Reservoir
- CR 53 realignment; multiple access roads
- Two caretaker homes and one maintenance facility

Managing Construction Impacts

Provided that all applicable permits, authorizations, and approvals are received, Aurora Water's goal is to begin construction on Wild Horse Reservoir around 2030. Aurora Water and its contractors are committed to working closely with Park County officials, local residents, businesses, and others to minimize and address construction impacts. Aurora Water and its contractors would also coordinate directly with any landowners adjacent to the site before and during construction. As with any major infrastructure project, construction would require the movement of trucks and machinery on roadways in Park County. If BLM authorizes the project, a portion of CR 53 would be realigned east of the reservoir. Some other roads may be detoured or closed for short periods; however, access to properties in the area would be maintained.



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