

FACT SHEET



Aurora is excited to begin the process of permitting and building Wild Horse Reservoir. Wild Horse Reservoir will be a significant and multi-purpose reservoir located in Park County near Hartsel, Colorado.

About Aurora Water

Aurora Water is a municipal utility that provides drinking water to over 400,000 residents living in Aurora, Colorado. As one of the largest cities in the state not located near major water sources, Aurora has been innovative in how it manages its precious water resources. From drastically reducing water consumption through conservation and pioneering potable reuse, to exploring the use of water rights from a gold mine, Aurora has a proven track record of looking for creative, cost effective and environmentally friendly ways to meet its community's water needs. Thanks to conservation measures that have slashed water use by 36 percent since 2000, Aurora residents use less water per person than many of the other Front Range cities.

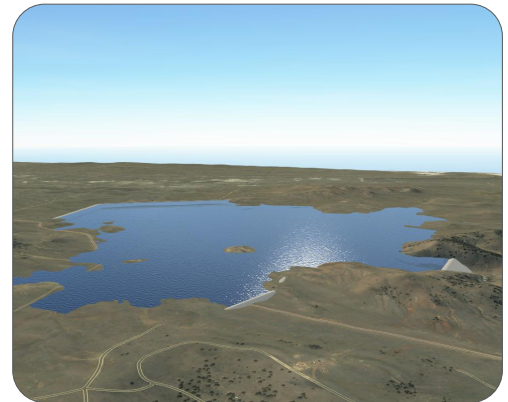
Aurora receives 50 percent of its water from the South Platte River, 25 percent from the Colorado River and 25 percent from the Arkansas River. Aurora's water is transported up to 180 miles through a complex and extensive system. Much of Aurora's water is stored in 12 reservoirs that hold more than 156,000 acre-feet – enough water to supply the city for up to three years.

Importance of Water Storage

Maintaining sustainable water supplies through reservoir storage allows Aurora to use the water that it owns when it needs it. Water storage helps Aurora bank water in average and wet years and release it during heightened demand or drought periods. Aurora's successful conservation program and storage reservoirs work hand in hand. The water our customers save is banked for use when it's needed.

Aurora's Integrated Water Master Plan, which plans 50 years ahead, determined that additional water storage was necessary to continue to provide reliable and sustainable water for our citizens on a daily basis. The Master Plan determined that a new reservoir would provide drought protection, resiliency in the face of climate change, enhanced system reliability and enable Aurora to meet future demands of our growing community. Aurora Water has determined that, combined with our ongoing water conservation and reuse efforts, a new reservoir is the most cost-effective supply strategy available to Aurora at this time. Wild Horse Reservoir was one of the best of 19 potential water supply projects considered by Aurora in its 2017 Integrated Water Master Plan.

The Colorado Water Plan projects a significant gap in water supply statewide by 2050. A new Aurora Water reservoir was included as a project needed to meet help fill the water supply gap within the South Platte River Basin.



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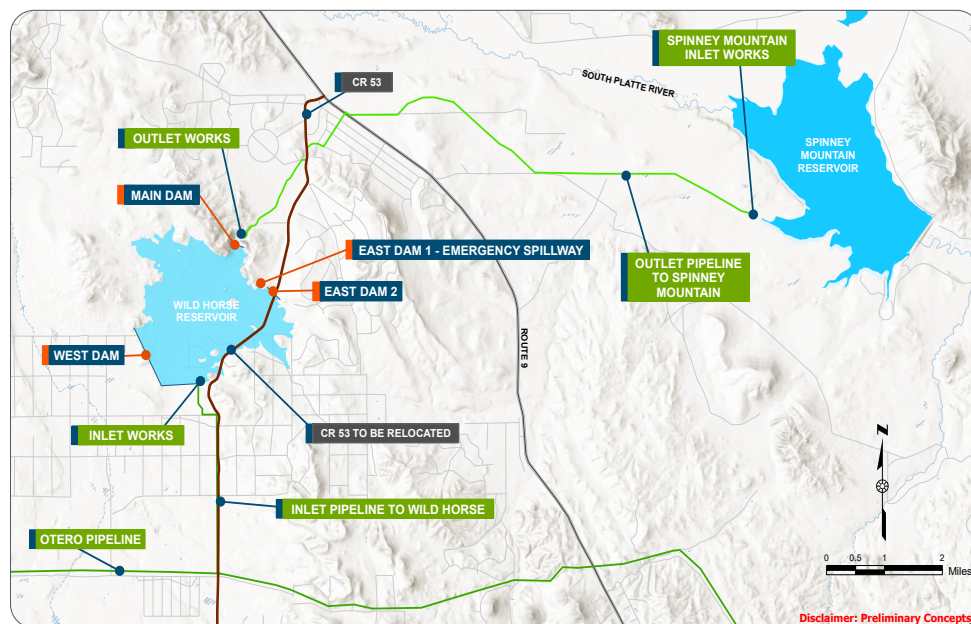


About Wild Horse Reservoir

Aurora's existing water rights from the Colorado and Arkansas rivers will be the source of water. No new rights or decrees are being pursued for this project. Wild Horse will allow Aurora to more efficiently, effectively and reliably manage its resources, particularly its Arkansas River water. Aurora is often forced to release or sell its Arkansas River water due to storage constraints.

The site for Wild Horse Reservoir was selected due to its proximity to existing infrastructure. It will be near an existing pipeline from the Otero Pump station that already delivers transbasin water to Aurora's system, and is only six miles upstream of Aurora's existing Spinney Mountain Reservoir. Wild Horse would allow Aurora to more efficiently store and manage transbasin water we are currently diverting. We could then store that water at a higher elevation in the South Platte Basin, effectively reducing evaporation, minimizing spills, and reducing waste. From Wild Horse Reservoir, the water would then flow to Spinney Mountain Reservoir by pipeline and into the city's water system via the South Platte River.

The location has very favorable topography and environmental conditions. Initial studies have determined there are no jurisdictional wetlands or endangered species at the site. Most of the property needed for construction is privately owned and undeveloped. Several small parcels are owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



Fast Facts:

- Evaluating a reservoir size up to 93,000 acre-feet
- Permitting will be led by the BLM
- Impacts to Aurora's water rates are projected to be minimal
- Favorable environmental conditions/minimal environmental impacts
- A substantial amount of the land needed to build the reservoir has already been acquired
- Working with Park County to minimize impacts and maximize benefits to the county
- Target completion date in the 2030s

Benefits:

- Allows Aurora to better manage its water supply, helping protect against drought and improve operational efficiency
- Provides Aurora with increased system reliability
- Provides recreational amenities and economic benefits for Park County
- Minimizes impacts to streams and the environment

For More Information:

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