

# GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



## Gross Reservoir Expansion Environmental Approach

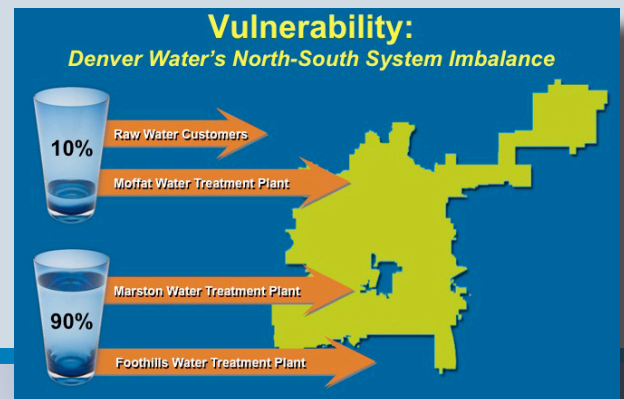
### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IS A CORE VALUE

Denver Water is meeting the demands of today and preparing for the needs of tomorrow while keeping a strong environmental focus. That environmental emphasis represents a core value of our organization by minimizing our environmental footprint and working collaboratively with our neighbors while enhancing water use efficiency.

*90 percent of Denver Water's water storage currently comes from its South System. This project will allow more water to be stored in the North System, helping to balance supply, increase reliability and decrease vulnerability.*

### GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION: A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO RELIABILITY

The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project is one of the major elements of Denver Water's long-term supply plan. It will prevent future shortfalls during droughts and correct a serious imbalance in our North-South collection system. With this project, we will provide more water to customers while improving the environment surrounding the planned expansion.



# WATER USE EFFICIENCY

### Water Use Efficiency

- Denver Water is recognized as a leader among national municipalities for water conservation.
- In 2014, our customers used less water per capita than they did in the last 40 years.
- On average the residents in our service area consume 90 gallons per day, one of the lowest rates in the western U.S.





*With collaboration from the Cities of Boulder and Lafayette, a 5,000-acre-foot environmental pool was included in this project that will improve flow in South Boulder Creek during low flow periods.*



*A recent federal report says that Colorado is drought-free for the first time since 2009. However, as in the past, the next drought is certain and may be right around the corner. During wet years, water will be stored for future use during dry years or during a prolonged drought.*



*The Fraser River is a primary water source in Colorado and is just one of the many rivers benefitting from the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project by protecting river flows, water qualities and more.*

## STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH OF COLORADO'S RIVERS AND STREAMS

This project takes unprecedented steps to enhance watersheds and protect the communities within them. Nearby rivers will benefit, as we go beyond offsetting the impacts of the reservoir expansion project to give South Boulder Creek and the Fraser, Williams Fork, Blue and Colorado Rivers better protection than they are receiving today. Through the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project:

- Ensures more water in the Fraser and Blue Rivers in dry years
- Funds multiple water improvement and stream restoration efforts
- Improves or changes stream channels to strengthen aquatic habitat

In Grand County, cooperative efforts protect and ensure flows for the upper reaches of the river basin. Working with Boulder and Lafayette, Denver Water established a 5,000-acre-foot environmental pool as part of the reservoir expansion. This pool will enhance stream flow in South Boulder Creek during low flow periods, benefitting 17 miles of aquatic habitat. In the Fraser River, cooperative work with the Department of Transportation, Grand County and the U.S. Forest Service is recovering road sand that had been clogging the river.

### Protecting our Watersheds and Endangered Species

Denver Water is:

- Providing \$16.5 million for the From Forests to Faucets partnership, to be matched by the U.S. Forest Service (total of \$33 million), for forest health initiatives in our watersheds.
- A leader in the Colorado River Recovery Program, a strong coalition of states, agencies and environmental groups cooperating in the restoration of habitat for the humpback chub, Colorado pike minnow and other fish species.
- A leader in the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, combining multiple resources to restore and protect habitat for the whooping crane and other endangered species.



## STAY IN TOUCH

For more information, please visit our project website at [GrossReservoir.org](http://GrossReservoir.org). For questions or comments regarding this project please call 303-628-6348 or email us at [GrossReservoir@denverwater.org](mailto:GrossReservoir@denverwater.org).

