

GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



Fact Sheet

EXPANDING GROSS RESERVOIR WILL ENHANCE WATER RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Gross Reservoir was constructed in the early 1950s with the ability to expand in the future to provide additional storage; that future is here today.

Expanding Gross Reservoir will help protect Denver Water customers from future drought and shortfalls in the overall water storage system. The project improves water dependability for many along Colorado's Front Range by protecting against potential natural and human-caused disasters.

With demand expected to increase, expanding Gross Reservoir adds a new element of sustainability to Denver Water's multi-pronged approach - including conservation, reuse and additional supply - to meet future customers' needs.

This project will help us provide the water our customers need while improving the Colorado River and the environment around the reservoir. We will also go beyond offsetting the impacts of the project by giving South Boulder Creek and the Fraser, Williams Fork, Blue and Colorado rivers better protections than they receive today.

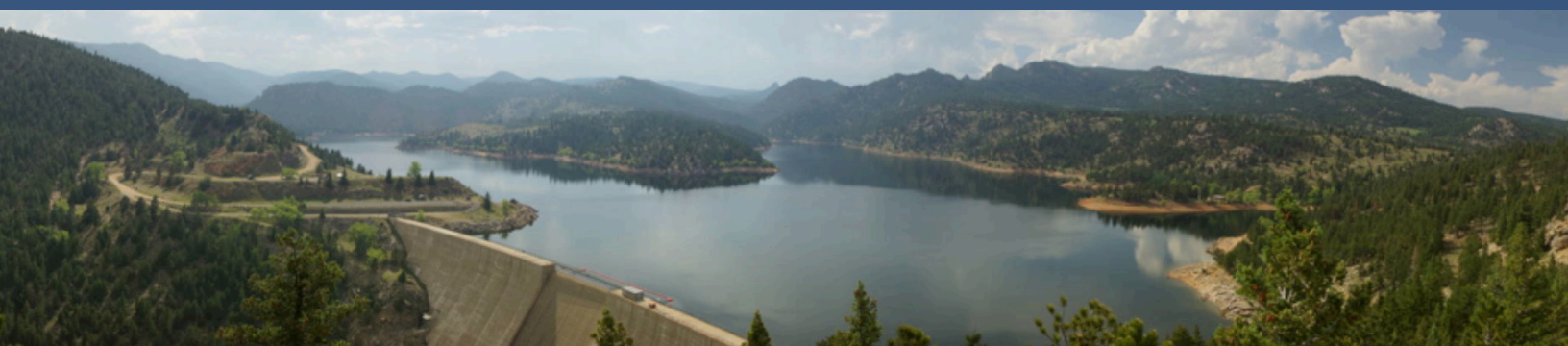
The expansion will provide 18,000 more acre feet of supply for Denver Water; that is enough to supply water to about 72,000 households a year and will provide 72,000 acre feet of additional storage to Denver Water's North System. This project will improve reliability in the North System, provide a more balanced water supply and decrease vulnerability for the Denver metro area in dry years.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Denver's water comes from rivers and streams fed by mountain snowmelt. Most runoff available to Denver Water during the wet winter of 2014 and spring of 2015 flowed out of state because existing Denver Water reservoirs were full and there was no place to capture and store it. If the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project had been completed in 2014, the reservoir could have stored 72,000 acre feet of water in the new storage space by the summer of 2015 for use during dry years.

While only 20 percent of Denver Water's supply comes through Gross Reservoir on the North System with the balance coming from the South System, this project will enable Denver Water to take greater advantage of future wet years to sustain the inevitable dry periods.

Expanding this reservoir will provide another 18,000 acre-feet of water supply, enough to supply 72,000 households for an entire year.



REUSE, CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As a major water provider in the West, we have a special responsibility to the environment. We are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the health of our watersheds and the properties and public amenities of our system. Two examples include our conservation plan, which is on-track to reduce overall water use from pre-2002 drought usage by 22 percent by 2016. Another is our industry leadership in treatment and reuse of wastewater – water used for irrigation, industrial use and municipal purposes.

DOLLARS AND CENTS

The cost estimates for the project range from \$380 - \$450 million. This includes design, project management, permitting, mitigation and construction.

Denver Water is entirely funded through rates, new tap fees and the sale of hydropower. No tax dollars will be used for the Gross River Expansion Project.

- **The existing Gross Reservoir spillway is at an elevation of 7,282 feet. After reservoir expansion, the spillway will be at an elevation of 7,406 feet.**
- **Current water capacity for Gross Reservoir is 41,811 acre feet (one acre foot = 325,851 gallons). This project will add 77,000 total acre feet – 72,000 for Denver Water use and 5,000 for the environmental pool that provides additional water for South Boulder Creek during low flow periods.**
- **Gross Reservoir has a surface area of 418 acres. Once this project is completed an additional 424 acres will be added to the Reservoir's surface area.**

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project Team anticipates a Record of Decision from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by the end of 2015. With that in place, preconstruction activities will begin immediately.



The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project will add 77,000 acre feet to storage, nearly tripling reservoir capacity.



STAY IN TOUCH

For more information, please visit our project website at GrossReservoir.org. For questions or comments regarding this project please call 303-628-6348 or email us at GrossReservoir@denverwater.org.

