

GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

Providing a Net Environmental Benefit for Colorado

grossreservoir.org

Denver Water has committed to more than 60 different mitigation and enhancement projects on both the West and East Slopes with a total cost of more than **\$20 Million**. Denver Water will be collaborating with numerous stakeholders to preserve the aquatic environment on a cooperative basis. Some of the projects include:



Environmental Pool

Denver Water will establish a 5,000 acre-foot (AF) Environmental Pool in Gross Reservoir that will be used to increase streamflow during low flow periods. This will benefit 17 miles of aquatic habitat in South Boulder Creek from Gross Dam to its confluence with Boulder Creek.



Learning by Doing

Denver Water is a partner in Grand County's groundbreaking "Learning By Doing" program – pursuing the goal to "maintain, and, where reasonably possible, restore and enhance the conditions of the aquatic environment in Grand County."



Long Term Water Quality Monitoring

Denver Water will monitor stream temperatures, water quality, aquatic insects and channel stability in numerous streams on both West and East Slope.



Stream Restoration on the North Fork South Platte River

Denver Water will prepare a Stream Habitat Improvement Plan to benefit aquatic habitat on the South Platte River.



South Boulder Creek Habitat Restoration

Denver Water will restore approximately 2 miles of South Boulder Creek with the City of Boulder.



Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Denver Water is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to restore and expand cutthroat trout habitat at several locations in Grand County.



Williams Fork Restoration

Denver Water will restore approximately 2 miles of the Williams Fork River in Grand County.



Fraser Sediment Ponds

Denver Water has partnered with Colorado Department of Transportation, Grand County, and the town of Winter Park to capture traction sand used on Highway 40 to improve water quality and trout habitat in the Fraser River.



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2015-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES



June 2016



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 401 Water Quality Certification

This approval certifies that the project, with the approved mitigation and enhancement measures, will create a net environmental benefit on both the West and East Slopes.

November 2016



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Amendment Final Application

Denver Water's hydropower unit is regulated by a license granted by FERC; amending the current license is required before the project can begin construction.

July 2017

Record of Decision and Section 404 Permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

After more than 13 years of careful study, evaluation and deliberation, the Army Corps of Engineers approved Denver Water's request to expand Gross Reservoir by issuing its Record of Decision and Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit.

March 2015



Learning By Doing Initiated

Learning by Doing (LBD) is a collaborative group of water stakeholders – including Denver Water, Grand County, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies – that meet regularly to monitor river health and undertake projects that safeguard Grand County's home waters.

June 2016



Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Compliance

U.S. Fish & Wildlife issued its' Biological Opinion to implement measures to protect and preserve threatened and endangered species – including the Green Lineage Cutthroat Trout.

July 2016

Governor Hickenlooper Endorsement

"The state's responsibility is to ensure we do the right thing for Colorado's future, and this project is vital infrastructure for our economy and the environment".
– Governor John Hickenlooper



COLORADO
Gov. John Hickenlooper

September 2016



U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Agreements

New agreements between Denver Water and the USFS to address past, current, and future impacts Denver Water operations have on USFS resources. These agreements identify funding and projects to protect and preserve USFS resources.

Looking Ahead

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Amendment Approval – 2018
- Dam design, quarry and construction – 2019-2025

