DENVER WATER’S GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT
This report provides a snapshot of recent activities and accomplishments and a look ahead for planned activities in 2019.
“In the end, we won’t be judged by whether this project was completed, but how it exemplified Denver Water’s commitment to stakeholder collaboration, environmental stewardship, minimized inconvenience to our neighbors and safety.”

- Jeff Martin, Gross Reservoir Expansion, program manager

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

With a project of this size, there are many activities to plan for, from design and on-site preparation to foundation prep and concrete placement. The chart below is our anticipated schedule. We endeavor to shorten this timeline as much as possible to limit the impact to the local community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dam design engineering</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public access to S Shore closed (N Shore open through construction)</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarrying operations</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Install temp rec facilities, site development</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dam surface prep, grouting, plant setup</td>
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<td>Dam raise activities - materials trucking</td>
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<td>Forestry activities / tree clearing</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>First fill</td>
<td>18</td>
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**PROJECT FORECAST (IN MILLIONS - 2025)**

Environmental Mitigation/Compliance/Permitting - $45  
Engineering/Project Management - $76  
Construction - $344

**PROJECT COST**

The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project is fully funded through Denver Water’s rates, new tap fees and the sale of hydropower. No tax dollars will be directed to Denver Water or the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. The chart to the left represents the forecasted costs with more than $22 million spent on environmental permitting and compliance projects since 2003.
LEARNING BY DOING’S FRASER FLATS STREAM RESTORATION
Grand County Learning by Doing is a cooperative effort between local governments, water providers and environmental groups in the headwaters of the Colorado River. The Fraser Flats Restoration project restored 0.9 miles of a distressed section of the Fraser River to benefit aquatic habitat. The project resulted in a four-fold increase in trout population. Sampling continues to ensure the population continues to flourish.

“For decades, people on both sides of the Divide have argued over this river, now we’re actually doing something together,” said Kirk Klancke, Trout Unlimited Colorado River Headwater’s chapter president. “When the West Slope gains a healthy river and the Front Range maintains its water supply, what we have is one Colorado and that’s good for all of us.”

SOUTH BOULDER CREEK RESTORATION
Denver Water performed similar stream restoration work to restore approximately 2 miles of South Boulder Creek within Boulder County. Work began in 2017 and was completed in early January 2019.

Similar restoration projects were completed on the Williams Fork River and South Boulder Creek. Monitoring efforts will determine if the Fraser Flats success will be realized on these other streams.

For more information about how the project will have a net environmental benefit on state water quality, visit grossreservoir.org.
ENGINEERING

DAM DESIGN
In 2018, the design engineer, Stantec/AECOM, advanced dam design to 30 percent. Work will continue on final dam design through 2020.

At various milestones of the dam design process, the Board of Consultants, an independent group of five professional engineers with a combined 173 years of experience, gather with Denver Water, Stantec and federal and state regulators to review design elements and provide critical independent review. As of 12/31/18, the team has received 467 hours of outside expert review to provide insights that will help guide Denver Water and the design engineer.
**SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS**

Denver Water conducted subsurface geotechnical investigations at various locations on the south side of Gross Reservoir and around the current dam. The locations were chosen to gain greater knowledge of the subsurface conditions to inform details of project features. The photos below were taken during these activities around the dam and reservoir.

*Geotechnical drill rig working on the south side of Gross Reservoir to collect subsurface core.*

**PROJECT DELIVERY**

The Denver Board of Water Commissioners and Project Management Team elected to procure construction services through the Construction Manager/General Contractor method. This will bring the CMGC into the PMT earlier than is customary, before design has reached 100 percent. The CMGC will contribute valuable constructability reviews and provide input on final design elements with the goal of managing risk, reducing costs and increasing efficiencies. The CMGC will begin work in the second quarter of 2019.

**SUB-CONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITIES**

In 2018, the PMT participated in the Boulder Small Business Development Center’s contract opportunities fair to share project information and opportunities with members of the small, minority-owned and woman-owned business enterprise community. We engaged in two-way communications with more than 30 interested companies and plan to conduct additional outreach to the SMWBE community in 2019.

**SAFETY**

- Denver Water is establishing a strong safety culture by, among other things, performing “safety shares” before meetings and tours. These moments help share potential risks and tips to ensure safe work practices.

*Geophysical testing being performed via rope work for the foundations on the downstream side of the dam.*
# Stakeholder Outreach

- **Public Information Office Hours**: 600+
- **Public Information Office Hour Visitors**: 590+
- **Presentation Count**: 41
- **Presentation Attendees**: 800+
- **Tour Attendees**: 184
- **Event Count**: 7
- **Event Attendees**: 289
- **Survey**: 2,000+
- **Received Responses**: 550+
- **Website Visitors**: 11,400+

# Notable Media

- **Denver Water TAP Articles**: 11
- **Mountain Messenger Advisements**: 7
- **Media Stories**: 300
ON THE GROUND
Crews will be performing work related to communications, utilities and safety and making improvements to our on-site operations complex. This work is taking place to keep Denver Water operations up-to-date to ensure a reliable source of water.

COME OUT AND PLAY
Recreation opportunities at Gross Reservoir will be unchanged for the 2019 boating season. Water access will be available from the Osprey Point boat ramp from Memorial Day to Oct. 1st.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS
Design will continue with input from the Board of Consultants, regulators and the CMGC.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
Denver Water will be working on various environmental mitigation projects, including a stream restoration project on the Williams Fork River.

STOP IN!
If you were not able to visit us at the yurt, we hope you will stop in next time you are at Gross Reservoir. During the summer months, we are open at the yurt five days per week. And during the winter months, we host weekly office hours at Coal Creek Coffee.