

Continental-Hoosier System Project

Montgomery Reservoir Enlargement | July 2026 | Vol. 1



What is the Continental-Hoosier System (CHS) project?

Colorado Springs largely relies on water sources that originate outside the Pikes Peak region. Our Continental-Hoosier System (CHS) has provided a reliable, energy-efficient means of collecting and conveying water supplies from the Continental Divide to the city for many decades.

We are proposing a project to enlarge Montgomery Reservoir, part of our CHS System, to improve the resiliency, redundancy and efficiency of the system and to collect and convey additional water supplies that are legally and physically available to Colorado Springs.

Montgomery Reservoir is situated north of the Town of Alma at 10,873 feet elevation. The enlargement would increase its current storage capacity of 5,699 acre-feet* to approximately 13,799 acre-feet. The additional amount stored in the reservoir would vary from year to year, depending on the legal and physical availability of supplies, but the additional average annual yield is estimated to be approximately 4,000 acre-feet of water. The project would allow us to fully utilize our existing water rights in the system, so no new water rights would be needed.

Enlarging the reservoir at some point in the future was contemplated when it was originally built nearly 70 years ago. While the dam has been well taken care of over the years, it requires life-cycle upgrades. It makes sense to complete an enlargement to obtain additional yield and improve the resiliency of the system, rather than upgrade the current dam. Learn more [here](#).

Project status

We are currently in the pre-permitting phase, with project design at 30%. This phase involves environmental planning, gathering information, and engaging with relevant federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders before formally applying for permits.

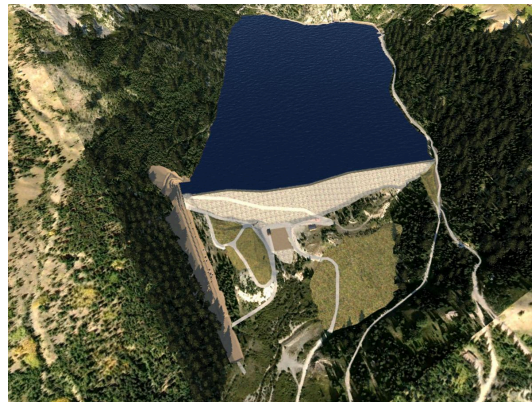
We expect to submit permit applications before the end of the year.

At this early stage of the project, our construction approach is still being determined.

While construction impacts have generally been identified, more details will become available as the design advances.

Estimated Project timeline

- **2026:** submit federal, state and local permit applications
- **2027-2028:** permitting decisions
- **2029-2032:** construction activities



Left: current reservoir footprint. Right: proposed enlargement.
Renderings are subject to change.

*One acre-foot of water equals 325,851 gallons of water.

Summer stop-in hours in Fairplay

Stop by the **Wagon Wheel (425 Main St. Hwy 9)** in Fairplay on the following dates/times this summer to ask questions and learn more about the project:

- Saturday, July 11 | 8-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, July 28 | 4-7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 8 | 8-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25 | 4-7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 12 | 8-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 29 | 4-7 p.m.

Other ways to connect with us: email us at projectinfo@csu.org or call **(719) 668-8504**

Visit: csu.org/CHSproject



First public meeting held this spring

In April, we hosted an informational open house at the Alma Town Hall for the Placer Valley community. Placer Valley is located closest to Montgomery Reservoir, and many of its residents had questions about the project, including how it would impact recreation at the reservoir and what to expect during construction.

We appreciate all the questions submitted before and during the meeting, which are helping inform our planning during the early design stage of this project. While we were able to answer many of the questions we received, some require us to be further along in the process to provide a response.

See a summary of the questions addressed at the meeting [HERE](#).



30-inch, Montgomery to Pikes Peak



The Continental-Hoosier System turns 70 years old

It's actually a decade-long celebration that began a few years ago. Construction of the Continental-Hoosier System—also known as our Blue River System—started in the early 1950s and was completed in 1964. Montgomery Reservoir will turn 70 years old in 2027.

The development of this system supported economic growth in Colorado Springs and provided additional drought protection for our city by diversifying our Pikes Peak water sources with transmountain supplies. Relative to other water sources, the system offers unique sustainability features, including high elevation storage to minimize evaporation loss, and gravity-flow conveyance of water supplies to the city for operational efficiency.

It's also become a recreational destination for many visitors to Park County. Shoreline fishing and wildlife viewing are activities that have been enjoyed by many people over the years. Those activities will resume after construction is completed.



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