



Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

Utility Wise: A Guide to Your Four Services

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Edited and updated by the Colorado Springs Utilities Public Affairs Department.

For questions, suggestions or updates, contact Community Relations at communityrelations@csu.org.

Colorado Springs Utilities: Your Utility

For more than 100 years, Colorado Springs Utilities has proudly provided safe, reliable and competitively priced essential services to those who call the Colorado Springs area home.

We are unique as a community-owned, not-for-profit municipal utility that offers four distinct services: electricity, natural gas, water and wastewater. We are dedicated to exceptional hometown service, and balance responsible environmental practices with our customers' input on utility operations.

The utility industry is evolving with new regulations and expectations. While parts of our organization will change, we are well positioned to meet the water and energy needs of our customers for generations to come.



Electric Service – Our electric system features a diverse mix of generation resources to provide 99.99% reliable electric service to our customers. This level of reliability ranks us among the best in the nation.

Natural Gas Service – We operate and maintain five gate stations (where natural gas enters our system) and 2,806 miles of distribution pipe, enough to stretch from coast to coast.

Water Service – We provide safe, clean and reliable water service to our community, most of

which has travelled up to 100 miles from the Rocky Mountains through a complex collection system. It takes long-term planning, careful monitoring and a commitment to conservation efforts to ensure our access to this precious resource lasts for future generations.

Wastewater Service – We ensure the safe disposal and management of wastewater in one of the largest systems in Colorado to protect public health and water supplies to contribute to better quality of life for our customers.

Our Leadership

Colorado Springs voters elect City Council members, who also serve as our governing board. Community ownership assures a focus on customer service excellence, competitive rates, high reliability, and a relationship with the community that reflects our values.

Our commitment to local governance ensures all utility decisions are made here in Colorado Springs, not by the Public Utilities Commission in Denver or at an out-of-state headquarters. The Utilities Policy Advisory Committee receives assignments from the Utilities Board to review and analyze potential projects or policies and provide recommendations to the Board members.

The Utilities Board also appoints our Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who directs our leadership team and oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization.



Downtown Colorado Springs and the Front Range.

Benefits of Community Ownership

Since the first water delivery came into service in 1878, and a vote of the people to add energy services in 1924, citizens have input in the decisions and services we provide to meet their needs, values and community vision. The benefits of being a municipally owned utility include:

- **Lower bills.** Rates are set only high enough to cover the cost of providing service. There are no profits that go to stakeholders in another city. One organization overseeing four services saves money on operational costs, which keeps bills lower for our customers.
- **Environmental protection.** Colorado Springs Utilities staff live here too and want to keep our city clean and beautiful. That's why we crafted sustainable Energy and Water Plans that commit to providing reliable service through responsible use of natural resources.

- **A thriving community.** Our employees and their families volunteered more than 15,850 hours and contributed over \$150,000 in 2025 to directly support our customers and local non-profit organizations in Colorado Springs. Additionally, 2,393 customers received over \$1.5 million in utility assistance from Project COPE and the Colorado Springs Utility Foundation.
- **Better customer service.** We're consistently a top performing utility and incorporate customer feedback into our decision making through a robust community engagement program. We are proud to be ranked #1 in Customer Satisfaction with Midsize Water Utilities in the West Region and #1 for Water Quality and Reliability by JD Power, a global consumer intelligence and market research firm, in their 2026 U.S. Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction StudySM.



JD Power customer satisfaction award.

For JD Power 2026 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

How to Engage

Stay informed. Stay involved. As a citizen of Colorado Springs, you own your utility and have a voice in making utility decisions. Public participation is an effective way for you to voice your input. We provide a variety of different platforms you can use to engage with us:

- Attend Utilities Board and Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Follow us on social media.
- Call us at (719) 448-4800.
- Attend open houses, classes or visit our Conservation and Environmental Center at 2855 Mesa Road.
- Sign up for one of our survey panels at www.csu.org/about/public-participation.
- Email us at communityrelations@csu.org.

Customers Count Panel. This is a group of residential customers who represent our citizen-owners and provide valuable input we use to make decisions. By providing feedback, they help shape programs and services for the future and raise awareness of customer expectations.

Business Community Panel. This group of business owners provides valuable insights into the unique needs of our business community. Your feedback gives us real-time insights into the needs of your business so we can help you discover ways to be more successful.

When you join a panel, you'll periodically receive an email with a link to an online survey about a specific topic. Your confidential response is combined with other panelist feedback and reviewed by our staff.



Facebook
@ColoradoSpringsUtilities



YouTube
@SpringsUtilities



Nextdoor
@Colorado Springs Utilities



X
@CSUtilities



LinkedIn
@Colorado Springs Utilities



Instagram
@CSUtilities

Our Commitment to Safety

We are on a multi-year journey to transform our safety culture from one of compliance into a culture of commitment. We aim to empower our employees and contractors to actively engage with our safety programs.

Utility services come with inherent hazards. Much of our work occurs near public roadways and involves utility pipes and wires, which can pose significant risks if not handled properly. Ensuring the health and safety of our employees, customers and contractors is our top priority as we conduct our essential work every day.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, invisible gas. Reduce your risk of CO poisoning.
- Install a CO alarm on each floor of your home within 15 feet of sleeping areas.
- Maintain and use appliances such as gas stoves and water heaters properly.
- Never operate fuel-burning equipment including a generator or vehicle in a garage, even with the garage door open.
- Do not use your oven for heat.
- Inspect and clean your dryer vents properly and regularly to prevent blockages.

Electric Safety

- Be cautious around overhead power lines.
- When carrying ladders or long tools, stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Always assume utility lines are energized. Don't touch a downed line or any object in contact with it.
- Call us at (719) 448-4800 if there is a downed line on your property.
- Stay off utility equipment such as vault boxes and transformers.

Natural Gas Safety

Use the "Three S's" to detect natural gas leaks.

- **Smell:** Natural gas is odorless in its natural state, but we add the chemical mercaptan which gives off a rotten egg odor. If you notice this strong odor, it could indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Sound:** A hissing sound near pipes, appliances or meters may indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Sight:** If you see bubbles in puddles or mud, or blowing dust and leaves, it might be a sign of natural gas escaping through the soil or a pipe.

If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate immediately. Call 911 and then call customer service at **(719) 448-4800**. Avoid open flames, sparks, or electrical switches around a natural gas leak.

Contact 811 Before You Dig

- Call 811 or click <http://colorado811.org> at least three days before digging to have your utility lines marked for free.
- When landscaping around green utility boxes, allow eight feet of space in front and two feet of space on each side.



Yellow flag marking a buried natural gas line.

Electric Service



Natural Gas Service



Water Service



Wastewater Service





COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

**OUR HISTORY: A
CENTURY OF SERVICE**

Our History: A Century of Service



Panorama of Colorado Springs in 1880. Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

We are deeply connected with the founding of Colorado Springs. Our story starts in the late 1800s with the establishment of a water delivery service, more than 50 years before we were established as a four-service utility in 1924 by a vote of the people. The population of Colorado Springs at the time of the vote was about 30,000.

General William Jackson Palmer, who founded the city in 1871, understood the future was dependent upon the development of its utilities, beginning with the essential resource of water.

Palmer was instrumental in the construction of the El Paso Canal, which was the first aspect of utilities infrastructure built in Colorado Springs in the fall of 1871. The canal provided water to our community, a tradition we proudly continue today.

In the decades after the city's founding, additional municipal services were needed as the population grew. In 1878, Colorado Springs voters approved an \$80,000 bond issue to build a municipal water system, marking the establishment of the first of our four services. Voters passed another bond in 1888 to build the first sewer system, addressing sanitation needs.

The El Paso Electric Company established service in the mid-1880s using coal power to illuminate about 350 homes and five streetlights in the city. In the years that followed, as many as eight companies provided electric services in Colorado Springs.



City of Colorado Springs Electric Division employees. Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

The Colorado Springs Gas and Coke Company provided natural gas, which was primarily used for lighting until the 1890s when residents began using gas appliances, providing new conveniences and comfort.

As the city developed and expanded, residents grew tired of unpredictable, inadequate electric and gas services. In 1909, voters adopted a Home Rule Charter, which allowed the community to buy the electric or gas system if it voted to do so. Within 15 years they did, and in 1925 citizens took ownership of the four-service utilities.

Our Organization's Founding

In 1910, the companies that provided electric and gas services to Colorado Springs consolidated into one, forming the Colorado Springs Light, Heat & Power Company.

Our History: A Century of Service

This company faced immediate scrutiny from the newly formed Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A PUC hearing found the company's electric rates to be excessive and ordered the company to stop the practice of offering discounted or free service to its employees.

The public continued to complain about high rates and a lack of reliable infrastructure. It was during this time that a group of women helped lead efforts to instill public control over electric and gas services.



Newspaper clipping by the Women's Club of Colorado Springs calling for rate reduction, 1920s.

Lillian Kerr, the first president of the Woman's Club of Colorado Springs and a co-founder of the Colorado Springs Civic League, led efforts to file a petition to investigate the possibility of the City purchasing private utilities. That petition spurred the creation of a 15-member committee to study and make a recommendation about public utility ownership. The committee made several major recommendations:

1. No privately owned company shall be given use of municipal water rights.
2. The city government (City) must hire "a competent engineer to help resolve the City's ... light, heat and power problems."

3. That no more private electric franchises be granted, pending approval from voters.

In 1923, voters formally denied Colorado Springs Light, Heat & Power Company an electric franchise. In July of 1924, voters approved a \$1.25 million bond that authorized the City to buy the consolidated Colorado Springs Light, Heat & Power Company.

On June 30, 1925, Colorado Springs citizens formally took ownership of the community's electric and natural gas system, marking the creation of our community-owned four-service utility. The vote led to rapid improvements in electric reliability, a rebuilt streetlight network and the installation of the city's first gas pipeline in 1931.

Income from sales of electric and gas services paid for all system improvements. The citizens' investment of \$1.25 million in 1924 produced a system valued at \$4.43 million in 1939. Today, Colorado Springs Utilities operates a nearly \$5.5 billion enterprise.

History of our first power plants

Martin Drake Power Plant

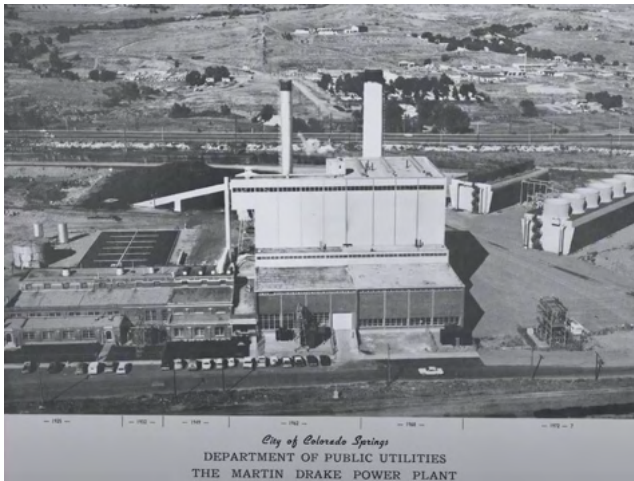
Located in downtown Colorado Springs on land once occupied by the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District Railroad, the Martin Drake Power Plant (originally named South Plant) was completed in 1925 as the city's first power plant.

Over its nearly 100-year lifespan, the facility expanded significantly to meet growing electric demand. What began as a single generating unit in 1925 grew to seven units by 1974. In 1996, the older and smaller Units 1 through 4 were retired and removed from service.

The plant utilized water-tube boilers equipped with both forced and induced draft fans, eliminating the need for natural draft from tall

smokestacks. These boilers produced steam at 350 pounds per square inch and 200 degrees Fahrenheit, which powered Westinghouse steam turbine generator sets—each with its own condenser. Cooling water for operations was sourced from Fountain Creek and our non-potable system.

Coal deliveries arrived via the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway, as well as in hopper cars owned by the Colorado Springs and Interurban Railway.



Martin Drake Power Plant, 1960s.

Operations at the Martin Drake Power Plant officially ended in September 2022. For nearly a century, the plant had been a symbol of reliable and affordable energy for Colorado Springs. Its closure was driven by stricter state emissions requirements and the rising cost of maintaining an aging coal-fired facility.

Demolition began in summer 2023 and was completed by July 2024. The project required over 83,000 work hours and involved removing approximately 8,700 tons of material. Crews implemented measures to minimize impacts such as dust, noise, and traffic in the surrounding area. The demolition cost approximately \$20 million, with some expenses offset through the sale of scrap materials.

Today, the site has returned to its original name, South Plant, and now houses new natural gas generation facilities. The land remains owned by the City of Colorado Springs and is managed by Colorado Springs Utilities.

Birdsall Power Plant

In the post-World War II years, Birdsall Power Plant (originally known as North Plant) was constructed on the north side of town near an old airport. It was named after George Birdsall, former sheriff and Colorado Springs mayor 1930-1944.

Designed as a steam-powered plant, it was first built with two units. A third unit went online in 1957, giving Birdsall an overall capacity of 61 megawatts (MW).

Originally, units one and two had Elliott steam turbine-driven pumps, which were replaced with electric motors. Unit three was nearly the same as the first two units, only larger. It had a General Electric steam turbine generator at 24 MW. All units could burn natural gas, coal or diesel fuel. Although the building was constructed with coal burners, they were never used because natural gas was the primary fuel.

The Birdsall Power Plant was permanently closed in 2025 and decommissioning plans are underway.



Birdsall Power Plant.

Electric service saw major leaps forward in the twenty-first century. We increased generating capacity by adding the Ray Nixon and Front Range Power Plants to our portfolio by 2003, supporting a population that grew from just over 30,000 in 1920 to more than 360,000 by the year 2000. Today, our population exceeds half a million.

Meeting Growing Water Needs

Improving the electric system was only one major priority at this time; securing water rights for the city was arguably even more important. The work to secure water for future generations started close to home, on the slopes of Pikes Peak. Construction of seven reservoirs on the South Slope of Pikes Peak spanned nearly 40 years, from 1890 to 1929.

By the 1930s, the City eyed the North Slope of Pikes Peak for water rights, completing multiple purchases of land surrounding North and South Catamount, Crystal and North and South Cascade creeks. Congress acted to set aside 10,000 acres of land for use in this effort, ensuring work could begin on these projects.

Despite the Great Depression, the South Catamount and Crystal reservoirs were added to our system between 1934 and 1937.

Blue River Project

Even with an improved local system in place, the city continued planning for additional growth and the introduction of “transmountain water” to our system. Transmountain water is water that is diverted from the western slope of the Continental Divide.

In the 1940s, we looked to the Blue River basin in Summit County to bring additional water to our city. The ambitious Blue River Project proposed constructing a 110-mile-long system to divert water west of the Continental Divide near Breckenridge to our local water system.

The City purchased land and water rights for the Blue River Watershed in 1947 and filed its claim for a conditional decree for appropriation and diversion of waters in the Blue, McCullough, Crystal and Spruce creeks and other Blue River tributaries that same year.



Water construction workers laying a pipe segment.

Our History: A Century of Service

Communities on the Western Slope strongly opposed the Blue River Project and other projects to divert water across the Continental Divide to the Denver area, leading to lawsuits and competing proposals. However, through strategic alliances and the intervention of President Eisenhower, an agreement was reached that allowed Colorado Springs and Denver to divert their share of Blue River water for their communities' use.

The Blue River Project played a major role in our city's history, as it was a significant factor in the U.S. Air Force's decision to locate the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in the 1950s.

Homestake Project

As construction on the Blue River Project wrapped up, plans were already underway for the \$60 million Homestake Transmountain Water Project. This initiative doubled the water resources of both Colorado Springs and Aurora by diverting water near Leadville and transporting it more than 100 miles to the Front Range cities.

Like the Blue River Project, the cities' efforts to acquire water rights were met with opposition and legal challenges from the Western Slope. The case ultimately made it to the Colorado Supreme Court in 1962, where the court sided with the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora.

The decision allowed construction on the massive project to begin in 1963. Homestake became our community's workhorse raw water system, transporting up to 70% of our water to Colorado Springs through Rampart Reservoir, which was completed in 1970.



Workers in the Homestake Tunnel, 1960s.

Growing Our Natural Gas and Wastewater Services

Careful planning and execution secured enough water for Colorado Springs to grow into a flourishing city. This story of long-term planning echoes in our other services.

Natural gas service expanded along with electric generation to meet growing demands. Today, our system has more than 2,800 miles of main lines, serving nearly 230,000 service points. The growth of the system was briefly paused in the 1970s, due to the natural gas crisis when a moratorium was placed on new natural gas permits. That was lifted shortly after the construction of our propane air plant in 1974, which is still used today to augment our natural gas system on our coldest days.

Wastewater and water quality infrastructure also saw big improvements. We built our first wastewater plant in the mid-1930s at the site now occupied by the Las Vegas Street Water Resource Recovery Facility, which saw numerous upgrades as technology improved to handle wastewater. In 1973, activated sludge, or microorganisms, were added to the process. The

Our History: A Century of Service

biosolids disposal facility was constructed in 1984 at Clear Spring Ranch.

Our newest wastewater plant, named J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility, began operating in 2007 to help manage growth in the north and northeast parts of the city. This facility is fully enclosed to help control odors. It can treat 20 million gallons of wastewater per day.



J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Our state-certified laboratory was completed in 2005, allowing us to conduct water quality analysis in-house.

Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century

In the early 2000s, our water system was tested by a severe drought, bringing urgency to develop a new raw water delivery system. Following an extremely dry and hot spring and summer of 2002, our water storage dropped to an unprecedented 42%, a record low in modern times.

Conservation efforts and wetter weather patterns helped ease the stress on our water system in the years following the drought. Meanwhile, planning

for the Southern Delivery System – the largest water delivery project in our region’s history – was underway. After an extensive permitting process, construction began in 2011.

By 2016, the Southern Delivery System was completed on time and under budget. This included the installation of 50 miles of pipeline, three pump stations and the Edward Bailey Water Treatment Facility.

In addition to improvements to our water system, we were planning our energy future. In 2022, we closed and decommissioned the Martin Drake Power Plant, which began operation in 1925. To replace generation capacity on our grid, we installed six modular natural gas generators on the former Drake plant site in 2022. Our largest solar array, Pike Solar, came online in December 2023. The Birdsall power plant was closed in 2025.



Last pipe segment used for construction of the Southern Delivery System.

A special thanks to Jerry Forte, Margaret Radford and their book “It’s How We’re All Connected: The Story of Colorado Springs Utilities” which provided much of the content for this page.



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

**BUILDING
THE FUTURE**

Building the Future

According to the State Demographer, the El Paso County population will reach one million by 2060. We are taking the necessary steps now to make strategic investments in our infrastructure to meet this growing need.

Just as in the earliest days of our city, we are prepared to help our community prosper and grow economically. The projects highlighted in the next section reflect our dedication to building a resilient and sustainable future for our community.

Electric Projects

Advances in our electric system are essential to maintaining reliability and supporting growing demand across our community.



Electric employees working on a power line.

Kelker Substation Expansion

This project will double the size of the Kelker Substation to meet increasing energy demand in southeastern Colorado Springs. It will connect to the new Kelker–South Plant and Midway–Kelker transmission lines.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$76 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$140 million
-

Central Bluffs Substation

This project consolidates two substations and a switch station into a single, modern facility, improving adaptability, efficiency, and reliability.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$37 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$51 million
-

Midway–Kelker Transmission Line

This project strengthens the regional electric system by increasing capacity and replacing wooden poles with more resilient steel structures in wildfire-prone areas.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$63 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$68 million
-

Kelker–South Plant Transmission Line

This project will construct a high-capacity 115 kV transmission line connecting the Kelker Substation (southeast) to the South Plant (downtown).

Design, easement acquisition, and permitting are underway in 2026. Construction is expected to begin soon, with completion targeted for 2027.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$20 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$25 million
-

Underground Distribution Lines

This project installs underground distribution lines to serve new residential developments.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$55 million
-

Natural Gas Projects

Pipeline expansions and system improvements help ensure reliable service and meet growing demand.



Natural gas employee working on a pipeline.

Natural Gas Expansion Project

This project supports existing and future natural gas generation by ensuring adequate fuel supply under all conditions, including extreme weather. It also provides capacity for future expansion at Fort Carson.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$59 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$59 million
-

Natural Gas System Renewals

This project replaces aging steel, coated steel, and vintage plastic infrastructure to improve safety and reliability.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$32 million
-

Natural Gas Infrastructure for New Construction

This project supports new development with gas main extensions, meters, instrumentation, and service connections for residential and commercial customers.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$26 million
-

Water Projects

Ensuring reliable water supply requires both securing new resources and upgrading infrastructure.



Water employee carrying a section of pipeline.

Water Acquisition

This effort focuses on water-sharing agreements in the Lower Arkansas Valley to balance agricultural and municipal needs.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$31 million

Continental–Hoosier System Project

This project proposes expanding Montgomery Reservoir within the Blue River System, increasing annual yield by approximately 4,000 acre-feet.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$111 million
- **Total project cost:** \$427 million

Tollefson & Mesa Treatment Upgrades

This project includes new filtration, upgrades to ozone treatment, sodium hypochlorite system, and total organic carbon removal.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$26 million

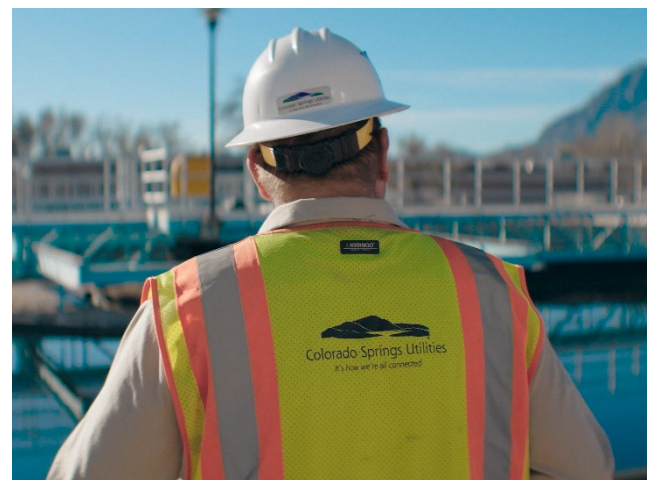
Austin Bluffs Water System Improvements

This project replaces a 64-year-old water tank and installs a new 36-inch water main connecting to the system at Union Boulevard and Montebello Drive.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$30 million
- **Total project cost:** \$30 million

Wastewater Projects

Investments in wastewater infrastructure support public health, environmental protection, and system efficiency.



Wastewater employee at a treatment plant.

Wastewater System Expansion

This project provides the foundational “backbone” infrastructure needed to support Colorado Springs’ growth.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$397 million
 - **Phase 1 cost:** \$345 million
-

Northern Monument Creek Interceptor

This project includes a gravity-flow pipeline that improves efficiency and operations across three partner organizations, including Colorado Springs Utilities.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$97 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$100 million
-

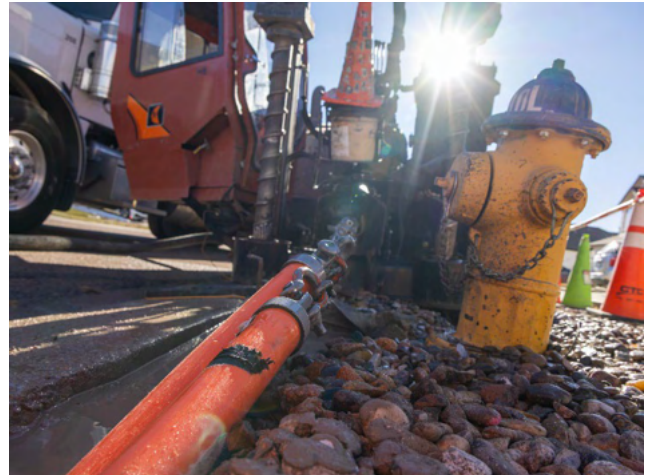
Rosemont Pipeline Replacement

This project is a multi-year effort to replace 14 miles of aging wastewater pipeline.

- **2025–2029 cost:** \$14 million
 - **Total project cost:** \$49 million
-

Fiber Network

Our fiber network project will modernize and strengthen utility operations by delivering a faster, more reliable, and more secure control network. This investment supports the needs of our growing community while advancing long-term operational efficiency.



Installation of fiber conduit.

To help offset construction costs, Colorado Springs Utilities leases excess fiber capacity to private partners, including Ting Internet. While we build and maintain the fiber-to-the-curb network for utility operations, Ting uses the leased capacity to provide retail internet service.

Construction is active in Colorado Springs. Work will take place within public rights-of-way and utility easements, which may be underground or on poles near or within your yard.

This project is a significant investment in our community's future, ensuring safe, reliable, and efficient utility services for the next 50 to 100 years.

Rates and Impact

We understand that making investments to maintain and improve our systems directly impacts our customers' bills. Because we are a municipally owned utility, we set rates just to cover the cost of our services and do not make money on the rates that are charged.

Base rates pay for infrastructure projects like the ones mentioned above. These projects help us maintain the reliability our customers have come to expect, while allowing us to support the city's growth and meet regulations.

We are facing a period of historic demands and industry change. We currently have about \$5.3 billion of infrastructure in our system that has been built and maintained over our 100-year history. We expect to add another \$3.9 billion in assets in just 5 years.

As a community-owned not-for-profit utility, we must increase our budget to pay for these necessary projects. The approved \$2.2 billion budget in 2026, a 23% increase compared to 2025, supports critical infrastructure investments across all four services. Increasing our budget to pay for these future projects will result in rate increases across all four services for the next several years. Despite these challenges, we believe this plan will keep rates competitive compared to other Front Range utilities.

We understand increases have a financial impact on our customers, and we are committed to providing payment assistance programs, rebates, efficiency information and rate options to support you. For more information on rebates and incentives, see the Conservation and Customer Resources section.



Employee providing payment assistance options to a customer.



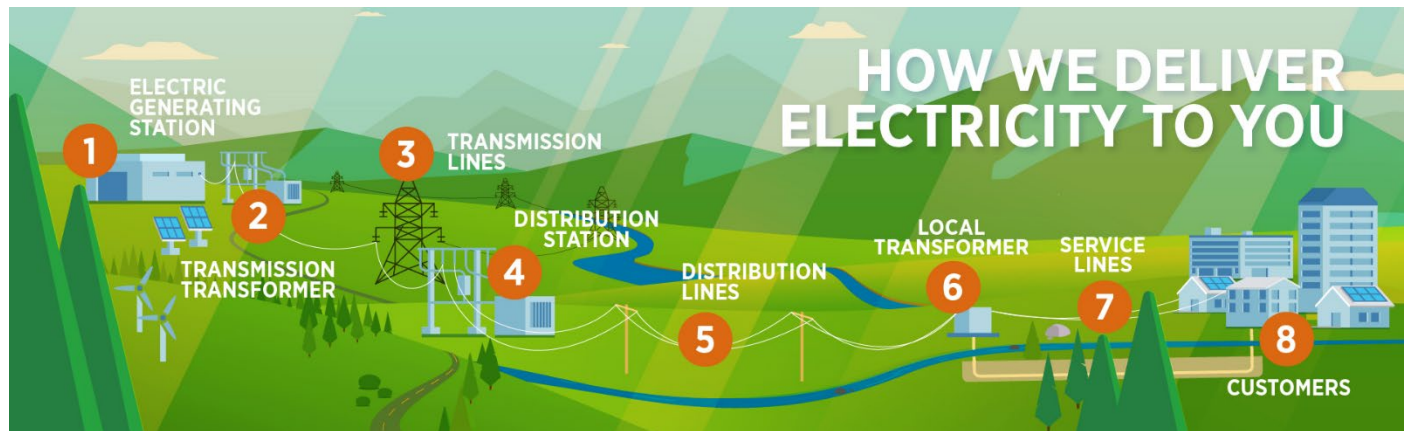
Employee assisting a customer at their home.



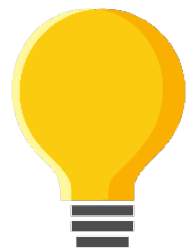
COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Electric System Overview

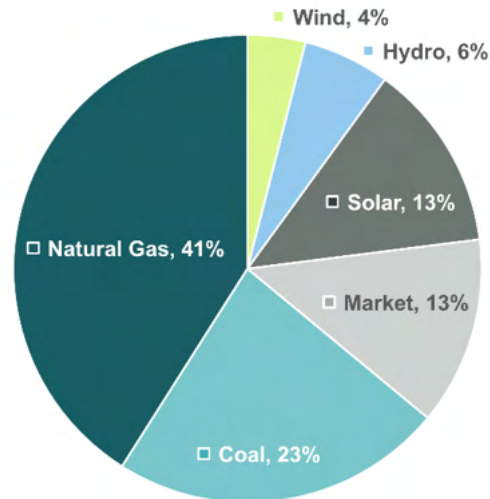


- **Electric service area:** 478 square miles
- **Number of owned generation plants:** 7
- **Number of active electric meters:** 264,071
- **Annual electric use:** 4.85 million MWh
- **Average residential electric use:** 608 kwh/month
- **Record peak demand:** 1,011 MW (July 30, 2024)
- **Net generating capability:** 1,250 MW
- **Average System Availability Index (ASAI):** 99.99% reliability
- **System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI):** 40.76 minutes
- **Miles of distribution power lines:** 3,852 miles (827 miles overhead; 3,025 miles underground)
- **Miles of transmission power lines:** 231 miles (205 miles overhead; 26 miles underground)
- **Miles of total electric lines:** 4,083 miles (1,032 miles overhead; 3,051 miles underground)
- **Number of substations:** 55



2025 Electric Generation Mix

Total Generation
1,250 MW



Electric Generation Assets

Our electric system has a generation capacity of 1,250 megawatts (MW). This supports an electric system that is one of the most reliable in the industry with service available 99.99% of the time. Achieving this level of service is enabled by our diverse resource mix comprised of thermal, hydroelectric, and renewable generating resources.

On July 30, 2024, we set a peak electric use record with 1,011 MW, eclipsing the previous record of 989 MW set in 2021.

Large portions of our electric grid, including substations and transmission lines, are undergoing important upgrades to prepare us for a new energy future and new demands related to regulatory requirements, city growth, increased electric vehicle ownership and electric-based technology in homes. These projects and other related initiatives are part of our Sustainable Energy Plan.

Thermal Generation Units

Facility	Fuel Type	Net Capacity	Year Built
Ray Nixon Power Plant	Coal and natural gas	268 MW	1980
Front Range Power Plant	Natural gas	495 MW	2003
South Plant Natural Gas Generating Units (former Martin Drake site)	Natural gas	150 MW	2023

Ray Nixon Power Plant

The Ray Nixon Power Plant, located just south of Colorado Springs, has been a vital part of our community since it began operation in April 1980. Named after Ray Nixon, a former Director of Utilities, the coal-fired portion of the plant has a total capacity of 208 megawatts. It is our last remaining coal-fired generating unit. In addition to coal, the plant also includes two natural gas-fired combustion turbines, each generating 30 MW. These units serve as peak resources, providing flexibility during periods of high demand.

As agreed in recent legislation, we expect to decommission this plant by the end of 2032.



Front Range Power Plant (left) and Nixon Power Plant (right) on the Clear Spring Ranch property.

Front Range Power Plant

Front Range Power Plant was initiated in 1999 and began commercial operation in 2003. Initially, a limited-liability partner, we purchased the plant in full in 2010.

Front Range is a gas-combined cycle plant, with two combustion turbine engines. Summer capacity is 460 MW and winter capacity is 480 MW. The combined cycle process is 60% more efficient than a single steam cycle plant.

South Plant Natural Gas Generating Units

Six modular natural gas combustion turbines were commissioned into service in May 2023. They are in downtown Colorado Springs on the former Martin Drake Power Plant site to help serve peak demand. The modular units have many benefits:

- Cost effective to operate
- Require limited staff resources
- Produces power within minutes

We anticipate the units will be a permanent fixture on our electric grid for decades and will provide long-term value for our customers. These generators are dual-fuel capable with natural gas as the primary fuel and diesel fuel for backup.

With a positive experience with these units at the former Drake site, we plan to install 10 natural gas-fueled generating units, featuring similar technology, at the Williams Creek Generating Station on the east side of the city that is currently in planning stage. The units will have a total capacity of 400 MW to help meet the community's power needs for years to come.



Natural Gas Generating Units at South Plant.

Hydroelectric Units

Facility	Fuel Type	Capacity	Year Built
Manitou Springs Hydroelectric Plant	Conventional hydro	5.5 MW	1905
Ruxton Hydroelectric Plant	Conventional hydro	1 MW	1925
Tesla Hydroelectric Plant	Conventional hydro	28 MW	1997
Cascade Hydroelectric Plant	Conventional hydro	1MW	2010

Manitou Springs Hydroelectric Plant

The Manitou Springs Hydroelectric Plant, with a generating capacity of 5.5 MW, has been a reliable source of power for more than 120 years. It is the oldest generation source in our electric system.

It began operating on February 15, 1905, as the Pikes Peak Hydro-Electric Company, boasting the highest water pressure in the world at the time, with a 2,380-foot drop from inlet to turbine and 940 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure. Since then, the plant's water pressure features have fluctuated over time due to upgrades. Today it operates around 1,150 psi.



Manitou Springs Hydroelectric Plant.

Originally, the plant had three 750-kilowatt (kW) units. In 1925, Colorado Springs took ownership and by 1927, another 2,500-kW unit was added. The plant continued to evolve, with significant upgrades in 1939 and 2005, the latter adding a unit that generates up to 460 kW.

The plant operated 24/7 with a five-person crew until automation in 1994. In addition to their operator, the plant crew had to watch for frequency voltage and even manage the streetlight systems for Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs.

In 2019, it was honored by Hydro Review Magazine for its century-long operation. The plant's history is a testament to its resilience and importance to the community.

Ruxton Hydroelectric Plant

The Ruxton Plant, located far up the Cog Railway's tracks and with a total capacity of 1 MW, holds the unique distinction as being the first fully automated hydro plant in the world when it opened in 1925. Water from the Lake Moraine Dam flows through a 20-inch pipeline to the plant, dropping 1,160 feet and creating 500 psi of turbine inlet pressure.

Electric System Overview

While it shifted to on-site operations from 1931 to 2013, it is once again remotely run from the Systems Energy Control Center at the Birdsall Power Plant campus.



Ruxton Hydroelectric Plant.

Tesla Hydroelectric Plant

Tesla Hydroelectric plant, with a capacity of 28 MW, was built in 1997 on the U.S. Air Force Academy's property near Stanley Canyon. The plant was named after the renowned scientist and former resident of Colorado Springs, Nikola Tesla.

Much larger than its older hydro cousins, the plant features a 1,000-foot vertical shaft and a three-mile-long tunnel to deliver water from Rampart Reservoir. It has a 61.22-inch diameter Pelton turbine, with a generator built above the turbine that spins at 600 revolutions per minute. Total water pressure at the turbine nozzles is 953 psi at a total flow of 200 cubic feet per second. Used as a peaking unit, the plant is completely automated and controlled from the Systems Energy Control Center at the Birdsall Power Plant campus.

Cascade Hydroelectric Plant

Built in 2010, the Cascade Hydroelectric facility, with a capacity of 1 MW, is our newest hydro generation site. The plant was the result of the 2004 Electric Integrated Resource Plan (EIRP), calling for more diversification in our electric portfolio.

Cascade Hydro was constructed in place of an old water pressure-reducing unit that slowed the rate of water coming from the Old North Slope Pipeline. Cascade Hydro can produce enough power to support 530 residential homes.



Tesla Hydroelectric Plant.

Other Renewable Resources: Solar and Wind

The addition of renewable resources to our electric generation helps to diversify our community's energy supply and meets our obligation to obtain 10% of retail electricity from eligible renewable energy sources as required by the Colorado Renewable Energy Standard. We also leverage Renewable Energy Certificates from carbon-free resources to comply with this standard and generate revenue, which helps reduce electric costs for our customers. Renewable resources make up more than 20% of our energy portfolio.

Resource	Capacity	Year Built
U.S. Air Force Academy Solar Array	5 MW	2011
Venetucci Farm Community Solar Garden	0.5 MW	2011
South I-25 Solar Garden	0.4 MW	2012
Good Shepherd Community Solar Garden	0.5 MW	2012
Colorado Springs Solar Garden	0.5 MW	2015
Pikes Peak Solar Garden	2 MW	2015
Clear Spring Ranch Solar Array	10 MW	2016
Grazing Yak Solar Array	35 MW	2019

Resource	Capacity	Year Built
Palmer Solar Array	60 MW	2019
Spring Canyon Wind Farm	60 MW	2021
Pike Solar Array	175 MW	2023

In 2015, the Utilities Board approved a project to build a 10 MW solar array on our Clear Spring Ranch campus, about 156 acres south of the city. The array came online in late 2016, producing enough energy to power about 3,000 homes annually.

In 2021, construction began on Pike Solar, the largest solar facility in our generation portfolio. Consisting of 400,000 photovoltaic panels, the 175-megawatts generated by this solar plant powers approximately 46,300 homes a year.

Though some resources are built on Colorado Springs Utilities land, we have long-term electricity supply agreements, or Power Purchase Agreements, with the suppliers that own and operate these resources.



Employee with solar panels at the Pike Solar Array.

New Generation and Storage

To supplement renewable energy sources like solar and wind, and enhance overall system resiliency, we completed our first 100 MW battery energy storage system at the Jackson Fuller Electric Substation, located east of Colorado Springs. The Jackson Fuller battery storage system came online in June 2025. We are building a second 100 MW battery energy storage system at the Horizon Utility Campus in late 2027. The Horizon Utility Campus is a 160-acre site located near the Colorado Springs Airport, which currently houses a modern electric substation built in 2024.



Lithium-ion batteries at the Jackson Fuller Substation in northeastern Colorado Springs.

Battery energy storage systems consist of large-scale lithium-ion batteries that store electrical energy in the form of chemical energy, converting it back to electrical energy when needed, particularly during times of peak use.

We are exploring other technologies for future electric generation including:

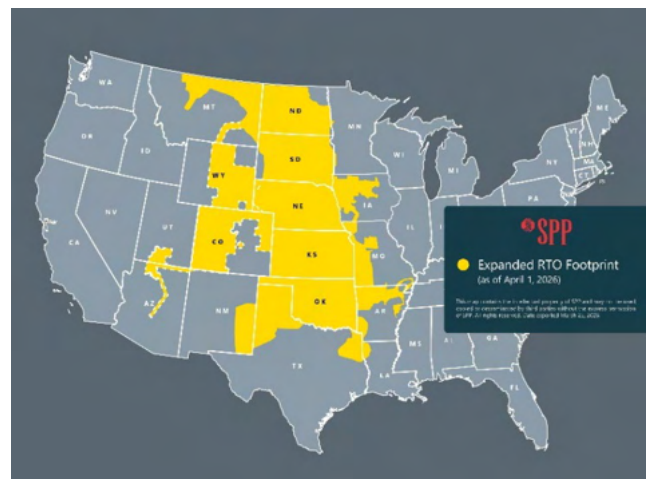
- Nuclear Small Modular Reactor (SMR)
- Geothermal / Thermal Heating Services
- Thermal Storage

- Hydrogen
- Renewable Natural Gas
- Pumped Storage

Membership in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)

As of April 1, 2026, we are an official member of the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). RTO membership significantly expands our access to regional energy resources and transmission capacity and allows those resources to be deployed more quickly and cost-effectively than developing them independently. It also integrates our system into SPP's centrally coordinated transmission planning, energy, and ancillary services markets.

This broader regional coordination is increasingly important as the electric industry faces rising demand, supply chain constraints, evolving regulatory requirements, and growing market complexity. RTO membership positions us to better manage these challenges while maintaining reliability, controlling costs, and delivering value to our customers.



Map of the organizations that comprise the SPP RTO.

Electric Transmission and Distribution System

We maintain and operate 3,852 miles of electric distribution lines and more than 200 miles of transmission lines around the city. Like the 55 electric substations that occupy many portions of our electric grid, these electric lines play a critical role in delivering reliable and safe electricity to your homes and businesses.

While distribution and transmission lines sound similar, they play very different roles in our electric system and often require different installation methods and standards.

Transmission vs. Distribution

Transmission lines deliver electricity at a high voltage from a generation source (power plants, solar arrays, windfarms, etc.) to an electric substation. Distribution lines deliver electricity at a lower voltage from a substation to a local electric distribution network that may include transformers and/or switches (green boxes) or overhead service lines that safely feed customers' homes and businesses with electricity.

Several of the new transmission line and substation projects underway or in the planning stage must be built in already-established areas of Colorado Springs, presenting limited route and siting options. To reliably serve our customers, substations are located near the area they serve. As we change the way we produce energy and the way we bring it into our city, new transmission lines are needed to connect existing substations in established areas.

To provide context, we've initiated energy projects that stretch across all geographic areas of our city – from Flying Horse, Briargate and the Austin Bluffs corridor to downtown and southeast Colorado Springs.

Most of these projects require the acquisition or use of easements on private property.



Transmission line with steel monopoles in the eastern part of our service territory.



Distribution line in Colorado Springs.

Overhead vs. Underground

The construction, operations and maintenance requirements of distribution lines versus transmission lines are very different.

Nearly 3,000 of our 3,852 miles of **distribution lines** are underground (about 77%). Only 23% of our electric distribution lines are overhead, generally located in the older sections of town. In the 1970s, our city leaders passed an ordinance requiring all new developments to be connected to underground electric services.

However, in comparison, about 89% of our **transmission lines** are overhead. We install overhead electric transmission lines for three primary reasons: cost, installation disruption, and outage restoration. Undergrounding an electric transmission line is approximately three to five times the cost of an overhead equivalent; a cost that would be shared by all Colorado Springs Utilities ratepayers.

Disruption

Although it is often assumed that undergrounding a large transmission line is less disruptive to surrounding property owners and vegetation, the construction is more disruptive to both. During initial installation and in cases of service restoration efforts, considerable digging and vegetation clearing is required. Use of space under an overhead line can be maximized, but usable space over a buried electrical system is limited. For example, trees can grow under the transmission line and be limited to a certain height, but they cannot grow or have a root ball over underground cable.

Service Restoration

If an electric outage is traced to an underground transmission line, the process of finding the exact cause of the failure is much more involved. It is sometimes necessary to make several digs to find the source. This translates into longer outages and more disruption to roadways, easements, and surrounding vegetation.

We offer a System Improvement Program for us to share with our customers the cost of burying primary voltage power lines. You can find more information in our Electric Line Extension and Service Standards manual at www.csu.org/electric-service/system.



Linemen repairing a distribution line after a storm.

Energy Planning

Our Sustainable Energy Plan includes several projects and programs to reduce carbon emissions from our operations, manage long-term costs, and maintain our industry-leading reliability.

The latest update establishes the direction for Colorado Springs Utilities' energy transition through 2045. The plan outlines a phased approach that seeks to maintain reliability while preserving flexibility for lower-carbon resources, such as nuclear energy, in the future.

- The near-term plans include the use of natural gas to provide reliable energy and a request for proposals for 300 megawatts of additional renewable resources by 2030.
- Long-term plans include a combination of additional renewable energy (wind, solar and geothermal), battery energy storage, market purchases and small modular nuclear energy.

Nuclear power is becoming a more viable option than in the past due to bipartisan support, technological advancements, and safety improvements. With the Utility Board's support, Colorado Springs Utilities will launch more research on nuclear power options, such as whether to build, own and operate a facility; partner with another utility; or purchase nuclear energy owned by another entity.



Spring Canyon Wind Farm at dusk.

The Sustainable Energy Plan will be used as the basis for the updated Clean Energy Plan, which must be submitted to the state by Dec. 31, 2026. This includes the plan to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2033 and retire the coal unit at the Ray Nixon Power Plant.

Sustainable Energy Plan projects and programs are not just focused on growth. Instead, they are intended to provide our customers with access to reliable, safe and cleaner energy as technology inside homes and businesses evolves and needs change.

To view our Sustainable Energy Plan, please use the QR code below or visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org).

Sustainable Energy Plan

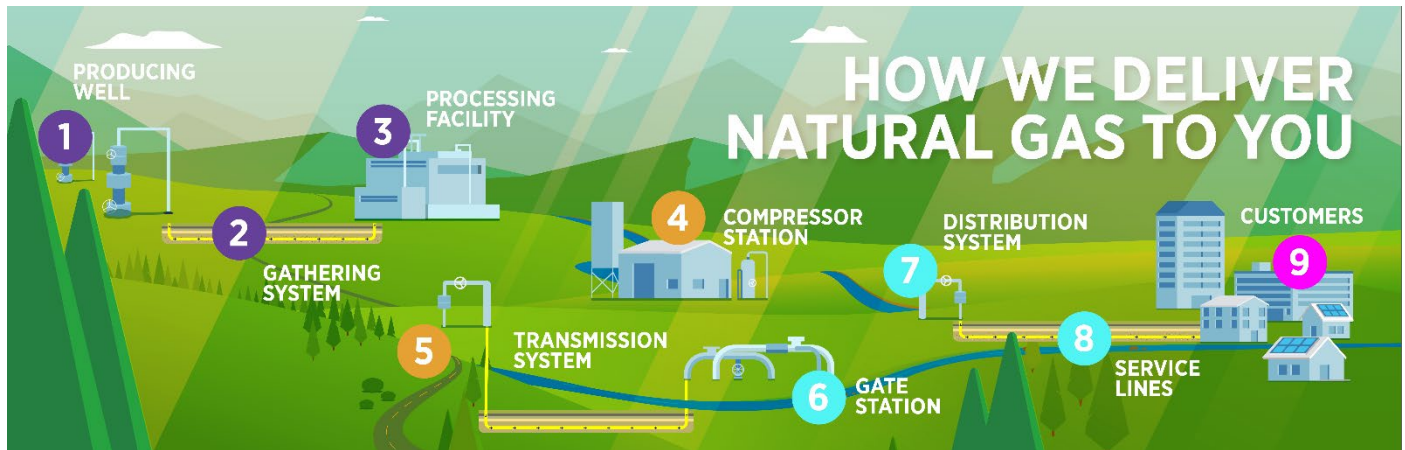




COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

NATURAL GAS SYSTEM

Natural Gas System Overview



- **Natural Gas service area:** 527 square miles
- **Number of active service points:** 229,894
- **Total net throughput volume:** 24,793,222 Dth (dekatherms)
- **Record peak demand:** 266,786 MCF (February 1, 2011)
- **Miles of distribution mains:** 2,806
- **Gas meters:** 225,000
- **Gate stations:** 5
- **Pressure districts:** 48
- **Regulator stations:** 142
- **Natural gas-powered electric generating plants:** 3
 - South Plant Natural Gas Generators
 - Front Range Power Plant
 - Nixon Power Plant
- **Gas propane air plants:** 1

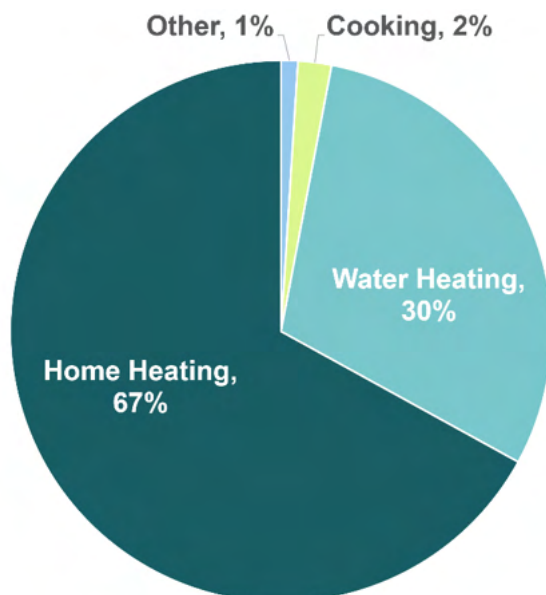


Natural Gas and Our Energy Future

Natural gas plays a vital role in our daily lives and in our energy generation. Natural gas is a fossil fuel primarily composed of methane (CH₄) along with smaller amounts of other hydrocarbons. It is a non-toxic, colorless, odorless substance that is 40% lighter than air, making it an efficient energy source. The ignition temperature of natural gas is 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit and is flammable within a narrow range of 5-15% natural gas-in-air. Natural gas is widely used for heating, water heating, cooking, electricity generation, and manufacturing plastics.

Natural gas is an important resource that can help us in our transition away from coal-based generation. It releases 90% less sulfur dioxide, five times less nitrogen oxide, and 50% less carbon dioxide than coal when it is burned, making it the least carbon-intensive fossil fuel available that is compatible with our current infrastructure.

How is Natural Gas Used?



The Clean Heat Plan and You

In 2021, Colorado state legislators passed the Clean Heat Plan law that requires gas utilities to adopt programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from customer energy use compared to 2015 levels.

In 2023, we submitted our Clean Heat Plan demonstrating how we will work toward these goals while managing costs for our customers. Meeting these targets will require a gradual change in how energy is used in homes and businesses, including increased adoption of more efficient and electric-powered technologies where it makes sense.

To support our customers through this transition, we offer a range of programs to lower energy use, reduce emissions, and improve comfort.

Programs that support the Clean Heat Plan include:

- Rebates for high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, including heat pumps
- Rebates for energy-efficient and electric water heaters
- Insulation and air sealing programs for homes and businesses
- Builder incentives for energy-efficiency new construction
- Select programs and rate options that encourage off-peak electricity use and manage overall energy demand.

These programs are designed to give customers practical, flexible options to save energy and lower utility bills, supporting a cleaner energy future for our community.

Natural Gas Distribution

Even though we don't produce our own natural gas, we are the sixth-largest municipal gas provider in the country by number of service points (229,894) and the seventh largest by miles of gas main piping (2,806 miles).

Our primary source of gas comes from the Denver-Joules basin, located east of Denver, which is transported on Kinder Morgan's interstate transmission pipeline. It's delivered to five city gate stations, located along the Marksheffel Road corridor. Gas enters our system at pressures between 400-1,100 pounds per square inch (psi). Once it reaches our gate stations, we add the chemical odorant mercaptan so any unburned gas can be detected by its rotten egg smell.



Natural gas gate station.

From the gate stations, a series of gas distribution pipelines extend throughout our service territory. The largest pipelines carry natural gas at 145 psi with a maximum of 150 psi. The all-steel system has diameters ranging from two inches to 20 inches. We have 48 pressure districts with roughly 4,000 service points per district.

Our local distribution system supplies natural gas to more than 225,000 meters throughout our service territory, including Manitou Springs and several military installations.

Regulator Stations

Our natural gas distribution system is a fascinating arrangement of pipeline mains, test valves, service lines, gate stations, and thousands of miles of underground pipelines. One of the most important parts of the system include the 142 regulator stations that are strategically placed within our 48 gas pressure districts to reduce the pressure of natural gas as it flows from the system and into homes and businesses.

If you have a regulator station in your neighborhood, you may hear a small hissing noise coming from the valves, which means the regulator is doing its work. A slight odor of the chemical additive mercaptan may also be detected, which is normal.



Natural gas regulator station.

Gas Propane Air Plant

Our Gas Propane Air Plant is one of our remote gas plants. When it was constructed in 1974, the plant was located far from town with few, if any, structures close by.

Located on North Carefree Circle, west of North Marksheffel Road, the plant blends propane, air and natural gas to supplement natural gas supply to our distribution system. Keeping propane in storage at the facility enables us to supplement our gas supply when regional supplies are low and reduces the need to purchase gas when costs are high. The plant provides an economic way to meet peak load. One hour of plant production provides gas to heat approximately 20,000 homes.

Tank capacity:

- 42 - 30,000 gallon liquid propane tanks = 1,260,000 gallons total capacity.
- 1,100,000 gallons of liquid propane when full.
- 1 propane tank = 234,000 BBQ grill propane tanks.



Employee walking by Gas Propane Air Plant tanks.

Natural Gas Public Pipeline Safety Awareness

Colorado Springs Utilities provides key messages about natural gas and pipeline safety to both customers and non-customers near our pipelines. Awareness messages are delivered through multiple tactics with regular frequency to ensure that we communicate:

- The **purpose and reliability** of our distributions pipeline.
- **Potential hazards** such as hit lines and unintended natural gas releases.
- **Damage prevention measures** for contractors, excavators and the public to include knowledge of calling 811 before digging.
- **Leak recognition and response** to recognize signs of a pipeline leak (e.g., hissing sounds, rotten egg odor, blowing dust or bubbles in water) and steps to take if a leak is suspected.
- Where to get **additional information** from Colorado Springs Utilities regarding natural gas.

We target four specific stakeholder audiences with messaging and engagement. Each group receives tailored messages relevant to their role and interaction with our natural gas distribution pipeline system.

Affected Public

We provide regular mailings, bill messages, community meetings and school presentations to inform residents about pipeline locations, safety measures and how to recognize and respond to leaks. We also use our social media channels and website to convey important natural gas pipeline safety information.

Natural Gas System Overview

Emergency Officials

We conduct annual training sessions and drills with local fire departments, police and emergency medical services to ensure they are prepared to handle natural gas pipeline emergencies.

Public Officials

We engage individuals who hold positions of authority in local, state, or federal government—particularly those responsible for public safety, emergency response, and community planning—through targeted public safety awareness programs. This engagement ensures they are informed about pipeline safety, potential hazards, and appropriate response actions in the event of an emergency.

Excavators and Contractors

We communicate regularly with individuals and organizations involved in activities that disturb the ground near pipeline infrastructure such as landscapers, utility workers and cross bore drilling operators. This audience is crucial because their work can potentially damage pipelines, leading to safety hazards. Outreach programs include safety workshops, distribution of safety materials and participation in local "Call Before You Dig" 811 campaigns.

Our natural gas subject matter experts conduct program evaluations to assess our public awareness efforts and make necessary enhancements based on factors such as population density, development activities and feedback from stakeholders.



Employee conducting a natural gas safety presentation for elementary students.

Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP)

Colorado Springs Utilities provides natural gas service to over 200,000 customers and maintains thousands of miles of pipeline. To ensure safety, the system is strictly regulated and monitored, as gas leaks can be dangerous.

Through 2035, we are accelerating replacement of older, corrosion-prone steel pipelines with safer materials under a federally required program, upgrading up to 39 miles of pipe annually. This work improves reliability, reduces outages, and addresses potential risks before they cause problems.

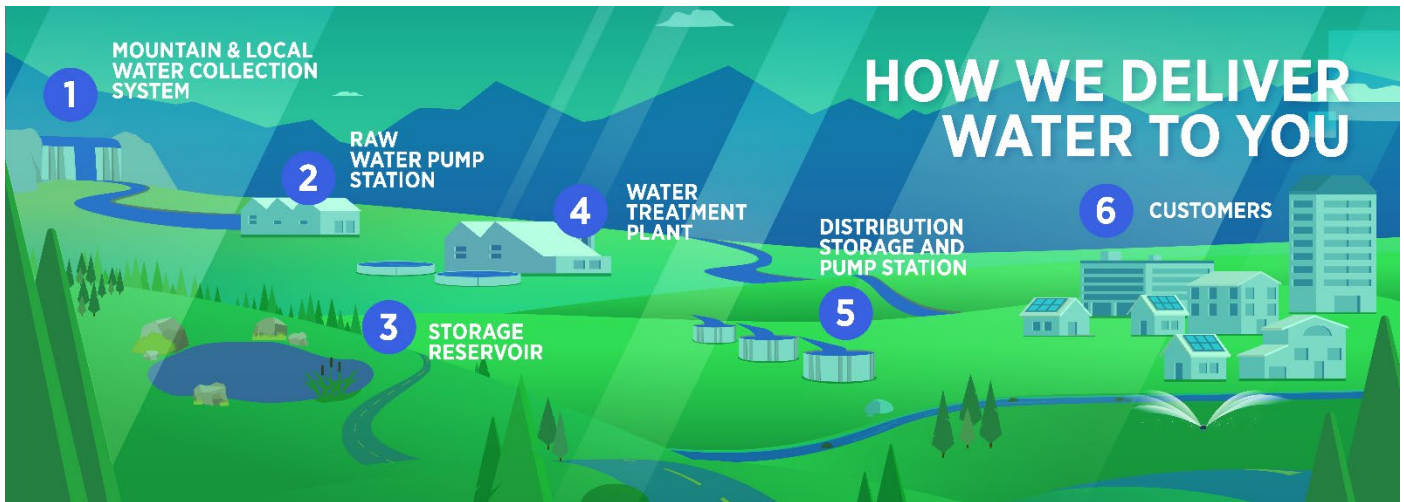
Construction may temporarily affect neighborhoods or require brief gas service interruptions, but customers will be notified in advance. The program is funded by a monthly charge added to gas bills (\$8.54 for residential customers and \$18 for commercial/industrial customers).



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

WATER SYSTEM

Water System Overview



- **Water service area:** 206 square miles
- **Number of active service points:** 161,192 (2025)
- **Annual potable water deliveries:** 67,007 (21.8 billion gallons) (2025)
- **Treatment capacity:** 214 MGD (sustained)
- **Record peak demand:** 182 MGD (July 2001)
- **Average daily treated water delivery:** 63.5 MGD
- **Mountain collection systems:** 7
- **Transmountain diversion systems:** 4 (transport source water from more than 100 miles away)
- **Miles of potable water mains:** 2,283
- **Raw (untreated) water storage reservoirs:** 25
- **Raw water pump stations:** 9
- **Water treatment plants:** 6 (shared management of Fountain Valley Authority facility)
- **Treated water storage tanks and reservoirs:** 43

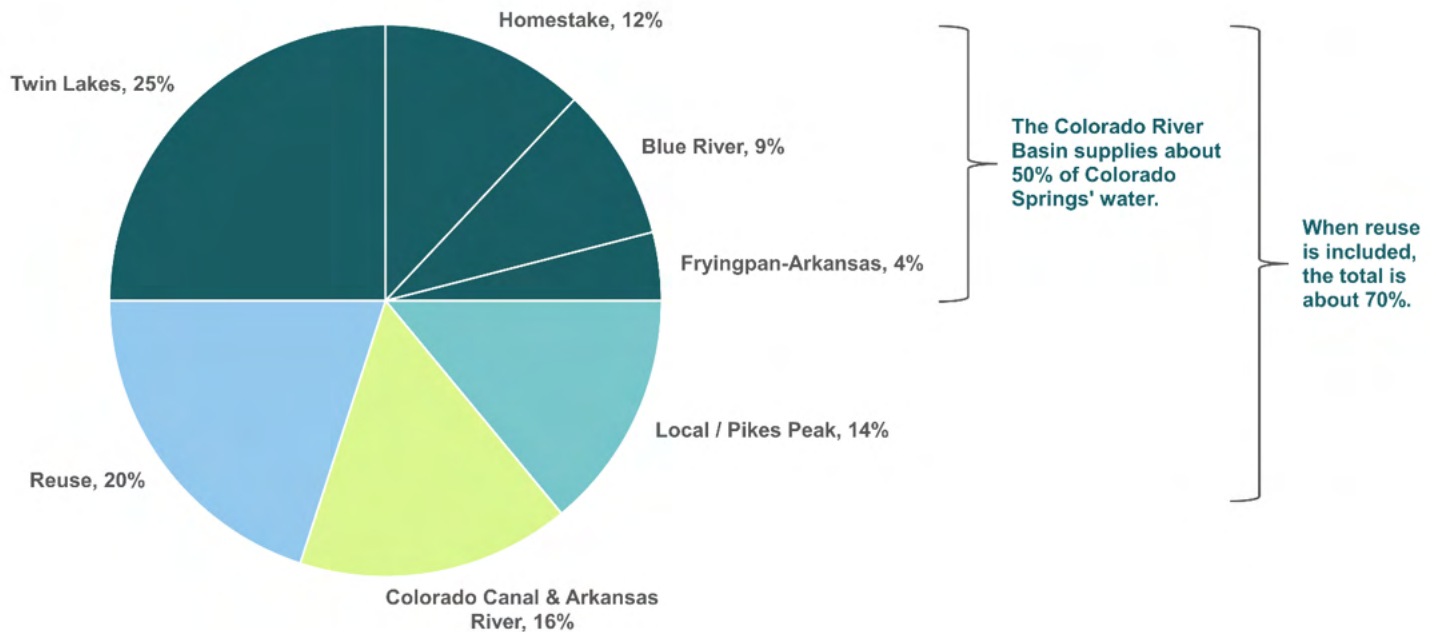
MGD = million gallons per day

Acre-feet or AF: a unit of volume used to measure large-scale water resources. One acre-foot of water is equal to the volume of a sheet of water one acre in area and one foot in depth, or 325,851 gallons.

Water system maps can be found in Appendix B.



Colorado Springs Water System



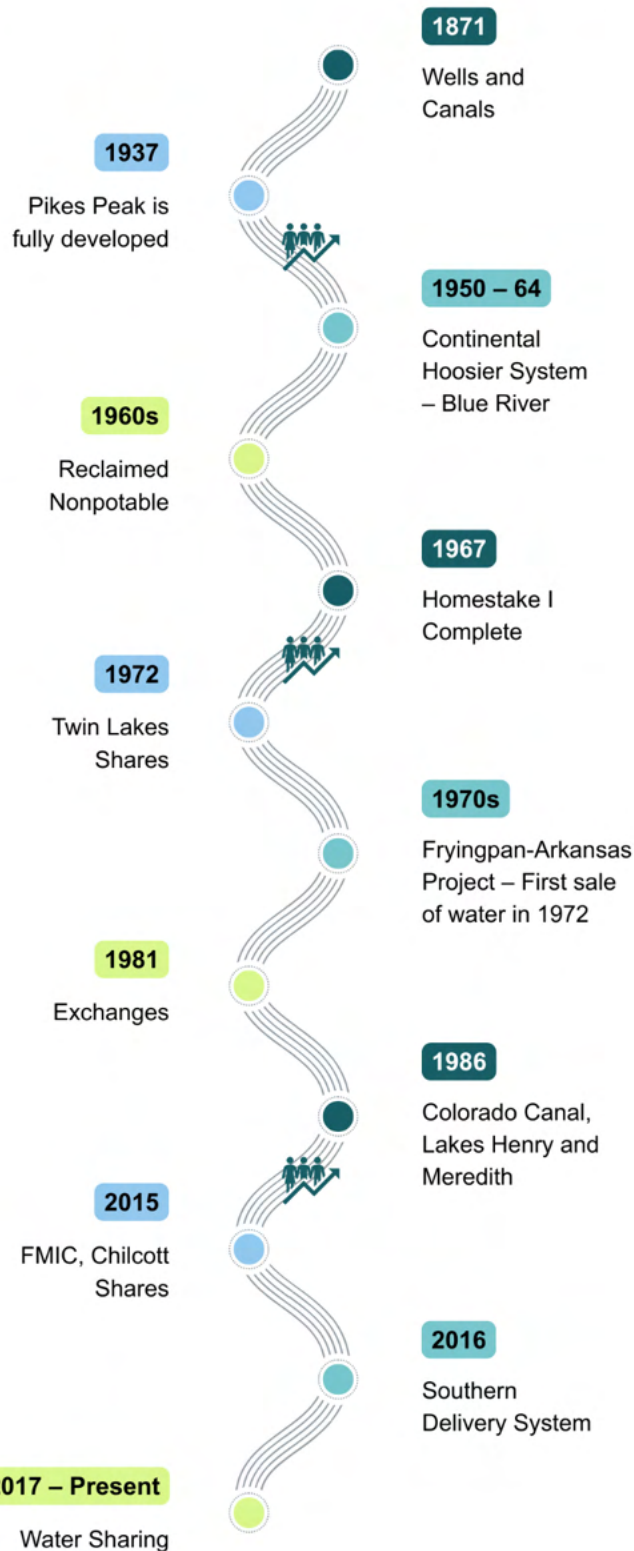
Our Water System

As the largest city in Colorado not located on a major water source, we understand the value of water because it must travel long distances to make its way to the approximately 540,000 customers we serve. That understanding guides how we manage every drop of this precious resource. Over the years, we've built an elaborate and comprehensive system to store, transport and treat our water.

Our water service area covers more than 206 square miles. The source of water for our community is surface water, primarily high-country snowmelt from three river basins in the state: Colorado River, Arkansas River and the South Platte River Basins. We import most of our water from 100-plus miles away through four major pipelines and seven collection systems. Our 25 reservoirs can store more than three years of customer water demand to help see us through dry years. That water travels through 260 miles of raw (untreated) water pipeline and is treated to drinking water standards at six water treatment facilities.

On average, we deliver about 63.5 million gallons a day (about 22 billion gallons a year) to our customers through 2,283 miles of distribution pipeline. We reclaim about 38 million gallons of water a day through our water resource recovery facilities. We plan for future water needs at least 50 years ahead and consider factors like population growth, shifting usage, infrastructure challenges, regulatory changes, climate variability and more.

Historical Water System Development



Water Collection Systems

South Slope

The South Slope watershed was Colorado Springs' first major water source, with development beginning in the late 1880s. It's a diverse and biologically rich landscape on the south slope of Pikes Peak. The seven reservoirs in our South Slope system have a combined storage capacity of approximately 7,016 acre-feet. Water from Mason and/or McReynolds Reservoirs flows through the St. John's Tunnel to Lake Moraine on Ruxton Creek.

North Slope

This was the second mountain system purchased and developed for Colorado Springs. The three reservoirs in the North Slope Recreation Area of Pikes Peak – Crystal Creek, South Catamount and North Catamount – have a combined capacity of about 18,157 acre-feet. North Slope water can be discharged from any one of the reservoirs into the transfer line to Northfield or into the North Slope pipeline that delivers water to the Tollefson Water Treatment Plant.



South Catamount Reservoir dam rehabilitation, 2025.

Water System Overview

South Catamount Reservoir, constructed in 1936, required a major dam rehabilitation project to enhance its safety and performance. The project was completed at the end of 2025. Work included resurfacing the dam's steel face and replacing infrastructure. A similar project was completed in 2022 at Crystal Creek Reservoir, which was constructed in 1935 and features a steel-faced dam.

Northfield

The Northfield Water System was the third watershed system to be purchased and developed for Colorado Springs. It consists of three reservoirs: Northfield, built in 1890; Nichols, built in 1913; and Rampart, built in 1970. Rampart Reservoir is our largest terminal storage reservoir. This system has a combined capacity of approximately 41,733 acre-feet.



Rampart Reservoir.

Most of the water stored in the Northfield reservoirs comes from other systems. This includes supplies from North Slope, Homestake, Blue River, Twin Lakes, Fryingpan-Arkansas, Colorado Canal systems and exchange water from the Otero Pump Station in Buena Vista.

South Suburban and Gold Camp Reservoirs

Colorado Springs purchased the South Suburban Water Company, including water rights on North and South Cheyenne Creeks, in 1966. These reservoirs, located in Stratton Open Space in Colorado Springs, help us store and move water to treatment and/or for non-potable use.

South Suburban Reservoir was constructed in 1931 and was previously known as Mesa Dam and Reservoir. In the 1990's, pipelines to convey South Suburban water to the Tollefson Water Treatment Plant were built to bring filtered water back to the area. Another pipeline connects a pump station to Penrose Reservoir to enhance the water supply for the Broadmoor's irrigation system and other non-potable uses. South Suburban Reservoir recently underwent repairs to its dam outlet.

Pikeview Reservoir

Pikeview Reservoir holds diverted water from Monument Creek. Up to six million gallons per day can be delivered to the non-potable water system or pumped to the Tollefson Water Treatment plant for treatment and use in our potable water system. Its location south of Garden of the Gods Road near the heart of the city makes it a popular fishing spot.

Continental-Hoosier System (aka Blue River System)

The Continental-Hoosier System was our first transmountain water diversion project. It begins in the Upper Blue River watershed, which is tributary to the Colorado River. The system was developed to help diversify our supplies for protection against drought, and to support economic growth in Colorado Springs, including the expansion of Fort Carson and the establishment of the U.S. Air Force Academy. We began acquiring water rights for it in the 1940s

Water System Overview

and completed components over the next 15 years, including the Hoosier Tunnel in 1951 and Montgomery Reservoir in 1957. Both are located near Alma, Colorado.

This system diverts water from several tributaries located along Hoosier Pass on the Continental Divide. From Montgomery Reservoir, water travels 70 miles by gravity flow through the Blue River pipeline to terminal storage on the North Slope of Pikes Peak. The combined storage of Montgomery and Upper Blue Reservoirs is 7,178 acre-feet.

We are in the pre-application phase of a project that would allow us to fully develop our existing water rights while completing life-cycle upgrades to Montgomery Reservoir. Federal, state and local permits are required before any construction activity begins.

If approved, this project would enlarge the reservoir from its current 5,699 acre-feet capacity to approximately 13,799 acre-feet. The project would improve the resiliency, redundancy and efficiency of this collection system.



Montgomery Reservoir.

Homestake

Colorado Springs and Aurora are equal partners in the Homestake Project and share in the ownership, costs and yield of the water rights, collection system and much of the transmission infrastructure.

Full capacity of the Homestake Reservoir is 42,892 acre-feet. The water travels from the reservoir to the Otero Pump Station near Buena Vista, where it's boosted for travel over the mountainous terrain through a 66-inch diameter, 50-mile pipeline to the south of Spinney Mountain Reservoir in Park County. From there, we and Aurora maintain separate infrastructure to move the water to our cities.



Homestake Reservoir.

Twin Lakes

In 1930, the water users under the Colorado Canal enlarged their water supply by constructing the Independence Pass Transmountain Diversion System. This system diverts water from the headwaters of the Roaring Fork River—tributary to the Colorado River—for direct flow use in the Colorado Canal system, with storage in Twin Lakes Reservoir north of Buena Vista.

Water System Overview

A monumental water acquisition occurred in 1972 with our purchase of shares in the Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company at a cost of \$13.5 million. We exercised our options to own a majority interest (54.7%) in this mutual ditch and reservoir company.



Vehicle exiting the Twin Lakes Tunnel.

Fryingpan-Arkansas River Project

The Bureau of Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project is a transmountain diversion that supplies southeastern Colorado with a supplemental water supply for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, hydroelectric power generation, transmission and recreational opportunities. This project was made possible by the signing of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Act by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. The project earned its name because it collects about 59,000 acre-feet of water each year from the Fryingpan River basin on the west slope of the Continental Divide, delivering it to the Arkansas River Basin on the east slope.

Pueblo Reservoir on the Arkansas River near Pueblo, was constructed as part of the project. The project also included construction of a 7.5-megawatt hydroelectric power plant at the

reservoir and a 200-megawatt hydroelectric power plant at the base of Mount Elbert.

The communities of Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security, Widefield and Stratmoor Hills are beneficiaries of the project. All share ownership in the Fountain Valley Authority pipeline, which is used to move water uphill from Pueblo Reservoir.

Streams

Over the years, local streams have supplied their share of water consumed in Colorado Springs. In the early 1930s, about 60% of the water used annually by Colorado Springs came from streams in the immediate area, compared to less than 20% today. Local streams are North and South Cheyenne Creeks, Bear Creek, Sutherland Creek, Fountain Creek and Monument Creek.



Water construction employee works on a creek crossing.

Colorado Canal

In 1985, Colorado Springs Utilities bought water rights, storage, land and rights-of-way, and a controlling interest in the Colorado Canal Company, the Lake Meredith Reservoir Company and the Lake Henry Reservoir Company, all located east of Pueblo.

Water System Overview

These facilities produce an annual average yield of about 28,000 acre-feet. They also provide valuable additional storage rights that increase the operational flexibility of our other water rights.

Lake Henry has a total storage capacity of 6,704 acre-feet, and Lake Meredith has a total storage capacity of 20,650 acre-feet.

Colorado Canal water is not delivered to Colorado Springs through any pipeline, rather, interest in this company allows us to exchange water to upstream reservoirs through an accounting mechanism.

Southern Delivery System

The Southern Delivery System (SDS) was built between 2010 to 2016 and completed at a cost of approximately \$825 million - about \$160 million under budget. SDS was constructed to transport water stored in Pueblo Reservoir uphill to Colorado Springs and its three partner communities: Pueblo West Metropolitan District, City of Fountain and Security Water District. The system includes three pump stations and the Edward W. Bailey Water Treatment Plant. Future storage reservoirs are planned to help optimize our exchange rights.



Southern Delivery System pipeline.

Phase 1 constructed the North Outlet Works and valve house at Pueblo Dam. Under pressure from the weight of the water in the reservoir, water flows into a large pipeline that features turnouts designed to support a hydroelectric unit and a connection for Pueblo West's new pipeline that serves its pump station. The pipeline delivers water to Juniper Pump Station, about half a mile from the dam.



SDS Pueblo Dam connection test, 2012.

Phase II of SDS will be built as system demands require it. This phase includes the Gary M. Bostrom Reservoir for terminal storage, Harold Miskel Reservoir to store and release return flows to Fountain Creek, up to seven additional pumps at the pump stations, and expansion of the treatment plant to serve additional pressure zones within the distribution system.

Reservoir Storage and Capacity Summary			
Reservoir	Colorado Springs Utilities' Capacity (AF)	Total Storage Capacity (AF)	Year Constructed
Colorado River Basin – 70% of our supply			
Homestake	21,286	42,884	1967
Blue	2,089	2,090	1966
Montgomery	5,699	5,699	1957
Turquoise	32,417	129,398	1975
Twin Lakes	29,786	140,855	1900
Total Colorado	91,277	320,926	
Local Systems – 14% of our supply			
South Slope			
Bigtooth	277	277	1929
Boehmer	541	541	1894
Moraine	1,324	1,324	1891
Mason	1,965	1,965	1905
McReynolds	2,050	2,050	1905
Bighorn	191	191	1896
Wilson	669	669	1896
North Slope			
Crystal	3,523	3,523	1935
South Catamount	2,604	2,604	1937
North Catamount	12,031	12,031	1960
Northfield System			
Northfield	202	276	1890
Nichols	414	586	1913
Rampart	40,871	40,871	1970
Other Local			
South Suburban	231	232	1928
Gold Camp	368	368	1889
Pikeview	90	90	1894
Rosemont	2,541	2,541	1932
Total Local	69,892	70,139	
Arkansas River Basin – 16% of our supply			
Pueblo LTEC	24,000	469,878	N/A
Pueblo Fry-Ark	55,700		1975
Colorado Canal			
Lake Meredith	14,341	20,650	1890
Lake Henry	5,067	6,704	1890
Total Arkansas	99,108	497,232	

Water Rights

Colorado Springs Utilities manages a valuable water rights portfolio worth more than \$4.8 billion, reflecting the critical role water rights play in Colorado. In our state, a water right is a legal property right established through the diversion of water and its application to a beneficial use, a process known as appropriation. However, simply diverting water is not enough—rights must be adjudicated in the state’s Water Court to become officially recognized and enforceable. Through this legal process, the court determines key elements such as the type of use, timing of use, and volume of water, and assigns a priority date based on when the claim was filed. This priority system is essential, as senior water rights—those with earlier priority dates—are served first in times of shortage.

Water rights are fundamental, not only for water providers like Colorado Springs Utilities but for anyone relying on water in the state. To successfully deliver water to customers, entities must have a combination of legally established water rights, hydrologic conditions (physically available water), and the infrastructure needed to capture, store, and transport water. Without all three components working together, delivery of water to customers cannot be guaranteed. As a result, water rights in Colorado represent both a significant financial asset and a foundational element of long-term water supply planning and reliability.

Water Exchanges, Reuse and Non-Potable Water

Through the reuse and exchange of imported water (water we convey here from other river basins), we maximize the efficiency of our supplies and optimize system operations. All imported water can be reused to extinction (see “use to extinction” in glossary), meaning each

acre-foot of water can provide nearly two acre-feet of beneficial use over time. The ability to reuse this water significantly extends the value of our supplies, making reuse and exchange mechanisms essential strategies for meeting our community’s water needs now and in the future.

Today, 100% of our reusable water supplies are treated and repurposed for augmentation, river exchanges, contract exchanges, and use within our non-potable system. By fully utilizing these supplies, we reduce waste, improve system flexibility, and ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for our customers.



Participants in the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Sharing Program.

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Sharing Program

Our long-term water plan includes a balanced portfolio of programs and projects to help us meet the projected water needs of our city at full buildout. One way we are doing that is through our partnerships with agricultural water users in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

Sharing water with farmers in our native Arkansas River basin provides water for our customers while protecting rural communities and the agricultural economy. Balancing municipal needs

Water System Overview

with farmers' needs means working to ensure both can succeed.

Our partnerships with farmers focus on improving irrigation efficiency through center pivot system installation. With less water needed to maintain crop yields, we can acquire the water previously used for irrigating the corner of those farm parcels. Importantly, the remaining water is tied to those farms in perpetuity. Our partnerships also include water that is shared with farmers in five out of 10 years. These collaborations are an innovative way to manage limited water resources to serve multiple economies within our native river basin.



Center pivot irrigation system installed at a Water Sharing Program participant's farm.

Reuse and Non-Potable Water

We are recognized as a statewide leader in water reuse and have one of the largest non-potable water systems in Colorado. In the 1960s, we pioneered the use of treated wastewater for irrigation. The non-potable water distribution system is comprised of raw water (untreated surface and groundwater) and reclaimed water (wastewater that goes through additional treatment, including filtration). About 10% of our reclaimed water is used in our non-potable system. This water is used to irrigate parks, golf courses, campuses and community properties, as well as for our own utility operations.

Water Treatment and Water Quality

Water treatment involves physical, chemical and biological changes that transform raw water into drinkable water. Our water system includes six water treatment facilities, with a sustained water treatment capacity of 214 MGD. As the Southern Delivery System is built out in the future, our sustained water treatment capacity will increase to 324 MGD and is expected to be sufficient through 2040.

Water Treatment Plants	Resource	Capacity	Year Built, Updated
Phillip H. Tollefson (formerly Mesa)	Conventional water treatment	42 MGD	1942, 2022
Pine Valley	Conventional water treatment	85 MGD	1969
Fountain Valley Authority	Shared facility with conventional water treatment	17 MGD total (10 MGD for CSU)	1982

Water Treatment Plants	Resource	Capacity	Year Built, Updated
Ute Pass	Conventional water treatment	2 MGD	1987, 2003
McCullough	Conventional water treatment	75 MGD	1993, 1999
Edward W. Bailey	Conventional water treatment with added biological filtration and ozone processes	50 MGD (100 MGD at build out)	2016

Our system has approximately 2,300 miles of water distribution system mains made of iron, steel or plastic, most of which were installed post-1954.

Water Treatment Plants

Tollefson Water Treatment Plant

The Phillip H. Tollefson Water Treatment Plant, formerly Mesa Water Treatment Plant, was built in 1942 with a capacity of 6 million gallons per day (MGD). Expansions and upgrades to the plant increased its capacity to 42 MGD. Other phases will continue to advance our use of the latest technologies in water treatment, which could also increase capacity.



Coagulation and flocculation basins at the Phillip H. Tollefson Water Treatment Plant.

Pine Valley Water Treatment Plant

The Pine Valley Water Treatment Plant was acquired with the 1949 purchase of the Northfield Water Company. The original plant, which had a capacity of 2 MGD, was retired when the 40 MGD Pine Valley plant was completed at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1969. Other upgrades and expansions have raised the plant's sustained capacity to 85 MGD.

Fountain Valley Authority Water Treatment Plant

Water is also treated at the Fountain Valley Authority (FVA) Treatment Plant, which was built in 1982 south of Colorado Springs. It provides high-quality drinking water for five different communities on the south side of Colorado Springs. The FVA is comprised of Colorado Springs Utilities, the cities of Fountain, Security, Widefield, and Stratmoor Hills Water & Sanitation District. Our share of this plant was about 12 MGD, but through the Southern Delivery System agreement with the City of Fountain it was reduced to 10 MGD.



Sedimentation basins at Fountain Valley Authority Water Treatment Plant.

Ute Pass Water Treatment Plant

A small, 1 MGD plant was added in 1987 in the Ute Pass area to serve Green Mountain Falls, Chipeta Park and Cascade. The Ute Pass plant was expanded to 2 MGD in 2003.

McCullough Water Treatment Plant

The McCullough Water Treatment Plant, with a capacity of 50 MGD, was completed in 1993. More filters were added in 1999 to increase the capacity to 75 MGD. This water treatment plant is located adjacent to the Pine Valley Water Treatment Plant on the U.S. Air Force Academy property.

Edward W. Bailey Water Treatment Plant

The Edward W. Bailey Water Treatment Plant was completed in 2016 as part of the Southern Delivery System and provides state-of-the-art treatment for 50 MGD, expandable to 100 MGD as future needs require.



Edward W. Bailey Water Treatment Plant.

Water Distribution

Our water distribution system generally uses gravity to distribute water to our customers. However, pumped water service is required to be delivered to some customers. Ground elevations range from 5,750 feet to about 7,800 feet in our service area.

We have five major service areas: Briargate, Templeton, Northfield, Highline and Lowline. Each lower elevation service area can be fed through regulators from the higher levels and from distribution storage tanks. The distribution system includes nearly 2,300 miles of potable water mains and 43 treated water storage tanks and reservoirs.

Our water mains are generally made of steel, iron or plastic. Most valves in our system are gate valves, which use a sliding gate to obstruct or allow water to flow. These valves are located up to 20 feet underground.

We have crews on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond and investigate reports of possible water main breaks. Through our water main replacement program, we track the age and condition of water infrastructure in our service territory. Replacement and rehabilitation projects

Water System Overview

are assessed and prioritized according to risk of failure and magnitude of impact. Several assessment and treatment methods are used to reduce risks, including leak detection, pressure management, water quality, fire flow, advanced conditions assessment, cathodic protection and pipe rehabilitation.



Water construction crew installing a new valve in the water distribution system.

Drinking Water Quality

Our water comes from a variety of surface water sources, though most of it is from high country snowmelt. This means we are primarily first-time users of water. We prioritize delivery of safe, high-quality drinking water. Our staff diligently monitors water quality at all stages of the process, from the watershed source through treatment and as it enters our distribution system.

We operate a state-certified water quality laboratory year-round and use advanced instruments and processes to ensure the safety and quality of our drinking water. We collect over 5,000 samples and perform more than 25,000 tests annually from sites across our water system. We thoroughly test our water for contaminants like pathogenic bacteria, metals, pesticides and

herbicides, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and more. Other constituents, like fluoride and chlorine, are carefully managed and monitored at each stage of finished water production to ensure safe levels.

Even though we do not add fluoride to our drinking water, it is present in low concentrations due to its natural occurrence in the Pikes Peak watershed. Chlorine is added to protect our drinking water from pathogenic bacteria and viruses but, like fluoride, levels are carefully controlled and monitored to optimize safety.

To view an interactive map with fluoride and chlorine concentrations at your home or business, please use the QR code below or visit csu.org.

Fluoride Map



To view our annual Water Quality Report, please use the QR code below or visit csu.org.

Water Quality Report



Water Planning

We have a balanced water supply plan that serves as our roadmap for ensuring water supply for the next 50 years. It includes conservation, reuse, storage, agricultural transfers (such as lease fallow and water sharing) and completion of existing Colorado River Projects.

Our Sustainable Water Plan is a 50-year plan that ensures we take a balanced and adaptive approach to water acquisition, use, and reuse. This plan accounts for the following challenges:

- Water supply and demand
- Water quality
- Infrastructure reliability
- Water reuse
- Financial planning
- Energy use
- Regulatory and legal concerns

Most of all, we listened to our customers and key stakeholders when developing this plan. This plan provides a reliable, sustainable water supply in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

To view our Sustainable Water Plan, please use the QR code below or visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org).

Sustainable Water Plan



**Colorado
River
Projects**

**Agricultural
Water
Sharing**

**Water
Conservation**

Storage

Reuse



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Wastewater System Overview



- **Wastewater service area:** 202 square miles
- **Number of active service points:** 155,646
- **Wastewater treated:** average of 38 MGD
- **Combined permitted capacity:** 95 MGD
- **Miles of sewer main pipe:** 1,850 miles
- **Resource recovery facilities:** 3
 - Las Vegas Street
 - J.D. Phillips
 - Clear Spring Ranch (dedicated to biosolids handling)
- **Lift stations:** 20



Our Wastewater System

Our complex system of wastewater pipes, lift stations and treatment facilities work in concert to ensure the health of our community. We operate one of Colorado's largest wastewater systems, providing environmentally responsible, reliable wastewater collection and treatment services.

Nearly 40 million gallons of wastewater flow through 150 square miles of pipe to our water resource recovery facilities each day. Sanitary sewer mains range in size from 6 to 66 inches in diameter. About 30,000 manholes provide access for the operation and maintenance of the system. In addition to hundreds of miles of gravity flow pipelines, 20 lift stations pump wastewater into mains.



Wastewater crew with their maintenance truck.

Collection

Since 2004, Colorado Springs Utilities has invested a total of \$250 million on wastewater collection system maintenance and improvements. Our spills per 100 miles of pipe are among the lowest in the nation.

Our collection system uses a variety of methods to minimize wastewater overflow and ensure

protection of human health and the environment. Our rate of releases is significantly lower than most other systems of similar size.

Treatment

The wastewater treatment process ensures that final effluent (treated reclaimed water) meets or is below discharge permit levels set by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Our wastewater treatment process consists of five fundamental processes:

1. Preliminary treatment removes inorganic solids.
2. Primary treatment separates organic solids from the liquid. The organic sludge is pumped to the biosolids handling facility.
3. Secondary treatment involves helpful microorganisms to break down waste in the water.
4. Disinfection with ultra-violet light is used to remove any remaining pathogenic microorganisms in the effluent water. We then release the treated reclaimed wastewater, or effluent, as clean water into local waterways.
5. Tertiary treatment is used for non-potable water and consists of additional filtration through sand filters.

Our utility was one of the first in the state to obtain permission to use ultra-violet light to disinfect the reclaimed water (rather than chlorine). We switched to this newer, safer disinfection process for reclaimed water in 2010.

Water Resource Recovery Facility	Resource	Capacity	Year Built
Las Vegas Street	Wastewater treatment	75 MGD	1930, 2018
J.D. Phillips	Wastewater treatment	20 MGD	2007
Clear Spring Ranch	Biosolids handling	0.3 MGD sludge	1984

Las Vegas Street Water Resource Recovery Facility

The first facility of its type in Colorado Springs, the Las Vegas Street Water Resource Recovery Facility (LVSWRRF) was established in 1930, with upgrades in the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s and 2000s. The permitted capacity of this plant is 75 MGD. In addition to serving as our city's main water resource recovery facility, the LVSWRRF is also home to our water quality laboratory and industrial pretreatment management program. The LVSWRRF is currently being upgraded as part of the Wastewater System Expansion project.



Aerial view of Las Vegas Street Water Resource Recovery Facility.

J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility

Located near Pikeview Reservoir, the J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility came online in 2007 to help meet the increasing service demands of the north and northeast areas of our community. The permitted capacity of this plant is 20 MGD. The state-of-the-art facility is fully enclosed to help control odor and is operated by a small team.

Clear Spring Ranch Resource Recovery Facility

Biosolids recovered from the Las Vegas Street and the J.D. Phillips facilities are processed at this campus, built in 1984 and located just south of the city of Fountain.

After traveling through a 17.6-mile pipeline, solids are treated by an anaerobic digestion process, where complex organic substances are broken down into methane, carbon dioxide, trace gases and stabilized solids. Methane gas generated in the process is burned in gas boilers and used for digester heating.

Biosolids are then stored in facultative sludge basins for up to five years for further treatment and then pumped from the basins and injected below the soil surface in fields. An adjacent dam prevents runoff or groundwater from leaving the disposal site. All liquids are contained on the site and are not moved to any external water sources.



Recovery ponds at Clear Spring Ranch.

Nutrient Removal

As technology evolves, so do the methods by which we measure wastewater effluent quality. As of 2019, regulators require wastewater utilities to remove a larger percentage of nutrients, otherwise known as phosphorous and nitrogen, from treated wastewater. Phosphorous and nitrogen, which are naturally excreted by the human body and found in fertilizers and household cleaners, have been linked to algae blooms in waterways.

Meeting increasingly strict nutrient regulations has become a major, costly challenge for utilities nationwide. We transformed the Las Vegas Street facility into advanced treatment capabilities in the early 1990s and built a second, state-of-the-art system at the J.D. Phillips facility in 2007, putting us significantly ahead of the curve in meeting regulations. A \$12 million construction project for biological nutrient removal was completed at Las Vegas Street in 2018.

Reclaimed Water Quality

Laboratory staff routinely examine the reclaimed water (effluent) for a variety of parameters. They also periodically analyze water samples from Fountain and Monument Creeks to ensure the effluent does not negatively impact the ecosystem or downstream users. Such processes ensure that final effluent meets or is below discharge permit levels.



Laboratory employee testing reclaimed water quality.

Industrial Pretreatment

Our industrial pretreatment program protects our wastewater collection system and treatment facilities, as well as the environment, by preventing toxic, dangerous substances from being discharged into the sanitary sewer collection system. In addition to issuing discharge permits, monitoring discharges, performing site inspections and enforcing pretreatment standards and requirements, our experts help increase local awareness by educating businesses about program requirements.



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is fundamental to how we plan, operate and serve our community every day. As a customer-owned utility, we are entrusted not only with delivering safe, reliable and affordable services, but also with protecting public health and safeguarding natural resources for the people of the Pikes Peak region. From improving energy and water efficiency and expanding cleaner energy solutions to protecting watersheds, wildlife habitat and water quality, our work reflects a thoughtful and deliberate commitment to stewardship.



Employees participating in a fish salvage at Mason Reservoir.

We made important investments to enhance system resilience and environmental performance, including progress under our Sustainable Energy Plan. Placing our first large-scale battery energy storage system into service at the Jackson Fuller Substation marked a significant step toward improving grid flexibility and supporting a cleaner, more reliable energy future for Colorado Springs.

Protecting water quality and ensuring a sustainable water supply remain core responsibilities. Through watershed protection,

water treatment, rigorous monitoring and long-range system planning, we work every day to safeguard our region's high-quality water resources. We also continued to invest in our wastewater system to protect public health, support environmental compliance and prepare our infrastructure for future growth.

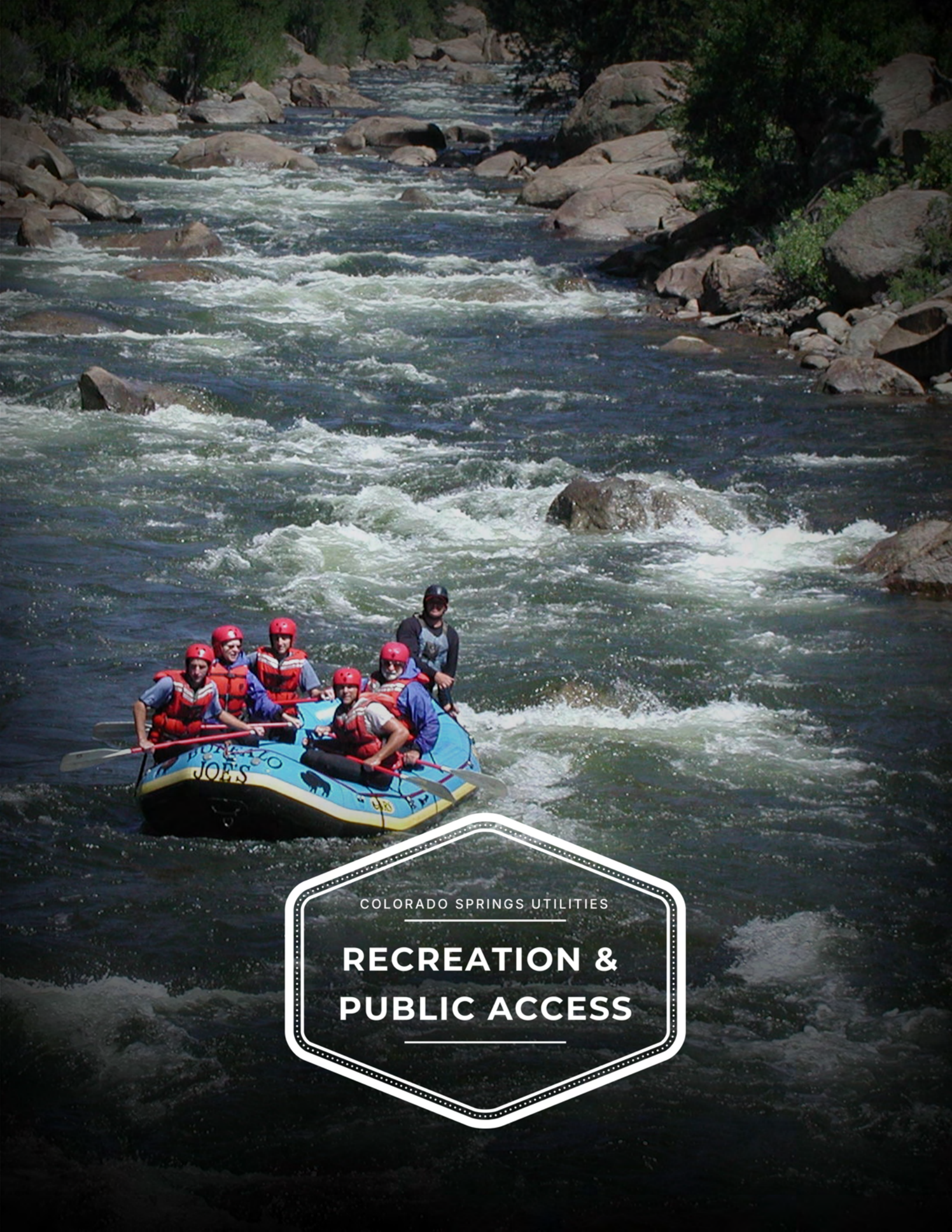
Environmental stewardship extends beyond utility operations. We remain committed to conserving wildlife habitats, protecting sensitive natural resources and responsibly balancing recreational access across our service territory.

Our Environmental Annual Report outlines how our operations meet environmental laws and regulations, how we advance environmental stewardship within the community and how we communicate our commitment to responsible environmental practices that support the long-term vitality of our region.

To view our Environmental Annual Report, please use the QR code below or visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org).

Environmental Annual Report





COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

RECREATION & PUBLIC ACCESS

Recreation and Public Access

Our reservoirs and watersheds are a natural attraction for anglers, families, hikers, bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. We strive to balance operational needs, environmental stewardship and recreational use while providing clean, reliable drinking water as our first priority.

More than 15,200 acres of municipal watershed lands and nine reservoirs are open to recreational use. Colorado Springs Utilities jointly manages lands and reservoirs with other agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, El Paso County and Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to accommodate the recreational experience.

In 1967, Colorado Springs citizens passed a charter amendment allowing the city to open the North Slope and Northfield system of reservoirs for recreational use. In 1991 and 1992, the City Council appointed a North Slope Advisory Committee to develop a plan for recreational use. The area opened for its first season on July 8, 1992.

Voluntary Flow Program

In the early 1990's, rafting companies approached the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) with an idea of a Voluntary Flow Program. AHRA, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Reclamation and the Southeastern District were all instrumental in helping coordinate the annual Voluntary Flow Program on the Upper Arkansas River. After a series of negotiations and agreements, releases from upper Arkansas Basin storage to Pueblo Reservoir are coordinated and

made based on the availability of water, timing flow for rafting between July 1st and August 15th, and protecting the fisheries all year. Colorado Springs Utilities participates in the annual coordination effort.



Rafters on the Arkansas River.

Notable Projects Enhancing Recreation

In 1999, Colorado Springs Utilities, along with partner agencies, citizen groups and interested public completed the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan (PPMUP). The PPMUP created a regional vision for accommodating recreational activity on municipal watersheds and U.S. Forest Service lands.

In 2010, after two years of public process, City Council approved the Plan for Recreational Uses on Municipal Watershed Lands allowing recreational uses on Pikes Peak South Slope and Ute Pass Trail on Longs Ranch. The South Slope water system is a sensitive and rugged area providing a backcountry experience for visitors. It's home to bighorn sheep, cutthroat trout and an array of migratory birds. Hiking and biking are allowed on trails. Fishing is allowed at McReynolds and Mason Reservoirs with flies and lures only. A permit is required to access this area when it is open for the season. More information

and permits are found on the South Slope Recreation section of <http://coloradosprings.gov>.

In 2012, City Council authorized us to issue revocable permits for special events on municipal watersheds that have a direct tangible benefit to the community. We have developed policies and procedures to accommodate special events while protecting water quality and natural resources as well as mitigate operational conflicts.

In 2014, the Front Range Trail through Clear Spring Ranch was extended to offer about four miles of trail and river access points along Fountain Creek. The project was funded through Great Outdoors Colorado Lottery proceeds to enhance parks, rivers, trails and open spaces.



Homestake Arkansas River Division project section.

In 2019, we reconnected a section of the Arkansas River north of Buena Vista, benefiting water customers, rafters, and recreationalists. The Homestake Arkansas River Diversion project redesigned a section of the river between Granite and Buena Vista, opening the last stretch of river to boaters and fish that was previously unnavigable. The project was a partnership with Aurora Water and collaboration of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Pueblo Board of Water Works, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

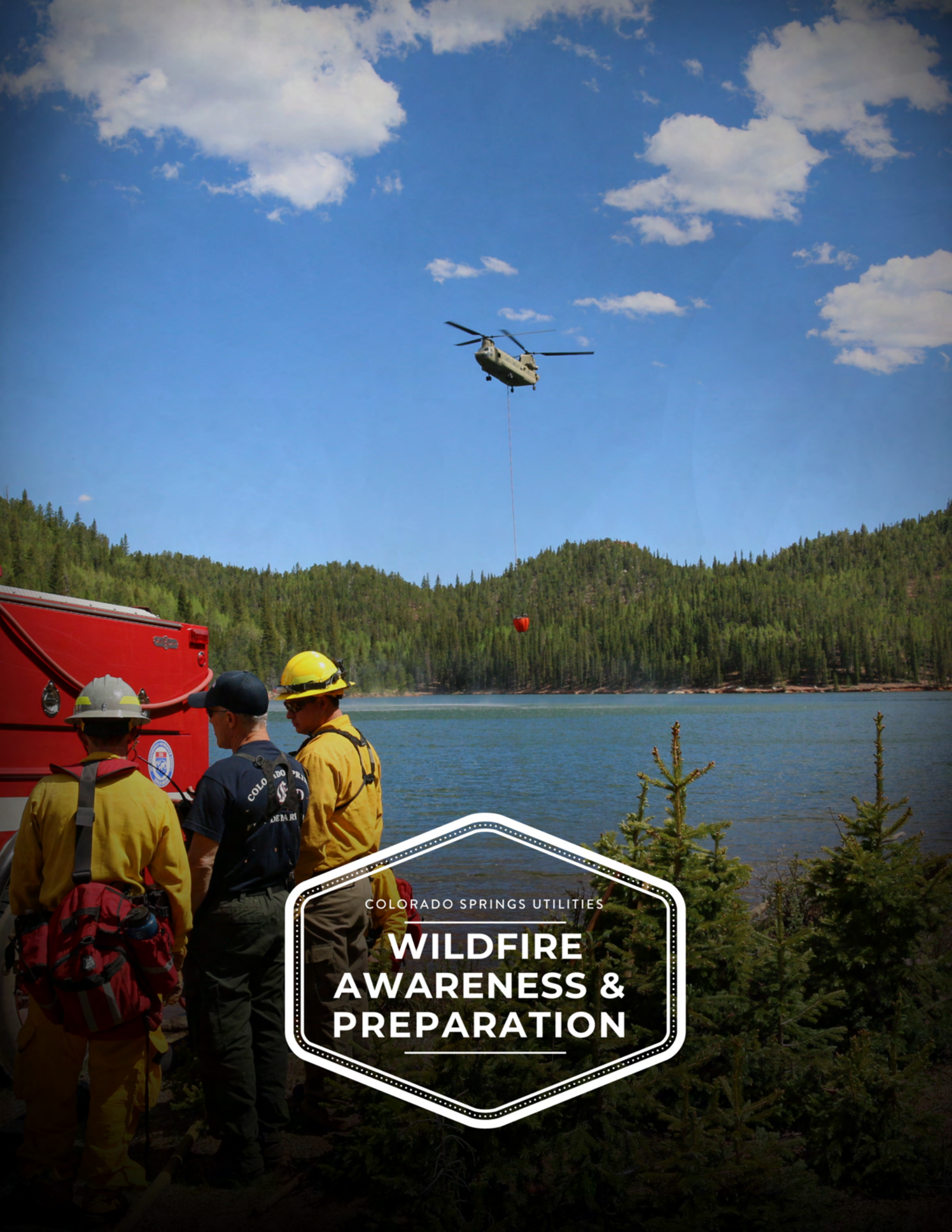
North Slope Recreation Area

After a collaborative process with community members and partner agencies, the study of the North Slope Recreation Area was completed in early 2026. The plan recommends improvements to recreation access while protecting water infrastructure. It also addresses sustainability, security and public safety while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Goals of the North Slope Recreation Area study:

- Strengthen protection of critical drinking water infrastructure.
- Improve public safety through clear rules and procedures.
- Support recreation that aligns with our mission and remains financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Ensure long-term resources for managing the North Slope Recreation Area.

A resolution to permit commercially guided recreation was approved by Colorado Springs City Council in April 2026.



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

WILDFIRE AWARENESS & PREPARATION

Wildfire Awareness and Preparation

We proudly serve the Colorado Springs community with safe, reliable and affordable utility services. Because some of our assets are in wildfire prone areas, we developed a Wildfire Mitigation Plan outlining how we reduce risk and respond to wildfire threats.



Catamount Wildland Fire Team participating in a watershed protection training exercise.

Growing Wildfire Risk

Wildfire risk in Colorado has increased due to hotter, drier conditions, drought, extreme wind events and population growth in fire-prone areas. This combination results in more intense fires that threaten public health and critical infrastructure.

Our mitigation strategy centers on three pillars:

- Risk assessment
- Risk mitigation
- Situational awareness

Pillar 1- Risk Assessment

We use a variety of data sources and system modeling to identify high-risk areas by analyzing vegetation, fuel conditions, weather patterns and infrastructure health. We also utilize advanced engineering tools like Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to map our electric distribution and transmission systems. This allows us to monitor key line components, such as structural strength and clearance violations. LiDAR also allows us to monitor the impacts of vegetation growth and simulate weather conditions. These risk assessment tools guide prioritization of mitigation efforts.

Pillar 2- Risk Mitigation

Vegetation Management

Vegetation is the leading cause of utility-related ignitions. Our program includes:

- A proactive three-year trimming cycle that exceeds industry standards.
- Annual inspection of transmission lines.
- Certified arborist oversight.
- Trimming one-third of our system annually.

System Improvements

- Undergrounding lines: Strategically moving lines underground reduces risk, though it remains a costly and logistically challenging solution.
- Covered conductors: Reduces ignition risk during storms.
- Remote switches: Limits outage sizes and potential ignition areas.

Equipment Inspection

- Annual or biennial line patrols.
- 10-year detailed pole inspections and maintenance.
- Drone and LiDAR inspections.
- Wildlife protection upgrades to reduce animal-related outages.

Water System & Fire Response

We maintain over 20,000 hydrants and coordinate closely with the Colorado Springs Fire Department to ensure community readiness.

- Critical hydrants are inspected annually.
- Redundant water supply systems ensure delivery and reliability during emergencies.



Catamount Wildland Fire Team performing a prescribed burn on the South Slope of Pikes Peak.

Pillar 3- Situational Awareness

Fire Conditions Monitoring - We track National Weather Service fire weather zones and Red Flag Warnings, typically defined by:

- Relative humidity below 15%
- Wind gusts above 25 mph
- Sustained conditions lasting three or more hours

We use weather and climate data to make informed decisions about activating wildfire sensitivity settings like Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS). During extreme conditions, our main goal is to keep our community safe. We deploy EPSS to help prevent wildfires by instantly turning off power, or de-energizing lines, if they are damaged or come into contact with trees or wildlife.

We use cutting-edge wildfire detection tools like PanoAI and Delphire cameras, alongside real-time data from ALERTWest and Watch Duty, to support wildfire response decision-making.

Wildland Fire Team

Our 40-member Wildland Fire Team, formed in the 1980s, is a volunteer group of employees dedicated to protecting vital infrastructure and assisting other firefighting agencies.

Our Catamount Wildland Fire Team supports:

- Fire prevention and mitigation initiatives.
- Fire suppression and infrastructure protection.
- Coordination with regional fire agencies.

Wildfire Awareness and Preparation

Community Partnerships & Education

We collaborate with organizations including the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the United State Forest Service, the National Weather Service, the American Public Power Association and regional emergency management agencies. We also provide public education and resources to help residents prepare their own homes and families.

We are deeply committed to reducing wildfire risk through risk assessment, risk mitigation and situational awareness. Our Wildfire Mitigation Plan will continue to evolve to protect our community while maintaining the reliable utility services our customers depend on.

To view our annual Fire Mitigation Report, please use the QR code below or visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org).

Fire Mitigation Report



Catamount Wildland Fire Team truck responding to a fire.



Catamount Wildland Fire Team member mulching branches.



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

CONSERVATION & CUSTOMER RESOURCES

Conservation and Customer Resources

In our growing, semi-arid community, it's crucial to use water and energy wisely. By following conservation guidelines and adopting behaviors for how and when we use energy and water, we can manage our resources responsibly and continue to provide reliable serves for generations to come.



Water Wise Neighborhood showcasing drought resilient landscaping at the Conservation and Environmental Center.

Saving Water by Being Water Wise

It takes everyone doing their part to ensure we have adequate natural resources for our future. This means making careful water use decisions each day and planning, inspiring and implementing programs and services that achieve the most beneficial outcomes.

Our community's collaborative conservation ethic has resulted in significant water savings. Since 2001, conservation programs have achieved measurable savings of more than 8,200 acre-feet. That's enough to serve up to 33,000 Colorado Springs families for a year. In that time, the average per-person water use dropped from 139

gallons a day to 70 gallons a day, a 42% decrease in water use!

- Our Water Wise Rules and conservation-based water rates promote efficient water use.
- We manage our water distribution system leaks and help customers identify and address their own leaks promptly.
- We understand that water use is tied to land use, which requires climate-based landscape codes and supportive, drought resilient landscape programs.
- We offer robust landscape programs and an award-winning Water Wise Demonstration Garden to help the community shift to sustainable landscapes.

Water conservation remains a key component of our long-term water plan and part of a larger portfolio that will help us meet future demand.

Six Water Wise rules, tiered water rates for residents and seasonal rates for businesses help our customers make decisions about their use.

The Water Wise Rules

1. Water up to three days a week. Customers can choose the days.
2. From May 1 to Oct. 15, water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. to reduce evaporation.
3. Don't let water pool on hard surfaces or flow down gutters.
4. Repair leaking sprinkler systems within 10 days.
5. Use a shut-off nozzle when washing anything with a hose.
6. Clean hard surfaces (such as driveways, sidewalks and patios) with water only if there is a public health and safety concern.

Water Efficiency Journey

Saving water is a journey in education, behavior and investment. Here's a list to get started. You'll save water and money and make every drop count! Search for bolded terms on [csu.org](https://www.csu.org) to learn more and take action today.



Get started with water savings

- Sign up for the water wise landscape e-newsletter.
- **Test for toilet leaks** with free dye tablets.
- **Add free aerators** to your bathroom faucets.
- **Follow the Water Wise Rules** to take care of your lawn and eliminate water waste.
- **Visit the Demonstration Garden** or visit water wise plant profiles at [csu.org](https://www.csu.org) to explore water wise landscaping, design and plant options.

Move to the next level

- **Exchange your showerhead** for a WaterSense® model.
- **Install a rain sensor** and implement smart watering practices that align with the Water Wise Rules.
- Participate in Sustainable Landscape Education and **earn a coupon towards a water wise tree or shrub** (while supplies last).

Ready for a challenge

- Upgrade inefficient fixtures inside your home starting with toilets. **Use our high-efficiency toilet rebate.**
- **Upgrade inefficient irrigation equipment** and gain a rebate (while supplies last).
- Explore our **Native Grass Lawn program.**

Powering smarter choices with Energy Wise

How and when we use energy is changing, and so are the demands on our system. As our community grows, managing peak energy use is just as important as reducing overall consumption. Through Distributed Energy Strategies, we help customers use energy more efficiently and at the right times, lowering costs while supporting a more reliable and flexible energy system.

Our approach focuses on simple, practical actions customers can take over time. By combining incentives, tools and education, we make it easier to shift when and how you use energy, helping us reduce strain on our system.



Customer using their dishwasher during off-peak hours.

Ways that you can use be smart with your energy use:

- Upgrade insulation, equipment and appliances to reduce energy use.
- Use smart technologies, like programmable thermostats, to shift usage away from peak hours.

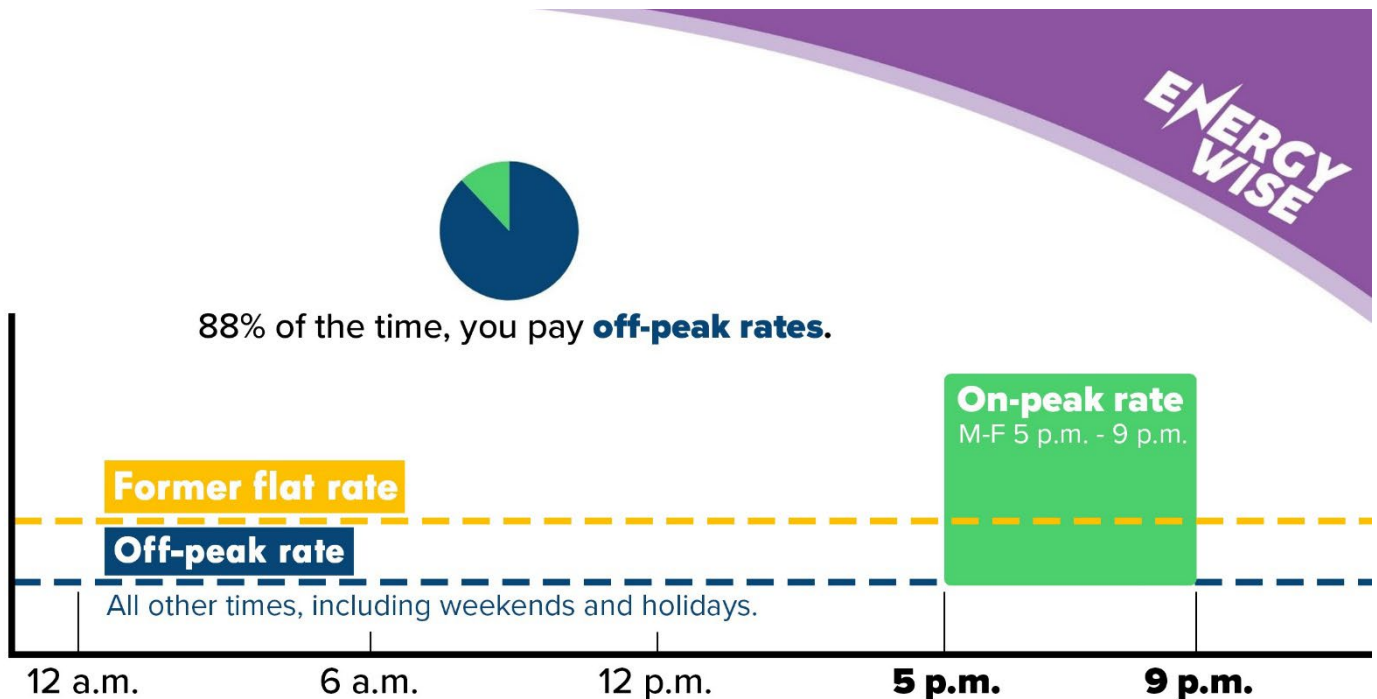
- Take advantage of rebates and incentives to lower upfront costs.
- Work with one of our energy advisors to better understand when and how you use energy.
- Make small changes in daily habits to reduce use during high-demand periods.

Energy Wise time-of-day rates help responsibly manage energy use and long-term costs by encouraging customers to shift electricity use away from peak hours (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.). By lowering peak demand, these rates reduce the need for expensive power purchases and additional generation resources.

Energy Wise became the standard electric rate in 2025. All residential and business customers with smart meters fully transitioned to the new rate by spring 2026.

Energy Wise rates are based on the time-of-day electricity is used, giving customers more control over their energy costs. Rates are lowest during off-peak hours (before 5 p.m. and after 9 p.m.) and all day on weekends and most holidays. Rates are highest during on-peak hours from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays. Seasonal pricing also applies, with higher rates in summer (June – September) when demand is highest, and lower rates in winter (October – May).





Residential rate options include:

- **Energy Wise:** The standard rate for most customers with smart meters, with on-peak and off-peak pricing.
- **Energy Wise Plus:** Offers lower midday “saver” rates (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and higher rates during occasional peak events.
- **Seasonal Fixed Rate:** A flat rate that does not vary by time of day, available for customers without smart meters.

These rates are designed to encourage energy use away from peak periods, helping reduce overall system costs while giving customers more flexibility to manage their bills. For more details, visit www.csu.org/rates/energy-wise.

Energy Wise Rates



For business customers:

- Updated rate structures align time-of-day periods and reduce total annual on-peak hours.
- Larger customers may include a demand charge, which reflects the cost of maintaining reliable electric service and infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency Journey

By focusing on the right improvements in the right order, customers can lower utility bills while supporting our need to manage demand and reduce emissions. Search for bolded terms on [csu.org](https://www.csu.org) to learn more and take action today.

Insulation and air sealing

Proper insulation helps reduce utility costs and increase comfort in your home or business.

We offer residential (up to 40%) and commercial (up to 50%) rebates.

Upgrade windows

Install ENERGY STAR® windows for more comfort and lower utility costs.

Customers can learn more at [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov).

Heat pump water heater

Heat pumps offer around twice the efficiency in water heating compared to standard models.

We offer rebates on qualifying equipment up to \$750.

Smart thermostat Peak Energy Rewards

Track energy usage during peak times with a smart thermostat.

We offer a \$50 smart thermostat rebate and, if enrolled in Peak Energy Rewards, a \$50 bill credit plus \$25 each year you participate.

Heat pump heater and HVAC

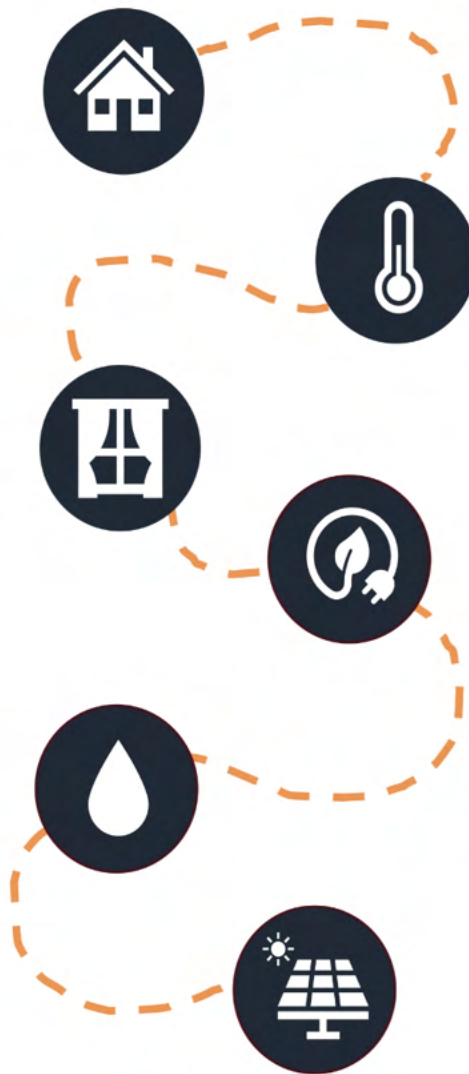
Get the highest efficiency cooling and heating options for your property.

We offer rebates on qualifying equipment between \$1,500-3,000.

Solar panels and batteries

Better manage your utility bill with solar panels or batteries. Customers can receive credits for energy generated that they do not use.

Learn more about our solar and battery programs at [csu.org](https://www.csu.org).



Rebates and Incentives

We offer a variety of rebates and incentives to help customers save money while using energy and water more efficiently. These programs are designed to lower upfront costs for upgrading equipment and improvements, while delivering ongoing savings through reduced energy and water use.



Sprinkler system watering a commercial lawn.

Residential Rebate Opportunities

- Insulation & Air Sealing
- HVAC & Heat Pumps
- Water Heaters
- Smart Thermostats
- Toilets
- Showerheads
- Irrigation Equipment
- Peak Energy Rewards

Business Rebate Opportunities

- Custom Energy Rebate
- Custom Water Rebate
- Toilets
- Water Heaters
- HVAC & Heat Pumps
- Showerheads
- Smart Thermostats
- Irrigation Equipment
- Builder Incentive Program
- Colorado C-PACE

These rebates and incentives are part of our commitment to helping customers save money while promoting responsible use of our natural resources. For more information and to apply for rebates, visit www.csu.org/rebates-incentives.

Rebates



Customer Assistance

We understand that things happen and we are happy to work with our customers who are having difficulty paying their utility bill.

If you need extra time to make a payment, you can create a payment plan online through My Account or you can contact Customer Service at (719) 448-4800 for assistance. For those requiring a more extended solution, a payment extension can be arranged by speaking with a representative.

Several assistance programs are available for those facing financial difficulties:

- **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP):** This federally funded program helps with winter home heating costs. Applications are accepted from November 1 to April 30 each year.
- **Project COPE:** Provides one-time utility payment assistance to families and individuals experiencing emergencies, regardless of income.
- **Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1:** A free bilingual service connecting people with resources for food, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care and more.

For those looking to improve their home's efficiency as a way of helping reduce their monthly bill, the following programs are available:

- **Home Efficiency Assistance Program (HEAP):** In partnership with the Energy Resource Center, qualifying homeowners can receive free energy and water efficiency upgrades.
- **Colorado Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Program:** Offers free weatherization services, including insulation, furnace repair or replacement and high-efficiency appliances for qualifying homeowners or renters.
- **Home Repair Assistance:** The City of Colorado Springs provides financial assistance for eligible low-income households for home repairs, including sewer and water line repairs, leak repairs and efficiency upgrades.

If you're having difficulty paying your bill or would like to explore options on how you might be able to save money, visit our website at www.csu.org/customer-assistance.

Customer Assistance



Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

Acre-foot: Volume of water that covers one acre (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot (often averaged to 326,000 gallons).

Alternating current (AC): A type of electrical current, the direction of which is reversed at regular intervals or cycles; in the U.S., the standard is 120 reversals or 60 cycles per second.

Appliance: A device for converting one form of energy or fuel into useful energy or work.

Appliance energy efficiency ratings: The ratings under which specified appliances convert energy sources into useful energy, as determined by procedures established by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Appropriation: Amount of water a user has the legal right to withdraw from a water source.

Augmentation: Replaces water into a stream due to losses from well usage.

Average demand: The demand on, or the power output of, an electrical system or any of its parts over an interval of time, as determined by the total number of kilowatt-hours divided by the units of time in the interval.

Base load: The lowest level of power production needed during a season or year.

Base load unit: A power generating facility that is intended to run constantly at near capacity levels, as much of the time as possible.

Battery energy storage systems (BESS): Systems of large-scale lithium-ion batteries that store electrical energy in the form of chemical energy, converting it back to electrical energy when needed, particularly during times of peak use.

Biomass: As defined by the Energy Security Act (PL96-294) of 1980, “any organic matter which is available on a renewable basis, including agricultural crops and agricultural wastes and residues, wood and wood wastes and residues, animal wastes, municipal wastes and aquatic plants.”

British Thermal Unit (BTU): The amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit; equal to 252 calories.

Capacity: The amount of electric power for which a generating unit, generating station, or other electrical apparatus is rated either by the user or manufacturer. The term is also used for the total volume of natural gas that can flow through a pipeline over a given amount of time, considering such factors as compression and pipeline size.

Carbon dioxide: A colorless, odorless noncombustible gas with the formula CO₂ that is present in the atmosphere. It is formed by the combustion of carbon and carbon compounds (such as fossil fuels and biomass), by respiration, which is a slow combustion in animals and plants and by the gradual oxidation of organic matter in the soil.

CCF: One hundred cubic feet or 748 gallons.

Chemical energy: The energy liberated in a chemical reaction, as in the combustion of fuels.

Circuit: A device, or system of devices, which allows electrical current to flow through it and allows voltage to occur across positive and negative terminals.

Combustion: The process of burning; the oxidation of a material by applying heat, which unites oxygen with a material or fuel.

Conduit: A tubular material used to encase and protect electric wiring. Conduits are also a channel for conveying water or other fluids.

Conservation: To reduce or avoid the consumption of a resource or commodity.

Contract water exchange: A water exchange between two bodies of stored water for the same amount of water. Contract exchanges are not dependent on river flows, so they can occur any time there is enough water in both storage locations to be exchanged. This saves the water naturally lost during the transportation process and avoids significant infrastructure and pumping costs.

Cubic foot: A common unit of measurement of natural gas volume. It equals the amount of gas required to fill a volume of one cubic foot under states conditions of temperature, pressure and water vapor. One cubic foot of natural gas has an energy content of approximately 1,000 BTUs. One hundred (100) cubic feet equals one therm ($100 \text{ ft}^3 = 1 \text{ therm}$).

Current: The flow of electrical energy (electricity) in a conductor, measured in amperes.

Demand: The rate at which electricity is delivered to or by a system, part of a system, or piece of equipment expressed in kilowatts, kilovolt amperes, or other suitable unit, at a given instant or other average over a specific period of time.

Direct current (DC): A type of electricity transmission and distribution by which electricity flows in one direction through the conductor; usually relatively low voltage and high current; typically abbreviated as dc.

Distributed Generation: A distributed generation system involves small amounts of generation located on a utility's distribution system for the purpose of meeting local (substation level) peak loads and/or displacing the need to build additional (or upgrade) local distribution lines.

Demand management: Water and energy efficiency measures, practices or

incentives implemented to reduce or change customer demand patterns.

Diversión: Alteration in the natural course of a stream for the purpose of water supply, usually causing some of the water to leave the natural channel. In Colorado Springs, this includes taking water through a ditch, tunnel, pipe, or other conduit.

Drought: Water supply shortage that is caused by natural conditions such as an extended period of below-normal precipitation.

Efficiency: The ratio of the useful energy delivered by a dynamic system (such as a machine, engine, or motor) to the energy supplied to it over the same period or cycle of operation. The ratio is usually determined under specific test conditions.

Electrical energy: The energy of moving electrons.

Electric energy: The amount of work accomplished by electrical power, usually measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). One kWh is 1,000 Watts and is equal to 3,413 BTU.

Electro-magnetic field (EMF): The electrical and magnetic fields created by the presence or flow of electricity in an electrical conductor or electricity consuming appliance or motor.

Emission(s): A substance(s) or pollutant emitted because of a process.

Energy: The capability of doing work; different forms of energy can be converted to other forms, but the total amount of energy remains the same.

Energy resources: Everything that could be used by society as a source of energy.

Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS): Highly sensitive grid configurations that automatically shut off power within milliseconds if

an object strikes a line, effectively preventing wildfires.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): A federal agency charged with protecting the environment.

Electric vehicle (EV): A vehicle powered by electricity, usually provided by batteries but may also be provided by photovoltaic (solar) cells or a fuel cell.

Fossil fuels: Fuels formed in the ground from the remains of dead plants and animals. It takes millions of years to form fossil fuels. Oil, natural gas and coal are fossil fuels.

Frequency: The number of cycles through which an alternating current passes per second; in the U.S., the standard for electricity generation is 60 cycles per second (60 Hertz).

Generating station: A power plant.

Grid: The electric utility companies' transmission and distribution system that links power plants to customers through high power transmission line service (110 kilovolt [kv] to 765 kv); high voltage primary service for industrial applications and street rail and bus systems (23 kv-138 kv); medium voltage primary service for commercial and industrial applications (4 kv to 35); and secondary service for commercial and residential customers (120 v to 480 v). Grid can also refer to the layout of a gas distribution system of a city or town in which pipes are laid in both directions in the streets and connected at intersections.

GPCD: Gallons per capita per day.

Hydroelectric power: Electricity produced by falling water that turns a turbine generator. Also referred to as hydro.

Hydrology: the science concerned with the movement of water on or near the land surface through the hydrologic cycle including the

processes of precipitation, evaporation, infiltration, runoff stream flow and the transport of substances dissolved or suspended in the flowing water.

In-basin water: See - Native water.

Integrated water resource planning: Open planning process emphasizing balanced consideration of supply and demand management options for meeting water needs; typically, in a 50-year window.

Investor-owned utilities (IOU): A company, owned by stockholders for profit, which provides utility services. A designation used to differentiate a utility owned and operated for the benefit of shareholders from municipally owned and operated utilities and rural electric cooperatives.

Kilowatt (kW): One thousand (1,000) watts. A unit of measure of the amount of electricity needed to operate given equipment. On a hot summer afternoon, a typical home, with central air conditioning and other equipment in use, might have a demand of four kW each hour.

Kilowatt-hour (kWh): A commonly used unit of measure, telling the amount of electricity consumed over time. It means one kilowatt of electricity supplied for one hour. A typical household consumes 900 kWh in an average month.

Load: An end-use device or customer that receives power from the electric system.

Megawatt (MW): One-thousand kilowatts (1,000 kW) or one million (1,000,000) watts. One megawatt has enough electrical capacity to power 600 – 1,000 average homes.

Meter: A device for measuring levels and volumes of a customer's gas and electricity use.

MGD: Million gallons per day.

Natural gas: Hydrocarbon gas found in the earth, composed of methane, ethane, butane, propane and other gases.

Non-potable water: Water that has not been treated to make it safe for drinking or is not intended for drinking.

Peak load: The highest electrical demand over a specified time. Daily electric peaks on weekdays occur in the late afternoon and early evening. Annual peaks occur on hot summer days.

Peak load power plant: A power generating station that is normally used to produce extra electricity during peak load times.

Peaking unit: Power generator used by a utility to produce extra electricity during peak load times.

Pipeline: A line of pipe with pumping machinery and apparatus (including valves, compressor units, metering stations, regulator stations, etc.) for conveying liquid or gas.

Potable water: Water suitable for drinking.

Power pool: Two or more interconnected utilities that plan and operate to supply electricity in the most reliable, economical way to meet their combined load.

Priority (in and out): Right to divert or store water, based on the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation. In Colorado, this is regulated by the Division of Water Resource and is based on the date of the water right (i.e., "first in time, first in right").

Regional Transmission Organization (RTO): An independent, non-profit entity that coordinates, controls, and monitors a multi-state electric power grid. RTOs manage the flow of electricity, ensure grid reliability, and administer competitive wholesale power markets.

Reliability: Electric system reliability has two components-- adequacy and security. Adequacy is the ability of the electric system to always supply the aggregate electrical demand and energy requirements of the customers, considering scheduled and unscheduled outages of system facilities. Security is the ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system facilities.

Renewable energy: Resources that constantly renew themselves or that are regarded as practically inexhaustible. These include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and wood.

Return flow: Wastewater effluent or excess water returning to the stream system.

Reuse: Additional use of previously used water or the beneficial use of treated wastewater.

Reusable water: Water with the legal characteristic of being able to be used, reused and subsequently used to extinction.

River water exchange: A water exchange in which water is stored upstream and in exchange a release of the same amount of water is made at a downstream location. River exchanges operate under a complex set of rules and can only be used when no injury would occur to the intervening senior water rights calling between the downstream and upstream points of exchange.

Service area: Territory in which utilities are required or has the right to supply service to customers.

Solar energy: Heat and light radiated from the sun.

Substation: A facility that steps up or steps down the voltage in utility power lines. Voltage is stepped up where power is sent through long-distance transmission lines. It is stepped down

where the power is to enter local distribution lines.

Terminal storage: Storage in a water system, usually just upstream of treatment facilities, used to minimize risk by providing a reliable supply for water treatment plants and to minimize demand fluctuation impacts on delivery system facilities.

Transmountain diversion: Water project that diverts water from one river basin to another. For Colorado Springs, this is typically a project to divert water from the Colorado River Basin (western slope) to the Arkansas River Basin (eastern slope).

Transmountain water (transbasin water): Water diverted from the western slope of the Continental Divide. See also “reusable water.”

Transformer: A device, which through electromagnetic induction but without the use of moving parts, transforms alternating or intermittent electric energy in one circuit into energy of similar type in another circuit, commonly with altered values of voltage and current.

Transmission: Transporting bulk power over long distances. Transmission can also be a pipeline that carries water or natural gas from points of supply to local storage reservoirs or gate stations to be distributed throughout the local distribution system to customers.

Use to extinction: Water that has been imported to a new river basin is considered ‘foreign’ with respect to the ‘native’ water that arises or accrues within the receiving basin. Foreign water (also called transbasin or transmountain water) may be used successively by the importer within the receiving basin in contrast to native water that may only be used once by the first appropriator. Foreign water that can no longer be distinguished volumetrically from native water is ‘used to extinction.’

Volt: A unit of electromotive force. It is the amount of force required to drive a steady current of one ampere through a resistance of one ohm. Electrical systems of most homes and offices have 120 volts.

Voltage of a circuit: The electric pressure of a circuit, measured in volts. Usually a nominal rating, based on the maximum normal effective difference of potential between any two conductors of the circuit.

Water right: Property right created by the diversion of water and the placing of it to a beneficial use (appropriation). Water rights become officially recognized and administrable when documented in a decree of the state Water Court (adjudicated).

Water Use Efficiency Plan: Colorado Springs Utilities’ plan identifying water conservation and efficiency strategies to meet the statutory requirements of the Water Conservation Act of 2004.

Watt: A unit of measure of electric power at a point in time, as capacity or demand. One watt of power maintained over time is equal to one joule per second. Some Christmas tree lights use one watt.

Watt-hour: One watt of power expended for one hour. One thousandth of a kilowatt-

Appendix B – System Maps



Electric Generation – North District



Electric Generation – South District



Raw Water System Map 2026



Local Collection System



Blue River System



Homestake System



Twin Lakes & Colorado Canal Systems



Fry – Ark System

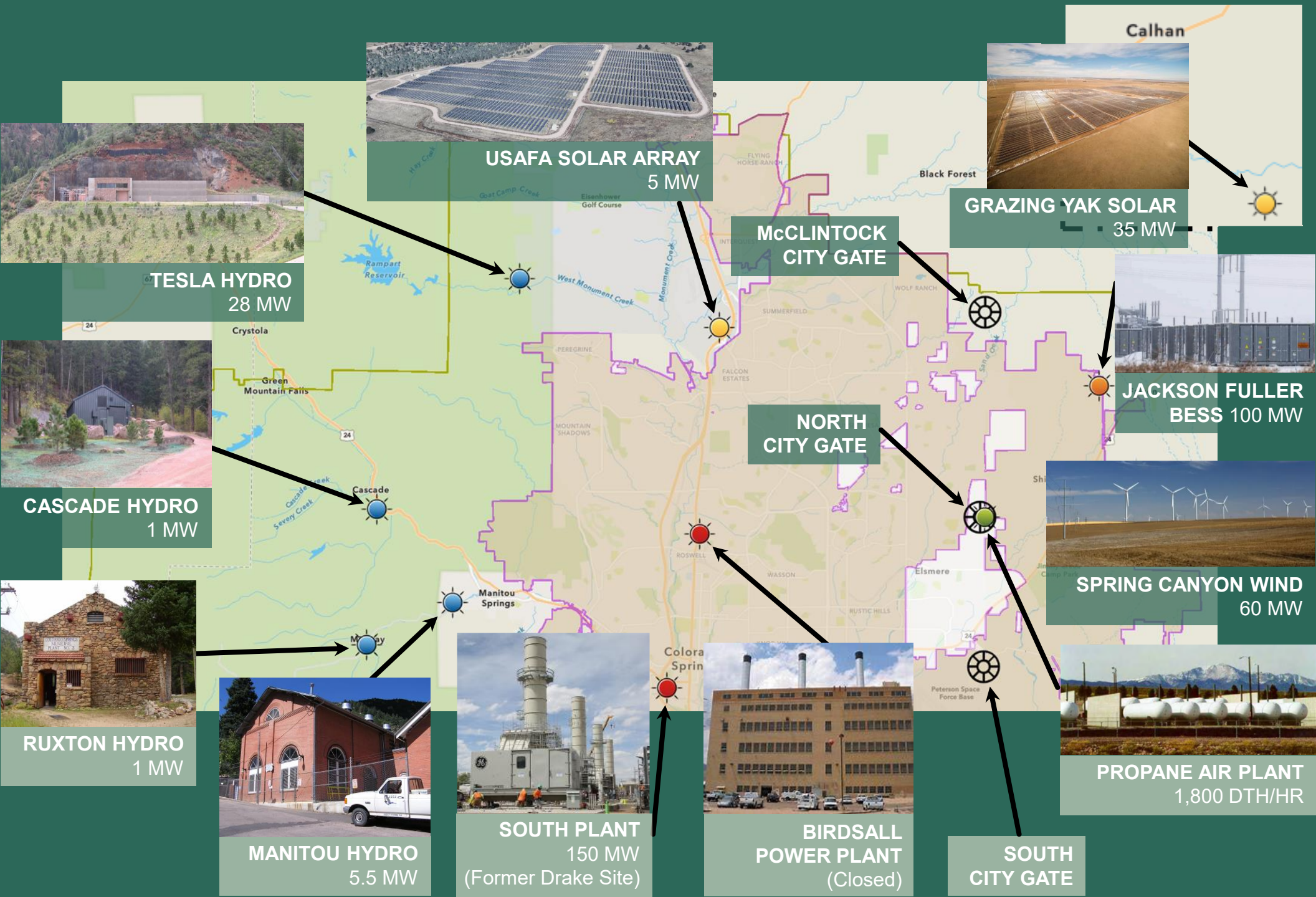


Southern Delivery System

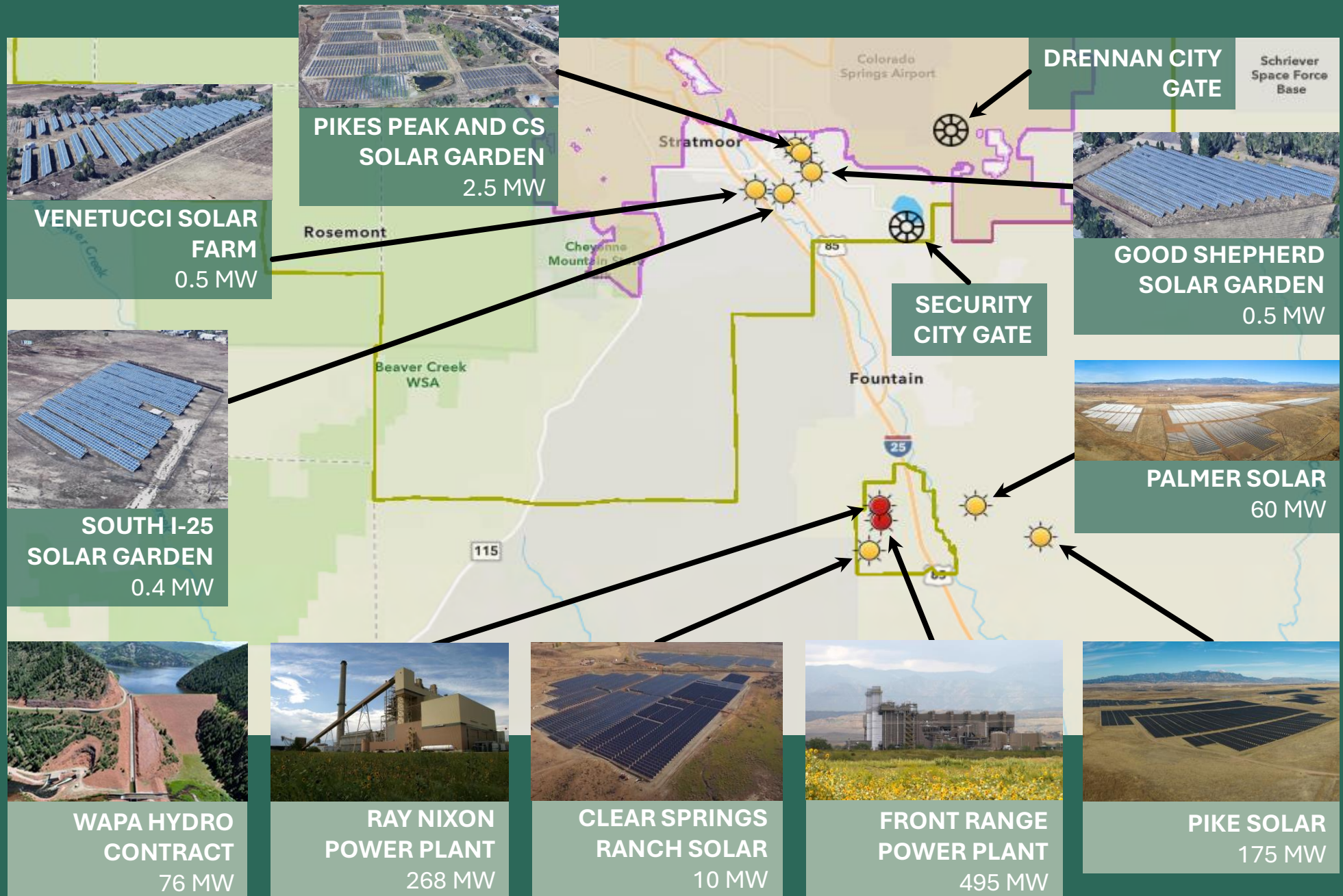


Raw Water Network Map

Electric Generation – North District



Electric Generation – South District

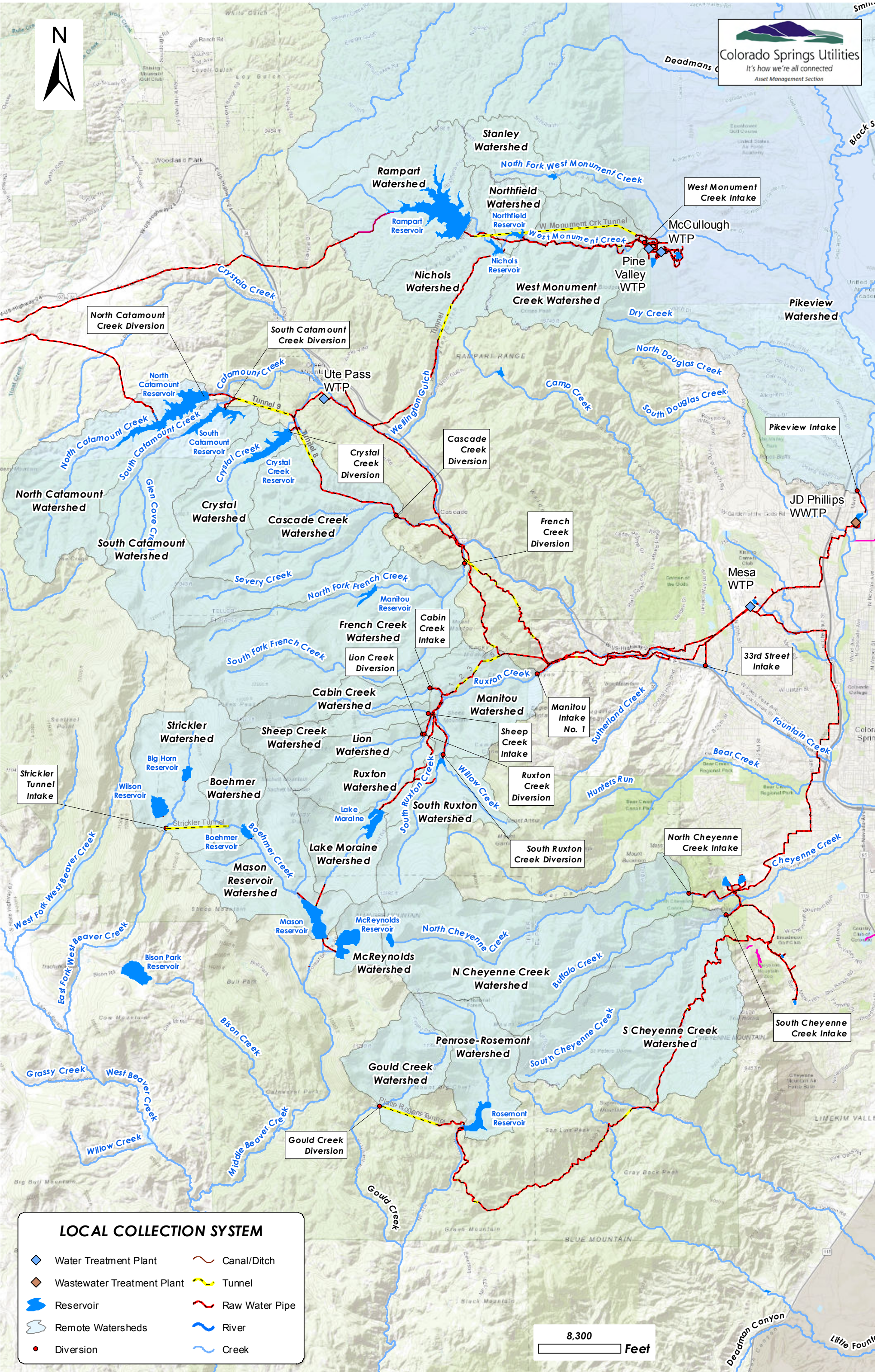


Raw Water System Map

June 2026

Legend

-  Water Treatment Plant
-  Pump Station
-  Raw Water Pipeline
-  River
-  Colorado Canal
-  Creek
-  Continental Divide

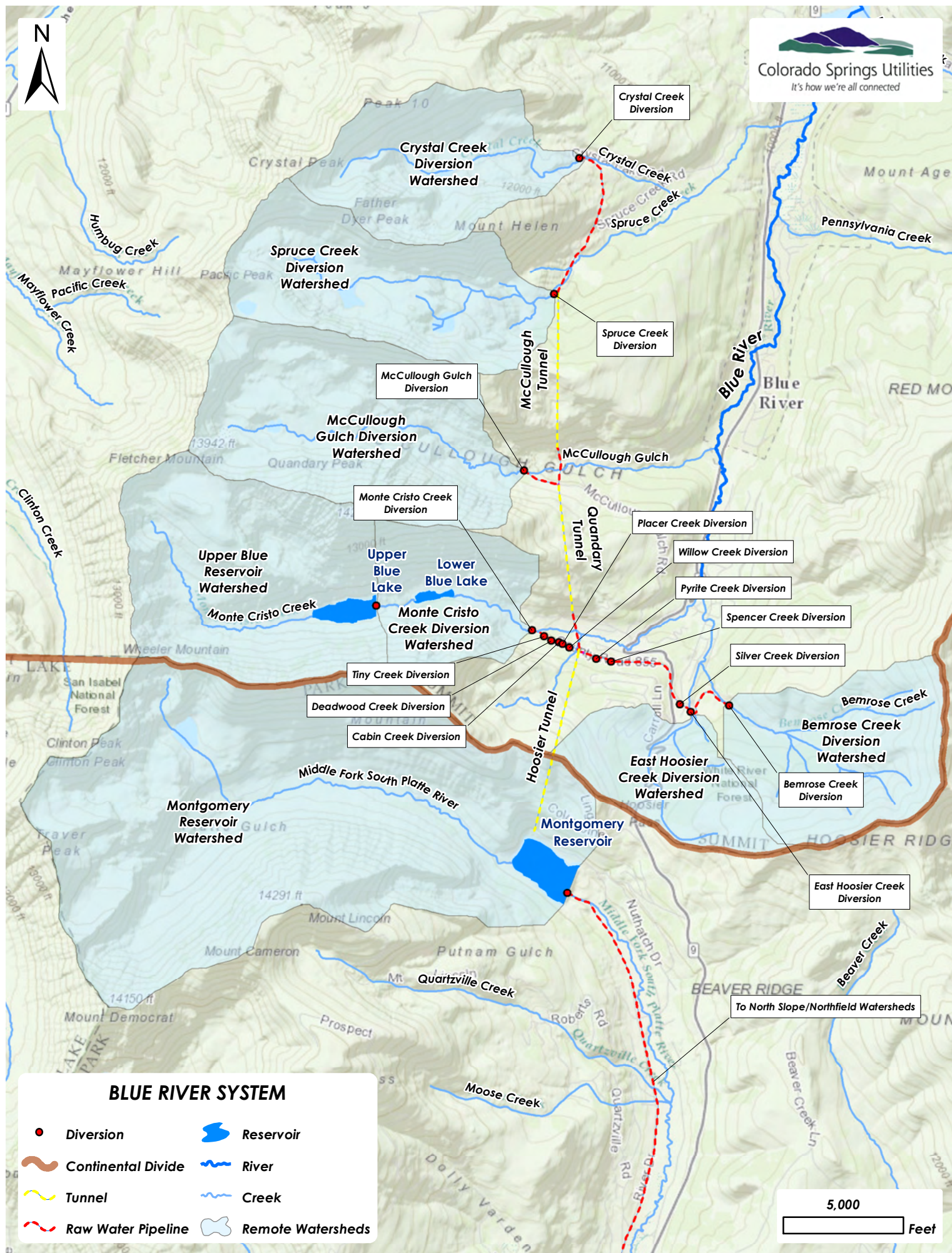


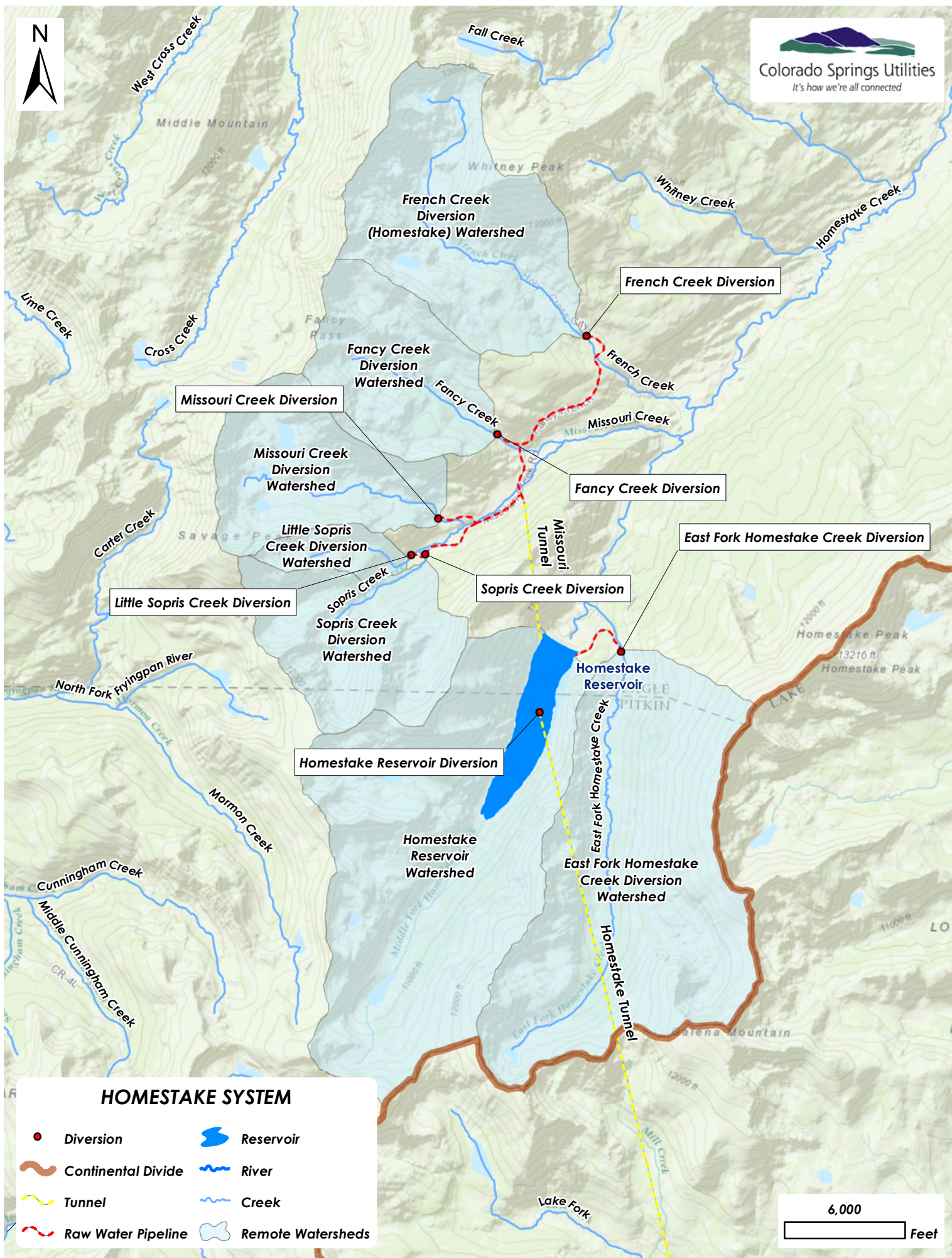
LOCAL COLLECTION SYSTEM

	Water Treatment Plant		Canal/Ditch
	Wastewater Treatment Plant		Tunnel
	Reservoir		Raw Water Pipe
	Remote Watersheds		River
	Diversion		Creek

8,300

Feet







**Lost Man Creek
Diversion**

**Twin Lakes
Tunnel No.2 Intake**

**Tabor Creek
Diversion**

**Brooklyn Gulch
Diversion**

**New York Creek
Diversion**

**New York
Gulch**

**Tabor Gulch
Watershed**

**Brooklyn
Gulch**

**Lincoln Creek
Watershed**

**Tabor to Grizzly
Watershed**

Grizzly Creek

**Twin Lakes
Tunnel No.1 Intake**

**Lost Man
Watershed**

**Roaring Fork
Watershed**

South Fork Lake Creek

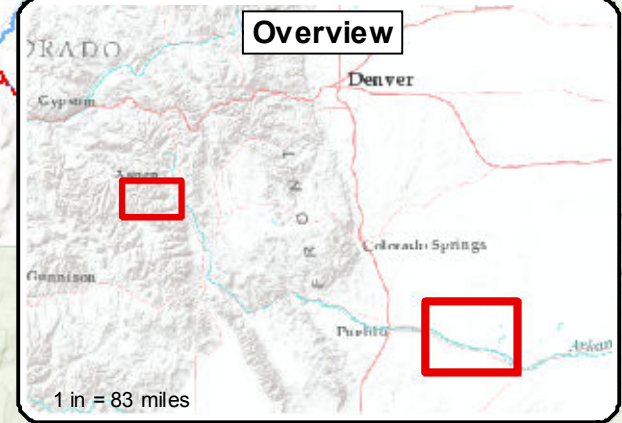
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Miles

Twin Lakes & Colorado Canal Systems

- Diversion
 - Continental Divide
 - - - Raw Water Pipeline
 - - - Canal
 - Tunnel
 - Reservoir
 - River
 - Creek
 - - - Ditch
 - Watersheds
- 1 inch = 8,000 feet



Overview

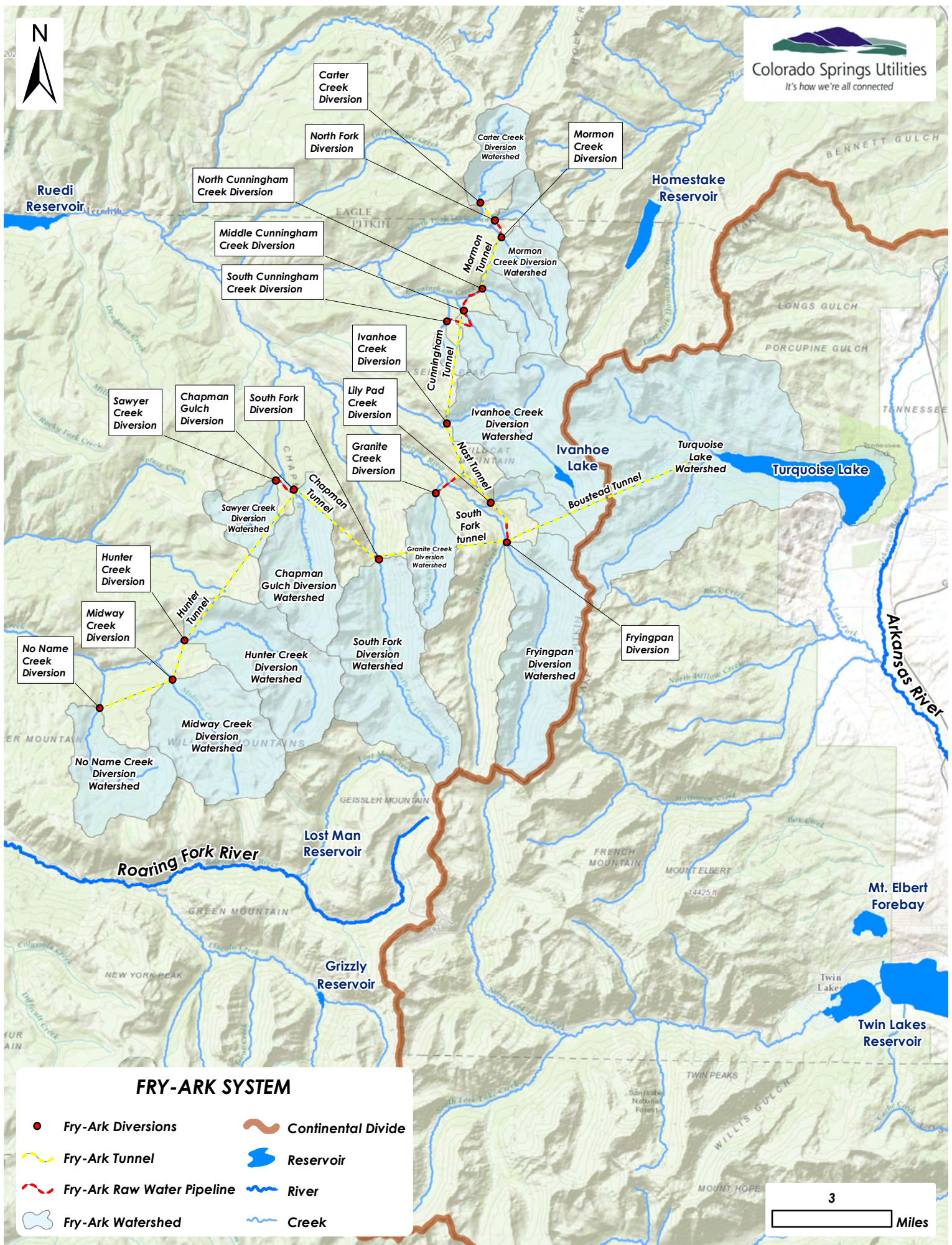


**Mt. Elbert
Forebay**

**Twin Lakes Reservoir
and Canal Company**

**Boone
Diversion**







Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

Edward W. Bailey
Water Treatment Plant

Bradley Pump Station

Williams Creek Pump Station

Juniper Pump Station

SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM

-  SDS Major Features
-  SDS_Line
-  Reservoir
-  River
-  Creek

24,000

Feet

