



New Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project website launched

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The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project launched a new website this week providing more information about the project. After an extensive federal and state approval process, the State of Colorado and the Chatfield water providers are moving toward implementation of the project. The website address is www.chatfieldreallocation.org.

The new website includes background on the economic and environmental benefits of storing more South Platte River and Plum Creek water in the reservoir. It includes a history of the thorough review and approvals this project has undergone over the past decade and more.

The website also includes information on the studies and plans that are in place for the reallocation project, as well as a map and a list of local, state, federal and environmental entities that support the project. As it becomes available, the website will provide information about the next phases of project planning and design, as well as a construction schedule when it is available. However, we do not expect any major earth-moving or ground disturbing activities will be undertaken this year. Chatfield State Park guests will see no impact to the park and their visits during the summer of 2015. A timeline will be added to the website as soon as start dates are available.

The Chatfield dam and reservoir were built in the 1970s for flood control, which remains the primary mission of the facility. The man-made lake was designed to hold more than 350,000 acre feet of water in times of flooding.

Currently, up to 27,400 acre feet of water can be stored in the reservoir. Once the required recreational modifications and environmental mitigation has been completed, an additional 20,600 acre feet of water will be able to be stored in the existing reservoir. With the additional water storage now allowed, a total of up to 48,000 acre feet of water can be stored in the reservoir. Of the 48,000 acre feet, the additional 20,600 acre feet will be used for irrigation of cropland in Adams, Weld and Morgan counties and municipal water supplies in Douglas, Jefferson and Park counties. No modifications to the dam will be needed.

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The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project It is a water supply project approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources that reallocates some of the storage space in Chatfield Reservoir from flood control to joint flood control and multipurpose use. This additional storage space will be used by municipal and agricultural water providers to help meet the diverse water needs of the state.