

## South Platte River Environmental Mitigation Site

As part of the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project, on-site environmental mitigation work along the South Platte River is now underway.

The river corridor provides opportunities to protect existing habitat, create new habitat, and facilitate regeneration of cottonwood trees along the river. The work will address existing erosion and flood-related problems as well.

Modifications, described in more detail below, will include a variety of environmental features to protect and increase habitat values from the baseline conditions. Among other work, thousands of new trees and shrubs will be planted along the river corridor upstream of the reservoir.

During construction there will be some trail closures in this area for safety and construction access. To see a detailed map of the closures, please go to <https://chatfieldreallocation.org/construction/#SouthPlatteMitigation>.

The closures will continue through Spring 2019.

The South Platte River is a primary tributary to Chatfield Reservoir with a mountainous watershed of 2600-square miles. The river flows north and east out of Waterton Canyon into Chatfield State Park and Chatfield Reservoir. The sites selected for construction are within the boundaries of the state park.

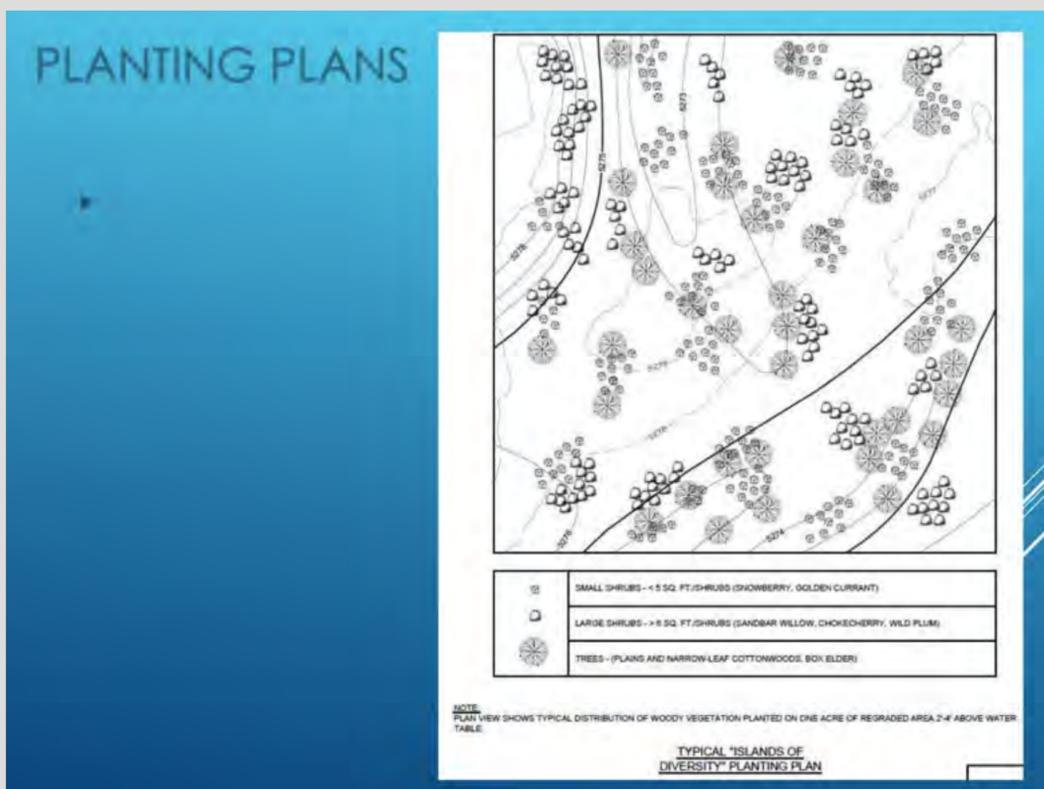
A high runoff event in 2015 caused erosion in a former oxbow channel of the river adjacent to Titan Lake. The erosion created a breach of the river into Titan Lake, depositing a large delta of sediment in the lake. The high flows also scoured the north spillway channel of Titan Lake and dropped the level of the lake by about six feet.



Scouring at the oxbow adjacent to Titan Lake

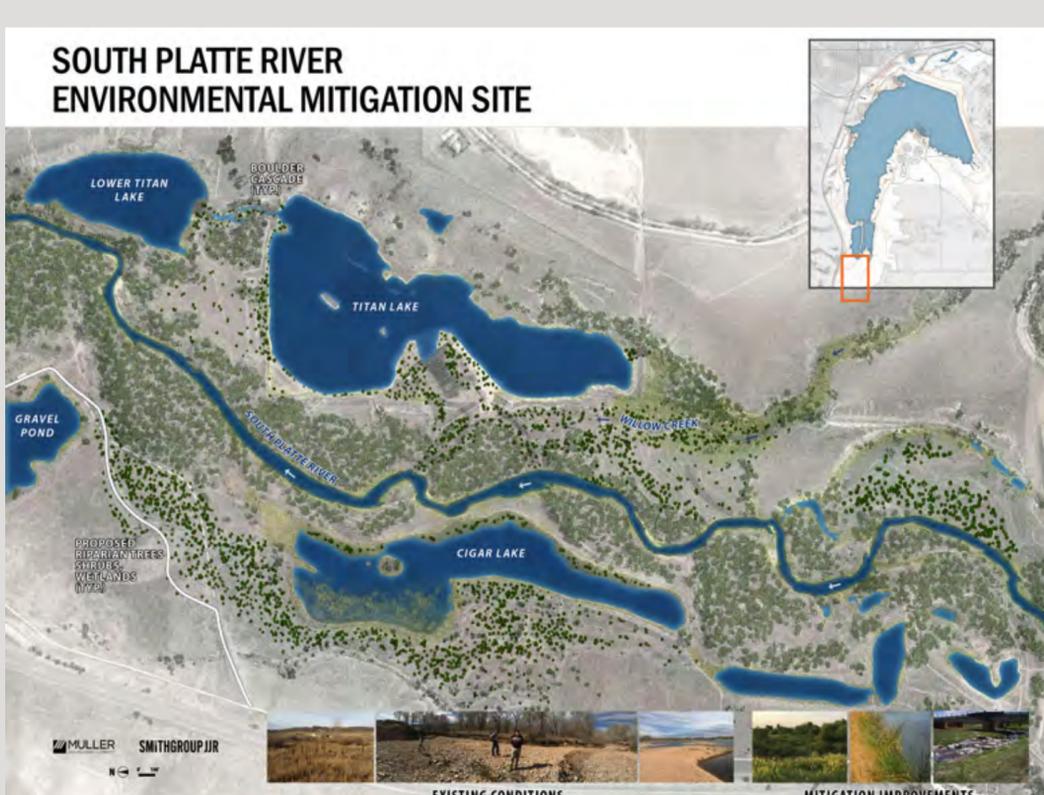
Future high flows in the South Platte River pose a substantial risk of further channel breaches and severe erosion that threaten existing bird, non-critical Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, and wetlands habitats, and the mature cottonwood grove along the channel.

Mitigation activities will take place at several locations along the River, including Cigar Lake, the abandoned wetlands, the Southern Oxbow, Willow Creek, Titan Lake, and within the borrow areas. Modifications include excavation to establish closer proximity to the water table, micro-topographical grading to emulate natural secondary channels, and seeding and planting.



Typical "Islands of Diversity" Planting Plan

To minimize potential for further degradation from bank failures during high flows, mitigation measures include berm construction to direct high flows; grade control structures in the former oxbow channel to prevent the South Platte from changing course; and replacing the outlet structure for Titan Lake to restore water levels in and around the lake. No work will occur within the actual South Platte River channel.



South Platte River Environmental Mitigation Site

For questions contact us at [info@chatfieldreallocation.org](mailto:info@chatfieldreallocation.org).

For detailed information on the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project, or to view the project video, please go to our website [www.chatfieldreallocation.org](http://www.chatfieldreallocation.org).

Follow us on:

