

## Who Would Be the Beneficiaries of the Proposed Project at Chatfield Reservoir, and Why?

This is the third white paper in a series to help provide information on the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Study currently underway at Chatfield Reservoir. The purpose of the study is to determine if Front Range water users can use an existing water storage facility to help provide for a more reliable water supply along the Front Range of Colorado. This paper identifies the potential beneficiaries of the proposed project.

The proposed project captures water during wet years and seasons and stores it for use during dry periods, a function that is critical to providing reliable water supplies in semi-arid climates like Colorado. A project at Chatfield could improve numerous Front Range water providers' ability to better manage their water supplies and deliveries through increased water storage capacity. The beneficiaries of improved water management include homeowners, businesses, agriculture, and recreation including Chatfield State Park.

The water providers who will benefit from the purchase and use of additional storage space provided by the Chatfield reallocation project are listed below, along with the primary types of water users they serve.

### **Downstream Water Users and Beneficiaries:**

City of Aurora, Municipality – Homeowners, Businesses

City of Brighton, Municipality – Homeowners, Businesses

Central Colorado Conservancy District, Local Government - Agriculture in north central Colorado

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, Government – Recreation

Western Mutual Ditch Company, Non-Profit Organization - Agriculture in Weld County

### **Upstream Water Users and Beneficiaries:**

Castle Pines Metropolitan District, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban area

Castle Pines North Metropolitan District, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban area

Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban area

Center of Colorado Conservancy District, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Park County

Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Government – Recreation

Mount Carbon Conservancy District, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Park County

Perry Park Country Club, Private - Homeowners

Roxborough Water and Sanitation, Local Government – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban area

South Metro Water Supply Authority, 11 Local Governments – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban areas

Town of Castle Rock, Municipality – Homeowners, Businesses in Denver suburban area

In addition to the current flood protection provided by the existing Chatfield Reservoir, and the ability to capture water in wet years and seasons to store it for use during low-flow periods, there are many other positive project results. The reallocation project may allow Front Range water users to store additional water to meet some of the increasing demand for water, without the need for constructing new dam or spillway facilities. Water storage from the Chatfield reallocation project could provide benefit to recreational users at Chatfield State Park through the construction of new facilities, and increased non-motorized boatable area. Releases of water during dry periods could provide environmental benefits to the urban and downstream reaches of the South Platte River. Water storage from a Chatfield reallocation project could allow upstream water users to become less reliant on groundwater supplies, which could in turn extend the availability and life of critical aquifers for use by future generations. Downstream water users may store water supplies for the agricultural community in the South Platte Basin, where thousands of acres of previously irrigated land has not been farmed in recent years due to the widespread shut down of irrigation wells.

The Chatfield reallocation project is unique. It has brought together a diverse, and often competing group of interests in the pursuit of a common goal. Increasing water storage capacity in an existing flood control reservoir can provide benefits across the spectrum of water users, from farmers to recreational users. If successful, this project will be used as a template for future water-related projects in Colorado, and the American West. To learn more about this important project, please look for this series of articles, and visit: [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org).

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