



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Study



## Background:

Chatfield Reservoir was built in 1975 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the confluence of the South Platte River and Plum Creek to control flooding. The reservoir currently has the ability to store more than 350,000 acre-feet (AF) of water. The main purpose of the reservoir is for flood control, but it also provides storage space for conservation (or “multipurpose”) water, which is used for municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses, as well as maintaining fisheries and wildlife habitat.

## Regional Water Demand:

Colorado’s population is projected to increase by 65% from 4.34 million in 2000 to 7.16 million in 2030. The Statewide Water Supply Initiative, commissioned by the State Legislature, estimates that by 2030, water demand along the Front Range will exceed supply by 22%, leaving 90,700 AF of unmet needs. (The average suburban household uses around one-half of an acre-foot per year.) Water users have looked to Chatfield Reservoir as one of the potential solutions to store surface water and reduce their dependency on non-tributary (non-renewable) groundwater.

## Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Study:

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), a division of the Department of Natural Resources, has contracted with the Corps to investigate the feasibility of “reallocating” some of the storage space in Chatfield Reservoir. **The concept behind reallocation is to re-designate storage space that is currently reserved for flood control purposes to space for joint flood control *and* conservation purposes, effectively increasing capacity for multipurpose water.**

The Corps is preparing a detailed Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts and costs of four alternatives: two options for reallocation and two alternatives for water users if no action is taken at Chatfield. The Corps will release Draft and Final versions of the FR/EIS for review before issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) on any action.



## Proposed Alternatives: (SEE MAP ON REVERSE.)

- 1) No Action- New Storage Construction:** Without reallocation, water providers could consider using gravel pit storage and constructing a reservoir in the area.
- 2) No Action- NTGW/Gravel Pits:** Without reallocation, water providers could continue reliance on non-tributary groundwater (NTGW) and gravel pit storage.
- 3) Reallocation for 20,600 AF storage:** Raises top elevation of the existing conservation pool by 12 feet to 5,444 feet above mean sea level (feet m.s.l.). As determined in the Flood Antecedent Study conducted by the Corps, storing 20,000 AF does not compromise the reservoir’s flood control function. Fifteen water users would share the new joint flood control-conservation storage space, their use of which could cause fluctuations in lake levels.
- 4) Reallocation for 7,700 AF storage:** Raises top elevation of the conservation pool by 5 feet to 5,437 feet m.s.l. Fifteen water users would share the new joint flood control-conservation storage space.

## Evaluating Potential Impacts and Mitigation

The FR/EIS will evaluate each alternative’s potential impact on and potential mitigation for:

- Recreational Facilities and Activities
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Vegetation
- Aquatic, Wetland and Land Habitat
- Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water Supply Resources
- Water & Air Quality
- Cultural & Socioeconomic Resources
- Flood Control

## Study Participants & Stakeholders:

The Corps is the lead federal agency and the CWCB is the State (non-federal) sponsor of the study. Other interested parties include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Division of Wildlife, local water providers, interest groups and the public.

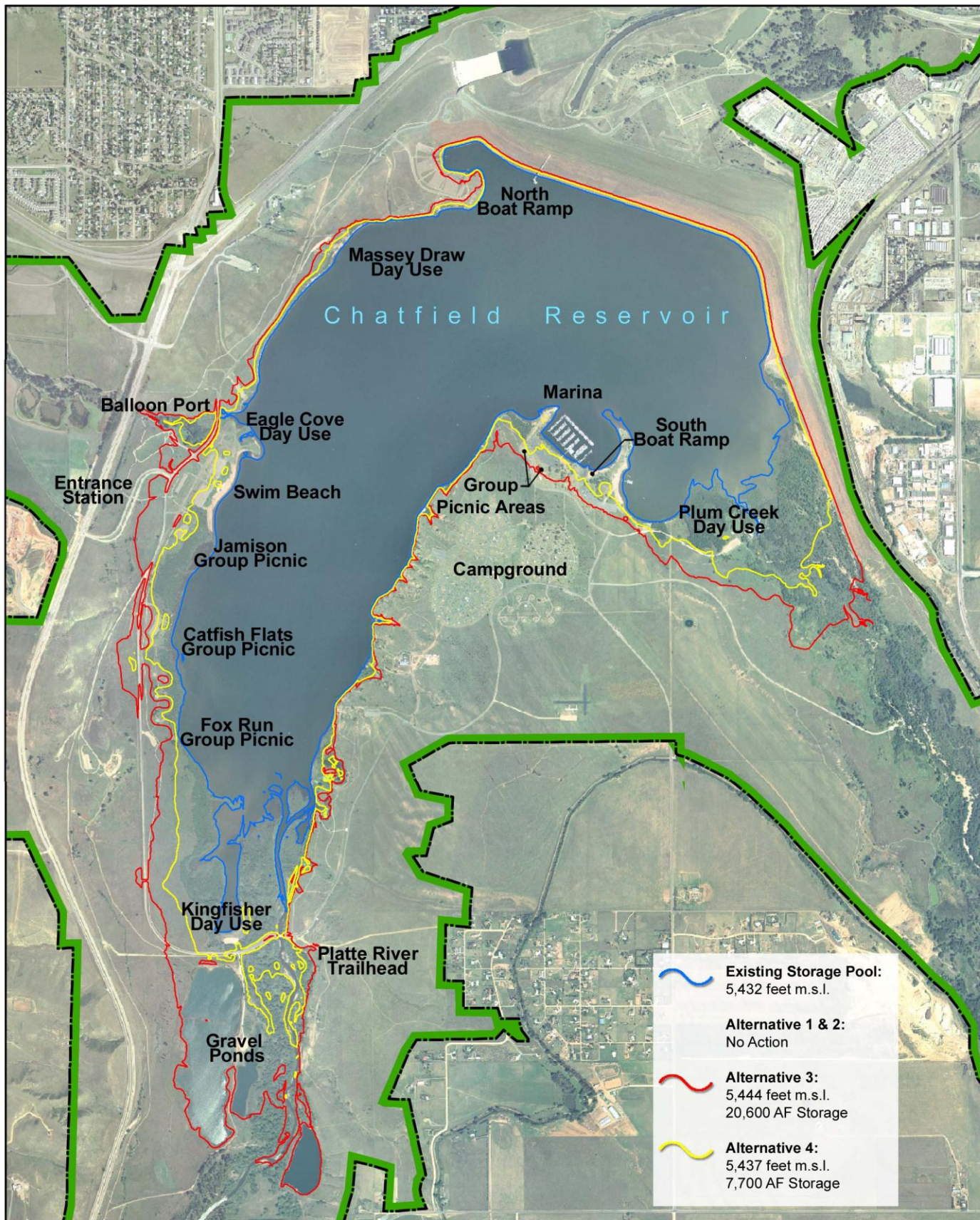
## Public Participation:

The Draft FR/EIS is anticipated to be released in 2011. The public will play an important role during a comment period following the release by providing feedback on the Draft at public meetings and in writing.

### To stay informed about the study’s progress:

- Visit the study Web site for more information and to add your name to our mailing list: [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org)
- Call the study’s toll-free line with questions: **1-866-643-5875**

# Proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Alternatives



 Study Boundary

## Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation FR/EIS

Proposed Chatfield Storage Reallocation Alternatives

EDAW | AECOM

6/2/08

Aerial Photograph: May 1999

0 1,000 2,000 Feet