

## Background and Overview of Study Underway at Chatfield Reservoir

This is the first 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 providers can use an existing storage facility to help provide for a more reliable water supply along the Front Range of Colorado. Located 25 miles southwest of Denver, Chatfield Reservoir currently provides Denver Metropolitan area citizens with protection from South Platte River flooding, some limited water storage capability and numerous recreational opportunities.

Periodic flooding on the South Platte River has occurred throughout history as a result of snowmelt runoff or major rainstorm events. Most notably, a devastating flood in the Denver area happened in 1965 causing loss of life and severe property damage on the order of \$3 billion in today's dollars. To address this situation, Congress authorized the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin constructing Chatfield dam in 1967. In 1974, land now known as Chatfield State Park was leased to the state. Over the next thirty-five years, the park environs were improved to include diverse recreational activities such as camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking and horseback riding, as well as provide wildlife habitat.

Located on the South Platte River, Chatfield Reservoir provides a unique opportunity for Front Range water providers to store water for future uses. This project was authorized by Congress in 1986. In 1999, the State of Colorado signed an agreement with the United States to formally study if and how more water might be stored at Chatfield. In 2006, studies confirmed that additional water could be safely stored in Chatfield Reservoir, without making any changes to the dam or spillway, through use of storage space currently reserved for flood control.

Upon the completion of the current study effort, a document called a "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" will be released for public review and comment. The period for public comment on the document is expected in the summer or fall of 2011. If the project is determined to be feasible, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works could approve the report and issue a "Record of Decision" to reallocate a portion of the storage space in Chatfield Lake to allow additional water to be stored in the reservoir. It could take several years to complete planning and implement these changes.

In the coming months, a series of articles will address information about the study, including who is participating in the study, who may benefit if the Corps determines more water can be stored at Chatfield, who intends to purchase a portion of the reallocated storage space and who (or what) could be impacted. Entities participating in the study include water providers, recreational interests, environmental interests and agricultural interests. Beneficiaries of the Chatfield Reallocation Project would include water providers in Arapahoe, Douglas, Park and Weld counties, homeowners, farmers and ranchers and state park users.

There will be potential impacts and benefits from any project of this type, and this series of articles will help to raise the public's interest and awareness of the perspectives that were included in the study process. To learn more information about this important study at Chatfield, please look for this series of articles by visiting: [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org).

**1<sup>st</sup> Chatfield Whitepaper**

**Version - Final : 7/14/2011**

**By: Chatfield Water Providers**

**Approved for Distribution by US Army Corps of Engineers**

Participants in the Study at Chatfield Reservoir

This is the second 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 it is feasible to use an existing federal reservoir to help provide for a more reliable water supply along the Front Range of Colorado. This paper describes the study’s participants, and includes lists of downstream water providers, upstream water providers, interested stakeholders, study consultants and entities that support the study process.

Organizations participating in the study include:

***Water Providers Downstream of Chatfield Reservoir***

<b>Entity Requesting Storage</b>	<b>Entity Type</b>	<b>Purpose of Storage Use</b>
City of Aurora	Municipality	Municipal & Industrial
City of Brighton	Municipality	Municipal & Industrial
Central Colorado Water Conservancy District	Local government in north central Colorado	Agricultural
Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	Government: State Agency	Recreational
Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield	Government: City & County of Denver	Recreational & Agricultural
Western Mutual Ditch Company	Non-profit organization: Weld County	Agricultural

***Water Providers Upstream of Chatfield Reservoir***

<b>Entity Requesting Storage</b>	<b>Entity Type</b>	<b>Purpose of Storage Use</b>
Castle Pines Metropolitan District	Local government serving Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial
Castle Pines North Metropolitan District	Local government serving Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial
Centennial Water and Sanitation District	Local government serving Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District	Local government serving Park County	Municipal & Industrial
Mount Carbon Metropolitan District	Local government serving Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial

Perry Park Country Club	Private	Municipal & Industrial
Roxborough Water and Sanitation	Local government serving Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial
South Metro Water Supply Authority	11 local governments providing water supplies to Denver suburban area	Municipal & Industrial
Town of Castle Rock	Municipality	Municipal & Industrial

**Interested stakeholders include:**

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver  
 Chatfield Basin Conservation Network  
 Chatfield Watershed Authority  
 City and County of Denver  
 City of Littleton  
 Colorado Division of Wildlife  
 Colorado Environmental Coalition  
 Colorado State Parks  
 Denver Water  
 Douglas County Board of Commissioners  
 Douglas County Water Resource Authority  
 The Greenway Foundation  
 Jefferson County Government  
 Metro Wastewater Reclamation District  
 National Park Service  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 South Suburban Parks and Recreation District  
 Sierra Club  
 Trout Unlimited  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Weld County Board of Commissioners  
 Western Resource Advocates

**Study consultants include:**

BBC Research & Consulting  
 Capitol Representatives  
 EDAW, Inc.  
 ERO Resources  
 JJR, LLC  
 Otter Tail Environmental, Inc.  
 Tetra Tech  
 Webb PR

**Letters or Resolutions of support for the study have been written by:**

Castle Pines Metro District  
Castle Pines North Metro District  
Central Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Chatfield Watershed Authority  
City and County of Denver  
City of Aurora  
City of Brighton  
City of Littleton  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Colorado Former Governor Bill Ritter  
Colorado General Assembly  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado's US Senators and Representatives  
Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield  
Denver Water  
Douglas County Board of County Commissioners  
Douglas County Water Resource Authority  
Hock Hocking, LLC  
Metro Basin Roundtable  
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District  
Perry Park Country Club  
Roxborough Water and Sanitation District  
South Metro Water Supply Authority  
South Suburban Parks and Recreation District  
The Greenway Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy  
The South Platte Basin Roundtable  
Town of Castle Rock  
Trout Unlimited  
Urban Drainage and Flood Control District  
Weld County Board of County Commissioners  
Western Mutual Ditch Company  
Western Resource Advocates

For additional information on the study process, please look for the other white papers in this series, or visit [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org).

**Whitepaper #2, Version Final: 7/14/2011**

**By: Chatfield Water Providers**

**Approved for Distribution by US Army Corps of Engineers**