

**APPENDIX B —
OUTREACH MATERIALS**



Scoping Announcement July 2003

This scoping announcement provides information about the proposed development of a project to improve the reliability of water deliveries from the existing Windy Gap Project. The Windy Gap Firming Project includes nine entities within the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Because the project would require connection with Colorado-Big Thompson facilities owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. This announcement provides information on the proposed project, alternatives, issues, and how to get involved.

Background

During the 1960s, six entities (the cities of Boulder, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland, and Fort Collins and the Town of Estes Park) within northeastern Colorado determined that additional water supplies were needed to meet their projected municipal demands. The Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Subdistrict), consisting of the incorporated areas of the six entities, was formed to develop the Windy Gap Project (Project). Subsequently, the Platte River Power Authority acquired all of the City of Fort Collins allotment contracts, as well as one-half of the City of Loveland and the Town of Estes Park contracts. The Subdistrict proposed developing what is now the Windy Gap Project using Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT) facilities to store and convey Windy Gap Project water.

In 1981, the Bureau of Reclamation completed an Environmental Impact Statement on the effects of using C-BT project facilities for the "storage, carriage and delivery" of Windy Gap Project water. Reclamation's Record of Decision allowed the conveyance, through C-BT Project facilities, of an average of about 56,000 acre-feet of Windy Gap water annually from the Colorado River, with maximum diversions limited to 93,300 acre-feet in any one year. Average annual deliveries to the Subdistrict were estimated to be about 48,000 acre-feet, following conveyance and evaporation losses and allocations to the Middle Park Water Conservancy District. Reclamation, the Subdistrict, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) then entered into a contract for the "storage, carriage and delivery" of Windy Gap Project water in C-BT Project facilities. Construction of the Windy Gap Project reservoir, pipeline, and pumping facility was completed in 1985.



Existing Windy Gap Reservoir

The existing Windy Gap Project diverts water from the Colorado River at the confluence of the Colorado and Fraser rivers and pumps this water into the C-BT system for delivery to Windy Gap Project allottees (see figure). Twelve entities currently own the 480 units of water available in the Windy Gap Project. Each unit is 1/480th of the Subdistrict water supply annually made available by the Board of Directors of the Subdistrict. Average annual yield per unit since completion of construction in 1985 has been approximately 17 acre-feet/unit compared to the original estimate of 100 acre-feet/unit.

There are several reasons for this low yield:

- Water cannot be diverted every year for the Windy Gap Project because there are water rights upstream and downstream of the Project that are more senior and have a higher priority to divert water.
- In years when the C-BT system is full, there is no conveyance or storage capacity in the C-BT system for Windy Gap Project water.

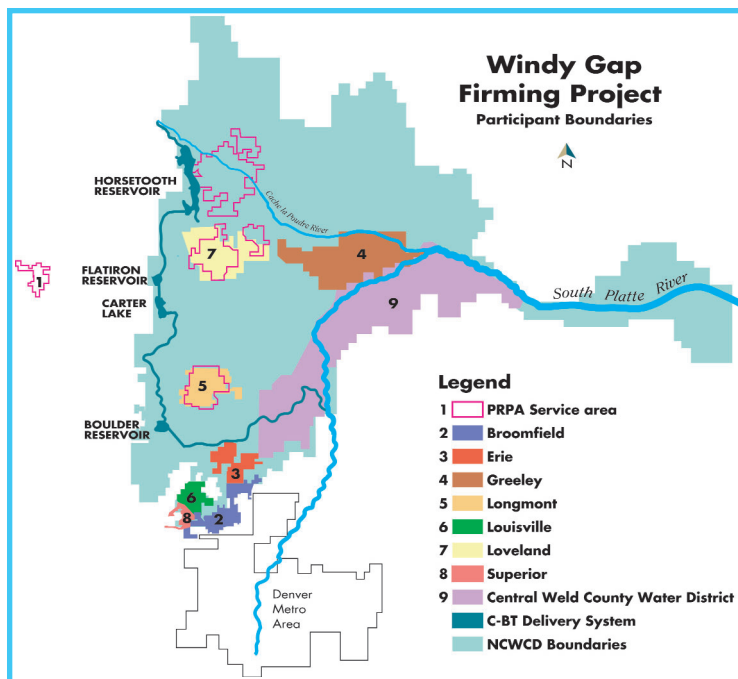
- In years when Windy Gap Project water is stored in the C-BT system, Windy Gap Project water is sometimes spilled from the system to make room for C-BT Project water. Additionally, under the contract between the Subdistrict, NCWCD, and Reclamation, water conveyed and stored for the C-BT Project has priority over water conveyed and stored for the Windy Gap Project.

For these reasons, nine of the Windy Gap Project allottees, referred to collectively as the Firming Project Participants, (the cities of Broomfield, Greeley, Longmont, Louisville, and Loveland, the Towns of Erie and Superior, the Central Weld County Water District, and the Platte River Power Authority) have requested that the Subdistrict investigate and implement measures to cooperatively enhance or improve the reliability of (or to "firm") their Windy Gap Project units. The service area boundaries for the Firming Project Participants are shown in the figure to the right.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project is to maximize the use of existing water rights under the Windy Gap Project by improving the delivery and reliability of the existing Windy Gap Project water supply. For some Firming Project Participants, the proposed project does not firm all of their Windy Gap Project units and not all of the owners of Windy Gap Project water are seeking to firm their units. Thus, only a portion of the 48,000 acre-feet of Windy Gap Project water would be "firmed" by the proposed action. The specific purpose of the project is to provide an annual delivery of up to 30,000 acre-feet of water by 2008 depending on the identified needs of the Windy Gap Firming Project participants. Each Firming Project Participant owns varying amounts of Windy Gap Project water and each Firming Project Participant has determined its firm water supply needs from the Windy Gap Project and the timing of those needs. For some of the Windy Gap allottees, an increased water supply is needed immediately to meet current demands; other allottees' needs are expected to increase over the next several years creating a foreseeable future need for their Windy Gap water.

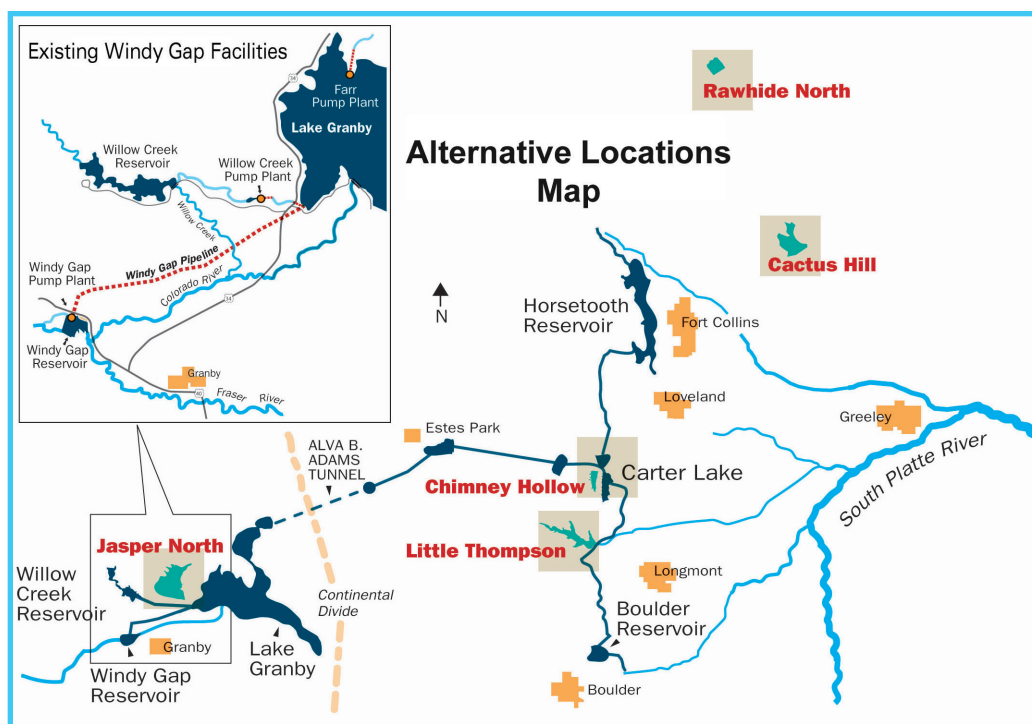
The Windy Gap Firming Project is a non-Federal project. It was planned, and is proposed to be constructed and operated by the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Federal



actions related to the proposed project may include decisions on permitting the connection of Windy Gap Firming Project facilities to Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities, granting of right-of-way permits and/or easements across Federal lands, and issuance of a Federal Section 404 permit.

Alternatives Under Consideration

Over the past several years, the Subdistrict has investigated a wide range of alternative actions that have the potential to meet the project purpose and meet the needs of the Firming Project Participants. These investigations concluded with an Alternatives Plan Formulation Report that was finalized in



2003. One of the goals in developing alternatives for the proposed project was to identify a cooperative regional project that could be integrated with existing water delivery systems. Maximum use of the existing Windy Gap Project diversion, pumping, and pipeline facilities also is desired.

The Firming Project Participants' varying needs and timing of those needs could allow the proposed project to be constructed in stages depending on the alternative configuration. To provide the Firming Project Participants a consistent annual yield of up to 30,000 acre-feet, an estimated 110,000 acre-feet of new storage specifically for Windy Gap water is needed. This is approximately the size of the existing Carter Lake southwest of Loveland, Colorado.

The alternatives study evaluated a variety of project elements including non-structural and operational opportunities; new reservoir sites; enlargement of existing reservoirs; and ground water aquifer storage. Storage on both the East and West Slope of the Continental Divide was evaluated. Technical, environmental, and economic screening criteria were used to identify alternatives capable of meeting the project purpose and need.

Alternatives identified to have the potential to meet the project purpose and the needs of the Firming Project Participants include several new reservoir sites listed below and shown in the Alternative Locations Map.

| Reservoir Site | Storage in acre-feet |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Chimney Hollow | 44,500-110,000 |
| Little Thompson | 110,000 |
| Cactus Hill | 112,000 |
| Rawhide | 13,000 |
| Jasper | 36,500-79,000 |

A combination of new reservoirs may be necessary to meet the project purpose and need. In addition, refinements in C-BT system operations may be used to enhance the yield of new reservoir storage. These refinements include options for storage of C-BT water in a new Windy Gap Firming Reservoir and borrowing storage from the C-BT Project.

Reclamation, with input from federal, state, and local government agencies and the public, will be evaluating a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project. The public will have opportunities throughout the scoping process and preparation of the EIS to comment on alternatives or suggest new alternatives.

Questions and Issues

Several questions regarding the proposed project and the alternatives have been identified, and would be considered in the EIS as listed below. Input from the public and other federal, state, and local agencies will help further define issues of concern.

- How would the proposed project affect operation of the C-BT project and the existing Windy Gap Project?
- How would streamflow in the Colorado River be affected?
- Would this project affect water levels in Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir?
- What are the impacts to aquatic resources including endangered Colorado River fish?
- How would water quality on the west and east slope be affected?
- What would be the impact to streams and wetlands?
- How would wildlife habitat be affected?
- Would new reservoirs provide recreational opportunities?
- Are there any significant cultural resources located within the project area?

How to Get Involved

Reclamation and the NCWCD encourage your participation in the EIS public process. Get involved by attending meetings and submitting comments. Two meetings will be held for your convenience.

July 22, 2003

6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

SolVista Golf and Ski Ranch
(2 miles south of Granby,
Colorado on Highway 40)

July 23, 2003

6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

McKee Conference Center
2000 Boise Avenue
Loveland, Colorado

Your comments will be considered in the preparation of the EIS. Please mail, e-mail, or fax comments on the alternatives or other issues pertaining to the proposed project to the attention of Will Tully at the Bureau of Reclamation by September 5, 2003.

Mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537

E-mail: wtully@gp.usbr.gov

Fax: (970) 663-3212 or (970) 962-4216

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns about the scoping process, please feel free to contact Kara Lamb at Reclamation. Please also contact Kara for additional copies of this flyer or for directions to the scoping meeting locations.

Phone: (970) 962-4326

E-mail: klamb@gp.usbr.gov

To obtain additional information on the NEPA process, please visit Reclamation's website at www.gp.usbr.gov; click on the link for "Environmental Activities." To obtain more information on the proposed Windy Gap FIRMING Project, please visit www.ncwcd.org.

WINDY GAP FIRING PROJECT

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District will hold two public open house meetings to solicit comments on the scope of the EIS. You are invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the project and help identify issues and alternatives. The meetings will be held from 6 to 9 P.M. on July 22, 2003 in Granby, Colorado and on July 23, 2003 in Loveland, Colorado.

Bureau of Reclamation
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711





Scoping Announcement September 2003

This scoping announcement provides information about the proposed development of a project to improve the reliability of water deliveries from the existing Windy Gap Project. The Windy Gap Firming Project includes nine entities within the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Because the project would require connection with Colorado-Big Thompson facilities owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. This announcement provides information on the proposed project, alternatives, issues, and how to get involved.

Background

During the 1960s, six entities (the cities of Boulder, Fort Collins, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland, and the Town of Estes Park) in northeastern Colorado determined that additional water supplies were needed to meet their projected municipal demands. The Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Subdistrict), consisting of the incorporated areas of the six entities, was formed in 1970 to develop the Windy Gap Project. Subsequently, the Platte River Power Authority acquired all of the City of Fort Collins allotment contracts, as well as one-half of the City of Loveland and the Town of Estes Park contracts. The goal of the original Windy Gap Project was to divert and convey water through Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT) facilities prior to delivery to Windy Gap Project allottees for storage and ultimate use.

In 1981, Reclamation completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the effects of using C-BT project facilities for the "storage, carriage and delivery" of Windy Gap Project water. The Record of Decision for that EIS allowed Reclamation to negotiate a contract with the Subdistrict for the conveyance through C-BT Project facilities of an average of about 56,000 acre-feet of Windy Gap Project water annually from the Colorado River, with maximum diversions limited to 93,300 acre-feet in any 1 year. Reclamation, the Subdistrict, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) then entered into a contract for the "storage, carriage and delivery" of Windy Gap Project water in C-BT facilities. Construction of the Windy Gap Project reservoir, pipeline, and pumping facility was completed in 1985.

After conveyance and evaporation losses and allocations to the Middle Park Water Conservancy District, the average annual deliveries to the allottees of the Windy Gap Project were estimated to be about 48,000 acre-feet. Each unit (100 acre-feet/unit) of Windy Gap water is 1/480th of the



Existing Windy Gap Reservoir

annual yield of the Windy Gap Project. Average annual yield per unit since completion of construction has been approximately 17 acre-feet/unit. There are several reasons for this low yield:

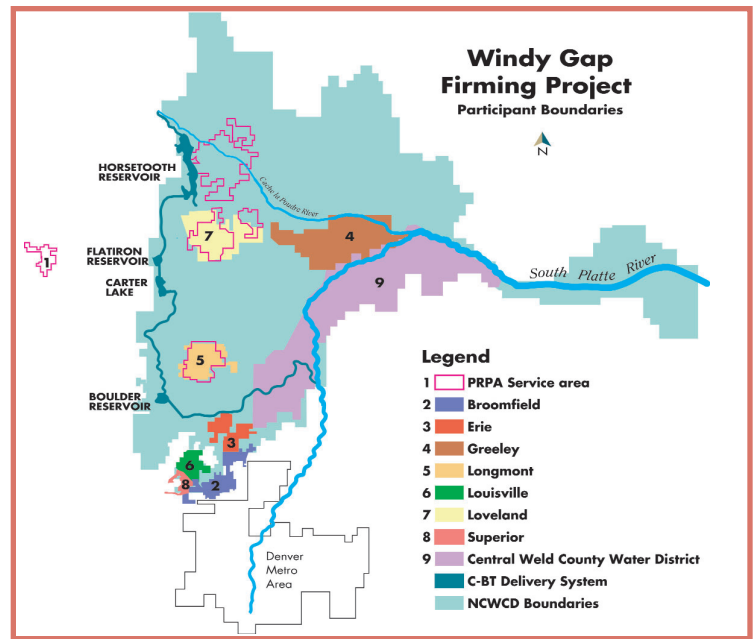
- During the early years after construction, not all of the Project allottees needed their full allocation of water from the Project. They had not grown into the full demand for which the Project was developed and diversions were less than allowed.
- The Windy Gap Project cannot divert water every year because more senior water rights upstream and downstream have a higher priority to divert water.
- Under the contract between the Subdistrict, the District, and Reclamation, water conveyed and stored for the C-BT Project has priority over water conveyed and stored for the Windy Gap Project. In years when the C-BT system is full, there is no conveyance or storage capacity in the C-BT system for Windy Gap Project water. In years when Windy Gap Project water is stored in the C-BT system, Windy Gap Project water is sometimes spilled from the system to make room for C-BT Project water.

For these reasons, nine of the Windy Gap Project allottees (the cities of Broomfield, Greeley, Longmont, Louisville, and Loveland, the Towns of Erie and Superior, the Central Weld County District, and the Platter River Power Authority), referred to collectively as the Firming Project Participants, have requested that the Subdistrict investigate and implement measures to cooperatively enhance or improve the reliability of (or to "firm") their Windy Gap Project units. The service area boundaries for the Firming Project Participants are shown in the Figure to the right.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of the proposed Firming Project is to maximize the use of existing water rights associated with the Windy Gap Project by improving the delivery and reliability of the existing Windy Gap Project water supply. For some Firming Project Participants, the proposed project does not firm all of their Windy Gap Project units and not all of the owners of Windy Gap Project water are seeking to firm their units. Thus, only a portion of the 48,000 acre-feet of Windy Gap Project water would be "firmed" by the proposed action.

The specific purpose of the project is to provide an annual delivery of up to 30,000 acre-feet of water by 2008 depending on the identified needs of the Firming Project Participants. Each Firming Project Participant owns varying amounts of Windy Gap Project water and each Firming Project Participant has determined its firm water supply needs from the Windy Gap Project and the timing of those needs. For some of the Firming Project Participants, an increased water supply is needed immediately to meet current demands; other Participants' needs are expected to increase over the next several years creating a foreseeable future need for their Windy Gap Project water.



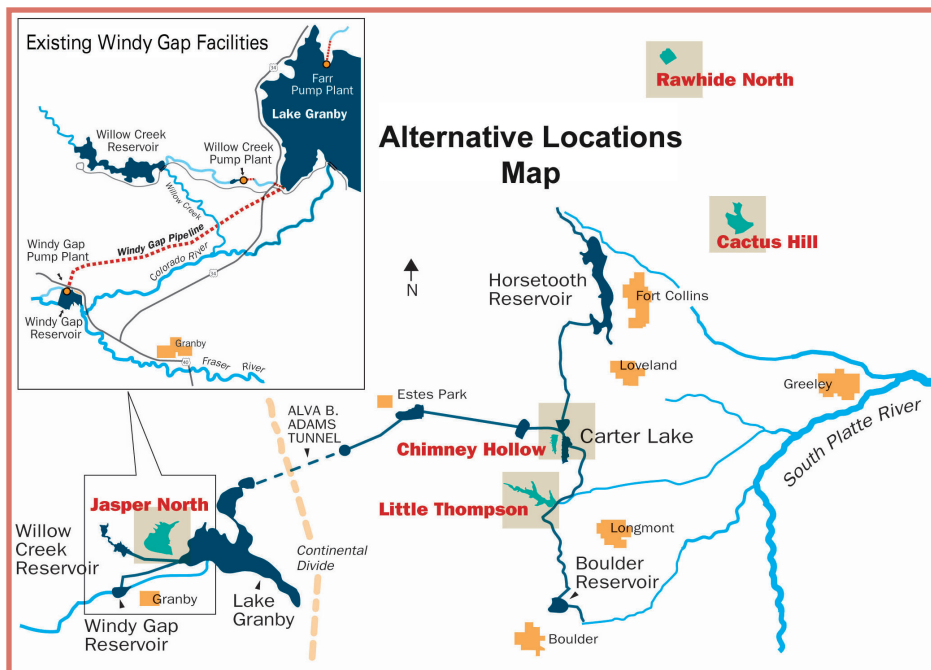
The Firming Project is a non-Federal project. It is proposed to be constructed and operated by the Subdistrict. Federal actions related to the proposed project may include decisions on permitting the connection of Firming Project facilities to C-BT facilities, granting of right-of-way permits and/or easements across Federal lands, and issuance of a Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.

Alternatives Under Consideration

Over the past several years, the Subdistrict has investigated a wide range of alternative actions with the potential to meet the needs of the Firming Project Participants. These investigations concluded with an Alternative Plan Formulation Report that was finalized in 2003. The primary goals in developing alternatives for the proposed project were:

- To identify a cooperative regional project that could be integrated with existing water delivery systems;
- To allow maximum use of the existing Windy Gap Project diversion, pumping and pipeline facilities, and water rights.

To provide the Firming Project Participants a consistent annual yield of up to 30,000 acre-feet, approximately 110,000 acre-feet of new storage is needed specifically for Windy Gap Project water. This is approximately the size of the existing Carter Lake southwest of Loveland, Colorado.



The 2003 Alternatives Report evaluated a variety of project elements including non-structural and operational opportunities; new reservoir sites; enlargement of existing reservoirs; and ground water aquifer storage. Storage on both the East and West Slope of the Continental Divide was evaluated. Technical, environmental, and economic screening criteria were used to identify and compare alternatives capable of meeting the project purpose and need. A combination of alternatives may be necessary to meet the project purpose and need. In addition, C-BT system operations may be refined to enhance the yield of new reservoir storage. These refinements might include options for storage of C-BT Project water in a new Firming Project reservoir or borrowing storage from the C-BT Project. The Firming Project Participants' varying needs and timing of those needs could allow the proposed project to be constructed in stages depending on the alternative configuration.

A full range of reasonable alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS. These alternatives will include No Action and others that will meet the stated purpose and need for the Firming Project. The EIS will evaluate potential environmental impacts of specific alternatives together with engineering and socioeconomic considerations. A preferred alternative has not been identified at this time. Reclamation, with input from Federal, State, and local government agencies and the public, will evaluate the alternatives.

- What are the impacts to aquatic resources including endangered Colorado River fish?
- How would water quality on the West and East Slope be affected?
- How would the proposed project affect operation of the C-BT Project and the existing Windy Gap Project?
- How would streamflow in the Colorado River be affected?
- Would this project affect water levels in Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir?
- What are the effects to existing property owners?
- What would be the impact to streams and wetlands?
- How would wildlife habitat be affected?
- Would new reservoirs provide recreational opportunities?

How to Get Involved

Reclamation and the Subdistrict encourage your participation in the EIS public process by attending meetings and submitting comments. Three open houses will be held for your convenience.

September 30, 2003

Inn at Silver Creek
Granby, Colorado
(2 miles south of Granby, off Highway 40)

October 1, 2003

McKee Conference Center
2000 North Boise Avenue
Loveland, Colorado

October 2, 2003

Lyons Elementary School
338 High Street
Lyons, Colorado

All of the open house meetings will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M., with a brief presentation at 7:00 P.M. There will be an opportunity to make written or verbal comments on the proposed project. If you cannot attend the meetings, please send comments on the alternatives or other issues pertaining to the proposed project to the attention of Will Tully by November 3, 2003.

Mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537

E-mail: wtully@gp.usbr.gov

Fax: (970) 663-3212 or (970) 962-4216

Alternatives identified to have the potential to meet the project purpose and the needs of the Firming Project Participants include several new reservoir sites listed below and shown in the Alternative Locations Map.

| Reservoir Site | Storage in acre-feet |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Chimney Hollow | 44,500-110,000 |
| Little Thompson | 110,000 |
| Cactus Hill | 112,000 |
| Rawhide | 13,000 |
| Jasper | 36,500-79,000 |

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

The Subdistrict, in cooperation with Reclamation, held informational meetings on the proposed project in Granby on July 22, 2003 and in Loveland on July 23, 2003. Public input from these meetings has helped to identify issues. The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is preliminary and is intended to facilitate public comment on the scope of this EIS.

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns about the scoping process, please feel free to contact Kara Lamb at Reclamation. Please also contact Kara for additional copies of this flyer or for directions to the scoping meeting locations.

Phone: (970) 962-4326

E-mail: klamb@gp.usbr.gov

To obtain additional information on the NEPA process, visit Reclamation's website at www.gp.usbr.gov; click on the link for "Environmental Activities." To obtain more information on the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project, visit www.nwcd.org.

WINDY GAP FIRING PROJECT

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District will hold three public open house meetings to solicit comments on the scope of the EIS. You are invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the project and help identify issues and alternatives. The meetings will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. on September 30, 2003 in Granby, Colorado, on October 1, in Loveland, Colorado and on October 2, 2003 in Lyons, Colorado.

Bureau of Reclamation
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711



For immediate release: September 26, 2003

Windy Gap Alternatives to be Reviewed by Public

The Bureau of Reclamation will host three open houses for the public to review and comment on proposed alternatives for the Windy Gap Firming Project. The open houses will be held on September 30 in Granby, CO, October 1 in Loveland, CO, and October 2 in Lyons, CO.

The purpose of the open houses is to provide the public an opportunity to identify issues, concerns, and ideas on the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project. The proposed project would make a portion of the existing Windy Gap Project water supply more reliable for its participants.

Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Project and encourages public participation and comment on associated project alternatives and issues. The public can submit comments for the EIS through November 7, 2003, to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention Will Tully, 11056 West County Road 18E, Loveland, Colorado 80537; or e-mail: wtully@gp.usbr.gov.

The open houses will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., with a brief presentation at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Tuesday, September 30

Inn at Silver Creek, Aspen Room
Hwy 40
2 miles South of Granby, CO

Wednesday, October 1

McKee Conference Center,
Coors Room
2000 N. Boise Ave.
Loveland, CO

Thursday, October 2

Lyons Elementary School
338 High Street
Lyons, CO

For more information on the Windy Gap Firming Project's proposed alternatives, please contact the Subdistrict's Nicole Seltzer at (970) 622-2277. For more information on the public open houses and scoping process, please contact Reclamation's Kara Lamb at (970) 962-4326 or e-mail klamb@gp.usbr.gov.

Sample Public Meeting Notice



Windy Gap Firming Project Public Scoping Meetings



The Bureau of Reclamation will host three public scoping meetings to gather input on the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project. This Project is an effort to improve the reliability of the existing Windy Gap Project water supply by providing new storage facilities that would connect to Reclamation's existing Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities.

Project participants are members of the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and include the cities of Broomfield, Greeley, Longmont, Louisville, and Loveland, the towns of Erie and Superior, the Central Weld County Water District, and the Platte River Power Authority.

Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement and encourages public participation and comment on the alternatives and issues associated with the proposed Project. The deadline for written comments on the issues and alternatives is November 7, 2003. Comments should be mailed to: Wil Tully, USBR, 11056 West County Road 18E, Loveland, Colorado, 80537, or emailed to: wtully@gp.usbr.gov. To learn more about the Windy Gap Firming Project, please attend one of the following meetings to be held from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the following locations:

Tuesday, September 30

Inn at Silver Creek, Aspen Room
Hwy 40, 2 mi. South of Granby, CO

Wednesday, October 1

McKee Conference Center, Coors Room
2000 N. Boise Ave, Loveland, CO

Thursday, October 2

Lyons Elementary School
338 High Street, Lyons, CO

*For more information or a copy of the scoping announcement, contact Kara Lamb, Bureau of Reclamation
klamb@gp.usbr.gov — (970) 962-4326*