



HOMESTAKE WATER PROJECT

Otero Pump Station
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Media Advisory

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Maintenance activity on Homestake Dam to continue through 2014

Homestake Reservoir, CO, September 30, 2013 – The Homestake Dam and Reservoir in Eagle and Pitkin Counties, Colorado, has been undergoing scheduled maintenance since 2012 that impacts recreational users of the facilities. This year’s unusually long monsoonal rain season has impacted the schedule, so the rehabilitation work will need to continue through the fall of 2014. Due to safety concerns, access to Homestake Dam and Reservoir will continue to be closed until work is complete.

The dam rehabilitation involves regular, but necessary maintenance to help safeguard a valuable resource and ensure its viability for years to come. Homestake Reservoir has an asphalt-faced dam that was completed in 1968, is operated jointly by Colorado Springs Utilities and Aurora Water under the Homestake Water Project. Asphalt faced dams, while common in Europe, are unique in the U.S. Since the facing was first installed in 1968, it is almost 45 years of age and was due for rehabilitation. A large portion of the work involves milling and repaving the dam face. Asphalt has specific temperature and moisture constraints that must be met to ensure durability.

“When we started this project in 2012, we were optimistic that we could finish in two years, even with the short construction season common in the high mountains,” stated Greg Baker, spokesperson for the Homestake Project. “Mother Nature threw all of Colorado a curve this year. The rains have slowed paving at the dam, and with the onset of snow just around the corner, it’s evident that we’ll need additional time to complete our work.”

Recreational amenities below the dam, such as camping and the hiking trails on the U.S. National Forest land continue to remain accessible. Homestake Reservoir is closed below the Lonesome Lake (East Fork) Trailhead, just prior to the dam access road on Homestake Road.

The reservoir was drained during 2012 to accommodate repairs to the gate and intake structure for the Homestake Tunnel, which carries the water from Homestake to Turquoise Lake in Lake County. This work was completed on time and water collection continued in 2013. The rehabilitation work will not expand the capacity of Homestake Reservoir.

Updates and notices on the Homestake Dam and Reservoir maintenance and repair project will be posted at <https://www.auroragov.org/LivingHere/Water/Information/Projects/index.htm>. Media inquiries regarding Homestake construction activities should be directed to Greg Baker, Aurora Water Manager of Public Relations, at (303) 739-7081 or gbaker@auroragov.org.

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