WILLIAMS FORK RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT RESTORING THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE AQUATIC HABITAT IN GRAND COUNTY

The Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) has been in effect since 2013 and ushers in a new era of cooperation between Denver Water and the West Slope. "The agreement is a framework for numerous actions by the parties to benefit water supply, water quality and the environment on both sides of the Continental Divide." – Colorado River District

The Williams Fork River Restoration Project is one of the many benefits of the landmark CRCA, which has made possible other collaborative efforts such as Grand County Learning By Doing's Fraser Flats River Habitat Project that opened to public fishing in 2018.





After stream restoration activities.



Working in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Denver Water will be restoring 0.86 mile reach of the Williams Fork River within the Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area. The restoration activities are designed to repair the aquatic habitat and ecological function of the river and will assist Colorado Parks and Wildlife with its goal of maintaining a more consistent trout fishery in this reach of river year-round, while continuing to provide quality spawning habitat and a recruitment source of juvenile trout for the Colorado River.

When will this restoration work be occurring?

The 0.86 mile reach of the Williams Fork River within the Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area will take place between October 1 and November 15, 2019.

How will the fish in the Williams Fork River be impacted?

Denver Water has identified segments of the Williams Fork River, above and below the reservoir, to perform river restoration work. The restoration activities will result in improved low flow conditions, instream diversity, channel stability and streamside vegetation. Movement of the excavator in the river is expected to cause increased turbidity, which decreases water clarity and affects trout feeding efficiency.

Best management practices will be implemented immediately downstream of the project site to capture large sediment loads and minimize turbidity. Restoration activities are temporary and will occur mainly during weekday daytime hours. Restoration of the instream habitat is expected to promote a healthy fishery, offering valuable benefits to the aquatic environment and water quality in the long term.



Denver Water Proposed Kemp Williams Fork River Breeze Reach **Restoration Project** SWA Property (Approx. 0.86 mile) October 2019 TOTAL for all 3 Reaches = 2.08 miles Completed Lower Read **DW Property** (0.88 mile, incl. canyon) October 2018 ams Fork Reservo Completed Upper Reach DW Property (Approx. 0.34 mile) September 2019

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Denver Water has identified segments of the Williams Fork River, above and below the reservoir, to perform river restoration work. The restoration activities will take place on a total of approximately 2 river miles and will result in improved low flow conditions, instream habitat diversity, channel stability and streamside vegetation. Approximately half of the restoration work was completed in 2018. The work to be completed in fall 2019 is the final phase of the Williams Fork River Restoration Project. This project is a component of Denver Water's environmental mitigation for the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project.

Working in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Denver Water will be restoring a 0.86 mile reach of the Williams Fork River within the Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area. The restoration activities are designed to repair the aquatic and ecological function of the river and will assist Colorado Parks and Wildlife with its goal of maintaining a more consistent trout fishery in this reach of river year-round, while continuing to provide quality spawning habitat and a recruitment source of juvenile trout for the Colorado River.

Frequently Asked Questions

• Where is the work taking place?

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- The project includes restoration activities on a total of 2.08 river miles occurring both above and below the Williams Fork Reservoir. Work on the 0.86 mile reach of the Williams Fork River within the Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area will take place in October 2019.
- Why are you performing this work?
 - The current state of the river would benefit from improved low flow conditions, instream habitat diversity, channel stability, and streamside vegetation. This restoration project is designed to provide valuable improvements to the aquatic habitat and fisheries in the long term.
- Why is there increased turbidity in the Williams Fork River and Colorado River?
 - During construction, periods of increased turbidity downstream of the restoration project are anticipated due to work occurring within the stream channel. To help reduce this, the contractor has implemented temporary best managment practices to help reduce turbidity downstream of the project site.
- What is the timing of the river restoration project?
 - The Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area portion of the project will be completed between October 1 and November 15, 2019.





