

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR

2001 General Information and Common Questions

Lake Statistics

	During Regular Year	During Modernization of Dams Project
Shoreline	25 miles	
Water Surface	2,040 acres	1,105 acres
Number of boats which can safely boat on this amount of water	380	100
Surrounding Public Land	2,000 acres	over 2000 acres
Length	6.5 miles	over 5 miles
Deepest point	205 feet	135 feet
Capacity (full)	156,735 acre feet	47,142 acre feet
Capacity (active)	149,732 acre feet	40,139 acre feet
Elevation	5,430 feet	5,360 feet

Are you open, and what's available?

- Camping: North Inlet Bay Campground: 26 electrical sites
 Shoreline Campground: 12 non-electrical sites
 Stout Campground: 42 electrical sites 8 non-electrical sites
 11 walk-in tent sites
 Below High Water Camping: 15 designated sites, boat-in camping at the coves
 Drinking water and toilets at all campgrounds
- Group Use: At South Bay, a reservable area for 100 people, with covered pavilion, horseshoe & volleyball pits, grills. Call 679-4570 to reserve.
- Boat Ramps: Volunteers along with Parks and Open Lands staff extended two ramps in 2001, at the swimbeach and north of the swimbeach. One ramp can be in use at a time due to traffic patterns.
- Trails: Horsetooth Mountain Park: 28 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking trails two miles west on County Road 38E
Fort Collins' Foothills Trail: On the east side of the reservoir.
- Events: Storytellers, guided nature hikes, guided moonlight hikes, volunteer opportunities.
 Contact Patricia Brennan, Volunteer Coordinator, 207-1982.

Where does the water come from?

Water entering Horsetooth Reservoir is almost entirely from the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which brings water from the Colorado River Basin on the Western Slope of the Rockies, and conveys it through the Adams Tunnel to the Big Thompson River. Water enters Horsetooth Reservoir via the Charles Hansen Feeder Canal in Inlet Bay.

Where does the water go?

There are two outlets from Horsetooth Reservoir. One at Soldier Canyon Dam supplies the City of Fort Collins Water Treatment Facility, the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant, the Colorado State University Hydraulics Laboratory, and the Dixon Feeder Canal. An outlet at Horsetooth Dam feeds the Charles Hansen Supply Canal, which provides water for irrigation, as well as for municipal use.

What is the Bureau of Reclamation doing to the dams?

Three actions are being performed to modernize all four dams, and bring them to the current state of the art of dam design and construction. First, layers of sand and gravel are being added to each dam, to allow normal seepage through the dams while preventing erosion of the dams themselves. Second, a berm of additional material is being added to the base of each dam, to stabilize it in the case of an earthquake. Finally, a concrete cutoff wall will be added at Horsetooth Dam only. The wall will go through the dam, from the crest into the foundation, to prevent seepage through the rock beneath the dam.

How long will it take? Construction began in March 2001, and is expected to continue until 2004.

How many dams are there?

There are four dams and a dike: Horsetooth Dam and the Satanka Dike enclose the north end of the reservoir. Three dams enclose the east side. They are, from North to South: Soldier Canyon, Dixon Canyon, and Spring Canyon.

When were the dams built? 1946 – 1949

What's that thing in the lake, over by Soldier Canyon Dam?

It's a 350-pound, solar powered, computerized buoy that measures water quality, at various water depths, 24 hours a day. The information is automatically sent to Fort Collins Utilities' water treatment facility where staff can adjust treatment processes as necessary to maintain superior drinking water quality.

How's the fishing...what's happened to the fish...what are plans for the future?

The fish are still there! True story: A fisherman did not want to purchase an annual permit if there weren't any fish in the lake. The park ranger made a deal: the guy could take his boat onto the lake to look for fish with his fish finder before he purchased an annual permit. An hour later, the boat returned to shore. The man walked up and bought annual permits for his truck and his boat.....no more questions asked! The Division of Wildlife will be doing regular stocking of the lake, will be stocking splake, and will also be restocking the prey base.

Is Satanka open? How about the Marina? Both are closed.

Where do we get gas for our boats? You'll have to gas up before you get here. Buy fuel in town.

Can we drive OHV's and 4-wheel drives on the shoreline? No. We continue to protect the reservoir from resource damage. And, we've been reseeding the bottom with native vegetation.

URBAN LEGENDS

What about the Loch Ness monster that lives in Horsetooth?

Even with the lowered water levels, there have been no official sightings of "Nessie." Of course, the lake is still 135 feet deep at its deepest point.....

Are there buildings from the old town of Stout under the water?

No, all buildings were removed before the reservoir was filled. The results of an archaeological study conducted in 2000 will be presented at a public meeting at the Fort Collins Senior Center at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 8, 2001.