

NEWS RELEASE

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Jerry Creek Reservoirs Closed During Construction

Mesa County, CO- The Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors awarded Tarco, an excavation company out of Arvada, Colorado, a contract for "The Jerry Creek Reservoirs Expansion Project". The estimated \$3.6 million project will raise the water level in Jerry Creek Reservoir No. 2 approximately 7 feet, adding an additional 1,300 acre feet of water storage. The Jerry Creek Reservoirs are the District's terminal reservoirs which currently hold nearly 7,500 acre feet of water prior to being treated. According to Joe Burtard, Ute Water's Public Relations Officer, "This project will have no effect on the quality or availability of water to our customers"

Ute Water, the largest domestic water provider on the western slope of Colorado, supplies water to over 80,000 people from Cameo to the Colorado/Utah border. "Ute Water has been discussing the Jerry Creek Reservoir expansion project for the past eight years" said Burtard. "The dam on Jerry Creek Reservoir No. 2 was originally designed for a water level raise during its completion in 1978. Although the district does not need the extra water storage at this time, we are constantly preparing for the future water demands in the Grand Valley" said Burtard.

The two reservoirs will be closed to the public during construction from August 20, 2007 to approximately June 1, 2008. "While anglers will miss out on a few months of fishing opportunity during this closure, the Colorado Division of Wildlife is pleased that Ute Water is keeping sufficient water in the reservoirs during construction to protect the fish populations," said Steve Yamashita, Department of Wildlife assistant regional manager. "Jerry Creek Reservoirs are popular with local anglers and enlarging Reservoir No. 2 will only improve the fishing."

If you have any questions concerning the Jerry Creek Expansion Project please contact Ute Water at 970-242-7491.

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