



Colorado Springs Utilities
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CWCB Shoshone Water Rights Acquisition Hearing

Colorado Springs Utilities
September 17-18, 2025

Colorado Springs Utilities Water Collection Systems

Divert from:

Arkansas River Basin

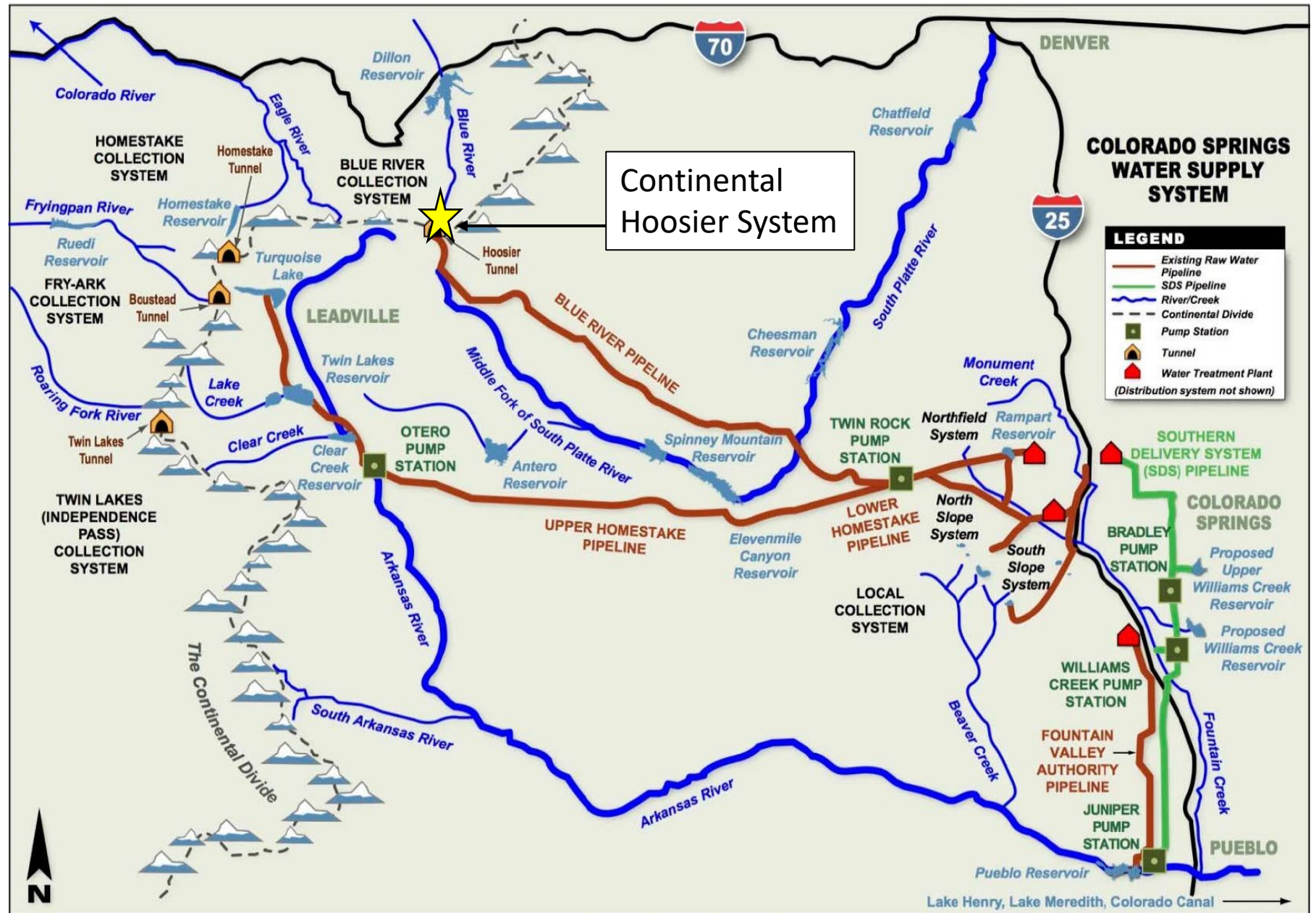
Colorado River Basin

South Platte River Basin

7 Collection Systems

25 Reservoirs

4 Major pipelines



Managing Customer Water Demands

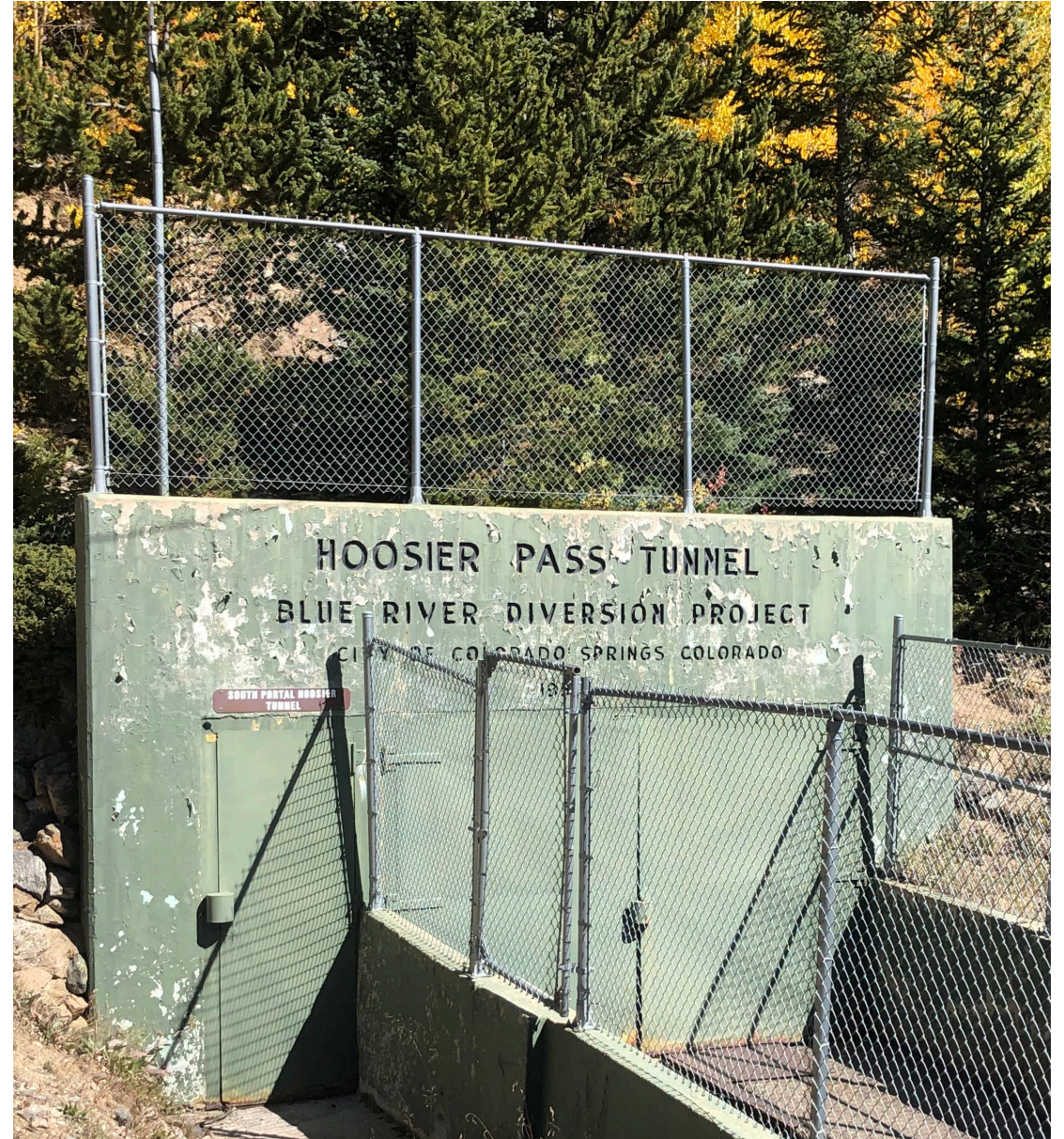
Robust Conservation Program

- Implemented Water Wise Rules that require outdoor water use conservation
- Colorado Springs Utilities' customers current water use is approximately equal to mid- 1980's levels, despite a population that has doubled.



Continental Hoosier System

CHS water diverted from the Blue River comprises ~12% of treated water delivered to Colorado Springs Utilities' customers



Use of the CDSS Model to Evaluate Impacts

- ERC used the CWCB's updated daily CDSS model to compare scenarios with the following two demands levels at Shoshone:
 - Historical Shoshone – The demand at Shoshone was set equal to historical diversions
 - BBA Volumetric - The demand at Shoshone was set equal to BBA's volumetric limit
- Model results show that Shoshone calls and diversions increase under the BBA Volumetric scenario, which impacts the Continental-Hoosier System (CHS)

Impacts on CHS

- Model results show the following impacts on CHS if Shoshone calls and diversions increase:
 - CHS water rights are out-of-priority and curtailed more often
 - Diversions to storage in Upper Blue Reservoir and direct flow diversions through Hoosier Tunnel decrease
 - Under the BBA Volumetric Scenario, annual Hoosier Tunnel deliveries decrease by a maximum of about 870 ac-ft

Impacts to Colorado Springs Utilities

- Additional injury to Colorado Springs Utilities' CHS water rights would occur under operations for the planned expansion of Montgomery Reservoir
- A reduction of CHS yield due to expanded use of the Shoshone Water Rights would impair Colorado Springs Utilities' ability to meet the demands of its ~500,000 customers

Summary of Colorado Springs Utilities' Position

- Supports the CWCB's acquisition of the Shoshone Water Rights, with consideration of the following:
 - Preserving the CWCB's discretion to exercise the Shoshone Water Rights in a manner that is in the best interest of the State, given an unknown future
 - Accurate historical use analysis as determined in water court
 - CWCB staff remain neutral in water court regarding quantification of historical use and injury
 - Ensuring that the operation of the Shoshone Water Rights is consistent with previous agreements signed by Colorado Springs Utilities and Colorado River District

Colorado Springs Utilities' Requested Relief

- Revisions to preserve the CWCB's discretion (See Denver Water's changes to paragraphs 7 and 9)
- Incorporate language regarding CWCB neutrality (See Colorado Springs Utilities' Exhibit 7)
- Incorporate terms of the 2007 Call Reduction Agreement and Article VI.E.2 of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement
- Incorporate drought exceptions for junior Shoshone Right (See paragraph 10.5.6 of the 2024 Blue River MOA)
- Incorporate language regarding exercise of the Shoshone Water Rights in the event of Colorado River Compact call (See section 10.6.4.1 of the 2024 Blue River MOA)



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