



# New diversion and fish passage structure to allow water into the reconfigured reservoir while providing a pathway for fish to exit the reservoir. The new structure also provides the reservoir protection from river sediments.











## CONNECTIVITY CHANNEL

### PROJECT TITLE & LOCATION

Colorado River Connectivity Channel, Grand County, CO

### **ENTRANT**

**AECOM** 7595 Technology Way, Suite 200 Denver, CO 80237

#### **CLIENT**

Northern Colorado Water **Conservancy District** 220 Water Avenue Berthoud, CO 80512

The Colorado River Connectivity Channel (CRCC) is the largest aquatic habitat improvement initiative ever undertaken in Colorado. The CRCC is a transformative river restoration project led by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, designed by AECOM to reestablish the natural flow and ecological integrity of the Colorado River near Granby, Colorado.

Built in the 1980's, the Windy Gap Dam had disrupted fish migration and the Colorado River's natural flow. This led to a decline in the Colorado River's ecological processes impacting fish passage, aquatic habitats and disrupting sediment transport leading to a decline in the health of the river ecosystem downstream from the dam.

To address these issues, AECOM designed the CRCC, restoring natural river flow and sediment transport, enabling fish migration, and improving river health and the aquatic ecosystem. The project involved halving and reconfiguring the reservoir and creating a new river channel around the reconfigured reservoir.

The CRCC project balanced water resource development with environmental preservation, ensuring reliable operation of Windy Gap Dam and Pump Plant while enhancing aquatic habitats. Main features include:

- 2,000-foot-long earthfill dam
  Over 1 mile of new stream
- Concrete intake structure
- 50 acres of floodplain

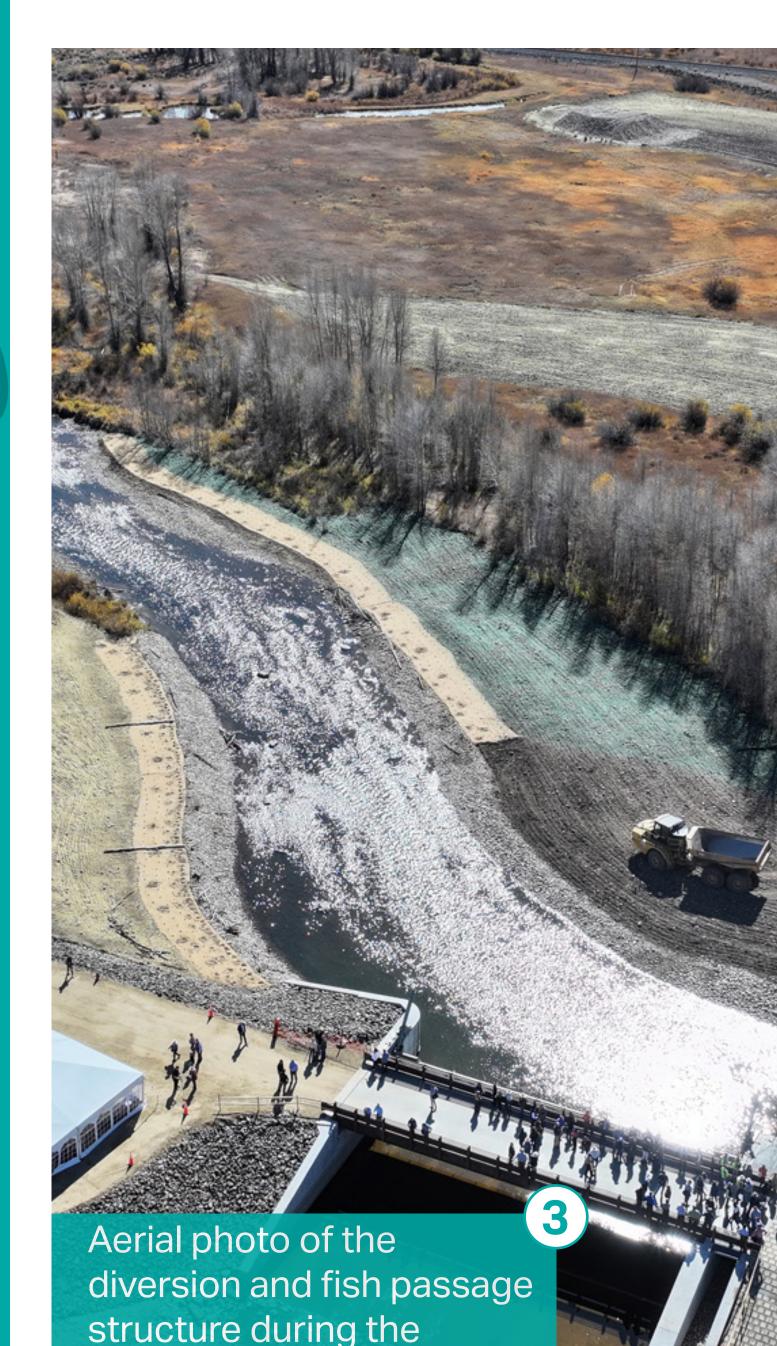
2019

- 10 acres of wetlands 1,000-foot-long overflow spillway

2020 2023 2021 2022 2024 2026 2025



Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducting the first fish survey in the newly constructed Colorado River Connectivity Channel.



dedication ceremony on

October 15, 2024.