



## 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
- Concrete intake structure
- 1,000-foot-long overflow spillway
- Over 1 mile of new stream
- 50 acres of floodplain
- 10 acres of wetlands

