

Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project

Loveland, Colorado, USA



Client's/owner's name(s) and location(s):

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Berthoud, Colorado

Entering firm's name and location:

Stantec, Denver, Colorado

It's not every day that a major dam is built in the United States. These days, it's only about once every quarter century. After more than two decades of planning and four years of construction, the Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project delivers a transformative water supply solution for Northern Colorado. At its center stands the 355-foot-tall Chimney Hollow main dam—the tallest new dam built in the United States since 2000—anchoring a complex system of infrastructure both visible and underground.

Located west of Loveland, Colorado, the project is a collaboration between 11 Northeastern Colorado water providers and one power provider to improve the reliability of water supplies from the Windy Gap Project. As population growth accelerated along the Front Range, limitations in the existing water Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) system meant that water storage could not always be guaranteed. By 2000, the need for a dedicated, flexible storage solution had become clear.

Today, Chimney Hollow Reservoir provides 90,000 acre-feet of storage, strengthening long-term water reliability for communities, agriculture, and ecosystems across the region. Beyond its scale, the project represents decades of coordination, environmental stewardship, permitting and planning, and engineering innovation—transforming a critical regional challenge into a resilient infrastructure asset built to serve generations.

