

Next Steps

Reclamation held a series of public and agency workshops on alternatives from October 11 to 20. Comments on the proposed alternatives can be submitted to Mr. Pat Mangan at the address at right or through www.sdseis.com. Please submit comments by November 15, 2005.

Each alternative chosen for detailed analysis in the Draft EIS will be studied for its impact on a variety of environmental resources including water, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, aquatic, and for its cultural resources, socioeconomics and land use impacts. These studies were described in the June 2004 SDS EIS newsletter. Environmental impacts will be disclosed in the Draft EIS. Please check www.sdseis.com for past newsletters and for project schedule updates.

Reclamation Contact Information

Additional project information and periodic updates can be found at www.sdseis.com. For general questions, please contact Kara Lamb at 970-962-4326 or by e-mail at klamb@gp.usbr.gov. For questions specific to the project or the EIS, please contact Pat Mangan at:

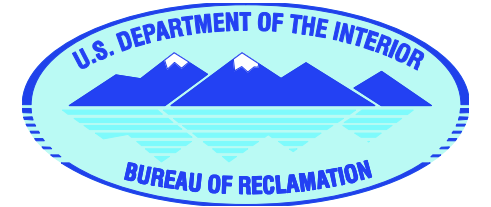
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SDS EIS

NEWSLETTER

October
2005



The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Southern Delivery System (SDS), a regional water delivery project designed to serve current and future water needs of Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security and Pueblo West. This newsletter is the fourth of planned periodic updates on the Southern Delivery System Project.

The Proposed Project

The Southern Delivery System (SDS) is a proposed regional water delivery project designed to serve most or all of the Participants' future water needs through 2046. The Participants are the City of Colorado Springs (Colorado Springs), the City of Fountain (Fountain), Security Water District (Security) and Pueblo West Metropolitan District (Pueblo West). Pueblo West is a conditional participant and would only participate if Reclamation selects an alternative that would divert water from Pueblo Reservoir. Colorado Springs, Fountain, Security and Pueblo West have each requested separate contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to store water in Pueblo Reservoir, and a single contract for all Participants to convey water through facilities associated with Pueblo Reservoir. Because the proposed SDS project would involve long-term storage and conveyance contracts from Reclamation, it has been determined that Reclamation should be the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The use of Pueblo Reservoir to store water is an important component of the proposed SDS project. Pueblo Reservoir is part of Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and is a State Water Court-approved exchange reservoir for many of the Participants' Arkansas River water rights.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed SDS project is to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply to the Participants through the foreseeable future.

There are three needs that SDS would fulfill:

- To use developed and undeveloped water supplies to meet most or all projected future demands through 2046
- To develop additional water storage, delivery, and treatment capacity to provide system redundancy
- To perfect and deliver the Participants' existing Arkansas River Basin water rights

The Participants are currently using water conservation programs such as demand management and water re-use. However, the Participants have determined that even with these programs, future water needs in their service areas will exceed their existing infrastructure's ability to supply water.

Alternatives Screening and Selection Process

Consistent with NEPA regulations and other regulations, the SDS Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate a reasonable range of practicable alternatives that meet the Purpose and Need of the proposed project.

Reclamation used technical, environmental, and economic screening criteria to identify potential alternatives capable of meeting the proposed project's Purpose and Need.

To develop a range of reasonable alternatives, components (individual parts of the SDS project, such as an untreated water intake) were first identified and options (different locations or methods for each component, such as untreated water intake at Pueblo Reservoir) for each component were then developed. Before creating alternatives (a complete project) from the options, the options went through a screening process. The options were screened using criteria for substantial logistical, technical or environmental deficiencies. If an option had a substantial logistic deficiency such as a land use conflict, a technical deficiency such as requiring unproven technologies, or an environmental deficiency such as permanently disturbing a significant amount of wetlands, it was eliminated from further consideration.

The options that passed the initial screening were then evaluated based on general environmental characteristics, such as disturbance size and magnitude. Options with more favorable environmental characteristics were selected and combined into potentially viable alternatives.

The alternatives were then screened using criteria that were based on the SDS Purpose and Need as well as the reasonability of the cost. If an alternative did not meet the Purpose and Need or was unreasonably costly, it was eliminated from detailed analysis.

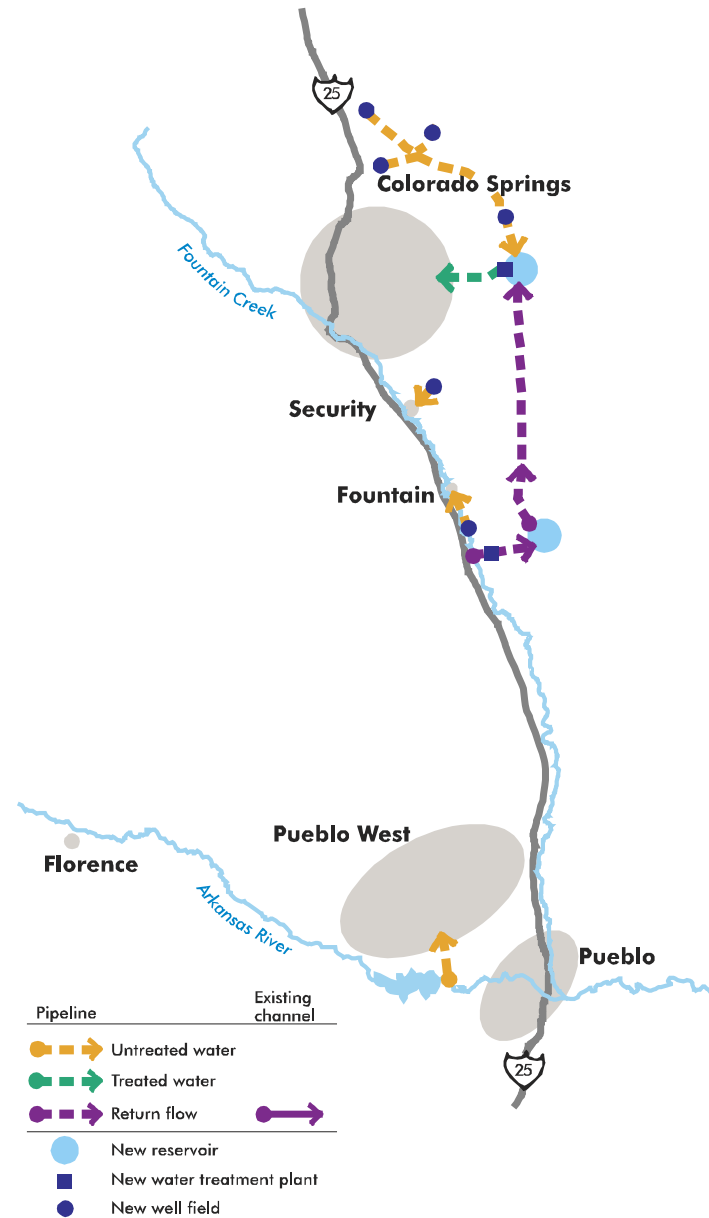
Finally, themes were created based on significant issues identified during public scoping (described in the January 2004 SDS EIS Newsletter) and NEPA requirements:

- No Action
- Participants' Proposed Action
- Minimized Wetland Acres Disturbed
- Highest Minimum Flow in the Arkansas River through Pueblo
- Minimized Erosion, Sedimentation and Water Quality Effect on Fountain Creek
- Minimized Water Quality Effect on the Lower Arkansas River
- Minimized Surface Acres Disturbed

Each remaining alternative was evaluated against its ability to fulfill each theme, and those alternatives that best fit these themes are proposed to be retained for detailed analysis in the Draft EIS.

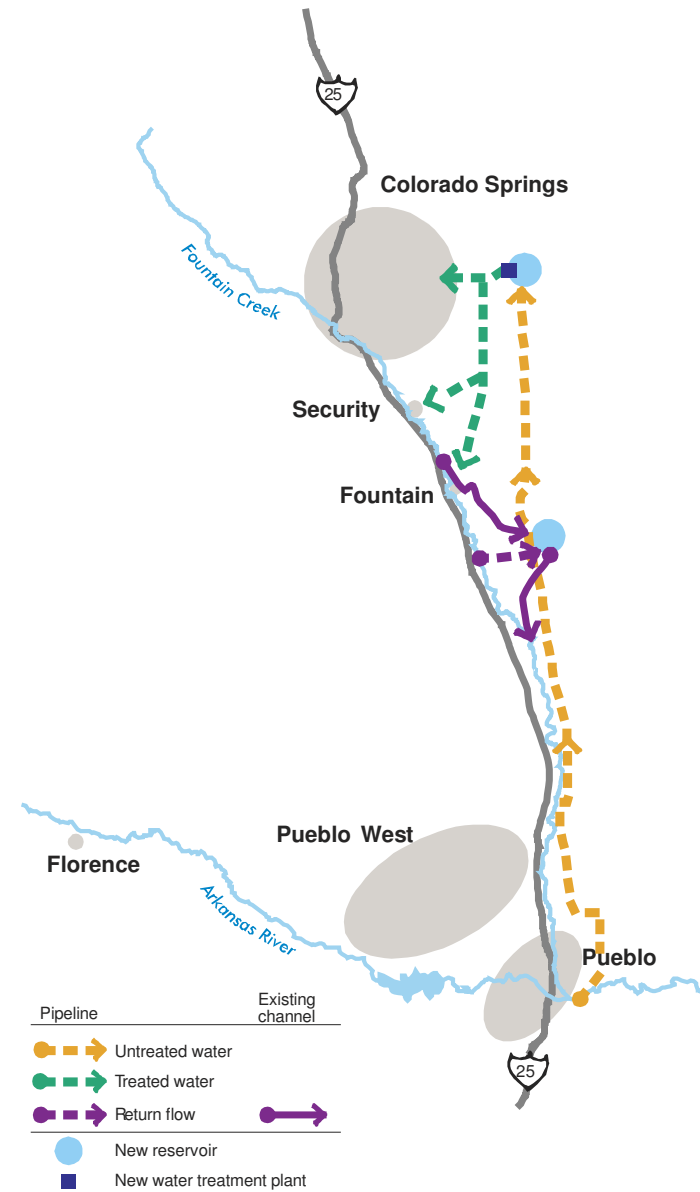
Proposed Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative



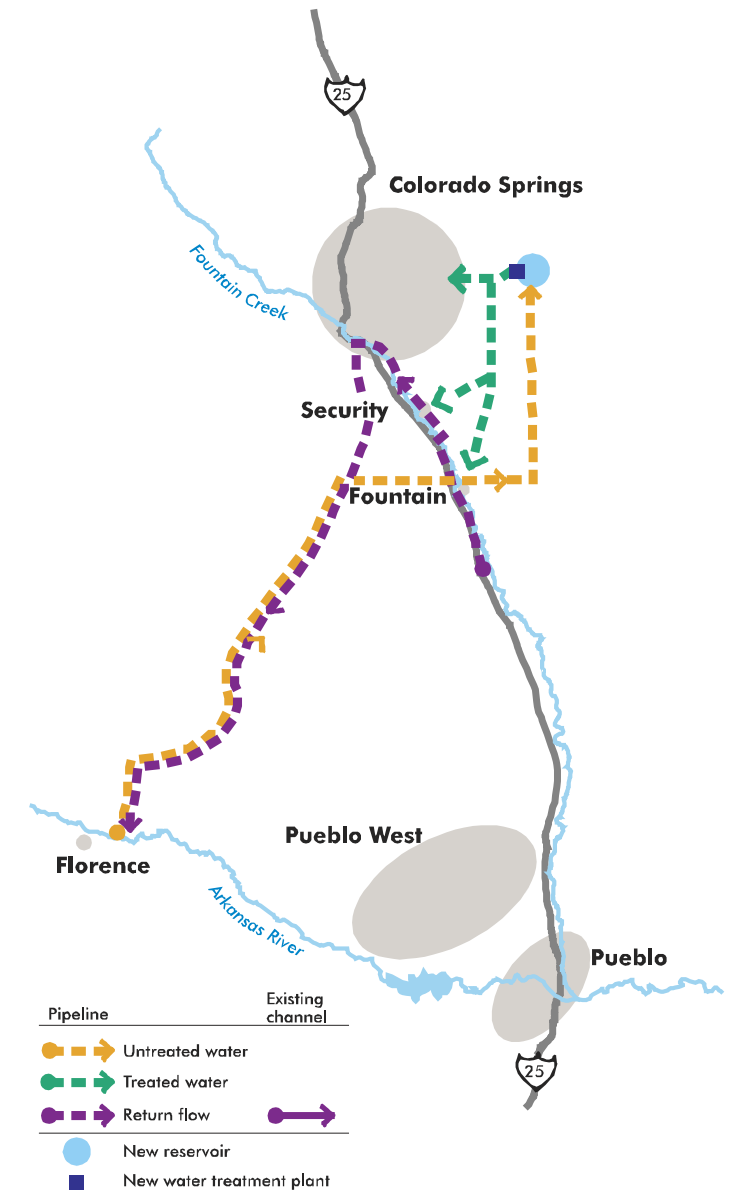
The No Action Alternative represents the most likely future in the absence of a Reclamation action, such as a storage contract. Each of the Project Participants would independently develop other water supplies in response to future growth. Colorado Springs, Fountain and Security would expand ground water use. Colorado Springs would use Denver Basin ground water, Fountain would expand the Fountain Creek alluvial wellfield, and Security would acquire additional water rights in the Widefield aquifer. In addition, Colorado Springs would treat their return flows for potable use and build two new reservoirs. Pueblo West would obtain their water from the Arkansas River near Pueblo Reservoir.

Alternative 6: Downstream Intake Alternative



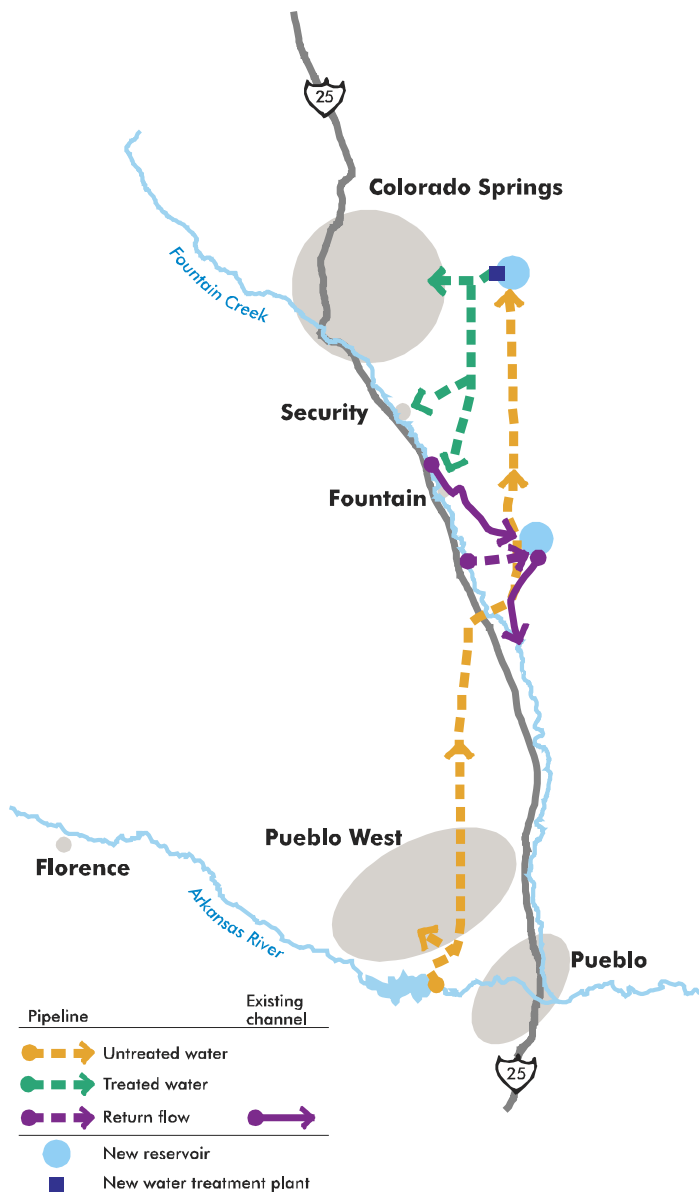
Although this alternative did not pass alternative cost screening criteria, Reclamation will study this alternative due to public interest. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, released from the dam and then diverted from the Arkansas River downstream of Fountain Creek, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be stored in a new reservoir on Williams Creek prior to exchange. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

Alternative 7: Highway 115 Alternative

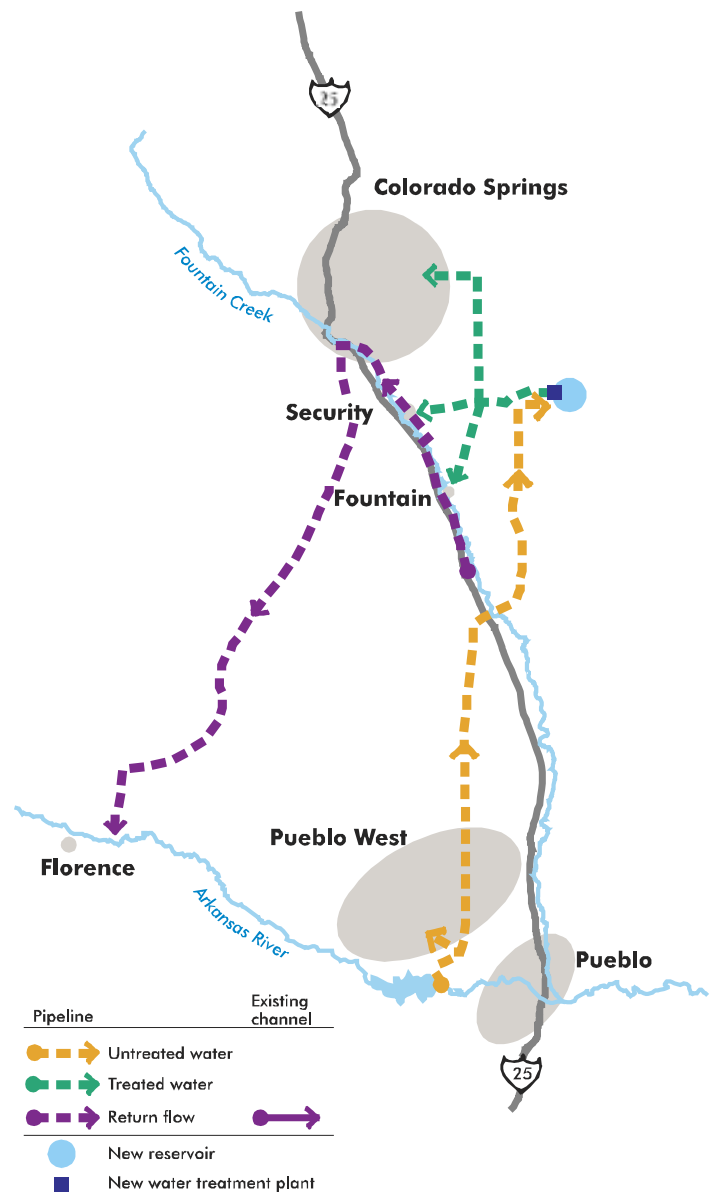


Although this alternative did not pass alternative cost screening criteria, Reclamation will study this alternative due to public and Participant interest. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, exchanged upstream and then diverted from the Arkansas River at the Lester & Attebery ditch near Florence, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not flow down Fountain Creek. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

Alternative 2: Participants' Proposed Action



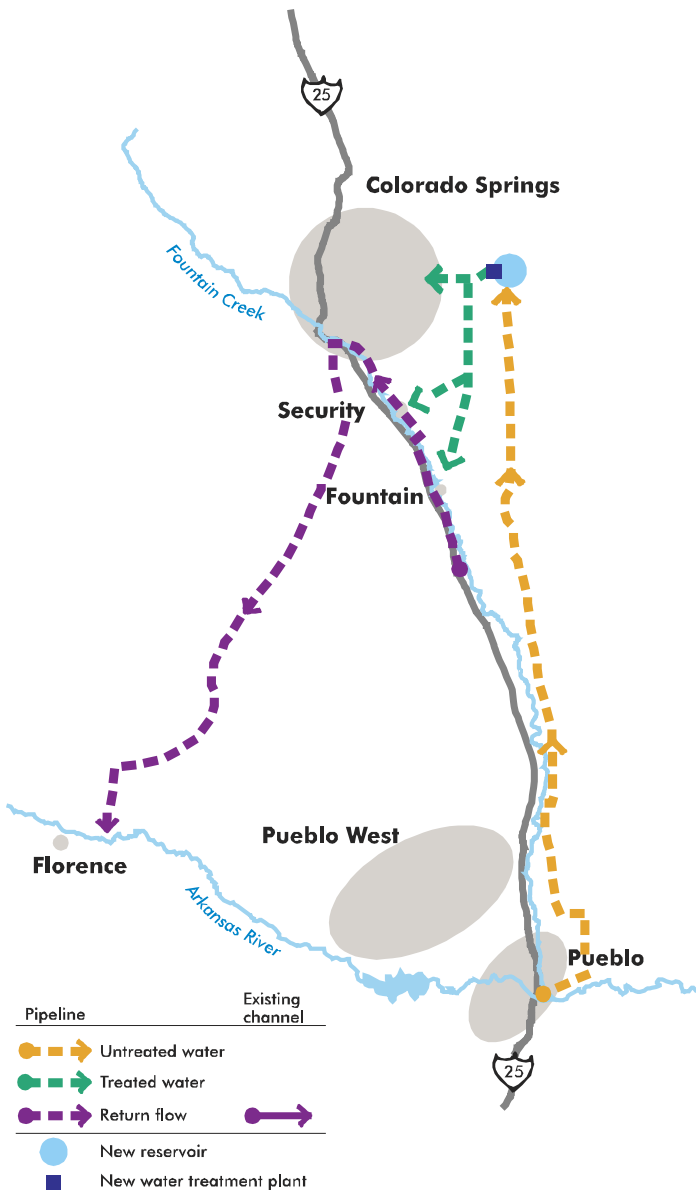
Alternative 3: Wetland Alternative



The Participants' Proposed Action Alternative represents the SDS project as the Participants propose to construct and operate it. Untreated water would be stored in and diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be stored in a new reservoir on Williams Creek prior to exchange.

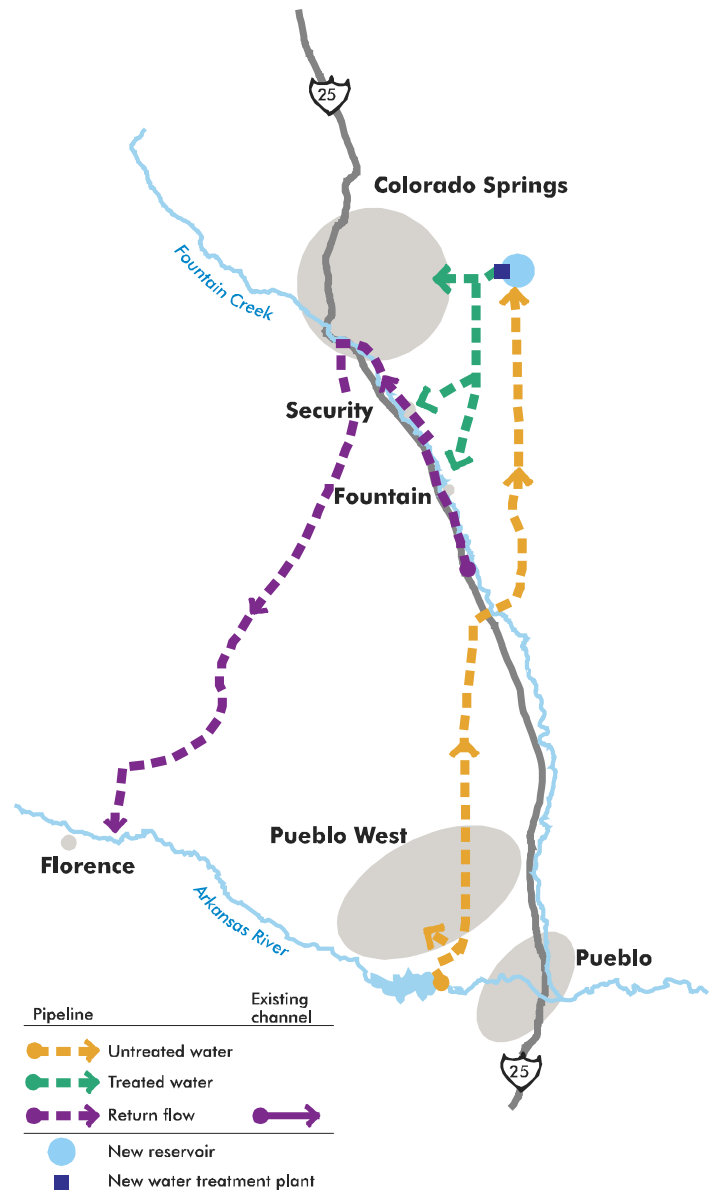
The Wetland Alternative is designed to minimize permanent effects on wetlands and to have the least surface disturbance. Untreated water would be diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on upper Williams Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not flow down Fountain Creek.

Alternative 4: Arkansas River Alternative



The Arkansas River Alternative is designed to minimize water quality effects on the Lower Arkansas River and to make available the highest minimum flows on the Arkansas River through Pueblo. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, released from the dam, diverted from the Arkansas River upstream of Fountain Creek, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not flow down Fountain Creek. Pueblo West would not participate in SDS if this alternative were chosen.

Alternative 5: Fountain Creek Alternative



The Fountain Creek Alternative is designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation and water quality effects on Fountain Creek. Untreated water would be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, diverted from Pueblo Reservoir, stored in a new reservoir on Jimmy Camp Creek, treated and distributed to the Participants' customers. Colorado Springs' return flows would be piped from their existing and future wastewater treatment plants to the Arkansas River near Florence, and would not flow down Fountain Creek.