

## WINDY GAP FIRING PROJECT

A water right is a right to use a portion of the public's water resources. In Colorado, the system of prior appropriation, known as the Colorado Doctrine governs all surface and tributary groundwater. As such, the Town of Firestone and Little Thompson Water District required the acquisition and dedication of water rights for the Barefoot community as a condition of providing service. To pay for the water shares an annual fee is charged to the individual homeowner's lot. Since the average homeowner resides in their home for approximately seven years, this will help to minimize the impact of the cost of water so that the homeowner only pays for the time spent in their home.

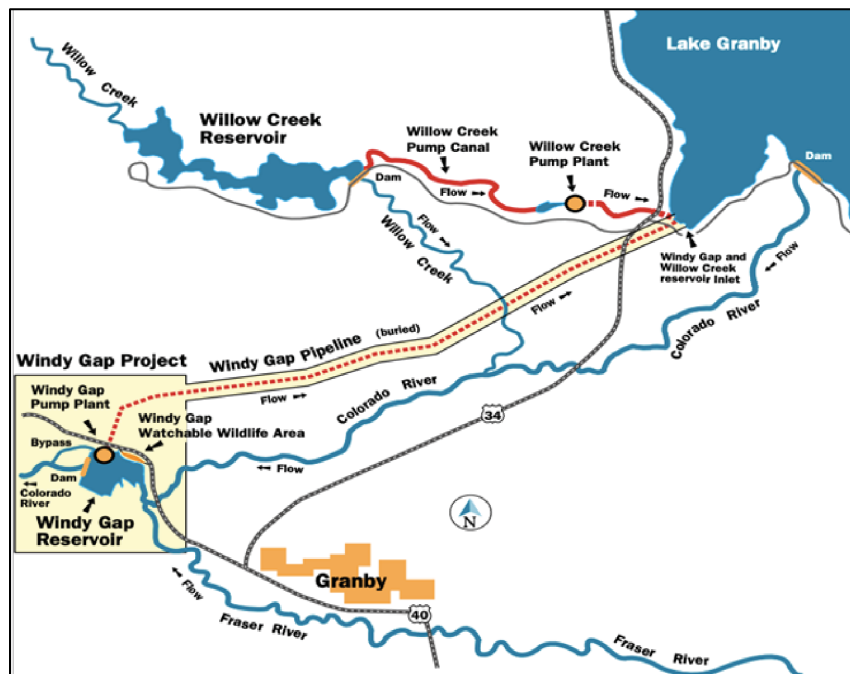
### What is the Windy Gap Firing Project?

This effort is a collaboration between nine municipalities, two water districts, and a power provider, working together to build Chimney Hollow Reservoir.

### What is the Windy Gap Firing Fee?

This is a fee for water infrastructure cost to provide a reliable water source to Barefoot.

- **Obligation:** Barefoot incurred substantial costs to provide for the delivery of water to the community, including the obligation to fund a portion of infrastructure construction as part of the Windy Gap Firing Project.
- **Duration:** An incremental fee per lot will be collected annually for 20 years. The total fee per lot may increase for future development based on the cost of water at that time. Once the fee is assessed for your lot, it will be locked in for the duration of 20 years.
- **Recipient:** The annual fees collected will be remitted to the Little Thompson Water District for payments related to the Windy Gap Firing Project.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Why am I paying this fee?**

This fee provides the water source for your water tap due to a shortage of reliable water on the front range.

## **How long do we pay the Firming Fee?**

The total cost of the fee per lot is currently \$10,000 and it will be assessed \$500 annually. You will pay this fee each year for 20 years or as long as you reside in the house. The fee will stay with the home and will transfer with the sale of your property to the new buyer. Your fee will be locked in for 20 years. Total fees assessed per lot in future years may increase based on the cost of water.

## **Does every homeowner have to pay the Firming Fee?**

Yes, either built into the price of their home at the time of house closing or in an annually assessed payment.

## **What is the total cost of the project and who is paying for it?**

The Windy Gap Firming Project estimated total principal cost is \$670M. The most current total cost is available at [northernwater.org/sf/home](https://northernwater.org/sf/home).

The project is being paid for by 12 project participants, Broomfield, Platte River Power Authority, Loveland, Greeley, Longmont, Erie, Little Thompson Water District, Superior, Louisville, Fort Lupton, Lafayette, Central Weld County Water District.

## **Who will collect my fee and how will it be collected?**

St. Vrain Lakes Metro District will collect the fee through an annual assessment that will be billed to the homeowner annually. St. Vrain Lakes Metro District will pay the Little Thompson Water District from assessments received.

## **Can't water conservation be used instead of an assessment?**

Progress has been made through substantial conservation programs, but these measures alone are not able to meet future water demands.

## **Where can I learn more about the Windy Gap Firming Project?**

For more information visit [northernwater.org/what-we-do/deliver-water/windy-gap-project](https://northernwater.org/what-we-do/deliver-water/windy-gap-project)