



HISTORY OF

Lake George Diversion Dam

Lake George Diversion Dam Photos Shot with Large-format
Camera Developed on Orthochromatic Film, 2022.
Photos Courtesy of Dino Kužnik.

After World War II, Colorado Springs was growing faster than expected. City leaders thought the town needed more water sources. People in the town looked to the mountains and began the Blue River Project.

This project was Colorado Springs' first attempt to bring water across the Continental Divide and into the city.

Rain that falls on the west side of the Continental Divide normally goes into the Colorado River towards California. The Blue River project changed that. Pumps, ditches, and pipelines carry some water from the Blue River on the western side of the Continental Divide up over the mountains, through the Hoosier Tunnel, and back down the eastern side to Colorado Springs.

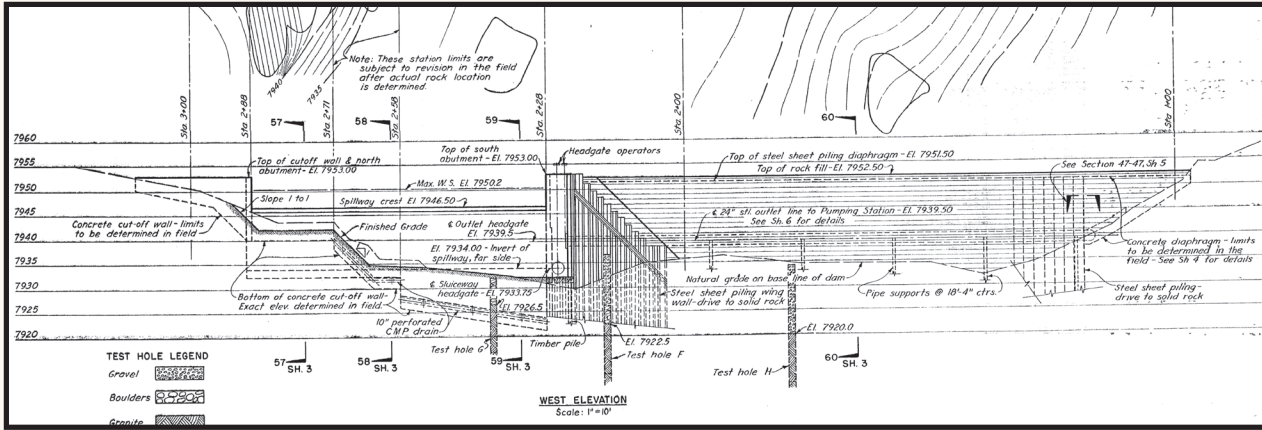
"We have stories about water babies that are in the water, born in the water...but it would hypnotize you and coax you into that water and take you, so when you hear babies down by the river you don't want to go down there" Cesspooch said. "I think that thing is somewhat also a reason why we didn't make boats or make water a leisure type of recreation. I think it's more along the lines of 'respect water,' it's not there to play in, it's life—it's just another way of looking at it."

Larry Cesspooch, Ute Elder and Storyteller

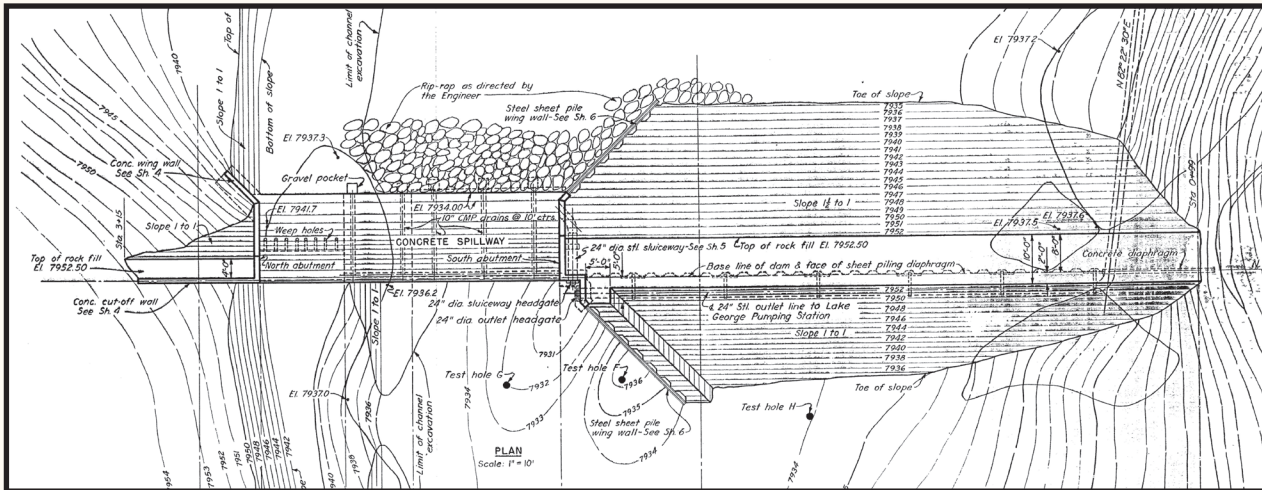
Federation of State Humanities Councils, *Water Storytelling with Utah Humanities* (December 22, 2020). <https://www.statehumanities.org/water-storytelling-with-utah-humanities>

Petroglyphs on Rock Wall.
Photo Courtesy of Name. Website.





Blueprints of Lake George Diversion Dam (Lake George Diversion Dam), 1952. Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers for City of Colorado Springs, CO.



Before the town built the pipeline, Colorado Springs got water from Lake George. The diversion dam that the Forest Service removed in 2023 sent water to Colorado Springs before workers finished the Blue River project. Once the town finished the Blue River project, it didn't need the dam and diversion ditch anymore. For more information about the Blue River Project, visit Colorado Springs Utilities: www.csu.org/Pages/ContinentalHoosier.aspx

