

**Project Update:  
Stevens Reservoir Enlargement**  
Posted December 3, 2008

On November 24, assisted by a prolonged dry autumn, the Weeminuche Construction Authority crews completed the final work on the Stevens Reservoir dam!

Before and After pictures:



Looking west down the length of the dam



Again, looking west. Foot of dam at left of picture





Standing at base of dam. My, how it's grown!

Upon final approval by the State Engineer's office and given typical precipitation, the reservoir may be filled up to 350 acre feet this winter. As a comparison, this is slightly more water than that held in Lake Forest. Ultimately, after completion of wetlands mitigation work next spring and summer, the reservoir will hold approximately 1780 acre feet.

The project, which raised the previous dam ten feet and lengthened it to nearly 2,000 feet, began with land acquisition twenty years ago. The cost of the enlargement project is projected to be \$5.66 million, although final costs will not be known until the wetlands work is completed.

The Dutton Ditch Enclosure, completed in 2006 at a cost of an additional \$3.83 million, is a closely associated project. The Dutton Ditch conveys raw water from the Four Mile Creek to Stevens and Hatcher Reservoirs. The ditch was enclosed in pipe in order to maximize water delivery to the enlarged reservoir during periods when the District has priority water rights.

Together, the two projects should provide the District with an adequate water supply to meet current demand during a one-year drought. A filled reservoir will facilitate a PAWSD Board decision to lift the nearly ten-year moratorium on inclusions of new service areas into the District boundaries. This moratorium, put into place due to lack of raw water supply, could be lifted in late 2009 or early 2010 given adequate precipitation and stream flows next year.