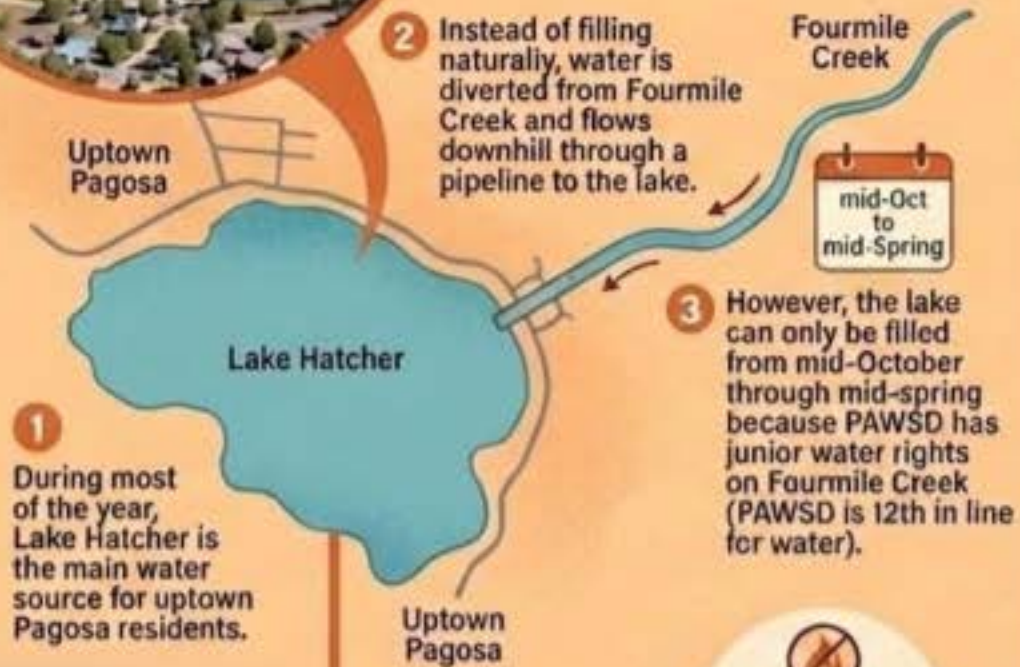


# Why is my Water Bill Higher? PAWSD Summary

In short, Lake Hatcher's water demand is out of sync with the water supply. The lake's water quality deteriorates as water levels decline, increasing treatment costs. To meet the increased summer demand, water from the San Juan River is used, which also increases water costs.



**1** During most of the year, Lake Hatcher is the main water source for uptown Pagosa residents.

**2** Instead of filling naturally, water is diverted from Fourmile Creek and flows downhill through a pipeline to the lake.

Fourmile Creek  
mid-Oct to mid-Spring

**3** However, the lake can only be filled from mid-October through mid-spring because PAWSD has junior water rights on Fourmile Creek (PAWSD is 12th in line for water).



**4** Once the lake stops filling in the spring, the water must last the whole summer, which isn't possible during drought.



**5** Water demand increases in the summer primarily due to outdoor watering.

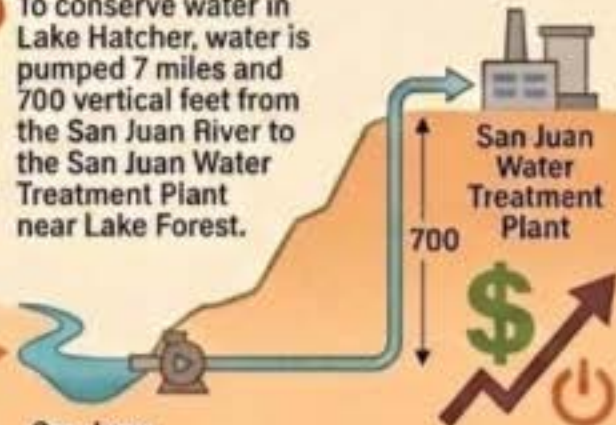


**6** The majority of Lake Hatcher is shallow, especially during droughts. Shallow water heats up quickly and loses oxygen, creating taste and odor problems.



**7** Taste and odor problems can be treated with the addition of chemicals, but that increases water treatment costs.

**8** To conserve water in Lake Hatcher, water is pumped 7 miles and 700 vertical feet from the San Juan River to the San Juan Water Treatment Plant near Lake Forest.



**9** Pumping water uphill is more costly than letting gravity do the work, so water rates are increased to cover the additional cost.

## Water Rights

Water rights determine the order of who gets to take from the water supply. PAWSD is 12th in line for water because the people who hold older water rights so when we have a drought year there are 11 other places that get to take water before Pagosa

