



Trans-mountain water rights are an invaluable City of Fort Collins asset. After considerable evaluation, the \$8.5 million tunnel is the long-term solution chosen to restore the high mountain water distribution system to its full capacity.

Joe Wright Reservoir and the Michigan Ditch, including 1,600 feet of 24-inch diameter wood stave pipe, are part of the high-mountain collection system.

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Tunnel Project and Road Closure

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MICHIGAN DITCH ROAD CLOSURE

SUMMER 2016

The Michigan Ditch Road will be closed to all public access for the summer of 2016 (mid-May – mid-October) due to tunnel construction and safety issues. Alternative access routes remain open.



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Trans-mountain water currently is not running in the Michigan Ditch as a result of an ongoing landslide that covered part of the ditch in 2015. An 800-foot long, 8-foot diameter rock tunnel will be bored through the mountain along the Michigan Ditch Road to allow water to flow again by spring 2017. Weather permitting, construction will begin as soon as the snow can be cleared in May and will be complete by late fall.

The Michigan Ditch Road is operated by Fort Collins Utilities. Typically, the public is allowed access to hike, bike, ski, etc. – but not this summer due to construction. The road serves as one route to Lake Agnes and American Lakes Trail and access to these areas remains open via alternate routes.

All other State Forest State Park roads, trailheads, campgrounds and trails are open. Only a section of the Michigan Ditch Road, as shown on the map, is closed for the season.

For more information about the road closure and the tunnel project, please visit fcgov.com/michigan-ditch-tunnel.

