Fryingpan-Arkansas Project History

Your investment in water

Water truly is the lifeblood of our communities. That was never more a statement of fact than during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s. It was at that time in modern history of the Arkansas River basin that community leaders created the vision of a more prosperous future: a future that would include a plentiful supply of water through the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project). The vision became a reality 50 years ago with the signing of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Act by President John F. Kennedy on August 16, 1962. A special celebration was held in Pueblo. The President provided special recognition of the Project and its long developmental history by saying, “When [people] come to this state and see how vitally important [water] is, not just to this state, but to the West, to the United States, then they realize how important it is that all the people of this country support this project that belongs to all the people of this country.” Since this historic date in 1962 the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project has provided our communities with 50 golden years of benefits. The vision of our forefathers and the continued investment and commitment of the citizens of today assures us an important resource for our future a natural resource that is indeed the lifeblood of our community WATER.