

Johnson Lake Water Level Benefits

The J-2 Project will provide some benefits to Johnson Lake water levels for recreation. Central is required by its FERC license to attempt to regulate “spike flows” of water that is returned to river that might hurt nesting terns or plovers after a rain event. Currently, Central has to do this in Johnson Lake, which means having to keep Johnson Lake lower than is desirable by many for recreation in the spring and early-summer. The J-2 Project would replace Johnson Lake as the location for regulating these spike flow releases, allowing Central to return to slightly higher starting elevation in the spring and summer at Johnson Lake.

Water Supply for the J-2 Project

The purpose of the J-2 Project is to better regulate, make use of, and return water that Central already diverts for other purposes under existing water rights, and no new appropriations are anticipated. The J-2 Project will not result in more water diverted from the Platte, nor will it increase or decrease the amount of water available for hydropower production or for irrigation. The J-2 Project will allow the existing water supply to be used more efficiently for hydropower production, and better match the return of water to environmental needs, without any harm to irrigation operations or water supplies.