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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

ETA

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**Efficiency
Transparency
Accountability**

Hoover Dam recognized with international award

Bob Quint, Bureau of Reclamation senior advisor and chief of staff, travelled to Zhengzhou, China in late September to attend the International Symposium on Modern Technologies and Long-Term Behavior of Dams and to accept an award recognizing Hoover Dam as an International Milestone High Concrete Dam.

Hoover Dam is one of the iconic symbols of the United States and Reclamation. More importantly, this engineering marvel is also a symbol of the “know-how, ingenuity, drive and success” of the engineers who have led and continue to lead our industry in the design of dams and hydroelectric projects that serve the needs of our respective countries.

Since its completion in 1935, Hoover Dam has changed the landscape in the American West. It fueled the West’s development, and now provides consistent irrigation to millions of acres, while harnessing the flow of water into hydroelectricity. Because of Hoover Dam, farmers receive a dependable supply of water. Also, cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Las Vegas are provided an

inexpensive source of electricity, and a water supply which supports a growing population and industrial development.

Today, 76 years later, Hoover Dam continues to provide the benefits incorporated into its design. By any standard, Hoover Dam is, without a doubt, an innovative milestone project.

The conference was sponsored by the Chinese National Committee on Large Dams; Yellow River Conservancy Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources; Xiaolangdi Dam Project Construction and Management Bureau; Japan Commission on Large Dams; Korean National Committee on Large Dams; Yellow River Institute of Hydraulic Research; Henan Water and Power Consulting Engineering Co., Ltd.; North China University of Water Resource and Electric Power and others.



Built in the middle of America’s Great Depression in the 1930s, Hoover Dam was the largest government project of its time. It provided work for more than 20,000 people at a time when most people were without jobs.

Hoover Dam Facts

- At 726.4 feet high, Hoover Dam is 161 feet taller than the Washington Monument.
- The dam weighs 6.6 million tons – as much as 18 Empire State Buildings, 685 Eiffel Towers, 29,000 Statues of Liberty, or more than 46,000 blue whales.
- Hoover Dam can store enough water in its reservoir, Lake Mead, to fill more than 58,000 of the world’s largest super tankers.
- The dam is visited by nearly 3,000 people a day, or enough to fill more than five 747 jumbo jets.
- Hoover Dam can release nearly 90,000 gallons of water each second through each of its four 30-foot diameter penstocks that deliver water from the reservoir to the generators.
- The dam is made up of an estimated 215 blocks of concrete, varying from 60 feet square to 25 feet square with a height no greater than 5 feet.
- The maximum water pressure of Lake Mead at the base of Hoover Dam is 45,000 pounds per square-foot.

River Restoration

Conference ties together restoration efforts **Reducing Conflicts**

“In the next 10 years, we want Reclamation to be as well known for its expertise in river restoration as it is for building and maintaining dams and other water infrastructure.”

That vision for the future, articulated by Kira Finkler, Reclamation’s Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs, was echoed by several other speakers at September’s River Restoration workshop in Albuquerque, N.M.

The workshop, hosted by Reclamation and the Utton Center at the University of New Mexico School of Law, focused on social and institutional aspects of river restoration, including exploring ways to overcome obstacles in law, policy, finance and governance.

Other speakers included Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle and Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor.

“This conference is very important to our core mission. If we are going to continue to deliver water and generate power in the way we

have done historically, we simply need to address the environmental effects of our projects regarding the aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and that will provide long-term certainty for our customers,” Connor said. “It will help reduce environmental conflicts, litigation, and basically the unproductive use of resources if we can really focus on our river restoration mission.”

Among the 120 attendees were Reclamation employees, academic experts and representatives from other federal agencies, state-based agencies, tribes, water users, non-governmental organizations and private interests.

A web resource was produced for the workshop (www.usbr.gov/river), which contains a summary of some of the river restoration projects currently underway at Reclamation.

Full proceedings of the workshop are summarized by the Utton Center at the University of New Mexico School of Law website at <http://uttoncenter.unm.edu/projects/river-restoration.php>.

River Restoration



Federal agencies work together on habitat restoration Hart Mine Marsh

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a multi-stakeholder, federal and non-federal partnership responding to the need to balance the use of water resources, the conservation of native species and their habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The MSCP is a 50-year program to conserve at least 26 species through the implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan. The program area extends more than 400 miles from Lake Mead to the Southerly International Boundary with Mexico, incorporating the full pool elevations of three large reservoirs (Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu) and the historic 100-year floodplain of the main stem lower Colorado River.

Reclamation is the lead implementing agency for the MSCP. Partnership involvement occurs primarily through the MSCP Steering Committee, currently

representing 56 entities, including state and federal agencies, water and power users and other interested parties, which provides input and oversight functions in support of MSCP implementation. Program costs are split evenly between Reclamation and the non-federal partners.

While Reclamation is the lead agency, many individual projects are accomplished through partnerships, especially with state wildlife agencies and other federal land management agencies. Hart Mine Marsh, located on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in western Arizona, is an example of such a partnership. Historically, the marsh was created by flood flows along the Colorado River; however, changes in river operations and management eliminated the dynamic

processes that once maintained the marsh, resulting in a stagnant area with poor water quality and highly saline soils dominated by invasive saltcedar.

In 2008, Reclamation entered into a long-term agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the marsh. Construction activities were completed in 2011, resulting in approximately 255 acres of marsh habitat for the Yuma clapper rail (listed as endangered under the ESA), California black rail and least bittern, as well as other resident and migratory bird species. The marsh is already providing habitat for many species. Biologists detected seven Yuma clapper rails in Hart Mine Marsh during surveys conducted in spring 2011. It is anticipated that the marsh will provide even higher quality habitat as it matures over the next several years. Results of this and other MSCP projects can be found at www.lcrmscp.gov.

River Restoration

Youth help clean up Colorado River bank



Enjoying the shore of the Colorado River on a warm, sunny day is one thing, but digging up tufts of grass and re-planting them on the sloping river bank is quite another.

Just ask the members of an eight-person conservation crew who completed conservation-related work at the 350-acre Yuma East Wetlands in summer temperatures exceeding 110 degrees.

Located near downtown Yuma, Ariz., the site is one of several habitat restoration areas along the Colorado River supported by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP).

The crew was contracted through Coconino County's Rural Environment Corps (CREC) as part of the Lower Colorado Region's commitment to the Department of the Interior's Youth Initiative.

"The youth were either recent high school graduates, on their way to college, or looking to pursue federal or state employment in an environmental related field," said

Reclamation representative and Crew Coordinator Jed Blake of the MSCP.

Working for 11 consecutive days, except Sundays, for a total of 80 hours, the crew performed general trail maintenance, painted access gates, transplanted marsh species, cleaned out irrigation canals, removed old irrigation systems and cleaned up a maintenance yard.

Their experience included interpretive nature walks, native plant identification, tours of recreated Native American dwellings and an enhanced understanding of maintaining a large marsh area.

Following each day's field work and still in their soiled work clothes, the crew members participated in daily educational forums, where they discussed environmental careers, goal setting, Reclamation river operations, endangered species, how to apply for federal jobs, wildland firefighting and overcoming barriers to success.

"With everyone's help, the project was completed seamlessly," Blake said. "The crew was engaged and extremely hardworking. The project site positively benefitted from their efforts."

Crew members re-plant grass plugs on the river bank creating new habitat.

River Restoration



Technology tracks fish activity

On September 26, Reclamation awarded a \$3 million, 5-year contract to Biomark Inc., of Boise, Idaho, for passive integrated transponders (PIT) and related equipment to conduct ongoing fish studies throughout the 17 Western states associated with multiple river habitat restoration and endangered fish recovery programs.

“This contract provides another tool to enhance real-time, scientific knowledge about fish behavior that we rely upon to inform our river restoration activities,” Commissioner Michael Connor said. “River restoration work is an important cornerstone of Reclamation’s efforts throughout the West to ensure the sustainability and health of water resources, a key element of

the administration’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative.”

The use of PIT tags provides a reliable and effective means of identifying and monitoring individual fish species, utilizing radio frequency identification technology. Once researchers have implanted a PIT tag (essentially a small microchip, about the size of a grain of rice) inside an individual fish, it can easily be tracked and monitored utilizing readers and antennae devices. This provides valuable data for biologists to use in accurately calculating population estimates, recording life-cycle information and gathering survival and recruitment data.

This is the same technology used to identify and track lost pets. Each tag contains a unique

electronic number, specific individual data can be gathered over time that is vital to habitat restoration and species recovery programs. The Reclamation programs that will receive PIT equipment through this contract are the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, San Juan River Basin Recovery Program, Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, Columbia/Snake Salmon Recovery Program, Trinity River Restoration Program, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and the Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program.

River Restoration

Restoration Program receives Partners in Conservation award

Reclamation has a long history of partnerships with individuals and organizations, both inside and outside of the federal government. These partnerships are deeply valued by Reclamation and are an integral part of how its vital mission is accomplished. Whether working with state, local or tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit organizations or individuals, Reclamation recognizes that significant contributions come from dynamic collaboration.

Reclamation honored one of these successful partnerships at the Department of the Interior's 2011 Partners in Conservation Awards ceremony in September. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) received the prestigious award from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar for its large landscape restoration and water resource management efforts in the San Joaquin River

basin, California's second longest river that provides water to more than one million acres in the Central Valley.

The program is a collaborative and cooperative effort among individual land owners, non-governmental environmental organizations, water users and state and federal agencies to restore the San Joaquin River. Following two decades of contentious litigation, the SJRRP provides a comprehensive long-term plan to restore the flows of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River in order to create a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery and to improve ecosystem and flood conditions, while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts on water users. The program's partners have diverse interests, but through the establishment of clear commitments, diverse technical

working groups and a comprehensive public involvement program, they are able to cooperatively find solutions to ensure sustainable management of the water resource.

"The Partners in Conservation Awards demonstrate that our nation's greatest conservation legacies often emerge when agencies and citizens from a wide range of backgrounds come together to address shared challenges," Secretary Salazar said. "I am pleased to recognize the efforts of dedicated people from across our nation to conserve and restore our treasured landscapes, address water issues and forge solutions to complex natural resource issues through good government and strong partnerships."

More than 40 individuals were part of the nomination and each will receive an individual award from the Secretary.

Commissioner Connor honored for river restoration accomplishments

Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor was honored in September by the Utton Transboundary Resources Center for his leadership in restoration on the Colorado River at the River Restoration workshop in Albuquerque, N.M. Professor Denise Fort, Director of the Utton Center, presented an enlarged photograph of the Ciénega de Santa Clara wetland on the Colorado River Delta to Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs Kira Finkler, who accepted the award on behalf of the commissioner.

Commissioner Connor was recognized for leading the team that managed the successful trial run of the Yuma Desalting Plant in Arizona and the flows it provided for the Ciénega de Santa Clara, a 40,000-acre

wetland in Mexico. Remarkably, the ciénega is now home to more than 350 bird species, and provides habitat to thousands of migratory and resident shore and marsh birds. The collaborative approach of the trial run is hailed as a significant accomplishment in setting the stage for future collaboration with Mexico.

"Professor Albert Utton, for whom the center is named, had a long standing concern over U.S. and Mexican river management and the consequences for the delta region. This is a preview of what the two countries might achieve through broader cooperation over Colorado River management at the border," said Professor Fort.

Habitat Restoration

Projects protect fish, create jobs

Win Win

Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region is celebrating several achievements in managing and developing water resources in California's Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Central Valley is one of America's richest agricultural regions, served by the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP), one of the world's largest and best-known systems for storing and moving water. The Delta is an integral part of the CVP and the West Coast's largest estuary.

On September 19, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Commissioner Michael Connor attended the ceremony for the Contra Costa Water District's Fish Screen Project in the Delta.

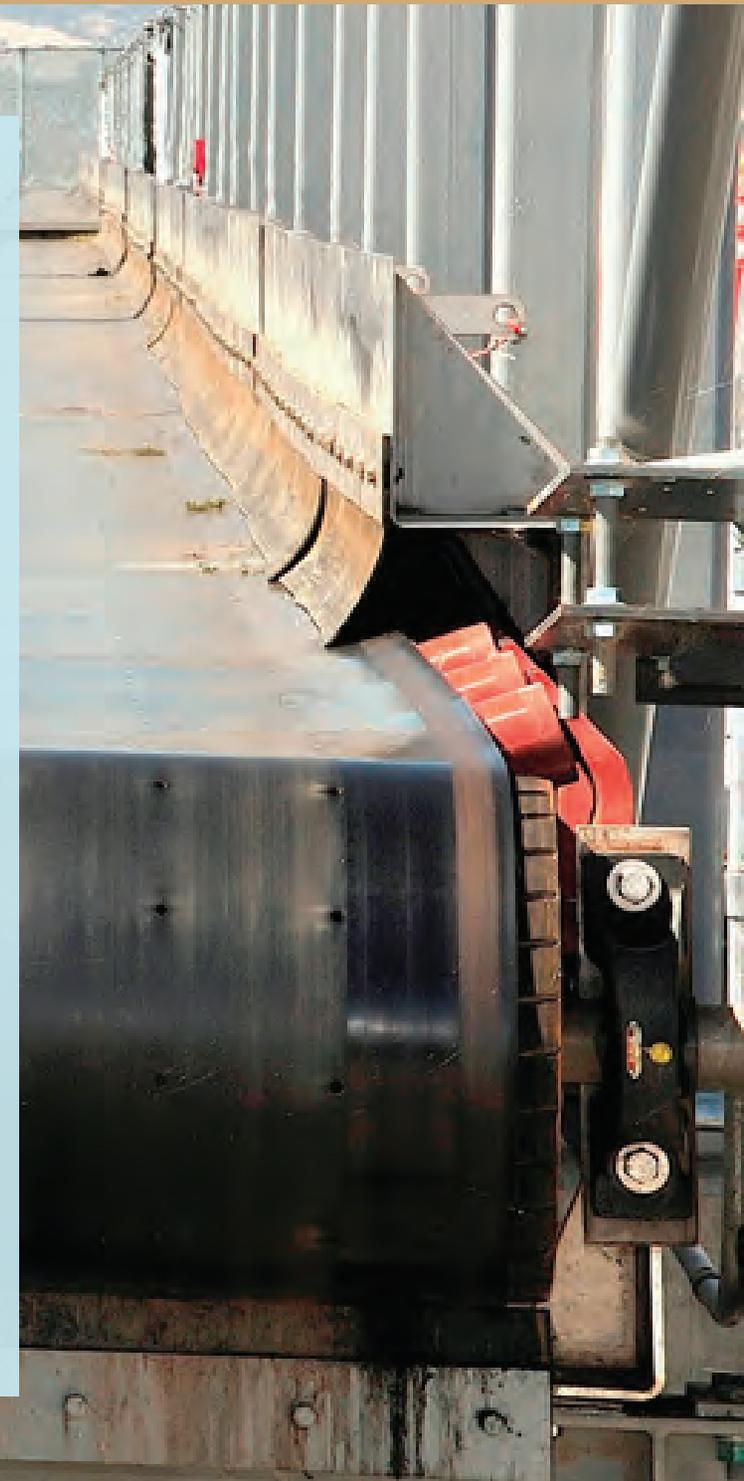
"The scenes around me were picturesque, with views of meandering sloughs, lush green farms and wildlife habitat. But some important aspects of the project were not so visible, not so immediately apparent," said Commissioner Connor. "The immediate impact of the underwater fish screens is that they will help preserve endangered and threatened fish species in the Delta. That not only helps fulfill part of Reclamation's mission of environmental mitigation, but also

helps to ensure a dependable water supply."

Reclamation provided funds for the screened intakes for the Contra Costa Water District and Patterson Irrigation District, the Madera Irrigation District groundwater bank, and the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Project. As an added benefit, awards from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, totaling more than \$41 million for two of the projects, created approximately 445 jobs and assisted the economy.

The screened fish intakes, groundwater bank and intertie projects advance goals in the Interim Federal Action Plan for the Bay/Delta and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The Region and its partners dedicated two fish screen intake projects in September. In August, the Region participated in a groundbreaking ceremony marking construction of a groundwater bank in the arid Central Valley. The Region is also making plans to dedicate an intertie project that links the major federal and state canals in the Central Valley to improve water supply reliability south of the Delta.



Gaining a global perspective

International Dam Safety Training Seminar, Study Tour provides world-class training opportunities, experiences

A seminar and study tour of two of America's iconic dams highlighted Reclamation's extensive work in the field of dam safety. Reclamation's Safety Evaluation and Visual Inspection of Existing Dams International Technical Seminar and Study Tour was held during two weeks this August.

During the first week of the seminar, 41 participants from 15 countries attended classroom presentations and discussions, toured Reclamation's Research Laboratories in Denver and took a day-trip to Guernsey and Glendo Dams in Wyoming.

During the second week, the group toured Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

"The presentations were quite good, both in terms of content and structure," said Samson Banzi of Australia. Michael Cogan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers added, "The best dam seminar there is to offer."

The seminar is designed for managers, administrators, engineers and geologists responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and safety of dams around the world.

Reclamation's International Affairs Program routinely assists water resource agencies from other countries by providing technical training and technical visitor programs. Training programs are tailored

to fit each request and vary in length from two days to as long as one year, usually combining office assignments, field visits or study tours to various

Reclamation offices. All costs are fully reimbursed by participants to Reclamation.



Participants at the 2011 SEED Seminar on the overlook above Glendo Dam in Wyoming receiving an overview of the ongoing Safety of Dams modifications.



ARRA dollars = new life for aging bridge

Aging infrastructure is a challenge throughout Reclamation. In the Lower Colorado Region, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds were used to reconstruct the Lower Cibola Bridge near Blythe, Calif.

The project, a collaboration of multiple federal agencies, created jobs and stimulated the local economy.

This effort started with Reclamation's Yuma Area Office (YAO) reaching out and entering into an interagency agreement with the Central Federal Lands Division (CFLD) of the Federal Highways Administration.

As it turned out, it was the first ARRA-funded interagency agreement executed within

Reclamation.

YAO, CFLD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) overcame a long list of obstacles while considering the habitat and the seasonal traffic in the area, Colorado River navigation needs during construction and the agricultural requirements of the surrounding area.

While the project manager maintained the project's transparency – an ARRA requirement – the real challenge of the work was the number of agencies required to start the project. The solution was building a strong project team and using effective project management processes.

The project team included CFLD Project Manager Lisa Bollig, Mike Oldham of the FWS, Project Manager Frank Krukoski, ARRA Coordinator Michael Cramer, Facilities Engineers Mike Igoe and Carrie Larson, Chris Wallis of the Resource Management Office, Grants Agreements Specialist Gerald Casares, Realty Specialist Anna Pinnell and

YAO staff.

On August 10, 2010, a \$3.368 million construction contract was awarded to J.E. Hurley Construction Inc., of Colorado Springs, Colo., and the project officially moved into its implementation phase.

Following completion of the project in May 2011, YAO gained a safer structure in its inventory, with improvements that support Reclamation's future maintenance needs and provide other agencies access to Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, including wildland firefighters.

The Lower Cibola Bridge is located in Arizona, approximately 21 miles southeast of Blythe, Calif. on the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and was built in 1969. It crosses over the lower Colorado River and is used primarily for maintenance access by Reclamation. Other users include FWS, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Border Patrol, as well as visitors who use the refuge for recreational activities.

A close view of the Lower Cibola Bridge reveals the amount of erosion and deterioration it had before renovation.

Minidoka

Idaho dam gets needed updates, small community gets jobs

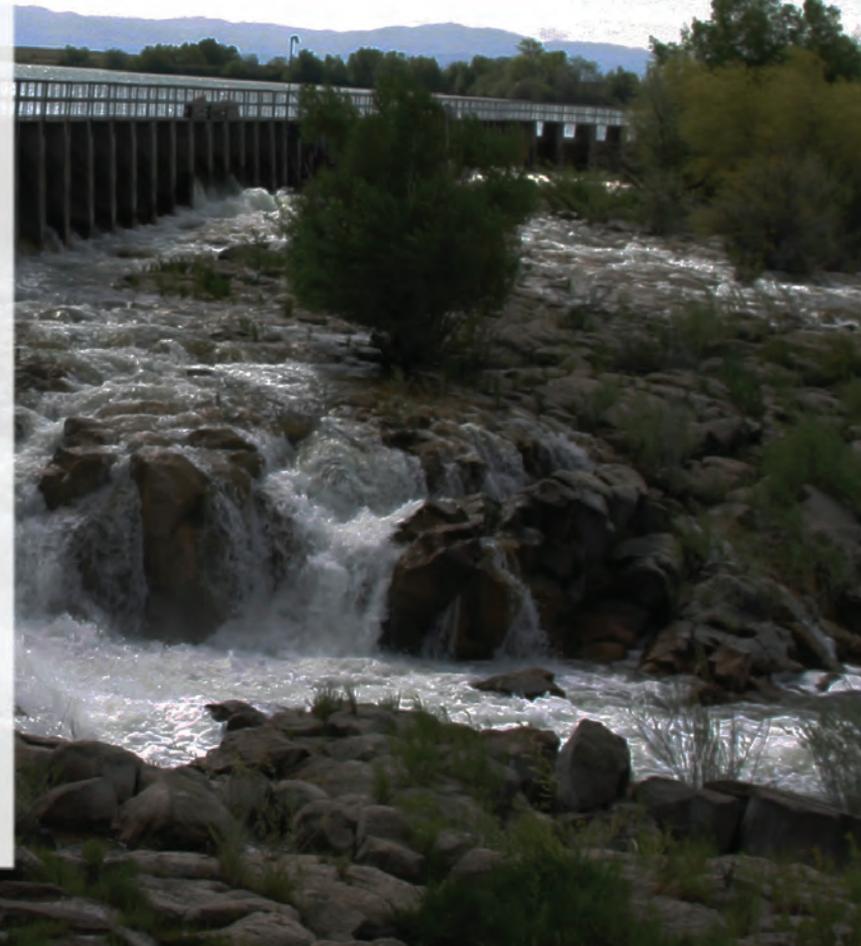
A more than \$23 million contract will fund replacement of the spillway and headworks at Minidoka Dam, near Burley in southern Idaho.

On March 2, Reclamation issued a solicitation and a contract was awarded on September 13, for \$21,320,000 to Record Steel and Construction, Inc. of Meridian, Idaho. It is estimated that this construction contract will boost the local economy of the small town of Burley with its population of less than 10,000 through the influx of the working staff, housing and material needs. Construction begins in November and is expected to be completed by March 2015.

The dam was constructed in 1906 as part of the Minidoka Project and is operated as one of six storage facilities on the Snake and Henrys Fork Rivers. This multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, recreation and fish and wildlife benefits. After 105 years, the 2,237-foot-long spillway has reached the end of its functional lifespan. The concrete that forms the spillway crest and stoplog structure piers has extensive deterioration at numerous locations. Additionally, previous ice damage to the overflow section of the

spillway requires that the reservoir water level be dropped each winter, which minimizes the benefits to irrigation, power generation and some wildlife species. The headworks at the North and South Side Canals also show serious concrete deterioration. The current conditions of the spillway and headworks present increasingly difficult reliability and maintenance problems. In 2000, Reclamation engaged the Burley Irrigation District and the Minidoka Irrigation District to identify options for addressing the deteriorating spillway infrastructure. To plan the design of the spillway infrastructure, Reclamation conducted Appraisal, Feasibility, Safety of Dams Risk Assessment and Value Engineering/Planning Studies.

A Record of Decision was issued to select and implement the preferred alternative to replace the spillway and headworks. The Final Environmental Impact Statement outlined and evaluated the alternatives considered to prevent structural failure of the existing spillway and headworks at the dam. Alternative B, "Spillway and Headworks Replacement," was selected.



Recovery Act funds jobs for young scientists

Finding employment in a scientific field is not a particularly easy task. All too frequently, students are faced with a catch-22 in which they are passed over for a scientific job because they have not had much outside experience. It boils down to a simple, “you can’t have the job because you haven’t had a job.”

With the goal of providing real-world opportunities, Reclamation hired 22 undergraduate and

graduate students to sample and analyze western waters for the presence of invasive and devastatingly harmful quagga and zebra mussels. The program began in January 2010, with some students working throughout the school year and others employed during summer months. Now, eight of those initial 22 students are employed full time by Reclamation or by contractors on Reclamation-related projects.

ber serves a vital role in the process and gains a deep understanding of the methods and equipment needed to pursue sound science.

By giving students their first science related jobs, the program prepares them for future careers in scientific fields. Employees quickly become experts in everything from operating high-end scientific equipment to boating safety through hours of hands-on experience. They learn taxonomy and ecological anatomy through studying zebra and quagga mussels and receive training on the upkeep and operation of scientific instruments. The student employees also have the opportunity to travel to other states for reservoir analysis.

This program is proving to be invaluable experience for these students; the work is a strong résumé-builder that is putting their careers on the fast track. In addition to working on Reclamation projects, former employees have earned positions at top-tier companies and have later been accepted into graduate and medical schools.

The program creates a premium opportunity for college and post-college-aged workers, but goes beyond merely employing them. It entrusts them with a big responsibility. That trust has led to a unique and powerful job experience that will continue to reward these young scientists throughout their careers. The pilot program created through the Recovery Act continues to ensure that emerging scientists will be part of our efforts to reduce the threat of invasive mussels in the West.

The original program was a pilot funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and has now become a Reclamation success story. Continuing today, the program is a shining example of agency leadership in implementing the Department of the Interior’s initiative to engage and employ young people in conservation efforts.

The scientific field is so vast and full of small tasks that students and recent graduates in applied science fields have a tendency to be placed into low-level, data entry-type positions. Through Reclamation’s mussel sample and analysis program, every team mem-



Susanne Brenimer and Kevin Bloom perform a microscopy test on a water sample looking for invasive quagga and zebra mussel veligers.

DOI identifies Reclamation's 2010 economic contributions

The following is an excerpt from the Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions report dated June 21.

The Bureau of Reclamation's mission is to manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western states west of the Mississippi, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. The Bureau of Reclamation maintains 476 dams and 348 reservoirs, with the capacity to store 245 million acre-feet of water, irrigating about 10 million acres of land, providing water to over 31 million people, generating 40 million megawatt hours of electricity, and providing recreation opportunities. These activities have an economic contribution of \$55 billion, and nearly 416,000 jobs.

The Bureau of Reclamation is a major water supplier as well as the second largest producer of hydropower in the western states and supports the production of a large proportion of the nation's high-value crops.

In addition, Reclamation's facilities provide substantial benefits to recreation and fish and wildlife habitats.

In addition to the economic effects of Reclamation activities identified above, Reclamation facilities reduce the amount of flood damages occurring to property located in the flood plain below these facilities. Although the economic effects of providing protection from flooding are not estimated using expenditure data as are the above activities, Reclamation facilities provide a positive effect to the economy by allowing funds to be spent on alternative activities rather than rebuilding or replacing property damaged or destroyed by flood events. Flood damage reduction values of \$1.2 million per year are estimated on an annual basis for each region based on estimates obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Because flood damage reduction values vary widely from year to year depending on runoff levels, the values are averaged over a number of years to obtain an annual estimate.

Reclamation updates WaterSMART website

The Bureau of Reclamation has updated the WaterSMART website to make information more easily accessible. Information that is now available includes a calendar highlighting funding opportunity timelines, examples of selected applications and frequently asked questions.

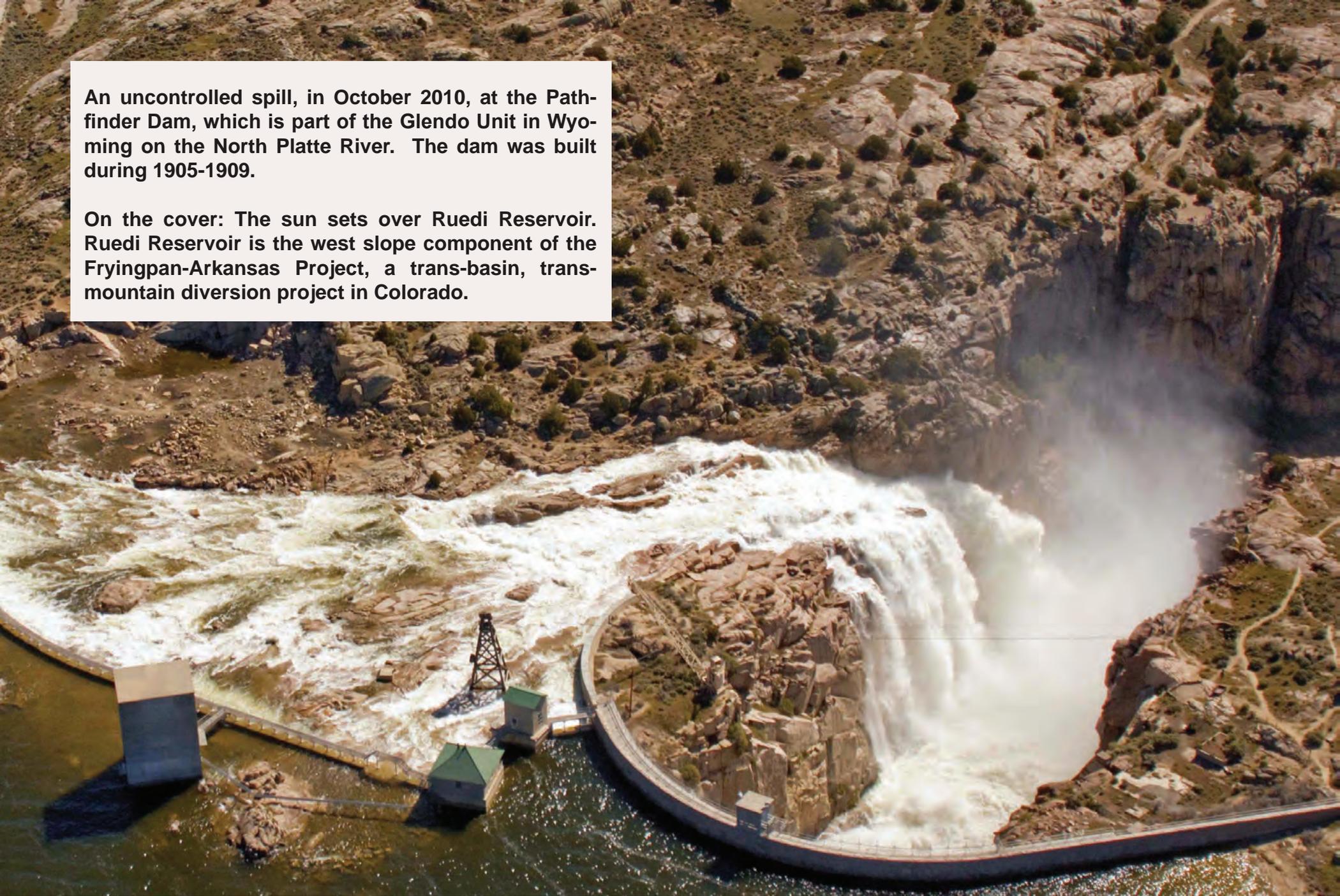
Water is our most precious natural resource and is increasingly stressed by the demands our society places on it. Adequate water supplies are an essential element in human survival, ecosystem health, energy production, and economic sustainability. Significant climate change-related impacts on water supplies are well documented in the scientific literature and scientists are forecasting changes in hydrologic cycles.

To view the new site, please visit www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART.



An uncontrolled spill, in October 2010, at the Pathfinder Dam, which is part of the Glendo Unit in Wyoming on the North Platte River. The dam was built during 1905-1909.

On the cover: The sun sets over Ruedi Reservoir. Ruedi Reservoir is the west slope component of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, a trans-basin, trans-mountain diversion project in Colorado.



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