



Security

Collaboration

Financial
Processes

America's Great
Outdoors

Research and
Development

Mussels

Desalination

Hydropower

NERC

Canal Safety

Information
Technology

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



U.S. Department of the Interior

ETA

Summer 2011
Efficiency
Transparency
Accountability

See-N-Say means keep your eyes open

With the evolution of technology and the increasing availability of information, security has become vital for every Reclamation employee. The responsibility to keep every dam, reservoir and structure safe from suspicious people and activities requires vigilance from

every member of the Reclamation team.

In order to promote the safety and security of America's water infrastructure, Reclamation's Security, Safety and Law Enforcement Office has instituted the See-N-Say Program. The program is an anti-

crime, anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of citizens and Reclamation employees.

"The

See-N-Say Program helps prevent threats to Reclamation's personnel and resources," said David Achterberg, director of Security, Safety and Law Enforcement. "All it takes is a phone call to report those events that seem out of place."

Through education and outreach, the See-N-Say program teaches Reclamation employees and members of the public the typical activities of terror planning. By learning these elements, people will be able to recognize suspicious behavior and report it immediately.

"We can't do it alone," said Achterberg. "You know what items and activities belong around your facilities and your community. You can spot when something seems out of place."

In the event of an emergency, dial 911 immediately. To make a report in the case of a nonemergency, email seensay@usbr.gov or call 1-888-748-7220 for a 24-hour hotline. Employees can file a suspicious activity report via the Reclamation Intranet site at intra.usbr.gov/seensay.html.

For more information, contact John Riley at 303-445-2800 or JCRiley@usbr.gov.

Even though Reclamation facilities have security guards, it is important that all employees and guests keep their eyes open and are aware of anything that is out of the ordinary.





TEAM RECLAMATION

Great partnerships result in positive changes

Reclamation has a long history of collaboration and partnerships. In the past year, progress has been made on several significant challenges through these strong relationships.

Reclamation collaborates with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in multiple ways.

In January, for example, Reclamation and USACE published a new climate change adaptation report entitled *Addressing Climate Change Long-Term Water Resources, Planning and Management*. “This was done, not only as a collaborative effort between the Corps of Engineers and Reclamation, but it was done in complete and total partnership with the western states and water-user organizations -- really identifying the needs that still exist for more research, more information so that we can address our long-term planning needs,” Commissioner Mike Connor said.

1944 Water Treaty with Mexico-Minute 318

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Mexican Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada announced on December 20 the successful completion of an agreement, known as Minute 318 – an addendum to the 1944 U.S.-Mexico treaty – to adjust water deliveries on the Colorado River to the areas of northern Mexico devastated by a powerful earthquake on April 4,

2010.

The two leaders announced a commitment to initiate in 2011 high-priority discussions on a comprehensive long-term agreement between the United States and Mexico on the management of the Colorado River.

“Through this water agreement, the U.S., Mexico and the seven Colorado River Basin states are bringing resources together for our mutual benefit and for the benefit of our neighbors whose irrigation systems and livelihoods have been damaged by the Easter Sunday earthquake,” said Secretary Salazar while in Mexico City to discuss water, conservation and natural resource issues with President Calderon and Mexican government officials.

Lower Colorado

Reclamation and its partners collaborate to sustain Las Vegas Wash

Since its formation in 1999, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) worked diligently to protect, manage and enhance the Las Vegas Wash, a critical element in the overall environmental and wa-

Brig. Gen. John McMahon, left, commander of the North-western Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows Interior Assistant Secretary Anne Castle Lower Granite Dam in Washington. Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers collaborate on dozens of projects annually.

Team, continued on Page 4

Team, continued from Page 4

ter resource challenge facing southern Nevada. Comprised of representatives from Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region and 25 local, state and federal agencies, environmental groups, business owners and concerned citizens, the committee earned accolades as one of DOI's "Partners in Conservation" award winners in 2010. Protecting this valuable water resource is a priority for the community, and LVWCC partners have provided the tools for this dramatic restoration and enhancement process.

LVWCC is working to construct 22 erosion control structures, and more than 27,000 linear feet of shoreline

have been fortified with concrete and rock rip-rap to prevent further channel widening and soil loss.

Pacific Northwest

Upper Columbia Recovery Board Implementation Team receives Partners in Conservation Award

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Implementation Team received a 2010 DOI Partners in Conservation award for its outstanding contributions to salmon recovery in Washington State. It was one of 24 national awards to individuals and organizations, recognizing excellence in achieving natural resource conservation goals in collaboration and partnership with others.

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Implementation Team completed nearly 50 habitat improvement projects in the Upper Columbia River region that opened dozens of miles of stream for salmon spawning and rearing, restored flows to numerous flow-critical reaches, improved habitat along several miles of degraded streams and protected hundreds of acres of riparian habitat critical to salmon and steelhead species listed as threatened or endangered. The projects contributed to meeting habitat improvement and restoration action requirements of the 2010 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion.

Faster system improves financial processes

With older financial systems falling slowly behind, the implementation of a new, faster system has become crucial to the functionality of Reclamation's business processes and those throughout the rest of the Department of the Interior (DOI). In order to replace these systems, Reclamation has initiated a shift to the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS).

In order to streamline and integrate financial and administrative functions across all bureaus within Interior, the FBMS will

eliminate the need for the more than 80 DOI and bureau systems currently in operation.

Aging systems -- some now more than two decades old -- have become costly to maintain and operate for many bureaus. Shifting to the department-wide FBMS will result in a reduction of double data entry in multiple systems and a decrease in manual paper processing as the older systems are retired.

A kick-off workshop for Reclamation's

FBMS was held May 16 and 17. The workshop brought together more than 100 employees responsible for budget, acquisition and other administrative functions from all Reclamation regions to discuss the upcoming FBMS deployment.

Workshops are continuing through the summer and are slated to end September 12. Planning, deployment and system changes are scheduled to continue into January of 2014.

Around Reclamation

Connecting with America's Great Outdoors

In an effort to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda, President Barack Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative in 2010. The vision of AGO is simple: lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people and the protection of our natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans.

In the summer of 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar directed each agency to canvass the nation and solicit comments from

young and old alike about their vision for America's Great Outdoors. In total, 51 listening sessions were conducted throughout the country, with 10,000 participants contributing 105,000 comments. Reclamation participated in several listening sessions; one session, hosted by Commissioner Connor in Albuquerque, N.M., featured Secretary Salazar, Senator Jeff Bingaman and Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Harris Sherman as keynote speakers.

Based on input received during the listening sessions, Secretary Salazar, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson and CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley prepared a report for the President in February. The report identified the primary goals of AGO as:

- 1) Establishing and enhancing great urban parks and community green spaces,**
- 2) Restoring and increasing access to rivers and other water bodies,**
- 3) Conserving large rural landscapes,**
- 4) Increasing protection of, and improving access to, federal lands, and**
- 5) Expanding youth employment opportunities related to AGO.**

The report listed specific recommendations for each agency to implement AGO goals with an emphasis on locally driven initiatives for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors. Recommendations included aligning federal agency programs and funds that support

Commissioner Michael Connor, left, met with student representatives of AmeriCorps and the Youth Conservation Corps in May while on an AGO visit to Oregon.

conservation efforts and increasing the efficiency of federal agency programs related to AGO. Reclamation's response to the report will support the goals of the initiative related to water and related resources including: protecting and renewing rivers, enhancing recreational opportunities, conserving and restoring federal lands and waters, engaging young people in conservation and the great outdoors and goals related to addressing the impacts of climate change.

In the next phase of implementation, Secretary Salazar directed Bureau heads and Assistant Secretaries to visit governors in each state to increase knowledge about the AGO initiative and seek recommendations on state-specific project opportunities.

Commissioner Connor met with governors and stakeholders in New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska and Oregon during a two-week stretch in May. Later this year, the Secretary will list his vision for AGO priority projects, moving the initiative into high gear. This true grassroots effort will lead our nation's vision of our great outdoors well into the future and Reclamation is helping develop the AGO blueprint.



SCIENCE

Policy outlines management of research activities

Reclamation is establishing a policy on the integrity of scientific and scholarly activities it conducts and science and scholarship it uses in decision making. This draft policy was available for public review earlier this summer and will replace the Temporary Release Directives and Standards (CMP TRMR-29) on Scientific Integrity developed in January 2010. The draft policy closely parallels Department of the Interior Policy (305 DM 3), which was effective January 31 and refers to it for the process to handle allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct.

Science is fundamental to Reclamation's mission. Reclamation's mission is to meet the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment, as well as fulfilling its water delivery obligations, water conservation, water recycling and reuse all depend on reliable science.

The benefit of this policy is to establish uniform guidance and responsibilities for Reclamation managers and employees to follow as they conduct and manage scientific activities. The policy aims to: (1) increase awareness of the importance of scientific and scholarly information as a method of discovery to maintain and enhance our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission, program requirements and other federal mandates,

and in establishing credibility and value with the public, both nationally and internationally; (2) assist employees in performing their duties with excellence and professionalism and in avoiding misconduct or the perception of misconduct when performing their duties; and (3) ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that information Reclamation produces through scientific and scholarly activities is reliable, objective, repeatable, transparent and available.

The quality of Reclamation science is exceptional, and Reclamation scientists are recognized as experts in their fields. The scientific and scholarly information considered in Reclamation decision-making must be robust, of the highest quality, and

**Science, continued on
Page 7**

Matthew Mayer takes water samples at Idaho's Deadwood Reservoir.



Hydrology specialist joins Reclamation's staff Houser is new science advisor

On April 11, the Bureau of Reclamation welcomed Dr. Paul Houser as its new Science Advisor.

Houser's attention is focused on scientific integrity, data stewardship, peer review, partnering and communicating on climate change assessments and adaptation, as well as renewable energy projects. Houser's overall goal is to ensure that Reclamation is managing water in the West using the best available science and methods. "I see this as an opportunity to guide Reclamation's development of appropriate science in building strategies and techniques to address water and power issues as we adapt to change," Houser said. "I will be working with a variety of issues including climate change adaptation, advanced

water treatment, invasive species, renewable energy and utilizing peer review while maintaining scientific integrity."

Houser has a bachelor of science and doctorate degree in Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of Arizona. He was employed with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where he served as manager of NASA's Land Surface Hydrology Program and as branch head of the Hydrological Science Branch. He was a Professor of Global Hydrology at George Mason University and formed the Center for Research on Environment and Water where the mission was to quantify and predict water cycle and environmental

consequences of earth system variability and change through focused research investments in observation, modeling and application. He worked at EarthWater Global, where he was responsible for providing satellite-based "local short term statistical information on rainfall, snowpack and glaciers and also worked under the Department of the Interior for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). At USGS, Houser explored surface water quality issues. When asked what drove his interest in working with the Bureau of Reclamation, Houser said, "To have a chance to use science to really make a difference to people."

Houser works out of the Commissioner's office in Washington, D.C. If you have questions for Houser, please contact him at 202-513-0594 or by email at phouser@usbr.gov.

Science, continued from Page 6

the result of as rigorous scientific and scholarly processes as can be achieved. Most importantly, it must be trustworthy. It is essential that Reclamation establish and maintain integrity in its scientific and scholarly activities because information from such activities is a critical factor that informs decision making on public policies.



Dr. Paul Houser, center, receives a tour of the Intertie Project in California by Art Carvajal, lead inspector and Intertie Project Manager Erika Kegel.

Mussels on the move

Early detection needed to stop Quagga and Zebra invasives

As the spread of quagga and zebra mussels continues in the western United States, the early detection of the organisms has become increasingly important to minimize their impact on Reclamation's water and hydropower infrastructure.

The freshwater quagga and zebra mussels are natives of Eurasia and were first transported to North America in the late 1980s in the massive ballasts of freighters. Since their introduction, these creatures have spread quickly throughout the eastern United States, most notably in the Great Lakes. They eventually found their way to the lower Colorado River in 2007. The mussels have the potential to adversely impact Reclamation infrastructure and the operation of its water delivery and hydroelectric power systems and their presence disrupts the native diversity of the water bodies they infest.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Reclamation launched a program to sample and analyze western waters for the presence of invasive mussels. The program provided employment through a private contractor, for 22 young people who were currently enrolled or had recently graduated from college. The hiring effort supported President Obama's Youth Initiative, designed to bring young people into the national workforce and give them a

doorway into future careers.

In 2010, 3,491 water samples were collected from 361 water bodies. Through June of this year, 945 samples from 179 different reservoirs had been collected. This number is expected to increase well above 2010 levels. Also this year, 11 western states will be partners in the program, sharing water samples with Reclamation for testing and greatly expanding the number of reservoirs tested.

Early detection is paramount to Reclamation and local authorities in order to prevent the spread of mussels from affected reservoirs to uninfested reservoirs. Local recreation and resource managers are prioritizing deployment of resources to reduce the spread of mussels, including public education, boat inspections and cleaning stations.

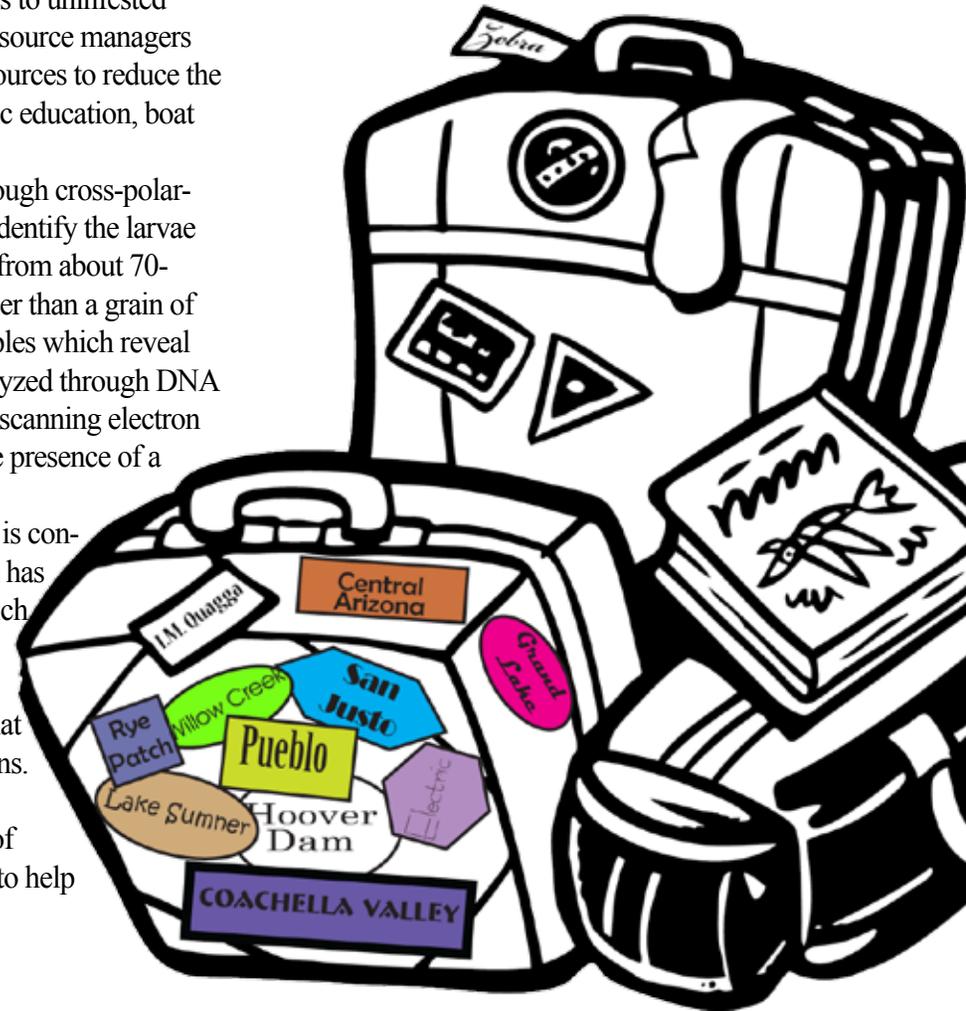
The samples are analyzed through cross-polarized light microscopy in order to identify the larvae of the mussels. These larvae vary from about 70-200 microns in size, slightly smaller than a grain of sand to the naked eye. Water samples which reveal suspect organisms are further analyzed through DNA analysis and photographed with a scanning electron microscope to confirm or deny the presence of a mussel larva.

Once the presence of mussels is confirmed in a reservoir, Reclamation has a three to five year window in which it can implement the necessary protection for its facilities before mussel populations reach levels that impact infrastructure and operations.

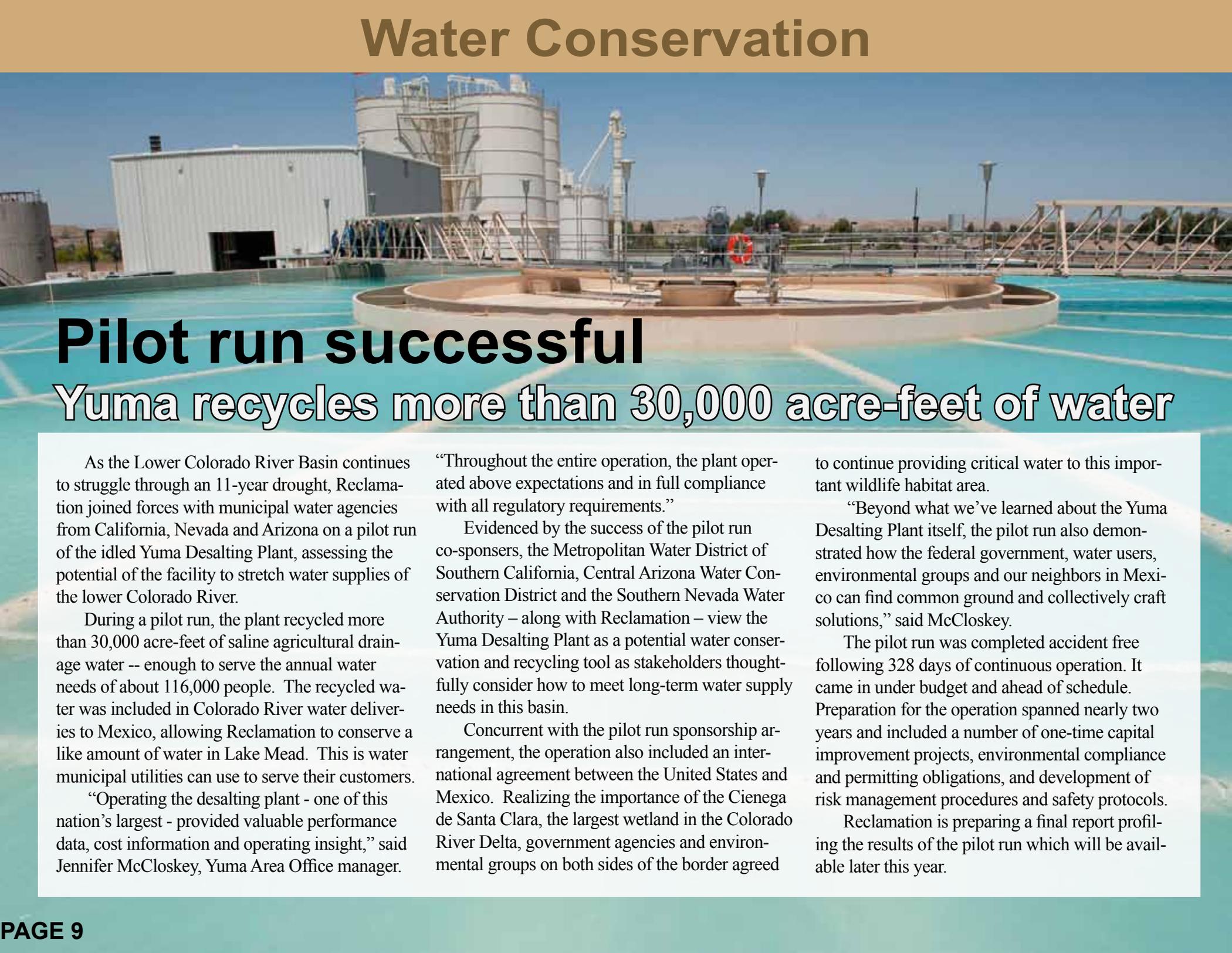
Additional tests of the water quality and phytoplankton levels of each reservoir are also conducted to help

understand conditions that seem to favor mussel establishment. Aquatic ecosystem changes are also detected when mussels invade.

Reclamation is developing and testing several new technologies for protecting water and hydro-power systems from disruption by mussels. Early detection of any infestation will provide time to plan for and deploy protective measures before an infestation becomes critical. In this way, delivery of water and power to the West will be better protected from the adverse effects of invasive mussels.



Water Conservation



Pilot run successful Yuma recycles more than 30,000 acre-feet of water

As the Lower Colorado River Basin continues to struggle through an 11-year drought, Reclamation joined forces with municipal water agencies from California, Nevada and Arizona on a pilot run of the idled Yuma Desalting Plant, assessing the potential of the facility to stretch water supplies of the lower Colorado River.

During a pilot run, the plant recycled more than 30,000 acre-feet of saline agricultural drainage water -- enough to serve the annual water needs of about 116,000 people. The recycled water was included in Colorado River water deliveries to Mexico, allowing Reclamation to conserve a like amount of water in Lake Mead. This is water municipal utilities can use to serve their customers.

“Operating the desalting plant - one of this nation’s largest - provided valuable performance data, cost information and operating insight,” said Jennifer McCloskey, Yuma Area Office manager.

“Throughout the entire operation, the plant operated above expectations and in full compliance with all regulatory requirements.”

Evidenced by the success of the pilot run co-sponsors, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Central Arizona Water Conservation District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority – along with Reclamation – view the Yuma Desalting Plant as a potential water conservation and recycling tool as stakeholders thoughtfully consider how to meet long-term water supply needs in this basin.

Concurrent with the pilot run sponsorship arrangement, the operation also included an international agreement between the United States and Mexico. Realizing the importance of the Cienega de Santa Clara, the largest wetland in the Colorado River Delta, government agencies and environmental groups on both sides of the border agreed

to continue providing critical water to this important wildlife habitat area.

“Beyond what we’ve learned about the Yuma Desalting Plant itself, the pilot run also demonstrated how the federal government, water users, environmental groups and our neighbors in Mexico can find common ground and collectively craft solutions,” said McCloskey.

The pilot run was completed accident free following 328 days of continuous operation. It came in under budget and ahead of schedule. Preparation for the operation spanned nearly two years and included a number of one-time capital improvement projects, environmental compliance and permitting obligations, and development of risk management procedures and safety protocols.

Reclamation is preparing a final report profiling the results of the pilot run which will be available later this year.

You don't have to be **B I G** to be better *Small-hydro is making its mark*

“Small-hydro is definitely an emerging trend for hydropower generation,” said Great Plains Regional Director Mike Ryan. “It’s an intriguing solution to harnessing energy that has been relatively underutilized in the past.”

In March 2009, Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pledging an ongoing commitment to develop sustainable, low-impact, small-hydropower projects at existing facilities.

“As we build our clean energy economy here at home, we must explore and develop new technologies and new strategies for increasing hydropower generation,” said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, commenting about the memorandum.

The agencies also agreed to seek opportunities to develop generation capacity in currently unpowered dams and conduits and facilitate the permitting process for hydroelectric power generation by

Workers lower a new turbine runner shaft into one of Reclamation’s oldest power houses, the Boise River Diversion Dam. Three new 1.5-mw generating units replace the 90-year-old original generators.

the generation of environmentally sustainable, affordable hydropower for our electricity supplies.”

Reclamation currently operates four plants that fall within the definition of low-head hydropower: Roza Diversion Dam in Washington, Minidoka Dam and Boise River Diversion Dam, in Idaho and Nimbus Dam in California.

The primary benefit of small-hydro projects for Reclamation will

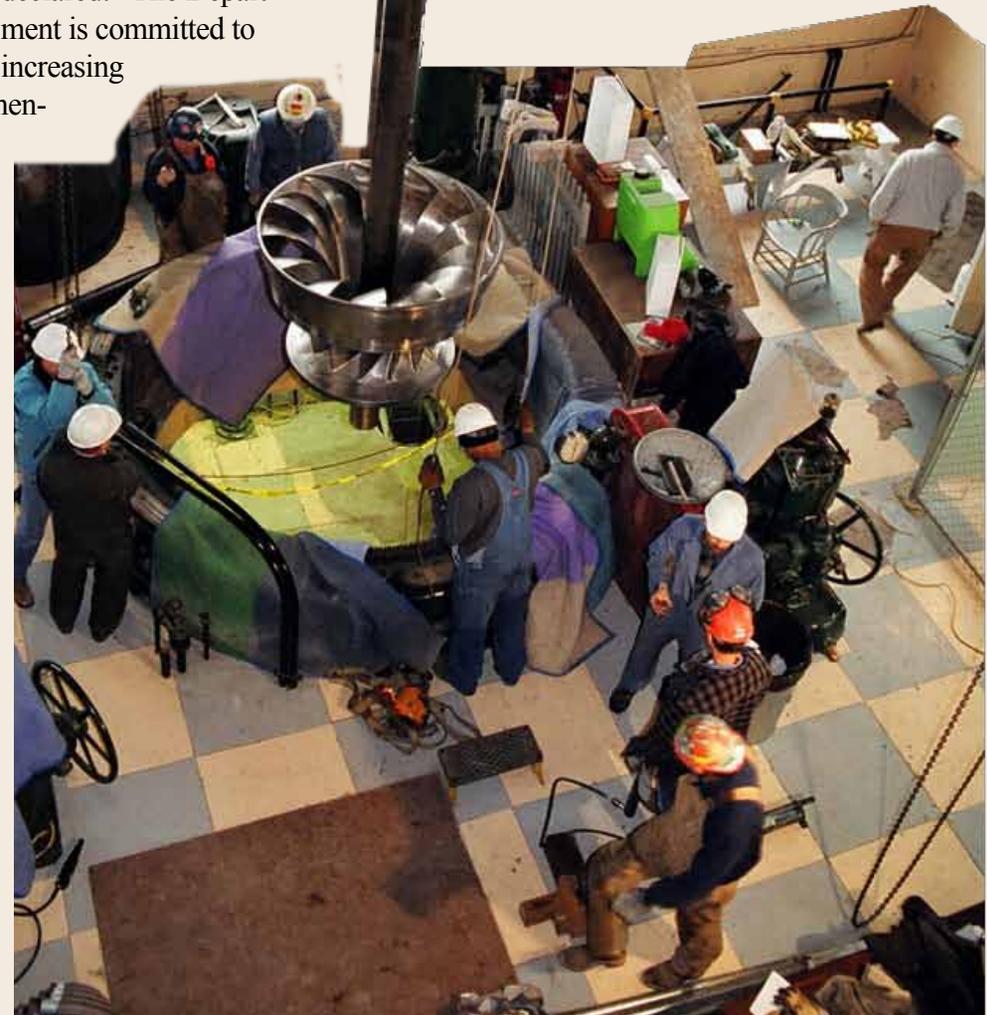
non-federal interests at federal facilities.

Commissioner Connor set the standard for these efforts early in his tenure with Reclamation. Speaking in 2010 before the House Natural Resources Committee, Connor declared: “The Department is committed to increasing

likely come in the form of cost savings for producers.

“By cutting consumption, irrigation districts effectively increase their incomes,” Ryan said. “In agriculture, it is always a struggle against the bottom line – expenses

**Small, continued on
Page 11**



A day in the life of a dam tender

Keeping water in its place

Many may think that life as a dam tender is quite laid back and relaxing, but you would be amazed by the many duties that go unseen by the majority of the public and even Reclamation employees.

Jerry Nelson has been superintendent at Red Willow Reservoir since 1994. Red Willow is an earthfill embankment dam with a structural height of 126 feet, forming a reservoir of 86,630 acre-feet. Located near McCook, Neb., it is one of 15 dams operated by the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office.

Nelson has seen a lot during his time as superintendent and provided ETA a few highlights from the broad scope of his responsibilities.

One of the things taking up much of his time recently has been coping with a facility that is showing its age.

Cracks in the embankment were discovered at Red Willow Dam in October 2009. This means that Red Willow remains in an Emergency Action Plan Response Level 1 as the reservoir has been drawn down to reduce risks related to embankment cracking.

The focus on the condition of Red Willow requires Nelson to take various measurements and readings to ensure the dam remains safe for the public until repair work can be completed.

In addition, since there is a Class A National Weather Station located at Red Willow Dam,

Nelson does a daily operations report to start his day. This includes gathering necessary information to send to the National Weather Service.

Many of the other daily duties are part of the regular maintenance of the facility, including snow removal during the winter and mowing and spraying during the spring, summer and fall.

There is also equipment to be repaired and maintained, and other tasks which can vary in size and complexity -- from mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and welding work, depending on the day.

Nelson is responsible for both the inside and outside maintenance of the buildings. He is part of a work crew that travels to any of the other 14 dam sites in the area and works on necessary major repairs at those locations.

He willingly drops what he can to help fellow employees in order to make sure that all the dams are maintained safely and can be enjoyed by all.

Nelson also participates in the technical surveys required at each dam site throughout the year – spotting potential problems and preventing them from becoming even bigger issues in the future.

As you can see, life as a dam tender is not as laid back and relaxing as one may have thought.

Nelson summed it up nicely when he said, “This job includes anything and everything – just what I like!”

Small, continued from Page 10

versus income, and every cent counts.

“Micro and small-hydro probably don’t offer us a home run solution for renewable energy,” Ryan said. “But these projects definitely have a place in the larger solution for our nation’s energy strategy.”

Although not technically considered a small-hydro project, construction began in May 2010 on two small-hydroelectric projects on the Sun River Project in Montana. The Upper and Lower Turnbull Hydro projects will have a combined energy output of approximately 13 megawatts.

This is a collaborative project for Reclamation, and includes representatives from the Sun River Watershed Group, Greenfield Irrigation District, Fort Shaw Irrigation District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks as well as Montana State University’s Extension Service and many individual land owners.

Reclamation’s leadership is convinced; small-hydro has proven worthy of further research and may prove valuable in the future.

“The technology exists,” said Ryan. “It’s a matter of seeing if the capital investment behind that technology is strong enough to support not only the capital, but also the delivery and sustainability side of things.”

Reclamation continues to deliver reliable electric generation

POWER UP

The Bureau of Reclamation is the second largest provider of hydropower in the United States and has a responsibility to the citizens of the West to provide electricity in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.

In 2005, in an effort to ensure consistency, the federal government directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to appoint an organization to develop and enforce mandatory electric reliability standards applicable to owners, users and operations of the bulk electric system. The mandatory reliability standards relate to activities performed by owners and operators of the electrical system that impact its reliability. These include maintenance of

equipment, operations and cyber and physical security.

FERC commissioned the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, in response to this directive.

NERC is divided into eight regions. One of the eight is the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) region where all of Reclamation's power facilities are located.

Reclamation participates with NERC on a variety of activities. Reclamation is represented on the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) drafting team which is revising CIP standards. Reclamation regularly participates in the NERC process of reviewing, commenting on and voting on new and revised standards. Currently, 28 of Reclamation's 82 hydropower

plants, meet NERC's criteria as bulk electric system elements, as do seven Reclamation switchyards.

"Reclamation has always taken seriously our responsibility to deliver reliable electric generation to our customers," Kerry McCalman, manager, Reclamation's power resource office, said. "Reclamation's hydropower employees take great pride in ensuring our generators are available and ready when called upon to deliver energy."

Under NERC, Reclamation is required to comply with the nine CIP reliability standards. Reclamation, like many utilities, has developed mitigation plans to become compliant with the standards and is currently working toward that goal. "Reclamation is fully compliant with one of the standards, CIP-001,

and has submitted to WECC mitigation plans to achieve compliance with the eight remaining standards," McCalman said.

In addition to being regulated by NERC, Reclamation supports the reliability of the bulk electric system, especially in the West, by providing reliable hydroelectric facilities that support the electric grid. Reclamation is the largest hydropower producer on the Western Grid and therefore provides critical voltage and frequency support to the grid.

"Through their efforts and our continued involvement with the Federal Power Marketing Administrations, our federal power customers, NERC and WECC, Reclamation will continue to provide reliable low cost energy to the nation's grid," McCalman said.

Workers extract the old 2000-ton rotor and carefully move it to the south end of the Grand Coulee 3rd powerplant in Washington.



CANAL SAFETY

Yuma Area Office educates children on dangers of fast water

To bolster children's awareness about the perils of entering dangerous bodies of water such as the All-American Canal in the Southwest, Yuma Area Office – with many of its partners in the Canal Safety Awareness Consortium – participated in the Children's Health Fair at Rockwood Park in Calexico, Calif. The April 30 event was sponsored by the Consulate of Mexico and Neighborhood House of Calexico and attracted approximately 500 children and parents from the Calexico and El Centro, Calif. communities.

Featured at the Children's Health Fair were free or low-cost health and dental checkups, discussions on diet and healthy eating and family planning services and preventative medicine

screening services – all provided to low-income parents, newborns, infants and children less than 12 years of age.

To get children interested in canal and swimmer safety, Reclamation staged an appearance at the event by Otto Otter – the agency's water safety mascot. Otto danced and mingled with many of the children attending the event, got his blood pressure checked and handed out coloring books emphasizing that children should only swim in safe and supervised areas that are designated for swimming.

Formed by a group of federal, state and border organizations in 2010, the Canal Safety Awareness Consortium focuses on educating and

warning children and adults about the dangers of swimming in the All-American Canal and other dangerous bodies of water. Through collaborative outreach efforts and educational initiatives, the consortium is attempting to change the attitude of undocumented migrants about the risks of attempting to cross the canal to enter the United States from Mexico and is focused on reducing and preventing the chance of drowning.

Consortium members include the Reclamation, U.S. Border Patrol – El Centro and Yuma Sectors, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Imperial Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority, and the Consulate of Mexico.

DOI program will transform IT processes

Reclamation's Information Technology group operates with a continuing commitment to improve efficiency while also providing services to employees. With the implementation of the new IT transformation underway across the Department of the Interior (DOI), Reclamation's Chief Information Office will do its part to maximize services and save on costs.

Signed by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on December 14, Secretarial Order 3309 aligns all DOI IT infrastructure and compliance functions under a single chief information officer.

The goals of the IT transformation are to modernize mission support using IT as a tool, building upon or improving the delivery of IT services to employees and lowering IT costs to DOI by applying a new business model.

A high-level plan for IT transformation was delivered to the Secretary in mid-June. Detailed implementation plans for IT services will be provided over the next three to six months.

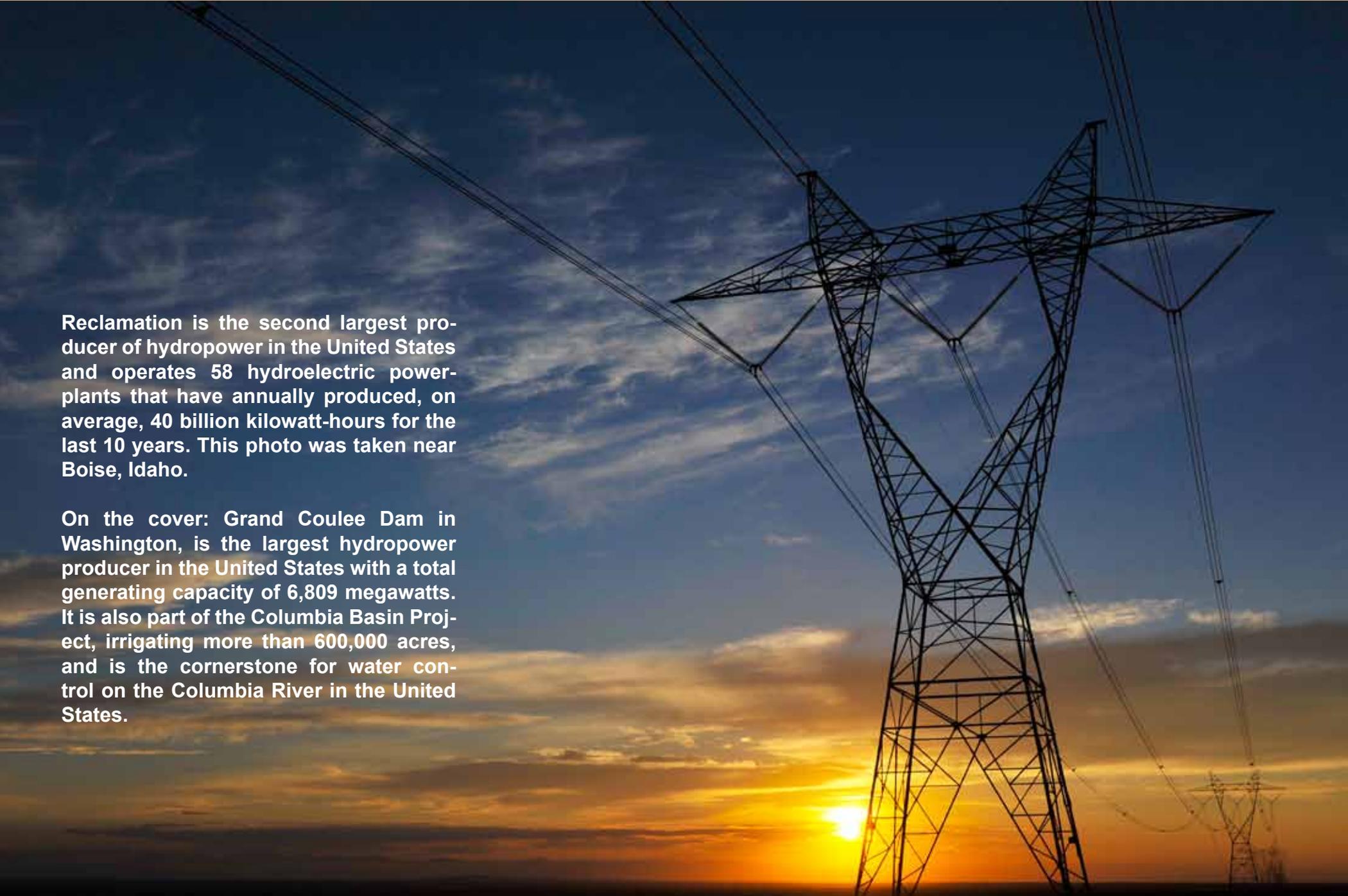
This self-funded effort is projected to save DOI \$100 million each year from 2016 to 2020, for a cumulative total of \$500 million reduction in IT costs.

In the initial phase, savings will be redirected to

support consolidation efforts so that the project can remain self-funded with no net increase to the IT budget. Additionally, cost savings will be funneled back to investments and services that help bureaus and offices support mission functions.

Full implementation of the IT transformation is expected to take from three to five years. This process will allow the Chief Information Office to continue its commitment to transparency, performance measurement and mission-driven services.

Questions concerning the IT transformation should be directed to IT_Transformation@doi.gov or follow on Twitter: [@DOI_IT_Leaders](https://twitter.com/DOI_IT_Leaders).



Reclamation is the second largest producer of hydropower in the United States and operates 58 hydroelectric powerplants that have annually produced, on average, 40 billion kilowatt-hours for the last 10 years. This photo was taken near Boise, Idaho.

On the cover: Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, is the largest hydropower producer in the United States with a total generating capacity of 6,809 megawatts. It is also part of the Columbia Basin Project, irrigating more than 600,000 acres, and is the cornerstone for water control on the Columbia River in the United States.

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For questions or comments concerning ETA, please contact ETA@usbr.gov or call 202-513-0568.

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