

From
the
Commissioner

M4E
Update

Hydropower

Water
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Youth

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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Spring 2011

ETA Efficiency
Transparency
Accountability

Around Reclamation

Connor: *Reclamation* aiming for certainty

In 2011, Reclamation's efforts are centered on a fairly simple concept: We are trying to promote certainty and sustainability with respect to the use of water resources.

When I talk about certainty and sustainability I mean: We want to secure long-term access to water for all water users; we want to make progress in environmental restoration as well as limiting conflicts associated with historic water uses, and we want to maintain our ability to serve power users for the long term.

If we do those things, both Reclamation and its many partners will be successful.

So, how are we promoting certainty and sustainability? Here are just a few of the programs and activities that are part of our everyday operations.

First I view

the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) as being a great success story for Reclamation.

This unprecedented influx of resources (\$950 million – equivalent to Reclamation's entire annual budget) has presented an enormous opportunity and a tremendous challenge. We took on the responsibility of managing Recovery Act funding requirements on top of the typical activity we had in 2009 and 2010. We identified achievable projects that would best support the intended purpose of the Recovery Act, which was to immediately inject money into the economy. Not only did we do our part to create jobs and spur incidental economic activity, but we also took advantage of the opportunity to address long-term issues in the water policy area.

So, the good news is, we did what we were directed to do by statute and we reached our goal of obligating our Recovery Act dollars by the end of fiscal year 2010. In the process, we took care of many long-standing needs which will yield benefits for years to come.

Next, is WaterSMART -- another success story in the making. In February of last year, Secretary Salazar signed a secretarial order which established the WaterSMART Program. It is our framework for a comprehensive effort to promote conservation, efficiency, water markets, technology development and an overall better understanding of our water resources. Our Recovery Act investments and WaterSMART are just two examples of how our work propels us forward into the 21st century – building on the many achievements in our 109-year history.

The 75th Anniversary of Hoover Dam this past September helped put that evolution into focus for many of us.

It was awe-inspiring to stand atop that mighty structure and think about the sacrifices made to construct it, but also to think about how the mission of Reclamation has changed over the years.

One of the continuing challenges for Reclamation's leadership is to stay ahead of the times. We must look to the future and be prepared for whatever Mother Nature and a changing population might throw at us.

Every day we learn something new. We better understand how to live in our environment and not encroach on its well being. We learn better how to work with and assist our neighbors.

In 2004, Reclamation requested a comprehensive evaluation by the National Academy of Sciences. From this report, Reclamation created the Managing for Excellence Action Plan (M4E).

This plan resulted in dozens of teams meeting to review processes and define efficient and transparent ways to do business. A part of the M4E determination was that Reclamation should be as transparent as possible with our business practices. I embrace this philosophy.

This newsletter, aptly named ETA for Efficiency, Transparency and Accountability, will be published electronically on a quarterly basis. Through ETA, we will highlight projects and stories across Reclamation that tie into Secretary Salazar's priorities for the Department of the Interior. With that in mind, we are going to present articles under the subjects of clean energy, climate change, water conservation, youth, environmental education, rural water, partnerships, collaboration, research and development.

We look forward to hearing from you. Let us know what you want to hear about. Reclamation's successes are the results of collaboration.



Commissioner
Michael L. Connor

Reclamation is managing for excellence

We are often asked about the progress of the Managing for Excellence (M4E) initiative. Today's reality is that M4E is now firmly woven into the DNA of the modern Bureau of Reclamation. In partnership between its employees, customers and stakeholders, Reclamation invested significant effort instigating the 2004 M4E Action Plan – ensuring that recommendations to improve our business practices were fully implemented.

As a result of the M4E effort, Reclamation adopted a new business model to provide agency-

wide processes and procedures for managing and obtaining engineering and other technical services in collaboration with customers, and ensuring the maintenance of the technical capability necessary to accomplish Reclamation's mission.

Implementation of the new business model is overseen by a select team, the Coordination and Oversight Group (COG), with representatives from each appropriate area of the organization. Performance measures are being established for the working business model. One feature of the performance measurement process is the creation

of a software system to provide project management tools for service provider offices and to allow the collection of key measurement data. Development of the software is underway.

The health of Reclamation's technical capabilities is another key performance measurement overseen by the COG. The COG's Technical Capability Report, as well as additional information on the COG is at <http://www.usbr.gov/bp/>.

The COG will soon finalize its first full annual report which will assess our performance for Fiscal Year 2010.

Hydropower report announces clean energy improvements

Hydropower, as well as all types of clean energy, is a priority to the Department of the Interior.

On March 31, Secretary Salazar released the results of an internal study that shows the department could generate up to one million megawatt hours of electricity annually and create jobs by adding hydropower capacity at 70 of its existing facilities.

The report, Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities, estimates that the additional hydropower capabilities could create enough clean, renewable energy to annually power more than 85,000 households. Based on industry estimates for job potential associated with the kind of hydropower additions identified in this report, approximately 1,200 jobs could be created, including jobs in administration, manufacturing, construction, engineering, operations and maintenance.

The Bureau of Reclamation prepared the report

as part of President Obama's initiative to develop a comprehensive renewable energy portfolio and to meet 80 percent of our energy needs with clean sources by 2035.

"Although this report is not a feasibility analysis, it provides information that allows Interior and developers to prioritize investments in a more detailed analysis that focuses on sites demonstrating reasonable potential for being economically, financially and environmentally viable," Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor said.

"Adding hydropower capability at existing Reclamation facilities is a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way to build our clean energy economy," said Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle. "We can increase our renewable hydropower output without building new dams. This report highlights the exciting potential

for substantial hydropower development and related jobs at existing facilities throughout the western United States."

On April 5, Interior, teaming with the Department of Energy, announced \$26.6 million for research and development projects to advance hydropower technology, including pumped storage hydropower.

"Supporting advanced, environmentally friendly hydropower will help bring our nation closer to reaching the Administration's goal of meeting 80 percent of our energy needs with clean sources by 2035," said Secretary Salazar. "These funding opportunities will help unlock innovative approaches to hydropower development that emphasize sustainable, clean power generation while reducing environmental impacts."

WaterSMART

Conservation key to Secretarial initiative, keeps water flowing

With an understanding of the need for a more cohesive and coherent approach to water management, Secretary Salazar issued a Secretarial Order on Feb. 22, 2010. The order established a new water sustainability strategy for the United States, including identifying adaptive measures needed to address water issues related to a changing climate and future demands.

The WaterSMART Secretarial Order has several parts, all of which are focused on improving water conservation and helping water and resource managers make wise decisions about water use, including:

- WaterSMART Grants – provide cost-shared funding for water and energy efficiency grants; system optimization review grants; advanced water treatment and pilot and demonstration grants; and grants to develop climate analysis tools.
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives – partnerships of governmental and non-governmental entities, bringing together science and resource management to inform climate adaptation strategies to address climate change and other stressors within an ecological region.
- Basin Studies – providing available funding for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins where

imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

- Title XVI (Water Reclamation and Reuse) – identifies and investigates opportunities to reclaim

and reuse wastewaters and naturally impaired ground and surface water.

- Cooperative Watershed Management – a newly established grant program supporting the formation and development of locally-led watershed groups and facilitating the development of multi-stakeholder watershed management projects.
- The new WaterSMART Clearinghouse is a website and resource to help coordinate and integrate water conservation and sustainable water strategies. The site brings stakeholders together to identify best practices in water conservation, incentives, and most cost-effective technologies. Visit the WaterSMART Clearinghouse at www.doi.gov/watersmart.

SECURE Water Act report released

WaterSMART is a key tool the Department of the Interior can use to combat the challenges of climate change.

Some of these challenges were outlined in a report to Congress released by Secretary Ken Salazar on April 25. The report, which responds to requirements under the SECURE Water Act of 2009, assesses climate change risks and how these risks could impact water operations, hydropower, flood control, and fish and wildlife in the western United States.

It represents the first consistent and coordinated assessment of risks to future water supplies across eight major Reclamation river basins, including the Colorado, Rio Grande and Missouri river basins.

Reclamation is already working with

stakeholders across the West to achieve a sustainable water strategy to meet our nation's water needs. Through the WaterSMART Basin Studies Program, Reclamation is developing and evaluating options for meeting future water demands in river basins where water supply and demand imbalances exist or are projected. In addition, Reclamation continues to work with water users across the West to implement conservation and recycling measures and promote the efficient use of finite water resources.

The SECURE Water Act Report, with fact sheets highlighting climate challenges and impacts in the eight western river basins, is available online at www.usbr.gov/climate.

DAM RIGHT!

Infrastructure priorities funded across Regions

Through Reclamation's continued emphasis on preventive maintenance and regular condition assessments – field inspections and reviews – the service life of many Reclamation assets and facilities have been extended. Despite this preventive work, as Reclamation assets and facilities age they will require an increased amount of maintenance.

Descriptions of infrastructure projects across the Regions include:

Great Plains

Angostura Unit bank stabilization and road repairs project

The Recovery Act-funded Angostura Unit, Bank Stabilization and Road Repairs project in South Dakota consists of construction of a mile-long connecting road between the north and south units of a recreation area, including approximately 1,300 linear-feet of riprap for bank stabilization.

Park users will have easy access to all park facilities and this improved access will provide easier emergency response times. Improved visitation will also help promote awareness of Angostura wildlife and their habitat.

Shep's Canyon West Side Road Rehabilitation, part of the Recovery Act-funded Angostura

Unit, includes the rehabilitation of approximately 3 miles of road as well as the repair and expansion of existing parking areas.

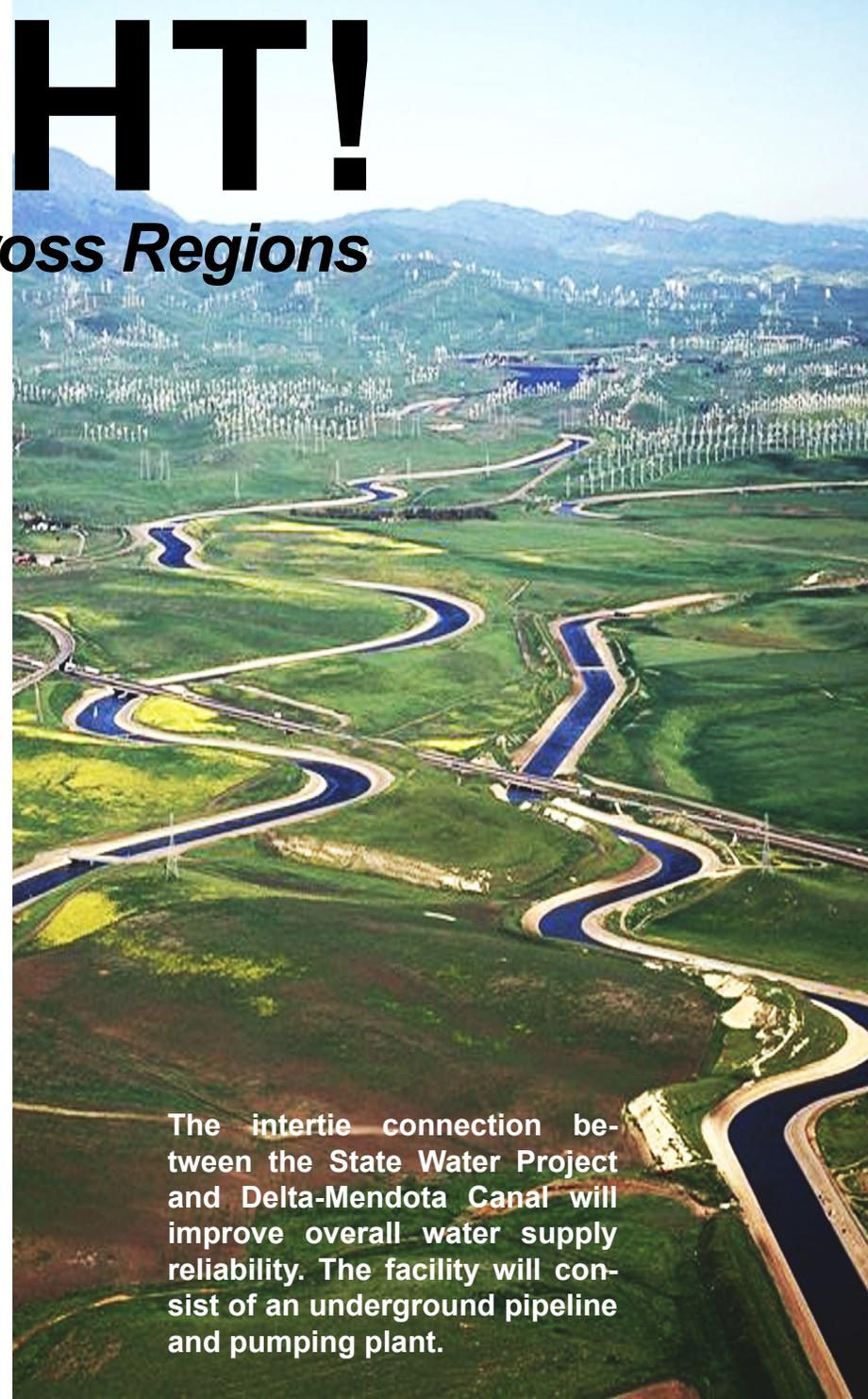
Reclamation is creating a one-acre wetland downstream of the new road between the reservoir, road and other adjacent lands, meeting mitigation requirements.

Fresh coat for Flatiron Penstocks

Flatiron Penstocks is located 50 miles northwest of Denver. It is an integral part of the Colorado-Big Thompson water diversion and delivery project, making possible the generation of hydroelectric power as well as supplemental water to 840,000 people in northeastern Colorado.

Protective coating on the inside and outside of the pipes is more than 50 years old and is in

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The intertie connection between the State Water Project and Delta-Mendota Canal will improve overall water supply reliability. The facility will consist of an underground pipeline and pumping plant.

Infrastructure

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need of replacement. Recovery Act funds are being used to recoat the pipeline, including removing the old paint from the exterior and interior of the pipes and safely disposing of it. The existing coating is lead-based and the packing associated with the pipes may contain asbestos. The recoating work also includes installing ultrasonic flow meters on the pipes to improve water accounting and power plant efficiency.

Some of the project benefits include: reducing long-term operational costs by using a more efficient and temperature resistant paint product, maintaining structural integrity, increasing reliability and extending service life an additional

50 years. The project is expected to provide 94.5 megawatts of power at the Flatiron Hydroelectric Plant and improve

water accountability and power plant efficiencies.

Mid-Pacific

Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Project

Reclamation owns the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) and contracts with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for its operations and maintenance. The Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Project (Intertie) is a partnership between Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The Western Area Power Administration also is working to construct power lines for the project. Reclamation awarded a construction contract to build the Intertie in July. Construction began in late October and is scheduled to be completed in early 2012.

The purpose of the project is to provide a connection with the state and federal south-of-Delta conveyance

facilities to alleviate capacity constraints in the DMC and provide flexibility in the Central Valley Project. South-of-Delta water contractors will receive a higher level of water supply reliability.

Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) provides for gravity diversion of irrigation water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals. With the gates in operation, the RBDD blocks passage of salmonid species and green sturgeon, and in order to protect fish, diversions are limited to less than three months per year.

Construction of a screened pumping plant, initiated last April, will improve fish passage conditions by allowing the gates to be raised permanently, while ensuring continued water delivery to 150,000 acres of high-value cropland. The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2012.

Total project cost is approximately \$220 million, and is partially funded (\$116 million) under the Recovery Act.

The Recovery Act-funded Angostura Unit, Bank Stabilization and Road Repairs project in South Dakota will provide park users access to facilities and improve awareness of Angostura wildlife and its habitat.

The future is now *Reclamation engages youth*

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar established the Office of Youth in Natural Resources on June 8, 2009. Its purpose is to coordinate youth initiatives, including the creation of a 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), within the bureaus at the Department.

Reclamation has implemented this initiative by partnering with The Corps Network (TCN) and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) via cooperative agreements.

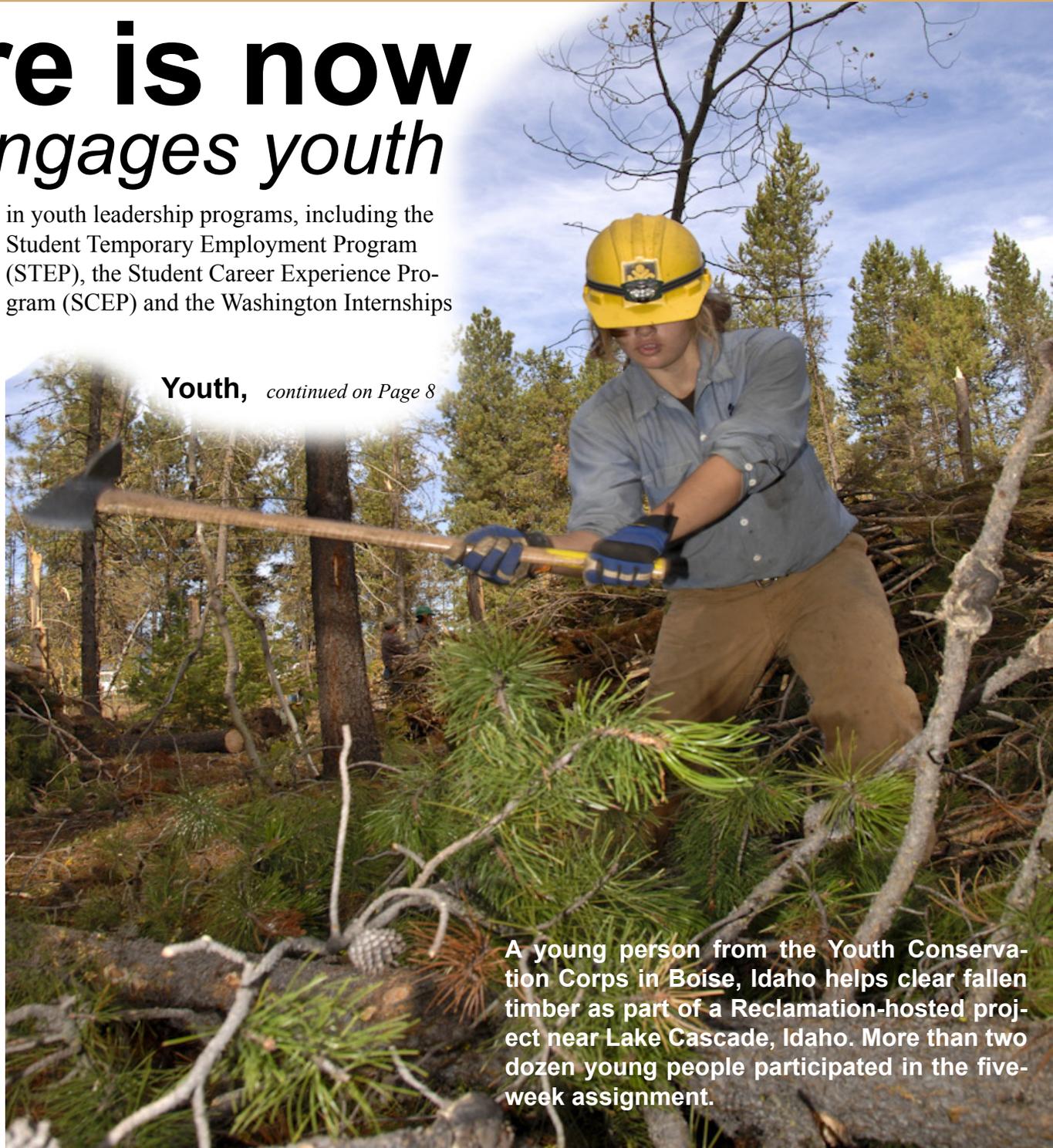
TCN and SCA will assist Reclamation in reaching the goal of a 40 percent increase in hiring of young people, 16-25, by September. The Youth Conservation Program at Reclamation involves youth in cultural and natural resource conservation related to Reclamation projects and promotes and stimulates public purposes such as education, job training, developing responsible citizens, and increasing community involvement.

The employment effort complements Reclamation's ongoing emphasis to educate and engage youth across all areas of our operations. Additionally, we introduce the wonders of our treasured landscapes to disadvantaged and disabled youth through our long-term partnership with the Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T.) for Kids Foundation.

Reclamation takes pride in participating

in youth leadership programs, including the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and the Washington Internships

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A young person from the Youth Conservation Corps in Boise, Idaho helps clear fallen timber as part of a Reclamation-hosted project near Lake Cascade, Idaho. More than two dozen young people participated in the five-week assignment.

Youth and Environmental Education

Youth, *continued from Page 7*

for Native Students (WINS) program. These programs are geared to those students who are looking to gain work experience while still in school.

SCEP provides work experience which is directly related to the student's academic program and career goals. Students in SCEP may be noncompetitively converted to term, career or career-conditional appointments following completion of their academic and work experience requirements. "When I first heard about the SCEP program and that there was an opening for which I was qualified, I jumped on the opportunity to apply," said Lauren Meredith, public affairs student trainee with the Commissioner's Office in Denver.

The program benefits both agencies and students. Students are able to "try on" a federal job and decide if it is a "good fit" for their lifestyle. Agencies can bring well-educated graduates into their workforce while,

at the same time, give their managers the opportunity to evaluate the student's performance in real-work situations. Students in SCEP gain exposure to public service while enhancing their educational goals and shaping their career choices. "I definitely would consider a permanent position if I were so lucky to be offered one! Having seen my parents work government jobs all of my life, I understand that working for the

government means you are working for America. And it provides a positive work environment, and the possibility of an exciting and challenging career," Meredith said.

WINS offers students of sovereign American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian nations the opportunity to build leadership skills while living, studying and interning in Washington, D.C. This program offers qualified students full scholarships funded by American University and sponsoring organizations. Participating students will gain professional work experience with a federal agency or pri-

vate firm, and take courses focusing on Native American public policy concerns. This program is not a federal program such as STEP and SCEP.

Cory Barker, an intern in Reclamation's Washington office, is a WINS participant and a proud member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. "During my sophomore year of college, I was seeking an educational opportunity for the summer and an academic advisor provided me with an announcement of the program," Barker said. Barker grew up on the Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He spent four years in Lawrence, Kansas studying business at Haskell Indian Nations University. "This internship has definitely opened up many avenues for my career. This working experience day-in and day-out has tested my educational theory, provided a sense of confidence in the work place and created a channel for networking with the right people," Barker continued.

Becky Fulkerson, policy analyst and Reclamation's representative on the Department's Youth Task Force believes that there is a future for youth programs. "We will continue to engage bright young people to carry out Reclamation's mission," said Fulkerson. In Reclamation's Washington office, from 2000 to present, 11 students have participated in SCEP and 34 students participated in STEP.

For more information about participating in youth programs at Reclamation, contact Fulkerson at (202) 513-0638 or e-mail her at bfulkerson@usbr.gov.



LC Regional Office hosts some local students for Job Shadow Day. Students partnered with various Reclamation employees to learn about different career paths.

H₂O

Getting water to where it is needed

The Rural Water Supply Program was authorized by Title I of Public Law 109-451, the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (Act). This program enables Reclamation to

assist rural communities in the western United States with planning and designing of projects to develop and deliver potable water supplies.

Under the program, states (or a political subdivision of a state), Indian tribes and entities

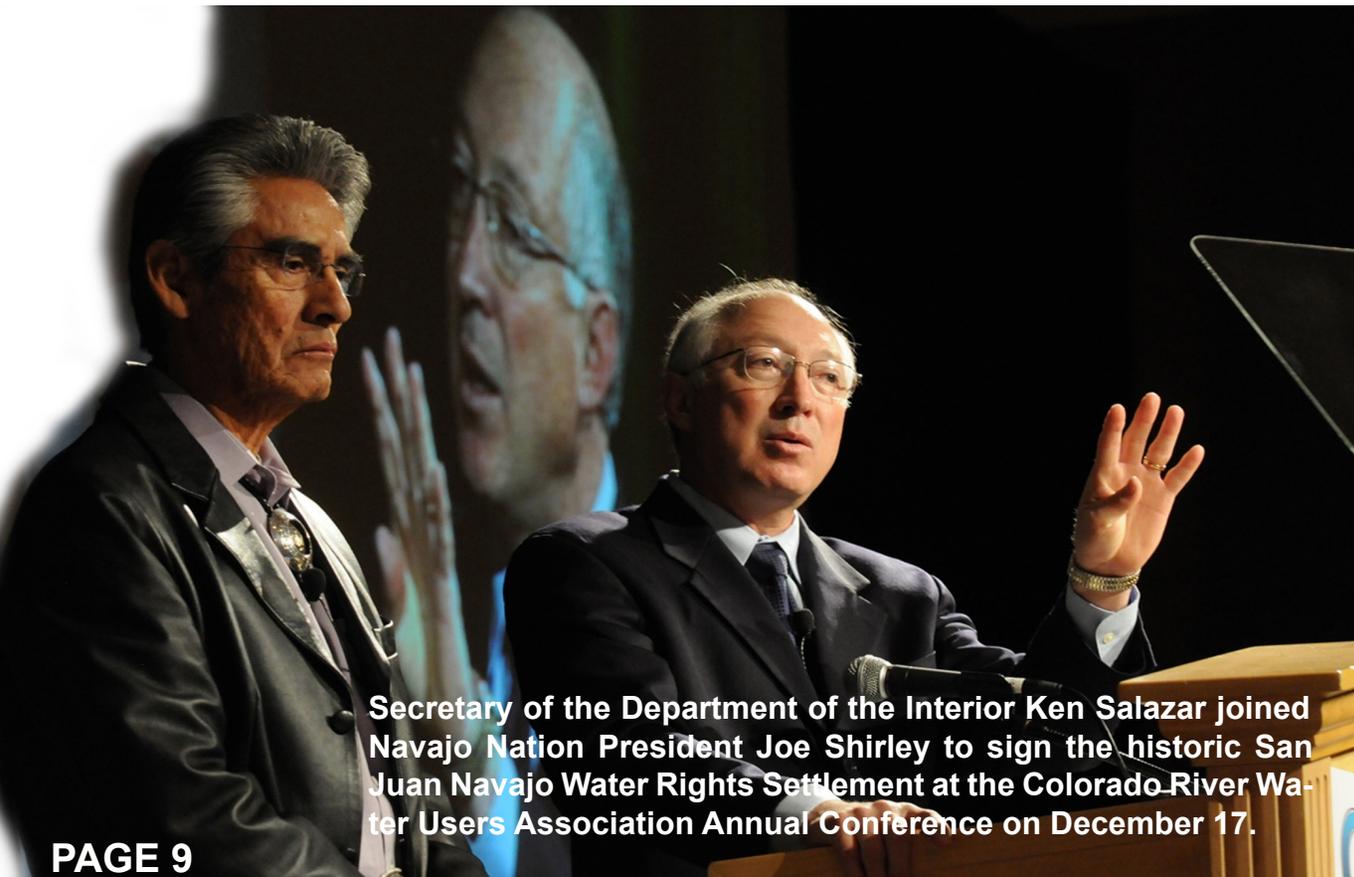
created under state law with water management authority can seek financial and technical assistance for appraisal investigations and feasibility studies to explore potable water supply needs and options for addressing those needs.

While the Act provides Reclamation the authority to undertake appraisal investigations and feasibility studies, it does not provide authority to construct water delivery facilities recommended for development under the Program. Construction of a project requires a specific Act of Congress.

Four Indian Water Rights Settlements

On December 8, President Obama signed into law H.R. 4783, which became Public Law 111-291 (Act). The Act authorizes four Indian water rights settlements for the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) in Arizona, the Crow Tribe in Montana, the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico and one that resolves the Aamodt litigation in New Mexico. The federal contribution for these four settlements totals more than \$1 billion.

The WMAT settlement includes a new rural water system, constructed by Reclamation, to supply drinking water for the Tribe. The system will consist principally of a dam, storage reservoir, treatment plant, water delivery pipeline and distribution facilities. The system will be con-



Secretary of the Department of the Interior Ken Salazar joined Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley to sign the historic San Juan Navajo Water Rights Settlement at the Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference on December 17.

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Rural Water

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veyed to the Tribe after predetermined conditions are met, and the Tribe will thereafter be responsible for the operations, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) of the system. The settlement also includes a tribal allocation of Central Arizona Project water, which may be leased to cities in the Phoenix area.

The Crow settlement provides for two major infrastructure projects, both the responsibility of Reclamation. One is construction of a new municipal, rural and industrial water (MR&I) system, which will deliver potable water to the reservation. The other is the rehabilitation of the Crow Irrigation Project. After completion, the MR&I system will be conveyed by the Department to the Tribe, who will be responsible for OM&R.

The Taos settlement ratifies a Recovery Act arrangement under which the Pueblo will allow non-tribal water uses to continue in exchange for funds to improve the Pueblo's water infrastructure and the ability to acquire state based water rights from willing sellers. It also provides for a fund, to be managed by Reclamation, to make grants to non-tribal entities for mutual-benefit projects that will minimize adverse impacts on the Pueblo's water resources.

The Aamodt settlement requires Reclamation to construct a regional water system for the benefit of the Pueblos of Tesuque, Nambe, Pojoaque

and San Ildefonso and other Santa Fe County users in the Pojoaque River Basin. Upon completion, the system will be conveyed to the pueblos, counties and the Regional Water Authority. After conveyance, system OM&R will not be a federal responsibility.

Great Plains

North Central Montana Regional Water System Project

Senator Jon Tester, Congressman Denny Rehberg and Deputy Assistant Secretary John Tubbs were among those who gathered August

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Drinking water is transported from Lake Elwell for members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana.

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20 to witness the first water to flow through the pipes of the Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System Project.

The water project was initiated through the Chippewa Cree Tribe's water contract negotiated with the federal government. It was agreed the Tribe could use water from Lake Elwell to provide drinking water to its members. Since the pipeline would cross multiple water districts - many of which were having problems keeping up with federal drinking water requirements - it was decided that expanding the system would provide necessary water to other parts of the region.

Over the years, small parts of the system have been completed. A \$20 million appropriation provided by the Recovery Act is being used for construction work including laying the core line to Tiber Dam and work on the system's structures.

Lower Brule Rural Water System Completes Project

Shoreline erosion at the Intake Pumphouse, located approximately 100 feet from the Lake Sharp shoreline, was a concern for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe (LBST) for several years.

By April 2009, the old Intake Pumphouse was on the verge of falling into the lake due to shoreline erosion. It became apparent to the Lower Brule Rural Water System (LBRWS) that if nothing was done, eventually the new Intake Pumphouse would be in jeopardy.

The LBST proposed that Reclamation undertake an Intake Pumphouse Shoreline Erosion Pro-

tection Project and the Recovery Act provided the LBST a key opportunity for funding. The shore protection effort was deemed an eligible Recovery Act project. It was approved and awarded \$921,000 in funding in October 2009. The onsite work was completed in September 2010.

Zap Water Treatment Plant Ceremony

A ceremony was held on November 23 at the construction site for the Zap Water Treatment Plant located approximately 7 miles northwest of Zap, N.D. Building the plant marks the beginning of the last stage of construction of the Southwest Pipeline project (SWPP) located in southwestern North Dakota.

A portion of this project is funded through the Recovery Act including \$6.7 million for the water treatment plant construction and \$4.28 million for other costs associated with the project, including the water treatment plant membrane procurement and engineering costs.

The project has been under construction since 1986. The SWPP will provide water service to 33 cities and more than 4,500 rural water service connections. SWPP is subdivided into 19 service areas. It is anticipated it will take between ten to fourteen years to complete construction of all the features associated with this service area.

Upper Colorado

Navajo – San Juan Water Right Settlement agreement

The historic Navajo – San Juan Water Rights Settlement was signed in December. This settlement is expected to bring a \$1 billion dollar water

project to the Navajo Nation and clean running water to 80,000 people. It will eliminate the need to haul water and will improve health conditions on the reservation. "While it is impossible to accurately predict, it is expected several hundred jobs to be available during a ramp up phase to nearly 500 during full construction. This is highly dependent upon appropriations from Congress," Rick Ehat, program manager of the Navajo San Juan Settlement Implementation Team said.

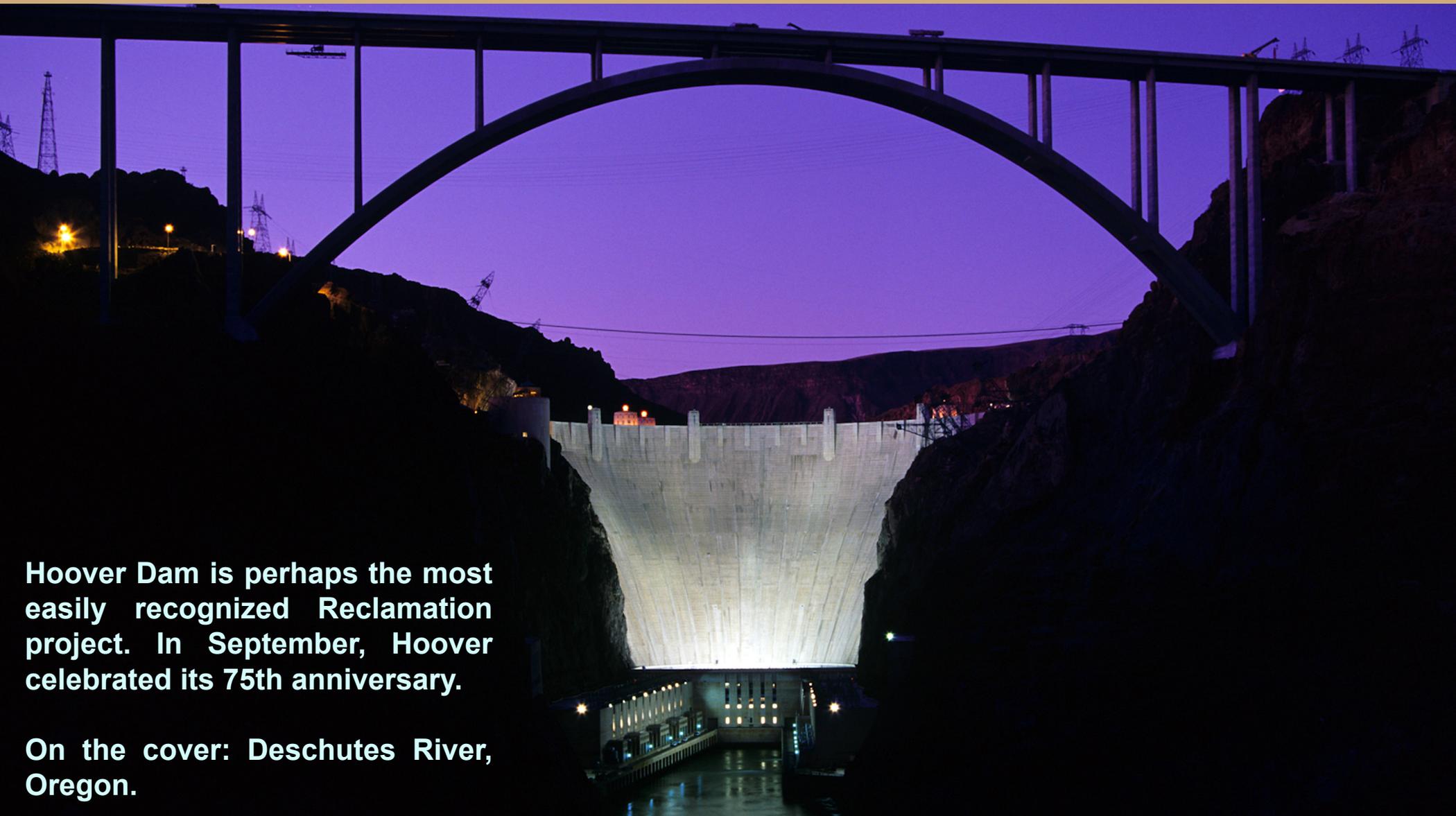
Reclamation will design and construct the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project and is leading the Settlement implementation.

"The efforts to adjudicate the rights have been going on for over 20 years," Pat Page, deputy construction engineer of the Four Corners Construction Office said. Decisions regarding a water dispute, that began in 1975 between the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation over the resources in the San Juan River, will be finalized with this settlement.

"The settlement has numerous aspects and deadlines which are all inter-related. The centerpiece of the settlement is the construction of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. This project must be completed no later than 2024, unless an extension is agreed upon," Ehat said.

At the end of the year, the plan is to "have completed all four of the remaining precedent to construction agreements/contracts and to begin construction. Also, to continue working on the planning for the Conjunctive Use Well Project and for the rehabilitation of two Navajo Irrigation Projects," he said. Construction is scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall.

Around Reclamation



Hoover Dam is perhaps the most easily recognized Reclamation project. In September, Hoover celebrated its 75th anniversary.

On the cover: Deschutes River, Oregon.

ETA is published electronically four times a year and can be found on the Bureau of Reclamation website at: www.usbr.gov/eta.

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