

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Scofield Project and Reservoir Plan



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Scofield Project

- Scofield Dam is only feature of the project
- Authorized by Congress in 1942 under the “War Act”
- Constructed 1943 – 1946
- Storage 73,600 acre-feet

Scofield Project Purposes

- **Congressionally authorized – irrigation**
- **Incidental Purposes**
 - **Municipal and industrial water supply**
 - **Flood control**
 - **Recreation**

Scofield Project Priorities

- Water delivery
- Water quality
- Public safety
- Recreation

Scofield Reservoir Lands

Methods of United States acquisition of lands for Scofield Project – Dam and Reservoir

**Land purchased before project authorization by Price River
Water Conservation District**

Land purchased by Reclamation after project authorization

**Land purchased by Price River Water Conservation District
Deeded to Reclamation after project authorization**

**Land purchased by Carbon Water Conservation District deeded
To Reclamation after project authorization**

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Scofield Reservoir Lands

Quite Title – Litigation

Involved Land in Sections 10 and 11

2007 District Court ruled that United States was the owner of the property purchased in 1946 – defined right of use

March 2009, 10th Circuit Court ruled that no right of use existed on those lands and remanded the case back to District Court

July 2009 District Court amended judgment – U.S. owns property in Section 10 and 11 with no right to use for any other parties on those lands.

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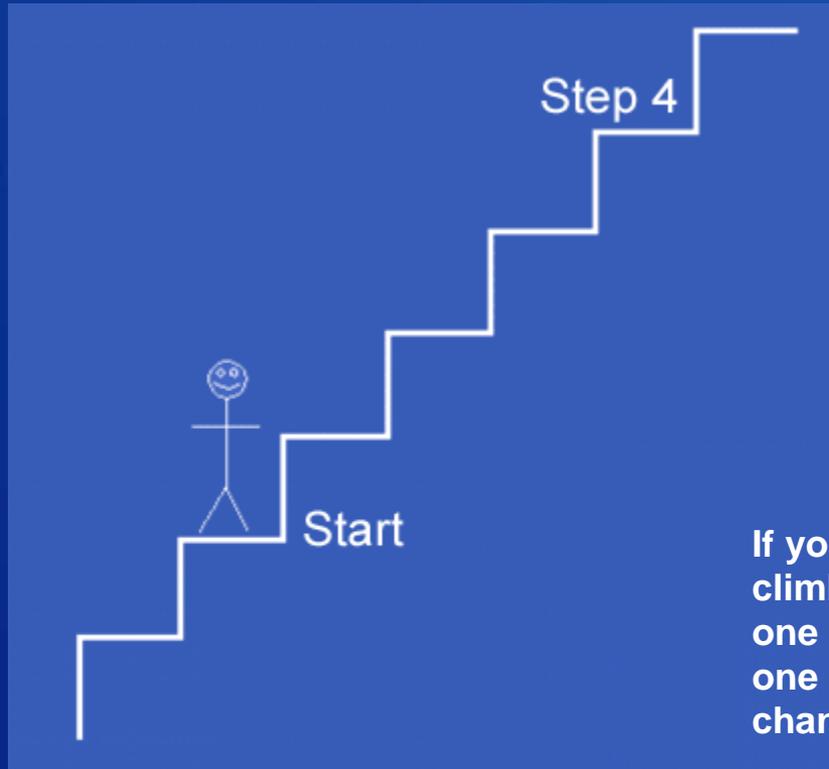
Scofield Reservoir Lands



To understand the survey contour lines, imagine you are on a staircase and want to go to the first step from the top. From where you start, you will climb to step 3 above your starting point.

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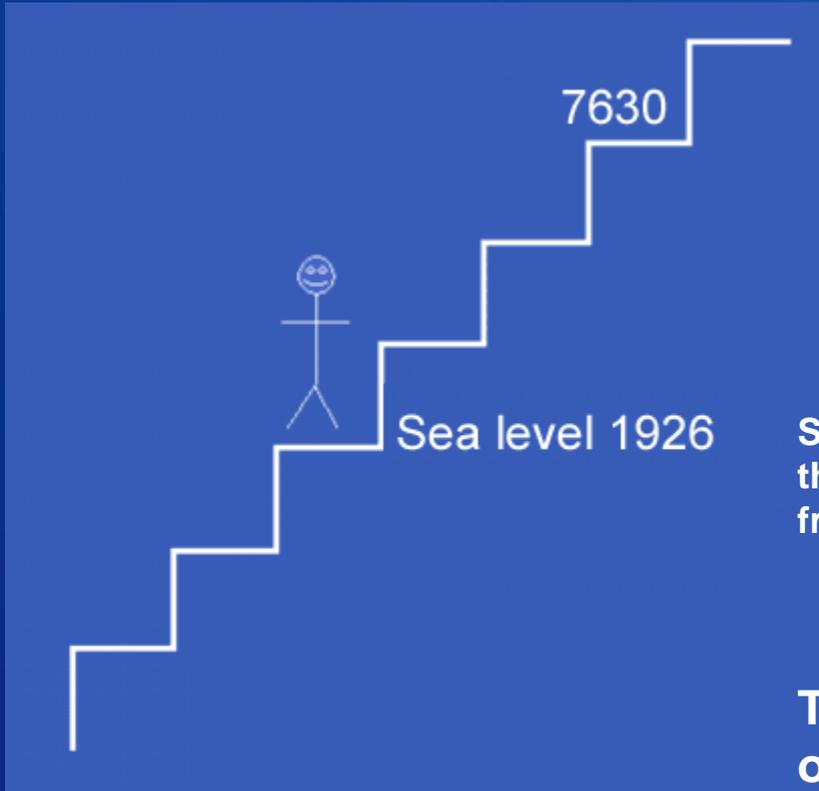
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If you start one step lower, you will need to climb to step 4 to get to that same step that is one down from the top. The step is the same one as before, and only the starting point has changed.

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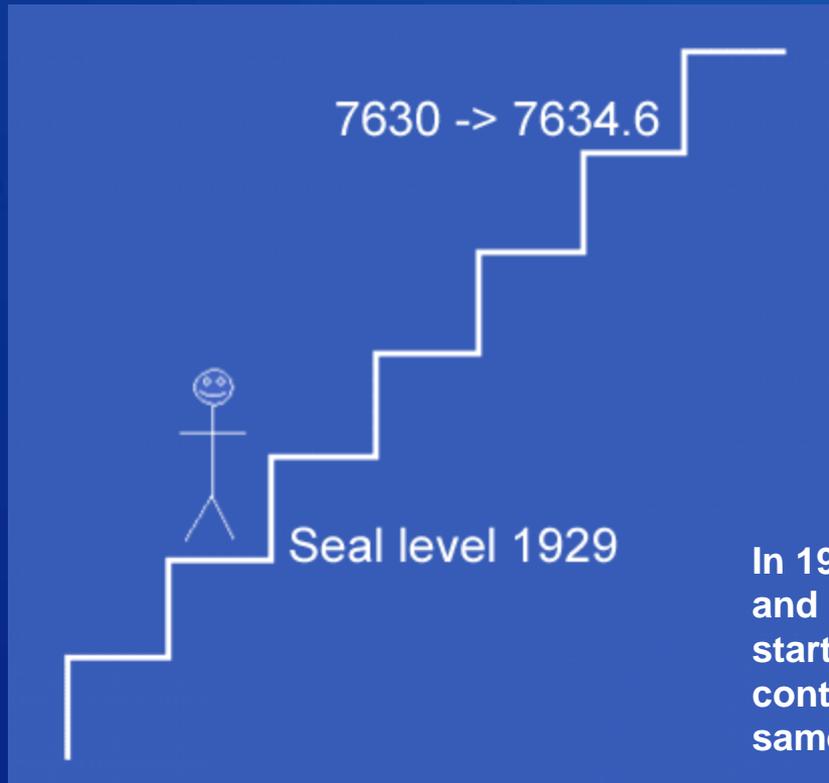


Survey elevations work in a similar manner in that the point you want to get to is measured from a starting point at sea level.

The deed language for the elevation of concern is “Said contour line as surveyed by McGonagle & Ulrich”

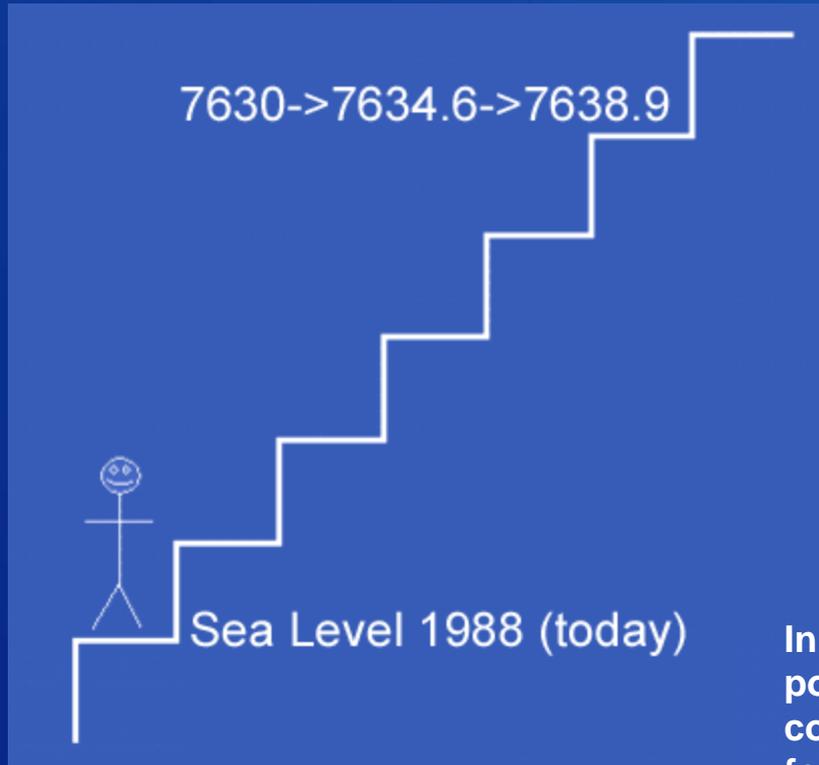
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In 1929 because of improved survey methods and equipment, USGS determined that the starting point was actually lower, so the 7630 contour line now had a different name for the same “step”

Scofield Reservoir Lands



In 1988 USGS determined that the starting point was actually even lower, so the 7630 contour line now had another different name for the same “step”. This is the contour elevation that would be surveyed today.

Reclamation Scofield Reservoir Plan

1. Educate and inform the public

- Federal court decisions
- Land title history
- Survey datum history

Reclamation Scofield Reservoir Plan

2. Evaluate possible alternatives that protect public safety

(This means ensuring debris is not allowed in the reservoir in the case of a hydrologic event that would cause the reservoir to reach the maximum water surface elevation)

Reclamation Scofield Reservoir Plan

3. Work with smaller group of representatives to consider acceptable alternatives that:

- Comply with Reclamation authority
- Complies with federal law and court rulings
- Allows for public safety
- Conforms with project purposes
- Meets available funding

Reclamation Scofield Reservoir Plan

4. Implement selected alternative (s)