Investing in the future

Bureau of Reclamation 98 Annual Report

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A Dedication

October 8, 1998

One year ago today, we suffered the single greatest tragedy in the history of the Bureau of Reclamation when a charter plane crashed, killing eight of our friends and fellow employees. Unfortunately this was not the first time we had suffered the loss of an employee, but we had never experienced a collective loss of this magnitude.

As the year passed, we held Jim Bloomfield, Bill Duncan, Dee Holliman, Al Inman, Walt Kaltmaier, Jon Nees, Jeff Waite, and Catrina Wall and their families in our thoughts and prayers. We pledged to the families that their loved ones would not be forgotten. We held a Reclamation and Department of the Interior memorial service in Page, Arizona, and another smaller private memorial service in Montrose, Colorado. As the Page service was taking place, we asked all Reclamation employees West-wide to pause in tribute from their tasks at hand. We restored the fountain at the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam and dedicated it as a memorial fountain through which the life-giving waters provided by Reclamation dance and flow. An eternal monument was dedicated at the cemetery in Montrose. The employees in Montrose created a memorial site on the grounds of that office. Hundreds of employees and public sector friends contributed thousands of dollars to a memorial fund dispersed last spring to the families.

Equally important, we as an organization collected ourselves to continue the work of Reclamation in spite of this overwhelming loss. As difficult as it was, we filled the positions left behind; and all of you have gone out of your way to assist those selected in becoming comfortable with their new responsibilities.

Over the past year, we learned a lot about who we are, individually and collectively, and what it means to balance the demands of our careers with family and personal responsibilities. I believe we have reaffirmed all that is positive about careers of public service coupled with a deep sense of caring for each other as diverse individuals.

Today, I ask each of you to pause for a moment to reflect on the lives of Jim, Bill, Dee, Al, Walt, Jon, Jeff, and Catrina and to give thanks, in your own individual way, for their service to the American people and their friendship we shared.

/S/ CHARLES A. CALHOUN
Regional Director
Upper Colorado Region

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From the Commissioner

I am pleased to present the Bureau of Reclamation's 1998 Annual Report and Chief Financial Officer's Statement describing Reclamation's accomplishments over the past fiscal year. Reclamation adjusted its Strategic Plan in 1998, resulting in a Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan alignment, that moves us closer to compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

In the Overview section, the topics discussed are not necessarily a comprehensive list of all activities accomplished. They are examples of work accomplished in the six goal categories identified in the draft FY 1999 and FY 2000 Annual Performance Plans.

Water and Energy Management and Development
Facility Operations
Facility Maintenance and Rehabilitation
Land Management and Development
Fish and Wildlife Management and Development
Policy and Administration

Today, Reclamation is engaged in managing scarce water resources in the 17 Western States in the most efficient manner possible. Reclamation is investing in the future by placing greater emphasis on water conservation, recycling, and reuse; developing partnerships with our customers, States, and tribes; finding ways to bring competing interests together to address competing water needs; transferring title and operation of some facilities to local beneficiaries; and achieving a higher level of responsibility to the taxpayer.

Reclamation employees are dedicated to meeting the challenges before them. With their continued hard work, I look forward to Reclamation's success into the next millennium.

Sincerely,

Eluid L. Martinez
Commissioner

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