

Q & A with Acting Commissioner Lowell Pimley, Bureau of Reclamation, July 2, 2014

How has Reclamation evolved over the years?

I came in at 1980, sort of at the end of that large construction phase of our existence.

And we went through some, frankly, transitions when it was difficult for a construction-oriented organization to move into a water management to move into a water management role.

I think we've successfully made that transition with a lot of turnover, and frankly a lot of the folks that were in senior positions when I came on board obviously are gone now but they were more of a construction orientation, and the organizational structure very much facilitated that role. The water resource management role is different. It takes different disciplines.

I've seen that evolve over the years as far as who we have on board, the types of disciplines.

I think where we've gotten now is we've integrated the natural sciences with the hard engineering in a manner that that, frankly, it works very well in my opinion within Reclamation.

I see the, I won't say the pendulum swinging, but the mission is beginning to evolve again, I believe, to where we are understanding that at some point in the future there may be need for additional storage and more traditional solutions to water resources issues.

It's going to happen in a very different way as far as getting stakeholder involvement than what had happened, say, in the early 20th century.