



— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

Ryan Newman

Montana Area Manager



Ryan Newman is the Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Montana Area Office (MTAO), providing leadership for the MTAO employees located in Billings, as well as four Field Offices: Canyon Ferry, Yellowtail, Clark Canyon, and Marias/Milk Rivers.

The Montana Area Office manages 13 dams and reservoirs that provide irrigation for nearly 353,000 acres of agricultural land producing principal crops such as sugar beets, hay, alfalfa, corn, wheat and barley. MTAO also manages two hydroelectric power plants that produce about 40 percent of the Region's annual power generation, and in 2019 this resulted in more than \$34 million in revenue. The reservoirs also offer excellent opportunities for recreational activities, and more than 1 million visitor days are spent at Reclamation's MTAO lands and water bodies annually.

Newman most recently served as the Upper Snake Field Office Assistant Area Manager, where he oversaw the operations and maintenance of eight dams, three powerplants, approximately 250,000 acres of Project lands, and numerous recreation and wildlife management sites. He was also responsible for administering river and reservoir operations in support of 64 water storage contracts.

Newman began his career working for the U.S. Forest Service as a Fishery Biologist in central Idaho. He spent some time with Idaho Fish and Game as a Salmon/Steelhead Research Fishery Biologist prior to beginning his career with Reclamation as a Natural Resource Specialist in the Dakotas Area Office in Bismarck, North Dakota in 2001. Throughout his career with Reclamation, Newman has worked in two regions, two area offices and one field office and also served on multiple details throughout the agency. In 2012 and 2013 Newman took a short hiatus to the Corps of Engineers in central North Dakota where he managed Garrison Dam/Lake Sakakawea, the 5th largest earthen dam in the world, during the peak of the North Dakota oil boom.

Newman grew up in northwestern South Dakota on a Reclamation reservoir. After high school he attended South Dakota State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, with a minor in Chemistry, and later earned a Master of Science in Fisheries Sciences, specializing in stream ecology and fish physiology.

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our web site at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao.