Regional Director
Michael J. Ryan

Michael J. Ryan is the Regional Director of the Great Plains Region, the largest and most ecologically diverse region in Reclamation. He provides leadership for the management, development and protection of water and related resources. This includes 80 Reclamation reservoirs, 21 power plants and 81 recreation areas that average 14 million visitors a year. Reclamation facilities deliver drinking water to a rural and urban population of about 2.2 million people. Ryan carries out these responsibilities across all or parts of nine western states, with an annual budget of approximately $180 million and a 650-employee workforce.

Ryan joined Reclamation in 1982, in Billings, Montana. During his 34-year career, Ryan has worked in facility operation and maintenance, dam safety and river restoration programs across the West. Ryan became the Great Plains Regional Director and entered the Senior Executive Service in 2005.

Prior to serving as the Great Plains Regional Director, Ryan was the Northern California Area Manager at Redding, California. In this capacity, Ryan managed nine dams that stored and delivered water for irrigation and municipal use, and six associated power plants. He also served as Chairman of the Trinity Management Council, tasked with developing and implementing the Trinity River Restoration Program and advising the Secretary of the Interior on Trinity River anadromous fishery restoration issues.

Ryan on numerous occasions has been recognized for significant achievements in the fields of water and power operations and resource management.

A native of Deer Lodge, Montana, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1984 from Montana State University Bozeman. Ryan is a registered professional engineer.

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.

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