MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation’s natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public.
Reclamation provides water and power to the people of the American West in an economically and environmentally sound manner.

We encounter many new challenges, and work with our partners to provide the greatest benefit possible from the natural and fiscal resources we manage.

This work includes a variety of construction-related activities to enhance our projects and their value to the public, working to meet the challenges of a 100-year flood, and assisting with water recycling to mitigate the worst drought in Texas state history.

In 2011, the Great Plains Region continued efforts to meet the needs of thousands of rural residents through construction of rural water supply projects. We protected public investment in our facilities by keeping them safe and reliable, and continue to provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Our priority is to accomplish these tasks while continuing to supply cities and farms with clean, affordable water, while also providing renewable power to businesses and homes in the West. This directly reflects Reclamation's historic mission to support local economies.

The Annual Year-in-Review provides a glimpse into our work and the broad range of issues we deal with every day. For more information about these issues and the projects we manage visit http://www.usbr.gov/gp.

Michael J. Ryan, PE
Great Plains Regional Director

From the Regional Director

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QUICK FACT
The name Reclamation was used because the intent was to reclaim arid lands (by irrigation) to make them suitable for settlement.

Front Cover: An engineer inspects the spillway of Altus Dam in Feb. 2011.

Back Cover: Drillers explore foundation material for replacement of the flood damaged Pryor Creek Crossing structure on the Huntley Project Canal. For more see page 3.
2011 Summary
The 2011 Great Plains regional budget was more than $180 million. Significant amounts were designated for rural water project development, operation and maintenance of completed tribal rural water systems. More than 99 percent of the budget was obligated during the year.

The region also received $11.3 million power customer funding in fiscal year 2011. These funds helped offset appropriations by sustaining activities that ensure power system reliability.

Workforce
The Great Plains Region is committed to developing sound budgets and managing the workforce to maximize accomplishment. In 2011, we continued a two-pronged approach that included building budgets from the ground-up, with input from employees, power customers, water users and other partners.

Budget Development
Development of a budget is an extensive process which progresses for years from planning by Reclamation to actual appropriation. When Congress passes a budget, target figures are made available to Reclamation and it becomes our responsibility to accomplish the work identified in the wisest manner possible.

Successfully completing tasks identified in our budget requires staff and expertise. Each manager is responsible for staffing their organization and accomplishing work while staying within their budget. A manager is responsible for ensuring they will not get in a position where negative personnel actions must occur due to declining budgets. As a result, great care is being exercised in planning and executing work activities at all levels within the region.
Spring 2011 was historic and challenging for Reclamation’s Great Plains Region. The northern part of the Great Plains Region received a year’s worth of precipitation in a two week period, following the buildup of an unprecedented combination of winter snowpack and a storm system that lingered over the northern basins for weeks, delivering excessive rainfall.

Gary Campbell, Great Plains Deputy Regional Director, said, “Records were shattered across the northern tier of the region. This event really shows the impacts of allowing construction in the 100-year flood plain, and the negative impacts to peoples’ lives.”

The water year began as usual with Reclamation managers in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas creating space in reservoirs for spring runoff. Unfortunately, much of the storage space was filled by slow moving rainstorms leading to spring and summer floods in the four states.

Bighorn

The Bighorn River Basin in Montana and Wyoming was under threat for most of the season. At one point, the elevation of Bighorn Lake jumped an unprecedented eight feet in three days. Adding to the complexity, tributaries downstream of Yellowtail Dam contributed significantly to high water conditions. In response, the Montana Area Office reduced flows dramatically from Yellowtail Dam to compensate for the deluge downstream, and carefully monitored inflows and storage conditions to ensure safe operation of the facility.

North Platte

Wyoming’s North Platte River Basin was facing snowpack conditions that topped 200 percent of normal in 2011. The Wyoming Area Office had begun preparing reservoirs for the anticipated runoff two months earlier than usual, even though additional water had been released in 2010. Inflows into Seminoe Reservoir during the 2011 runoff season were 242 percent of the 30-year-average.

James

Perhaps the hardest hit in 2011 was the Dakotas. Snowmelt runoff into Jamestown Reservoir would just be the beginning of a record water year. Jamestown Dam released 416,144 acre-feet of water during the 2011 Water Year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30), beating the previous record of 303,067 acre-feet from 2009.

Missouri

At the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Project, an intake pump station was threatened by record releases from Oahe Dam on the Missouri River at Pierre, S.D. An emergency protective dike and sump pumps for the intake station were installed to maintain delivery water. Other rural water system intakes were threatened by high water levels, as well as shoreline erosion at Lake Sakakawea in N.D. and Lake Oahe in S.D. (see page 7 for more).

States of Extreme

The Great Plains Region is so large that flood and drought are often experienced concurrently.

While the northern tier of the region encountered record spring rainfall, the southern states suffered continued drought. Reclamation in Texas continued funding wastewater recycling, conservation, and desalinization projects to help alleviate future drought impacts (see pages 16 and 17 for details).

The map at right shows precipitation for 2011 when portions of Montana and North Dakota received more than 20 inches above normal, while the gulf coast of Texas was more than 20 inches below normal.

Southern Montana (at Billings) normally receives about 15 inches of precipitation annually, but received more than that during the months of May and June alone. The Texas Gulf (at Victoria) averages about 40 inches of rainfall per year, but received less than 13 inches in 2011.
2011 Construction Activities

Construction continues to provide infrastructure to meet contemporary needs such as drinking water, wildlife habitat and safety.

Rural Water Projects

Large swaths of the Great Plains Region have inadequate supplies of water for small towns and rural homes. Available groundwater is often of very poor quality or in limited supply. As a result, Congress passed legislation authorizing Reclamation to design and build water systems serving rural areas and small municipalities. For the Great Plains Region, these projects are in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota on both tribal and private lands.

Some projects have been completed beginning with the WEB Rural Water System in South Dakota in 1991. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided funding toward completing other systems.

The five rural water systems currently under construction in the region are identified by the photos at left and the chart below. Mni Wiconi is scheduled to be complete in 2012. About one billion dollars are needed to complete the remaining authorized projects. As a result, Reclamation developed criteria for allocating available funds in the most efficient manner toward completion.

Completed tribal water systems are operated and maintained with financial and technical assistance from Reclamation as a part of our trust responsibilities.

Lower Yellowstone Intake

The Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources, Reclamation and others participated in modifying an historic irrigation diversion to benefit endangered species.

The new intake is part of modifications to the Lower Yellowstone Project constructed by Reclamation more than 100 years ago to irrigate approximately 54,000 acres. Water from the Yellowstone River is now diverted through state-of-the-art fish screens eliminating the loss of fish into the canal.

Construction was completed under the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, which authorized the Corps to use funding from the Missouri River Recovery and Mitigation Program to assist Reclamation.

Populations for Rural Water Projects Under Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Current Served (Off Reservation)</th>
<th>Current Served (On Reservation)</th>
<th>Current Served (Total)</th>
<th>Saved When (Off Reservation)</th>
<th>Saved When (On Reservation)</th>
<th>Saved When (Total)</th>
<th>Saved When (Progress)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mni Wiconi Project</td>
<td>32,587</td>
<td>17,865</td>
<td>50,452</td>
<td>44,815</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>93,815</td>
<td>52,000</td>
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<td>Garrison Project</td>
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<td>155,000</td>
<td>169,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>233,000</td>
<td>285,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Peck Reservation/Dry Prairie Rural Water System</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>2,333</td>
<td>2,698</td>
<td>16,995</td>
<td>10,439</td>
<td>27,434</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis and Clark Rural Water System</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>12,053</td>
<td>12,053</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Boys/North Central Montana Rural Water Supply</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>43,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL: Rural Water Projects under construction</td>
<td>48,098</td>
<td>181,176</td>
<td>229,276</td>
<td>122,955</td>
<td>584,439</td>
<td>707,434</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Safety of Dams

Reducing risk to people, property, and the environment

Red Willow Dam

A $15,346,900 contract to extensively modify of Red Willow Dam in Nebraska is in progress. Red Willow, located ten miles northwest of McCook, was slated for repair after examinations by Reclamation crews discovered a sinkhole on the face of the dam. Subsequent investigations revealed embankment cracking and prompted Reclamation managers to evacuate most of the water from Hugh Butler Lake, which is impounded by Red Willow Dam. The reservoir created by the dam is a popular fishing and recreation site and provides water for irrigation.

Glendo Dam and Dikes

A $16,777,777 contract for modifying Glendo Dam on the North Platte River in Wyoming is a result of updated flood loading and overtopping risk models. Under the planned modification, a 540-foot auxiliary spillway will be constructed, three existing dikes will be raised by six feet and the dam will be raised by three feet and an additional three-foot parapet wall will be added. With these modifications, the reservoir will be capable of withstanding a 100,000-year flood.

Construction continues to provide infrastructure to meet contemporary needs such as drinking water, wildlife habitat and safety.

Glendo Dam Modification showing auxiliary spillway excavation in progress looking from the right spillway abutment.
Dakotas Area

The Dakotas Area Office manages facilities of the upper Missouri River Basin in North Dakota and South Dakota as well as Keyhole Reservoir in eastern Wyoming.

Northwest Area Water Supply, Supplemental EIS

Reclamation entered into a contract for services with Cardno ENTRIX, an environmental and engineering consulting firm, to assist in the preparation of a supplemental EIS. A draft supplemental EIS is anticipated in the spring/summer of 2012. The State of North Dakota continues to construct portions of the project’s distribution system, as approved by the District Court.

Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2006

Pursuant to the act, Reclamation’s Dakotas Area Office and the Great Plains Regional Office completed the transfer of all associated lands December 13, 2011.

Angostura Unit Bank Stabilization and Road Repairs

The new connector road provides park users with the ability to access all park facilities, decreases maintenance and operation costs for recreation management partners, decreases emergency response times, and improves awareness of Angostura Reservoir’s wildlife and associated habitat.

Garrison Diversion Unit Tribal Rural Water/Missouri River Flooding

High reservoir levels caused excessive erosion to five intakes at Fort Berthold and the Standing Rock Reservation. Contractors were mobilized to place riprap and other erosion control measures. Approximately $900,000 was spent on shoreline protection and erosion repair.

Garrison Diversion Unit Irrigation

Water was delivered from the McClusky Canal to approximately 3,000 acres (Phase 1) in the Turtle Lake Irrigation Area. A long term water service contract and project use power contract will be executed with Garrison Diversion Conservancy District before the 2012 irrigation season.

Rural Water Funding

Twelve different entities were allocated $159 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Six of the ARRA projects were completed substantially completed by the end of the year with approximately 80 percent of the funding expended. Construction includes five new water treatment plants and the expansion of three others to serve an additional 350,000 people in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Mni Wiconi Intake/Missouri River Flooding

Record flooding on the Missouri River threatened several rural water system intakes during 2011. At the Mni Wiconi intake near Fort Pierre, South Dakota, Reclamation coordinated berm construction to prevent the record releases from Oahe Reservoir from flooding the plant. River levels reached 2.5 feet higher than the pump station floor. Reclamation provided 24-hour monitoring and operation of the intake pump station for more than one month and emergency operations for 80 days. Approximately $300,000 was spent on protecting the intake pump station.

Rural Water Construction

Forty-four million dollars was appropriated for rural water construction at Mni Wiconi, Lewis & Clark, Garrison Indian MR&I, and Garrison State MR&I projects. Approximately 100 construction contracts were administered across six reservations and six regional rural water systems in the Dakotas.
Power Generation is a core activity for the Great Plains Region. The value of hydropower generated in fiscal year 2011 was nearly $153 million. But the revenue from power generated is only one benefit to the American taxpayer. System reliability, the ability to quickly respond to changing demand, and generation without pollution contribute to the economies of the West.

In addition, Great Plains continues to work with power customers to reduce the impact of major maintenance projects and to secure private funding for activities beyond the capability of the regional budget. The region received $11.3 million in power customer funding in fiscal year 2011.

The chart below lists Great Plains Region powerplants and basic information about them.

- **Seasonal** units typically generate during the irrigation season when higher flows are released from reservoirs.
- **Gross generation** is the total amount of electrical energy produced by measuring at generator terminals.
- **Net generation** subtracts power used by Reclamation facilities and is the amount available for consumers.

### Summary of Generation for 10/1/2010 through 9/30/2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powerplant (state)</th>
<th>Seasonal No.</th>
<th>Nameplate Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Gross Generation (MWh)</th>
<th>Net Generation (MWh)</th>
<th>Generation Value @ 41.42mills/kWh</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aitna (WY)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>41.40</td>
<td>166,138</td>
<td>164,847</td>
<td>$6,827,946</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Thompson (CO)</td>
<td>* 1</td>
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<td>10,488</td>
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<td>Boysen (WY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canyon Ferry (MT)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>109,688</td>
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<td>Flathorn (CO)</td>
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<td>Fremont Canyon (WY)</td>
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<td>66.80</td>
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<td>290,280</td>
<td>$12,023,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glendo (WY)</td>
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<td>162,550</td>
<td>161,494</td>
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<td>Green Mountain (CO)</td>
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<td>77,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guernsey (WY)</td>
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<td>6.40</td>
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<td>24,875</td>
<td>$971,744</td>
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<td>Heart Mountain (WY)</td>
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<td>5.00</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>15,166</td>
<td>$655,106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kortes (WY)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>118,434</td>
<td>117,754</td>
<td>$4,877,386</td>
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<td>Marys Lake (CO)</td>
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<td>8.10</td>
<td>41,796</td>
<td>41,451</td>
<td>$1,716,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Elbert (CO)</td>
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<td>200.00</td>
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<td>Pole Hill (CO)</td>
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<td>Seminole (CO)</td>
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<td>191,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoshone (CO)</td>
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<td>18,356</td>
<td>$765,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit Mountain (WY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellowtail (MT)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>1,045,531</td>
<td>1,041,835</td>
<td>$43,152,793</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GP Region</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1,004.19</td>
<td>3,709,472</td>
<td>3,688,734</td>
<td>$152,787,362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reclamation continues to take the lead for the Department of the Interior by negotiating native american water rights settlements. A major milestone for the region was the ratification of the Crow Tribal Compact by the tribe on March 19, 2011.

**Native American Water Rights**

Since that time, the program has made significant progress towards meeting its goal of conserving 10,000 acres of habitat for whooping crane, piping plover, least tern and pallid sturgeon. The Program's Water Action Plan includes the potential J-2 Reregulating Reservoir Project. The J-2 Project could have the ability to store and deliver about 40,000 AF of excess flows to benefit target species, and is vital to achieving the Program's milestone of providing at least an average of 50,000 AF per year for enhancing habitat.

A major milestone was met with completion of the modification of Reclamation’s Pathfinder Dam spillway by the State of Wyoming (see the inside back cover for more about Pathfinder).
Challenge of the Future

Regional Organization

The Great Plains Region and Reclamation States Since 1902

Great Plains seeks to proactively meet 21st century challenges in three broad areas:

- **Facility Life Cycle Costs:** Some of the Region’s projects are among the oldest constructed by Reclamation. Most are more than 50 years old. The need for increased maintenance, structural changes and operational flexibility increases cost.

- **Competing Demands:** Water is a finite resource with competing demands for use. Changing economic realities and geographic realities impact Reclamation projects. Meeting new or increased water needs without adversely impacting others is an ongoing challenge.

- **Hydrologic Uncertainty:** Forecasting future water supplies and demands is an uncertain science. Reclamation facilities were constructed to overcome limited supplies for irrigation by storing runoff from spring and winter storms for use during dry months. Changing weather trends alter the uncertainty of the capacity of the three original reservoirs.

The Great Plains Region is vast. It includes 205,000 square miles—more than half the area Reclamation serves. It covers most of nine states and encompasses a wide range of ecosystems from alpine tundra to the Gulf coast. Facilities in the Region face challenges unique to their location and demands on system reliability. Because of the geographical diversity, the region is typically impacted by changing seasonality at the same time.

Many of the first projects built by Reclamation are in what is now the Great Plains Region. These dams, powerplants and canals are managed to balance flood control, hydropower, irrigation, and municipal water evolved as the West grew.

As a Department of the Interior agency, the Bureau of Reclamation oversees hundreds of dams, reservoirs and other water projects that Reclamation built during the 20th century. Six of these projects fall within the Great Plains Region—managed to proactively meet water needs and uphold an ongoing trend of enhancing the economic and ecological prairies of communities in 17 Western states ranging from Washington to Texas. The 17 Western Reclamation States* are divided administratively into five regions based primarily upon river basins. The Great Plains Region is the largest and most ecologically diverse of the five regions and covers all or part of nine of the 17 states east of the Continental Divide extending from the Canadian border adjoining Montana and North Dakota, to the southeast tip of Texas.

The Regional Director in Billings is located across nine states.

Regional Office and Area Office

- **Billings**
- **Casper**
- **Loveland**
- **McCook**
- **Bismarck**
- **Great Plains Areas**
  - Montana
  - Idaho
  - Wyoming
  - Colorado
  - Nebraska
  - Kansas
  - Oklahoma-Texas

**Great Plains**

As the primary water management entity for the five Reclamation Regions, the Great Plains Region is diverse. The region’s administrative boundaries are different from the five Reclamation Regions*.

*17 Western states were originally named to be served by Reclamation. Texas was added in 1906. The Great Plains Region exists because Texas was initially part of the Louisiana Purchase. The region was not a named region until 1952 under the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, a comprehensive basinwide development plan authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944.

**Reclamation Regions**

- Pacific Northwest
- Mid-Pacific
- Upper Colorado
- Lower Colorado

**The Great Plains Organization**

- The Great Plains Region is managed from the regional office in Billings, Montana, and six area offices located across nine states.

- The Regional Director in Billings is assisted in managing the region by two Deputy Regional Directors and six area managers. This group, along with the heads of Engineering and Infrastructure, Business Resources and Resource Services, comprises the Regional Leadership Board.

- The board localizes policy, makes budget decisions, and establishes vision and goals for the region.

**Contact Information**

For a complete list of contacts go to: http://www.usbr.gov/gp/about_us/

- **Great Plains Reclamation Service Center**
  - Phone: (406) 247-7600
  - Fax: (406) 247-7604
  - Email: mjryan@usbr.gov

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Meeting New Demands: Reclamation evaluation how facilities contribute the demands placed upon them. A close look at the Safety of Dams Program. It was built early in the 1960s to provide storage for irrigation. Prior to 1980, the safety of large reservoirs was not monitored for more generation units. Great Plains Region facilities have been modified from their original design to allow a wider range of water storage and management in the 21st century demands flexibility. Many of the Region’s reservoirs are limited or of poor quality.

Ensuring Safety: Keeping facilities safe and reliable is the foundation of the Safety of Dams Program. Facilities are routinely inspected and investigated conducted by engineering and structural improvement projects. Strategic partnerships with state and local agencies are made so necessary. Quickly, Red Willow Dam in Nebraska as repairs begin.

Engineers inspect excavation of the embankment at spillway modification. Pathfinder Reservoir now can

Wyoming are being modified to ensure they continue to function of the Safety of Dams Program. Facilities are reinforcing the need to provide

local entities. Reclamation manages 289 recreation areas that receive

Reclamation manages 289 recreational sites that receive more than 14 million visits each year. Today, Reclamation projects

Great Plains Region has 91 recreational areas that receive more than 14 million visits each year. Most of these recreation

Return flow control records were maintained for more than $2 billion dollars in flood damages inForty basins throughout the West.

As of 2011, Great Plains Region facilities

Irrigation

Reclamation provides 1 out of 5 electrical power over periods of peak demand.

The Great Plains Region has 21 powerplants that produce an average of 40 billion kilowatt-hours each year.

The current target for the US WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Initiative is to improve water efficiency by 50% by 2030. The initiative is supported by the US Department of the Interior and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Native American Water Rights Settlements: Reclamation is working with more than 200 Native American tribes to negotiate water rights settlements. The three largest settlements have been negotiated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Crow Nation, and the Pueblo of Acoma.

Rural Water Projects: Developing safe and reliable drinking water supplies for rural Americans uses about one half of the Great Plains region annual budget. Projects in

Water delivery in the US is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency within the US Department of the Interior. The Reclamation Project Act of 1902 authorized the project to provide water to the people of the Upper and Middle Missouri River basins.

Great Plains Region Deliveries Benefits to Nine States

SOUTH DAKOTA

•

As of 2011, Great Plains Region projects prevented more than $30 billion in flood damages.

Since flood control records were started in 1939 expressly authorized flood control as a project purpose.

The Reclamation Project Act of 1902 specifically provided for flood control and power generation purposes.

Historically, Reclamation projects were constructed to serve water users with their human and livestock needs in addition to their agricultural needs. Today, Reclamation projects are designed to provide safe and reliable drinking water supplies for rural Americans.

Great Plains Region serves nearly 10 million acres.

Reclamation provides 1 out of 5 gallons of water for more than 31 million people each year.

Many of the Region’s reservations were authorized to provide water to nearby communities. In some states, the program has been successful in providing safe and reliable drinking water supplies to more than 14 million people.

Irrigation

Great Plains Region projects deliver an average of 10 trillion gallons of water to the agricultural community each year. The region is one of the largest water users in the country.

Reclamation delivers 18 billion gallons of water to more than 31 million people each year.

Great Plains Region has 91 recreational areas that receive more than 14 million visits each year. Most of these recreation areas are operated and managed by state and local entities. Reclamation was not recognized as a purpose of Reclamation projects until the Reclamation Project Act of 1902 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1908. Reclamation is now on a course to provide safe and reliable drinking water supplies to more than 14 million people.

GREAT PLAINS REGION

•

Today, Reclamation projects are designed to provide safe and reliable drinking water supplies for rural Americans.

Regional Director Mike Ryan and Crow Tribal

On the Rio Grande in southern Texas.

Regional Director Mike Ryan and Crow Tribal

On the Rio Grande in southern Texas.
The chart below lists Great Plains Region powerplants and basic information about them.

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<thead>
<tr>
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**2011 Power Generation**

Providing clean, affordable and efficient electrical energy for a growing population.

Power Generation is a core activity for the Great Plains Region. The value of hydropower generated in fiscal year 2011 was nearly $153 million. But the revenue from power generation is only one benefit to the American taxpayer. System reliability, the ability to quickly respond to changing demand, and generation without pollution contribute to the economies of the West.

In addition, Great Plains continues to work with power customers to reduce the impact of major maintenance projects and to secure private funding for activities beyond the capability of the regional budget. The region received $11.3 million in power customer funding in fiscal year 2011.

![Image of powerplant](image1)

**Summary of Generation for 10/1/2010 through 9/30/2011**

With such a large region, diverse facilities, and increasing demand on limited water supplies, Great Plains Region relies on partnerships to address concerns and effectively manage at a local level.

For example, the region works directly with various conservation groups for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources. Most recreation facilities at Reclamation reservoirs in the region are operated cooperatively through partnerships with others. Power customers partner with regional staff in improving efficiencies and providing project-specific funding at powerplants and associated facilities.

Many of the successes contained in this publication are the result of the combined efforts of Reclamation and our partners. They include:

- **Modification of the Lower Yellowstone Intake;**
- **Safety of Dams modifications at Glendo and Red Willow Dams;**
- **Flood operations and emergency replacement of the Pryor Creek Crossing;**
- **Small hydropower development;**
- **Rural Water Projects;**
- **Delivering water and power to the residents of the nine states of the Great Plains Region.**

**Native American Water Rights**

Reclamation continues to take the lead for the Department of the Interior by negotiating native american water rights settlements. A major milestone for the region was the ratification of the Crow Tribal Compact by the tribe on March 19, 2011.

Great Plains Regional Director Mike Ryan (left) and Crow Tribal Chairman Cedric Black Eagle sign the $74M contract between Reclamation and the Crow Tribe. The funding will improve tribal irrigation facilities and develop a modern rural and industrial water system.

**Platte River Recovery Implementation Program**

In 1997, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and the Department of Interior (represented by Reclamation) formed a unique partnership with the goal of developing a shared approach for managing the Platte River. Water users from the three states and local and national conservation groups joined the effort.

Since that time, the program has made significant progress towards meeting its goal of conserving 10,000 acres of habitat for whooping crane, piping plover, least tern and pallid sturgeon. The Program’s Water Action Plan includes the potential J-2 Reregulating Reservoir Project. The J-2 Project could have the ability to store and deliver about 40,000 AF of excess flows to benefit target species, and is vital to achieving the Program’s milestone of providing at least an average of 50,000 AF per year for enhancing habitat.

A major milestone was met with completion of the modification of Reclamation’s Pathfinder Dam spillway by the State of Wyoming (see the inside back cover for more about Pathfinder).
Eastern Colorado Area

The Eastern Colorado Area Office manages Reclamation projects and facilities in the Upper Colorado River basin on the west slope of the Rockies which serve as a source for diversions to the East Slope of the Rockies.

Windy Gap
The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Windy Gap Firming Project was made publicly available November 30, 2011. The FEIS capped an eight-year public compliance process under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel and Treatment Plant
Process optimization changes based on recommendations from the 2010 Plant Condition Assessment have been implemented. Improvements increased safety and created cost savings by decreasing chemical requirements and extending overall service life of process components and sand media.

Water Operations and Maintenance
The Eastern Colorado Area diverted and delivered 98,000 acre-feet of water on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. This was the second largest import and delivery in the project’s 50-year operating history.

The Pole Hill box culvert installation was completed successfully upgrading the canal from open-faced to closed conduit. Construction was completed a year ahead of schedule.

The area office enabled computer control and remote monitoring for all diversion sites on the West Slope Collection System of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project.

Water Contracts Renewed
- Pueblo Reservoir: 23 contracts totaling $1,042,122;
- General project C-BT and Fry-Ark: east slope totaling $10 million;
- Ruedi (Fry-Ark West Slope): had 31 contracts totaling $888,667;
- Green Mountain (C-BT West Slope): 81 contracts for $289,592.

Hydropower

Carter Lake Development
A Lease of Power Privilege agreement was executed with Northern Water for a powerplant at Carter Lake. Construction has begun on a facility that will include two 1,300 kilowatt turbines, and a 2,000 square foot powerhouse with connections to the Carter Lake Second Outlet and the St. Vrain Supply Canal.

Hydropower Production
Completed switchyard equipment upgrades at Mt. Elbert Powerplant. Work in coordination with Western Area Power Administration engineers included substantial rewiring of the plant’s protective circuits. Generation capability was restored on time.

Unit 1 and 2 unit breakers were replaced at Estes Power Plant.

Quick Facts
- Transcontinental Diversions
  - Great Plains Region projects and operations in Colorado are generally in eastern Colorado and the east slope of the Rocky Mountains, but the region has water diversion and storage facilities on the west slope as well.
  - Because 80 percent of Colorado’s precipitation falls on the west slope of the Rockies, and 80 percent of Colorado’s population lives on the east slope, water is diverted from the west slope (Colorado River basin) for use on the arid east slope.
  - Eastern Colorado Area’s two largest projects are complex transcontinental diversions with hydropower, storage and water delivery facilities.
  - The Colorado-Big Thompson Project serves the northern half of eastern Colorado (the South Platte River Basin), and the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project serves the Arkansas River Basin.
Montana Area

The Montana Area Office, manages facilities in Montana’s upper Missouri River Basin.

Small Hydropower

Clark Canyon Hydro – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed the project in 2009, authorizing a 4.7 megawatt project. Activities have included evaluating dam safety risks, collecting design data, and developing technical construction documents. Reclamation and the developer are working towards a possible construction start in 2012.

Turnbull Hydroelectric – Turnbull Hydro LLC completed construction of two projects on Reclamation’s Sun River Project in August 2011. Construction of the 5.3 megawatt Upper Turnbull and 7.3 megawatt Lower Turnbull projects began in fall 2010 at two large drop structures on the Spring Valley Canal. Greenfields Irrigation District partnered with Turnbull Hydro LLC and performed a significant amount of the construction work.

Lower Yellowstone Diversion

Cooperative efforts with the Corps of Engineers continued toward passage and entrainment protection for endangered pallid sturgeon at Intake Dam on the Yellowstone River. Fish screens and new headworks began operation for the 2012 irrigation season preventing the entrainment of approximately 500,000 fish per year as water is diverted for Reclamation irrigation projects (see photo on page 3).

Montana Water Rights Adjudication

Montana Area Office worked with other state and federal agencies to protect Reclamation water rights in Montana by conducting field visits, writing stipulations, reviewing claims, providing discovery questions and testifying at hearings.

St. Mary Canal

A joint effort between Reclamation and the Milk River Joint Board of Control removed and replaced the lower section of the Drop 4 structure on the St Mary’s Canal. The partnership allowed completion of the construction during the limited time frame when the canal was not in use.

Rural Water Systems in Montana

Fort Peck/Dry Prairie – The water treatment facility was substantially completed in September 2011 and will be operational in 2012. The raw water line from the intake structure to the treatment plant was completed and contracts awarded for construction of treated water pipelines to serve Poplar, Wolf Point and Frazer. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding accelerated completion of the treatment plant and pipelines.

Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority has installed interim water distribution systems on the east side of the project area from the Culbertson water treatment plant to serve Culbertson, Bainville, Froid, McCabe and Medicine Lake. On the west side, the interim water source is the water treatment plant located at the former air force base near Glasgow, supplying water to Nashua, and areas surrounding the Town of Glasgow.

See page 4 for more about rural water projects

Quick Facts

Many Great Plains projects were the earliest authorized by the Reclamation, and continue to provide benefits today. These include:

- Milk River Project, Montana, 1903
- North Platte Project, Wyoming, 1903
- Lower Yellowstone Project, Montana, 1904
- Belle Fourche Project, South Dakota, 1904
- Shoshone Project, Wyoming, 1904
- Huntley Project, Montana, 1905

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<th>Harm Done Damages Prevented</th>
<th>2011 Total</th>
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</tr>
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An emergency contract to place rock riprap adjacent to the Yellowtail spillway stilling basin was completed in June 2011. Sustained spillway releases from record runoff caused erosion adjacent to the structure. Emergency repairs were required allow continued high releases through late August 2011.

Installation of pipeline for the Rocky Boy/North Central Rural Water System.
Nebraska-Kansas Area

The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office manages facilities on tributaries of the Missouri River in Nebraska and Kansas, as well as Bonny Dam and Reservoir in eastern Colorado.

Design and Construction

More than four million dollars of construction work was completed, including one ARRA project and six others:

- Spillway concrete repairs at Glen Elder Dam;
- Soil cement repairs at Glen Elder Dam;
- Construction of two ramp flumes on the Courtland Canal;
- Bridge repairs at Enders Dam;
- Bridge repairs at Trenton Dam;
- Outlet works repairs at Cedar Bluff Dam; and
- Replacment at Trenton Dam.

Water Delivery

Reclamation delivered more than 344,000 acre-feet of water to 11 irrigation districts, one municipality, and one rural water district.

Flood Control Operations

Controlled flood releases were made totaling about 292,000 acre-feet from three Reclamation reservoirs. 245,000 acre-feet were released from Waconda Lake, 14,500 acre-feet from Kirwin Reservoir, and 32,500 acre-feet from Lovewell Reservoir. An additional 116,000 acre-feet were released to prevent other reservoirs from encroaching into the flood pool.

Rural Water Supply

The Northeastern Nebraska Water Supply System Appraisal Report was completed in March 2011, recommending a feasibility study.

Two projects were selected for studies: the Northeastern Nebraska Water Supply System, and the South Sioux City Appraisal.

Water Conservation Field Services

Two projects were awarded:

- Kirwin Irrigation District – buried pipe;
- Mirage Flats Irrigation District – screning and metering.

WaterSMART

Four projects were awarded:

- Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District – buried pipe;
- Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska – buried pipe;
- Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District – pumping plant and buried pipe;
- Webster Irrigation District No. 4 – buried pipe.

Republican River Compact

The Republican River flows from its headwaters in Colorado into northwest Kansas, through southern Nebraska, and back into north-central Kansas. The river drains approximately 23,300 square miles and supplies water for municipalities, industries, surface and ground water irrigation, recreation and wildlife.

The basin is subject to an interstate compact that was ratified in 1943. The three states have proposed a collaborative basin study that covers the entire basin down to the Clay Center stream-gauging station in northeast Kansas. The study will identify mitigation and adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change on water resources in the basin. On March 23, 2012, $413,000 in WaterSmart grant funding, with a $413,000 non-federal match, was announced for the study.

On April 4, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Kansas’ motion to file a petition regarding the Republican River Compact and appointed a Special Master in this case. Kansas believes that Nebraska has violated the Compact by failing to address ground water depletions in a meaningful way and failing to take actions to avoid future violations, especially during drought years.
Planning Investigations

The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Special Study and the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer Hydrology Special Study were completed. Work continued on the South-Central Regional Assessment Special Study (Okla.), Fort Cobb Water Supply/Demand Special Study (Okla.) and Innovative Water Technologies (Texas).

Native American Assistance Program

Work on six prior projects continued in 2011 along with six new projects having a federal cost share of $201,000.

Projects Completed:
- Cherokee Nation - Technical Assistance in Water Planning;
- Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town - Needs Assessment;
- Chickasaw Nation - Beneficial use of Fracking Water;
- Seminole Nation Needs Assessment update - Mekasukkey Mission;
- South Central Tribes - Sampling techniques and GIS training.

Ongoing projects:
- Cherokee Nation Water System Infrastructure Study;
- Caddo Nation Rush Springs Aquifer Study;
- Caddo Nation Ground/Surface water interaction (Rush Springs);
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma - Rural Water System;
- Delaware Nation - Water Supply Alternatives;
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma - Defining the extent of radionuclides and Trace Metals in Domestic Well water;
- Pawnee Nation - Chloride Concentration Investigation.

Water Conservation Field Services

Water Conservation Plans

Three water conservation plans were completed for Oklahoma: Fort Cobb Reservoir Master Conservancy District, McGee Creek Authority, and Lugert-Altus Irrigation District.

Grants

A grant was completed for the San Angelo Project in Texas for water management and conservation plan development and implementation. Three new projects in Oklahoma were initiated totaling $347,911 in federal funds: Lugert-Altus and Fort Cobb Reservoir Master Conservancy District, and Fort Cobb Reservoir Master Conservancy District.

Twelve projects have executed cost-share agreements, nine of which are complete and under operation. The remaining three projects are still under construction. To date, $23 million has been requested by the Districts, and $19 million has been paid.

Science and Technology Program

Reclamation completed a study titled, “Methodology to Evaluate the Influence of Joint Changes in Climate and Land Cover on Water Availability.”

Reclamation awarded $1,900,000 to continue pilot testing of the variable salinity project. This study moves toward development of the first flexible desalination system in the United States. Activities along the Gulf Coast of Texas included an evaluation of source waters, identification of pilot system features, and pilot testing of brackish groundwater. The next phase in 2012 will pilot test seawater at South Padre Island.

Reclamation was awarded $89,500 to initiate a new study of nanofiltration treatment of recycled and potable water supplies. The study will compare the cost-benefits of nanofiltration and reverse osmosis in treating water supplies for use in the production of thermoelectric power and commercial cooling applications.

Special Authorizations

Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Conservation and Improvement - Congress appropriated $50,000 in FY11. OTAO made an additional $319,000 available for payments. Twelve projects have executed cost-share agreements, nine of which are complete and under operation. The remaining three projects are still under construction. To date, $23 million has been requested by the Districts, and $19 million has been paid.

Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery - Congress appropriated $50,000 in FY 11. The City of Wichita continues to construct Phase IIb of the project. To date, approximately $20 million has been requested, and $4.1 million has been paid to the City. The current unpaid reimbursement requests total approximately $15.9 million.

WaterSMART in OTAO

Title XVI Program

A feasibility plan of study on the Dallas Trinity River Recycled Water Project was completed. The feasibility study is estimated to cost about $2 million if Dallas Water Utilities chooses to proceed.

The City of Round Rock, Texas, continued construction activities of Phase I of its water recycling project.

Reclamation approved a Title XVI feasibility study for the San Antonio Water System on a brackish groundwater desalination facility.

Two WaterSMART Title XVI feasibility study grants were awarded totaling $12,145: one for the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District evaluating Lake Thunderbird to regulate effluent from the City of Norman, and another for the City of Kyle, Texas, evaluating the market and infrastructure needs to convey treated effluent for irrigation.

Basin Study Program

A basin study on the Lower Rio Grande was initiated and awarded $198,948 to match $213,850 in non-federal funds. The study will be conducted in partnership with the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority and its 53 member entities.

WaterSMART Grants

Work on eight projects continued, and seven new projects were awarded, totaling $2,069,505 in federal cost-share funds.
North Platte River Operations

For the second consecutive year, record snowpack in the mountains of the North Platte River Basin resulted in record spring runoff. High inflows resulted in early releases from the reservoirs, and high river flows throughout the summer from Seminoe all the way through Guernsey Reservoir. Reclamation maintained communication and coordination with the states of Wyoming and Nebraska, the Corps of Engineers, emergency management entities, our operating partners, and others regarding reservoir and river operations.

Pathfinder Dam Modification

The State of Wyoming awarded a contract in July 2010 for construction of a new spillway crest at Pathfinder Dam. Construction was interrupted by high water conditions on the reservoir and resumed in August 2011. Work was substantially complete in December, with the raised crest ready to store additional water in the reservoir for use by Wyoming and the Platte River Recovery Program. By funding the modification, the state obtained rights to the increased storage, which restored reservoir capacity lost to sedimentation since the dam was built.

New Wyoming Area Manager

Coleman Smith Jr. replaced John Lawson, who retired from Reclamation on December 31, 2011. Smith brings a depth of expertise in operations and management to Wyoming. Prior to accepting the Area Manager position, Smith served as the Deputy Manager, Power Operations and Maintenance, for the Pacific Northwest Region in Boise, Idaho. In that position, Smith coordinated work of the regional power office with other federal agencies, including the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Life Safety

Significant progress was made at Seminoe, Kortes, Alcova, Boysen, and Buffalo Bill Powerplants to address life safety code for employees including installation of new building egress, fire detection and alarm systems. The work was funded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Quagga Mussels

Testing for Quagga and Zebra mussels was conducted for Boysen, Buffalo Bill and Glendo Reservoirs. The test results were negative, with no evidence of mussels.

2011 Water Supply

A full water supply was available to water users on the North Platte River, the Wind/Bighorn River and the Shoshone River in 2011.

Wyoming Hydropower

Boysen Powerplant transformers were replaced in 2011. Emergency repairs were completed by area office staff to a generating unit at Buffalo Bill Powerplant to resolve a problem with the stator.

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems continue to be upgraded for more efficient operation of Reclamation facilities.

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Area office staff provided budget support and participated in collaborative processes that continue to receive support from water users, environmental and conservation groups, the States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (for more see page 9).
MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation’s natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public.