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 first constructed by Reclamation. Most are expected to last more than 50 years. The need for increased maintenance, structural changes and operational flexibility increases cost.

**Competition Demands:** Water is a finite resource with competing demands for supply. Changing economic realities impact Reclamation projects. Meeting new or increased water supplies for irrigation by storing runoff from spring and winter storms for use during dry months. Changing weather trends alter precipitation and predicting future production 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 precipitation and predicting future production 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.

**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. Changes in weather trends alter precipitation and predicting future production 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. Changes in weather trends alter precipitation and predicting future production 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.

Change the Future Regional Organization

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. It is easy to view the economic and ecological priorities 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 southern tip of Texas.

The Great Plains Region is vast. It includes 305,000 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 water supply. Because of geographical diversity, the region is typically impacted by drought and flooding at the same time.

Many of the first projects built by Reclamation are in what is now the Great Plains Region. These early projects are often called “single purpose” because their primary function was to store water for irrigation. Flood control, hydropower, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement and municipal water evolved as the West was settled and demands on water supplies grew.

In the Great Plains Region there are 80 Reclamation reservoirs with a total capacity of 22.9 million acre-feet of water. Reclamation’s assets, including canals, power and pumping facilities, dams and support buildings, have a current value of about $20 billion.

Great Plains Regions

Great Plains

- Montana
- Wyoming
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- Kansas
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Mid Pacific

- Idaho
- Nevada
- California

Lower Colorado

- Colorado
- New Mexico

Upper Colorado

- Colorado
- Arizona
- Utah

Reclamation Projects

- Belle Fourche Dam, 1908
- Lower Yellowstone Canal, 1907
- Angostura Dam, 1947
- Boysen Dam and Powerplant, 1906
- Control Act of 1944.

Reclamation Regions

Great Plains
- Montanna
- Wyoming
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- Kansas
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Mid Pacific
- Idaho
- Nevada
- California

Lower Colorado
- Colorado
- New Mexico

Upper Colorado
- Colorado
- Arizona
- Utah

Contact Information

Office of the Regional Director
Reclamation, Us REclamation Region 3
1801 N. Yampa St.
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: (406) 247-7600
Fax: (406) 247-7608
Email: mryan@usbr.gov

For a complete list of contacts go to: http://www.usbr.gov/gp/about_us/
Meeting New Demands: Reclamation evaluated how facilities can meet the demands placed upon them. A comprehensive review of the Safety of Dams Program began in 2009. It was built early in the 1960s to provide storage for irrigation. Prior to the program, water from federal projects was used for many other purposes, such as urban and industrial water supplies for more generations. The new, modernized facilities reduce flood risks and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including providing water for recreation areas near the dam and reducing the benefits of water for Chinese people. Changes are being made to the original irrigation project continues.

Environmental Considerations: The reservoir is a state park and provides opportunities for fishing, boating, and other recreational activities. Currently Red Willow Dam in Nebraska and Glendo Dam in Wyoming are being modified to ensure they continue to meet their function of the Safety of Dams Program. Facilities are maintained to keep the reservoir’s facilities safe and reliable, and investigations conducted if deficiencies are identified. Structural improvements to existing facilities are made and monitored. The Region continues to lessen the impacts to endangered fish by minimizing adverse impacts to species, habitat, and wildlife and are operated to provide water to more than 14,000 farmers. The Great Plains Region’s 80 storage facilities and 63 diversion dams have faced challenges in the past, including managing water under treaties with the Tuscarora. As of 2011, Great Plains Region provides water to more than 14,000 farmers. The Great Plains Region’s 80 storage facilities and 63 diversion dams have faced challenges in the past, including managing water under treaties with the Tuscarora.

Reclamation provides 1 out of 5 gallons of water for domestic and industrial uses and 1 out of 3 acres. The annual value of crops produced on those lands is nearly $1 billion. Many Great Plains Region facilities were authorized to provide water to more than 14,000 farmers. The Great Plains Region’s 80 storage facilities and 63 diversion dams have faced challenges in the past, including managing water under treaties with the Tuscarora.

Irrigation: Reclamation provides water to more than 14,000 farmers. The Great Plains Region’s 80 storage facilities and 63 diversion dams have faced challenges in the past, including managing water under treaties with the Tuscarora.

Hydropower: Reclamation manages 28 water power projects that produce an average of 40 billion kilowatt-hours each year. The Great Plains Region has 21 hydropower projects that generated 3.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical power over the past 12 months.

Meeting New Demands: Reclamation evaluated how facilities can meet the demands placed upon them. A comprehensive review of the Safety of Dams Program began in 2009. It was built early in the 1960s to provide storage for irrigation. Prior to the program, water from federal projects was used for many other purposes, such as urban and industrial water supplies for more generations. The new, modernized facilities reduce flood risks and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including providing water for recreation areas near the dam and reducing the benefits of water for Chinese people. Changes are being made to the original irrigation project continues.