

# Montana Area Office

# Missouri Basin Region



*Gibson Dam, Montana  
Photo by B. Keith Haley*



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# MORE INFO

## **News and Events**

[www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao)

## **Planning a Trip?**

[www.recreation.gov/trips/new](http://www.recreation.gov/trips/new)

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# CONTACT US

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# RYAN NEWMAN

Montana Area Manager



**R**yan 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.

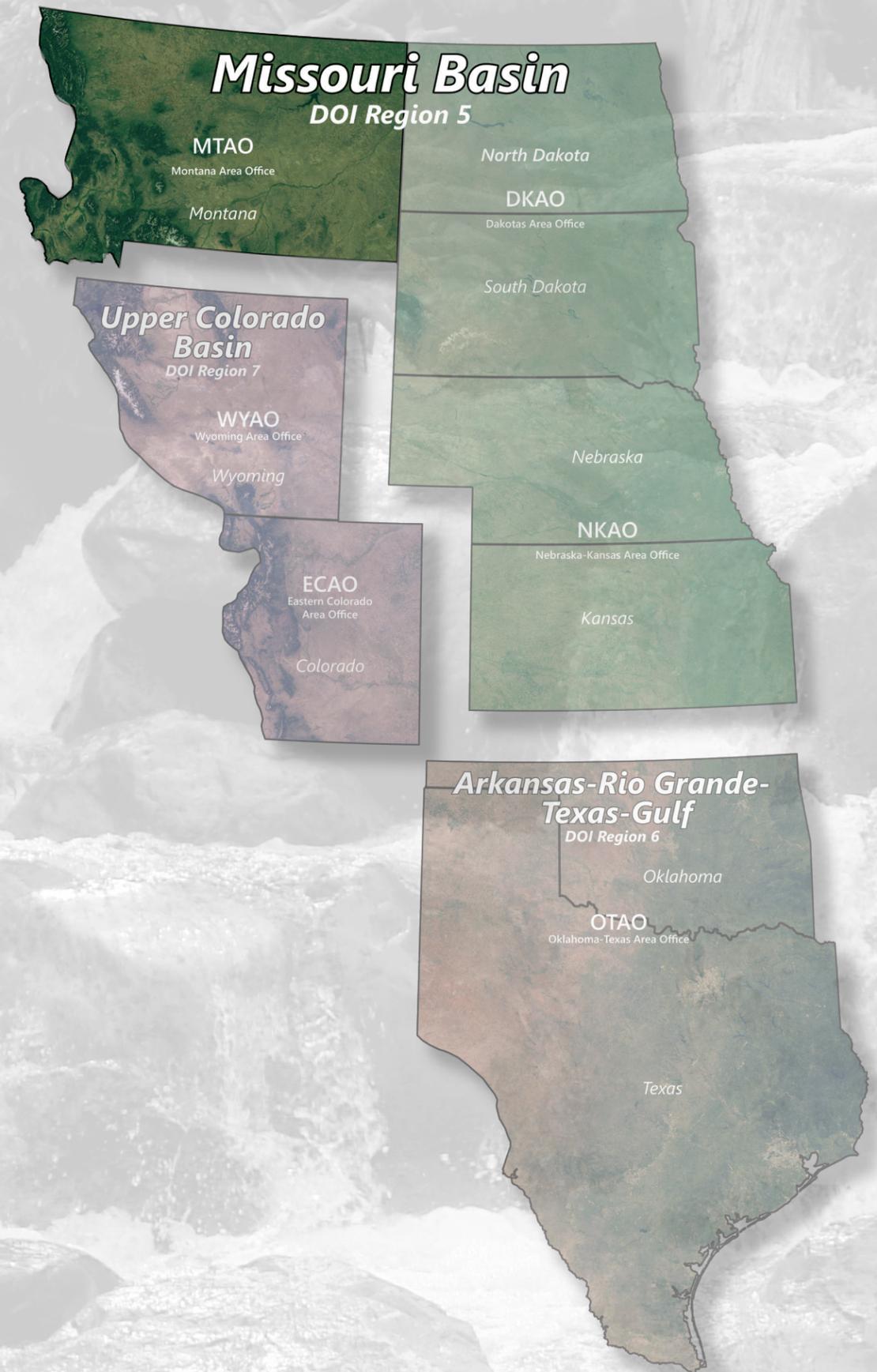
The Montana Area Office manages 13 dams and reservoirs that provide irrigation for nearly 353,000 acres of agricultural land producing principal crops such as sugar beets, hay, alfalfa, corn, wheat and barley. MTAO also manages two hydroelectric power plants that produce about 40 percent of the Region's 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.

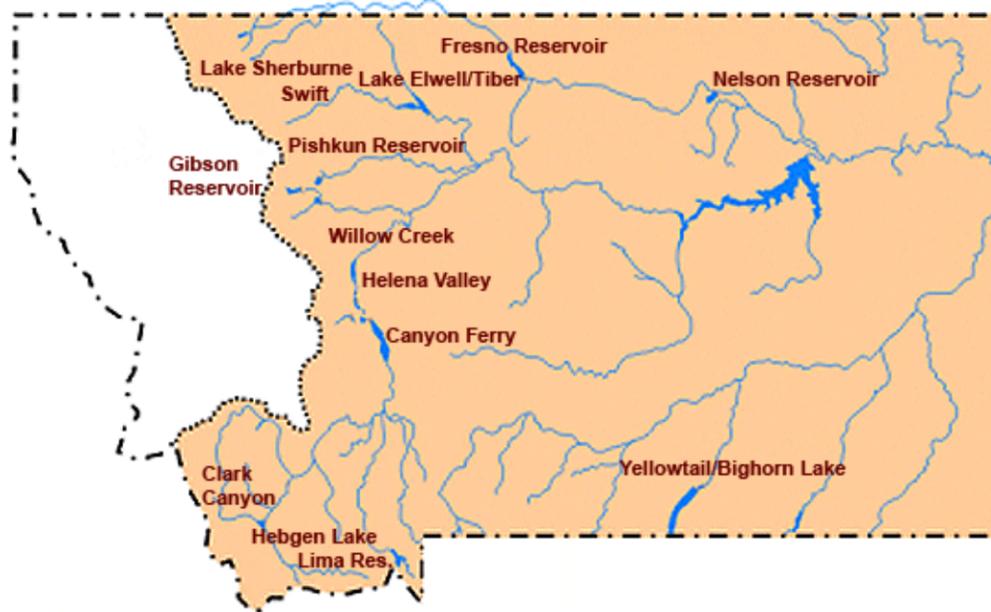
Newman grew up in northwestern South Dakota on a Reclamation reservoir. After high school he attended South Dakota State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, with a minor in Chemistry, and later earned a Master of Science in Fisheries Sciences, 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](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao).



# MONTANA AREA OFFICE

Canyon Ferry Dam, Montana  
Photo by Reclamation Staff



Some of Reclamation's earliest projects were built in Montana. Work began on the Lower Yellowstone Project in 1905 just three years after the agency was created.

Today there are 13 projects east of the Continental Divide - the portion of the state managed by the Missouri Basin Region. There are 13 dams and reservoirs, 9 diversion dams, 10 pumping plants and 2 power plants which provide a variety of benefits and meet multiple needs, including hydrogeneration, irrigation, and recreation.

The Montana Area Office (MTAO) manages Reclamation's eastern Montana projects and programs. The 2019 expenditures for the hydrogeneration of Yellowtail and Canyon Ferry's Operation and Maintenance programs was approximately \$11.8 million. Both provide considerable storage for irrigation and power generation and are popular recreation areas. Yellowtail and Canyon Ferry powerplants have 33 percent of the Region's power generation capacity but yield more than 40 percent of the Region's annual power generation. In 2019 this resulted in more than \$34 million in revenue. The Montana projects provide water to 352,915 acres of agricultural land. Principal crops are sugar beets, hay, corn, wheat and barley.



## PROJECTS

## DAMS

## POWERPLANTS

Buffalo Rapids  
Canyon Ferry Unit  
Crow Creek Pump Unit  
East Bench Unit  
Helena Valley Unit  
Huntley Project  
Lower Marias Unit  
Lower Yellowstone  
Milk River  
Sun River

Anita  
Barretts Diversion  
Canyon Ferry  
Clark Canyon  
Dodson Diversion  
Fort Shaw Diversion Dam  
Fresno  
Gibson  
Helena Valley  
Lake Sherburne  
Lower Yellowstone  
Nelson Dikes

Paradise Diversion  
Pishkun Dikes  
St. Mary Diversion  
Sun River Diversion  
Swiftcurrent Dike  
Tiber  
Vandalia Diversion  
Willow Creek  
Yellowstone Diversion  
Yellowtail Afterbay  
Yellowtail

Canyon Ferry  
Yellowtail



Yellowtail Powerplant, Montana  
Photo by Reclamation Staff



*Bighorn Lake Afterbay, Montana  
Photo by Shane Little*



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