



## DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE BIG SAND WASH RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT

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The enlarged Big Sand Wash Reservoir will be dedicated at a commemorative ceremony on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at an overlook area on the East Saddle Dam near the top of the new boat ramp. The enlarged reservoir is the central feature of the Uinta Basin Replacement Project of the Central Utah Project. The agencies involved in the enlargement project are the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URMCC), Moon Lake Water Users Association, and the Duchesne County Water Conservancy District.

Don Christiansen, CUWCD General Manager, will welcome dignitaries and guests to the dedication ceremony that will include remarks from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Mark Limbaugh, and members/representatives of Utah's Congressional delegation.

Operation of the enlarged Big Sand Wash Reservoir, which is an off-stream reservoir, will facilitate the transfer of water rights from the stabilization of 13 lakes in the High Uintas Wilderness. The project will provide increased water supplies for irrigation of lands in and around the Lake Fork drainage, municipal and industrial uses in the Roosevelt City area, as well as additional supplies for instream flows.

The enlarged Big Sand Wash Dam and Reservoir will be operated in coordination with the existing Moon Lake Reservoir and the Yellowstone Feeder Canal to provide instream flows for fish in the Lake Fork River from Moon Lake Dam to the Big Sand Wash Feeder Diversion Structure and in the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone Diversion Dam to the Lake Fork River.

With the enlarged Big Sand Wash Reservoir, irrigators in the Uinta Basin will have an increased ability to more adequately distribute runoff from the Uinta Mountains on a schedule that better matches the consumptive use of their crops. Because the Uinta Mountains have an east-west orientation, their extensive southfacing slopes are subject to rapid snow melt during spring thaw.

The enlarged Big Sand Wash Dam has a crest height 26 feet higher than the old dam, and an increase of active storage capacity in the reservoir of 12,100 acre-feet; or a total capacity after enlargement of 24,200 acre-ft (elevation 5,918 feet). This capacity consists of 23,000 acre-feet of active storage capacity and 1,200 ac-ft of

inactive storage for the conservation pool. The municipal water and a portion of the High Mountain Lake waters stored in the enlarged Big Sand Wash Reservoir will be conveyed from the reservoir to the Roosevelt area in the Big Sand Wash Roosevelt Pipeline, currently under construction.

The reservoir enlargement was completed at a cost of \$38 million by W.W. Clyde/Obayashi, a Joint Venture. The work included construction of the East Saddle Dam, West Ridge Dike, West Saddle Dam, Main Dam, Flow Control Structure, Outlet Tunnel, Inlet Control Structure, and the Highway Realignment.

Upon completion of the Big Sand Wash Roosevelt Pipeline, the Moon Lake Water Users Association will operate and maintain the enlarged Big Sand Wash Dam and Reservoir.

The Central Utah Project was authorized by Public Law 84-485 on April 11, 1956, as a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project to help meet Utah's long-term water needs. Construction progress on CUP proceeded slowly because of the complexity of the project; complex environmental analyses; and sporadic Federal funding. The slow progress prompted state and local officials to ask Congress to empower the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) to complete the planning and construction of the remaining portion of the CUP, specifically the Bonneville Unit.

Congress responded to local concerns by enacting the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA) in 1992. For the first time in history, Congress designated a local entity (CUWCD) as the planning and construction entity for a major Federal water project.

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### **Central Utah Water Conservancy District**

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) is the agency responsible for the planning, environmental compliance, and construction of UBRP. It is a political subdivision of the State of Utah. It was formally established in 1964 to act as the local entity to contract with the United States of America in connection with the construction, operation, and financing of the Central Utah Project (CUP). The purpose of the CUP is to enable the State of Utah to beneficially use a substantial portion of its allotted share of the Colorado River water under the Colorado River Compact. The District has an 18-member Board of Trustees representing local water users in the ten-county district, including all or portions of Salt Lake, Utah, Juab, Wasatch, Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, Sanpete, Piute, and Garfield Counties.

### **Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA)**

The CUPCA provided for the orderly completion of the Central Utah Project by increasing the appropriations ceiling and authorizing features and measures for the delivery of water for municipal, industrial, and irrigation purposes; water conservation; wildlife mitigation; and in-stream flows. The CUPCA also provides for cost-sharing of project costs, establishes a water conservation program, allows local entities to construct project features, and requires compliance with environmental laws. The CUPCA established a partnership arrangement among the Department of the Interior (Interior), the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and Ute Indian Tribe. The CUWCD was given the responsibility for completion of the water conveyance facilities, and the Mitigation Commission was tasked with completing the environmental mitigation. To implement CUPCA, the Interior established a small office in Provo, Utah, (CUPCA Office) under the direction of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, to oversee the completion of the project and the activities of the CUWCD, the Mitigation Commission, and the Ute Indian Tribe.

## **Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission**

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission) is responsible for the planning and implementation of all fish and wildlife enhancement and mitigation facilities of the Uinta Basin Replacement Project. The Mitigation Commission is an independent Presidential commission of the Federal government, authorized under CUPCA. The Mitigation Commission is responsible for designing, funding and implementing projects to offset the impacts to fish, wildlife and related recreation resources caused by CUP and other Federal reclamation projects in Utah. The Mitigation Commission consists of five commissioners, appointed by the President, and approximately a dozen staff headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## **Bureau of Reclamation**

Acknowledging the expertise of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), CUWCD and Interior secured Reclamation's services in consulting on the design and construction of Uinta Basin Replacement Project as well as inspecting its construction. Reclamation (established in 1902) is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Federal dams, powerplants, and canals in the 17 western states. Reclamation has constructed more than 600 dams and reservoirs including Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and Grand Coulee on the Columbia River. Today, Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of water in the country-delivering to 31 million people and irrigating 10 million acres of farmland.

## **Moon Lake Water Users Association**

Established in 1934, Moon Lake Water Users Association (MLWUA) is an association of eight irrigation companies which serve a total of 48,528 acres. MLWUA has worked hard over the years to develop storage and delivery systems on the Uintah, Lake Fork, and Yellowstone Rivers. Through negotiation MLWUA agreed to support the Uinta Basin Replacement Project enlargement of their facilities at Big Sand Wash and was actively involved during the design and construction phases of the project. MLWUA worked to coordinate water supplies to minimize impacts and facilitate construction and also allow maximized benefits to irrigators. MLWUA has taken an active part in negotiations for the stabilization of High Mountain Reservoirs of which storage is now a vital part of the project. MLWUA will be the agency responsible for operation and maintenance of the Big Sand Wash Project upon completion.

## **Duchesne County Water Conservancy District**

The Duchesne County Water Conservancy District (DCWCD) has been actively involved in the Big Sand Wash Reservoir project from the conceptual design phase through final construction. The DCWCD will be the contracting entity for the municipal and industrial water and the supplemental irrigation water developed from the project. The DCWCD was established in December 1998 for the express purpose of preserving, conserving, and developing the water resources of Duchesne County. The DCWCD is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors representing all areas in Duchesne County.