

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir

Rye Patch Dam, a key feature of the Humboldt Project, is located about 22 miles upstream from Lovelock, Nevada. The dam is an earthfill, rock-faced structure with a height of 75 feet and a crest length of 914 feet. Construction of Rye Patch Dam commenced on January 31, 1935, and was completed June 1, 1936. The operation and maintenance of the project were transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Pershing County Water Conservation District on January 15, 1941.

In 1976, a Rehabilitation and Betterment project raised the height of the dam by three feet and the normal water surface elevation by two feet. This increased the storage capacity of the reservoir an additional 23,000 acre-feet to a total storage capacity of 213,000 acre-feet. The project lands are in Lovelock Valley, on the lower flood plains of the Humboldt River in an area of approximately 45,000 acres. The Humboldt River and its tributaries, with a drainage area of 13,700 square miles, are the sole source of the project water supply. The river is unique in that it is the longest river contained entirely within the boundaries of one state, the aggregate length of the valleys through which it flows being about 300 miles. The project area's average annual rainfall is 5.76 inches, rendering the storage project key to the area. The dam stores water for irrigation of crops such as alfalfa hay, alfalfa seed, wheat and barley.

Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy the many species available, such as smallmouth and largemouth bass, spotted bass, striped bass, white bass, crappie, catfish, bluegill and trout. Rye Patch visitors can enjoy camping, picnicking, fishing, water skiing, boating, swimming and hiking and biking trails.

For more information on the Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir, please visit:

http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Facility.jsp?fac_Name=Rye%20Patch%20Dam

http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Project.jsp?proj_Name=Humboldt+Project

Public Affairs Office - Mid-Pacific Region

916-978-5100

mppublicaffairs@usbr.gov