

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*



Spring Creek Debris Dam and Powerplant – Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

Spring Creek Debris Dam, built between 1961-1963 and located above the Spring Creek Powerplant tailrace, is an earthfill structure, 196 feet high, with a crest length of 1,110 feet. Spring Creek Reservoir, with a capacity of 5,870 acre-feet, controls debris which would otherwise enter the powerplant tailrace and provides important fishery benefits by controlling contaminated runoff resulting from old mine tailings on Spring Creek.

The dam, maintained by the Bureau of Reclamation, serves primarily to collect acid mine drainage stemming from the Iron Mountain Mine. The dam forms the Spring Creek Reservoir, less than one mile long. Spring Creek and South Fork Spring Creek flow into the reservoir from a 16-square-mile watershed. The dam is directly upstream from the City of Keswick, California, and the Keswick Reservoir. The operation is part of the Shasta/Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project.

The Spring Creek Powerplant is near Redding, California, at the Spring Creek arm of Keswick Reservoir, about one mile northwest of Keswick Dam. completed in 1964, is located at the base of Spring Creek Debris Dam. The powerplant houses two 13.8kV generators each rated at 100,000 kVA. The Spring Creek power conduit varies in diameter between 5.64 meters (18.5 feet) and 5.18 meters (17 feet) and is about 4.8 km (3 miles) in length. The power conduit consists of Tunnels No. 1 and No. 2 and Rock Creek Siphon. Twin penstocks take off from Tunnel No. 2 leading to the powerplant.

For more information on Spring Creek Debris Dam and Powerplant, please visit:  
[www.usbr.gov/projects/Facility.jsp?fac\\_Name=Spring+Creek+Debris+Dam](http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Facility.jsp?fac_Name=Spring+Creek+Debris+Dam)