



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

## Facts & Information

### The Bureau of Reclamation:

- Manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public
- Is the nation's largest wholesale water supplier, operating 348 reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 245 million acre-feet (an acre-foot, about 326,000 gallons of water, supplies enough water for a family of four for one year)
- Provides 1 out of 5 (or, 140,000) farmers in the West with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produce 60 % of the nation's vegetables and one quarter of its fresh fruit and nut crops
- Is the second largest producer of hydropower in the United States and operates 58 hydroelectric power plants that annually produce, on average, 44 billion kilowatt-hours
- Delivers 10 trillion gallons of water to more than 31 million people each year
- Manages, with partners, 289 recreation sites that have 90 million visits annually

### The Bureau of Reclamation priorities are to:

- Ensure the continued delivery of water and power benefits in conformity with contracts, statutes, and agreements
- Operate and maintain projects in a safe and reliable manner, protecting the health and safety of the public and Reclamation employees and improve financial accountability and transparency to its contractors
- Honor state water rights, interstate compacts, contracts with Reclamation users, further the Secretary of the Interior's Indian Trust responsibilities, and comply with all environmental statutes
- Plan using programs that focus Reclamation's financial and technical resources on areas in the West where conflict over water either currently exists or is likely to occur in the coming years
- Provide for the implementation of the Loan Guarantee Program that can assist water districts with large operation and maintenance/replacement projects on Reclamation facilities and facilities used to deliver Reclamation supplies

### The Bureau of Reclamation is:

- Developing strategies to manage and deliver water more efficiently and effectively to customers in order to help satisfy the many needs of irrigation, municipalities, power, the environment, and serve as a technical resource for water users and planners

- Working in partnership with states, Tribes, water and power customers, and others to seek creative and collaborative solutions to water issues in the West
- Ensuring its dams do not create unacceptable risk to the public by monitoring, evaluating, and when appropriate, performing risk reduction modifications