

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

## Promise Fulfilled

**Skip Lael:** Grand Coulee Dam started as a low dam, and then changed to a high dam. That wisdom of foresight allowed for both electric power and irrigation.

**Wilfred Woods:** The dam was a real success for agriculture; it affected many more people than expected. It's a milepost of what small town folks can dream—and do. It has transformed the Northwest with cheap electricity—and supported irrigation farming. There was nothing there before the dam. Sixty different crops are being grown now.

**Skip Lael:** If FDR never done another thing, he was a great man for authorizing Grand Coulee Dam. He saved the West with employment. We didn't have water or electricity in the house until 1936. The dam can still irrigate another half-million acres. This country wasn't worth a tinker's damn until the dam went in. "Starvation Stock" country, that's what it was.