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## Deer Flat Dam: Lower Embankment Security Enhancement Project (2009) Status Update

### Canyon County, Idaho

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is addressing security vulnerabilities associated with the Deer Flat Dam Lower Embankment, one of four earthfill embankments that impound Lake Lowell, a water storage reservoir near Nampa, Idaho. Studies have determined that motor vehicles traveling across the crest of the Lower Embankment on Riverside Road could present a security risk and public safety concern due to an explosive threat



#### Key Features:

- The security enhancement project focuses on Riverside Road, the access road that crosses the Lower Embankment. This road serves as an arterial connecting Karcher Road and the Interstate 84 corridor area with points south and west of Lake Lowell.
- The security enhancement project is divided into two phases.
  - Phase I (which is complete) addresses short-term security concerns, including purchasing mobile security gates for the Lower Embankment that can be deployed in response to an elevated security event or direct threat against the dam.
  - Phase II addresses a permanent solution to reduce the vulnerability of the dam.
- To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to assist Reclamation in finalizing a decision on a preferred alternative to address a permanent security solution at the Lower Embankment. The EA will help Reclamation determine whether to issue a finding of no significant impact or proceed with a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.
- Reclamation has identified a range of alternatives for addressing vulnerabilities at the Deer Flat Dam Lower Embankment. These alternatives include: dam crest closure, dam structural modifications, road relocation, and no action, which is required by NEPA.
- The impacts of each alternative will be evaluated based on specific issues of public concern, including transportation and access, socioeconomic, health and safety, land use, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, water quality, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, Indian Trust Assets, and indirect and cumulative impacts.
- The draft EA will be available for public review and comment in early winter 2009.
- Deer Flat Dam Lower Embankment was constructed between 1906 and 1908 and is located at the west end of Lake Lowell. The Deer Flat Low Line Canal outlet is located near the left abutment and the Deer Flat North Canal is located near the right abutment of the embankment.