



Anderson Ranch Dam Raise

Fact Sheet

May 2022

A need for more water

Additional surface water storage is an important element for addressing future water supply needs in the Treasure Valley and surrounding areas. Water users in the Boise River basin rely heavily on the existing reservoir system to store and manage surface water supplies.

Feasibility study

Reclamation and the Idaho Water Resource Board partnered to complete the *Boise River Basin Feasibility Study* to explore new surface water storage opportunities in the Boise River Basin.

Authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016, the study focused on a six-foot raise of Anderson Ranch Dam in Idaho, to add approximately 29,000 acre feet of new storage space. This authority is limited to storage projects.

Raising Anderson Ranch Dam will allow Reclamation to store precipitation when available during wet years to supply supplemental water or hold over for use during dry years.

Dam raise components

- Raise the dam crest.
- Replace or modify the spillway features.
- Realign the right abutment approach road.
- Re-establish two-lane traffic across the dam.
- Establish a detour route along HD-131 (Cow Creek Road) when the dam crest road is closed during construction.
- Create benefits for irrigation water supply, and domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial water supply as well as for fish and wildlife, hydropower, and recreation.

Reservoir rim projects

Areas of potential impact around Anderson Ranch Reservoir due to the increase in the reservoir elevation include the following:

- Roads, bridges, culverts, recreation facilities, Pine airstrip, and power utility infrastructure.

Who gets the water?

The Idaho Department of Water Resources filed a water right permit application for the new storage. Reclamation will issue storage contracts to the IWRB and potentially to other water user organizations, for the new space in the enlarged reservoir. The IWRB may sub-contract with water users for access to its portion of the storage space. The IWRB also may offer some of the additional water supply to the Boise River rental pool.

Reclamation intends to reserve 10% of the space for federal benefits, which could include fish and wildlife and other environmental purposes.

Project timeline

The dam raise and associated project components are in the design phase. Final design and associated cost estimates are scheduled for completion in late summer 2024.

Environmental compliance will resume in late 2022, following further development of the design. Reclamation anticipates issuing a record of decision in 2024.

Construction anticipated to start in late 2025.



Anderson Ranch Dam and Reservoir



Anderson Ranch Reservoir

Project costs

Component	Costs (in 2025 U.S. Dollars)
Field Costs – Dam Raise	\$44,000,000
Field Costs – Rim Projects	\$12,000,000
Non-Contract Cost – Dam Raise	\$22,500,000
Non-Contract Cost – Rim Projects	\$4,800,000
Total	\$83,300,000

Feasibility-level cost estimate for the proposed plan, which will be refined throughout the design process.

For more information

Reclamation’s Anderson Ranch Dam Raise website
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/boisefeasibility/andersonraise/index.html>.

Idaho Water Resources Board website
<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/projects/boise-river/>.

