Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Fact Sheet

(June 2025)

A need for more water

Capturing additional surface water is an important strategy to help address 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 deliver surface water supplies. Increased storage capacity will provide additional water supply and flexibility to accommodate drought cycles and manage new demands and changes in water use due to growth and variable climate conditions.

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.

While other alternatives were evaluated, the study found a six-foot raise of Anderson Ranch Dam was feasible and would add approximately 29,000 acre-feet of new storage space to the system. The study was authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 and is limited to storage projects.

Benefits include additional water supply for irrigation, domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial water users, fish and wildlife conservation, hydropower generation, and recreational uses.

Recommended Plan

Dam raise

- Dam crest modification
- Replace or modify spillway control features
- Work at right abutment and associated approach roads
- Re-establish two-lane traffic across the dam
- Establish a temporary detour route across dam for public bypass during construction (some full road closures anticipated)

Reservoir rim

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

- Reservoir rim and road erosion control
- Erosion control near bridges
- Recreation facilities
- Pine airstrip
- Power utility infrastructure

Who gets the water?

The IWRB filed a water right permit application for the new storage. Reclamation intends to reserve 10% of the space for federal benefits, which could include fish and wildlife and other environmental purposes.

Ninety percent of the space would be used for non-federal benefits. The IWRB anticipates entering into contracts with interested water users or offering water through the Idaho Water Supply Bank's Water District 63 rental pool, or both.

Project timeline

The recommended plan's components are in the design phase. Final design and associated cost estimates are scheduled for completion in late fall 2025, with federal construction contracting processes to occur throughout 2026.

Environmental compliance is underway, and a supplemental draft environmental impact statement is slated for some time in 2025, with a record of decision in 2026.

Construction is anticipated to start in 2027.

Anderson Ranch Dam and Reservoir

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Project costs

The 60% design-level total project cost estimate for the recommended plan is $127.8M. This 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/iwrb/projects/boise-river/.

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