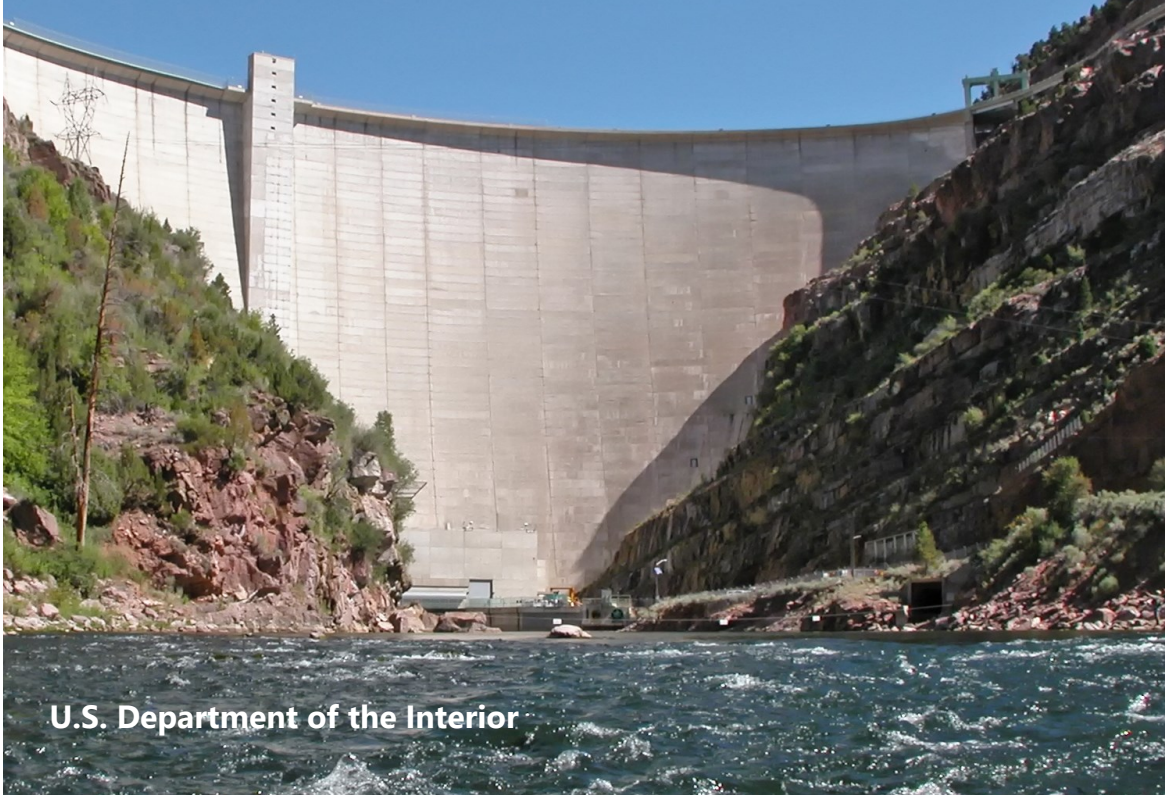
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Flaming Gorge Dam



U.S. Department of the Interior

Flaming Gorge Dam rises 502 feet above the bedrock of the Green River, 32 miles south of the Utah-Wyoming border, and forms the Flaming Gorge Reservoir that extends 91 miles north into Wyoming. The reservoir has a total capacity of nearly 3.8 million acre-feet and, at the full capacity elevation of 6,040 feet above sea level, the reservoir has a surface area of 42,020 acres and 375 miles of shoreline.

The dam is located near Dutch John, Utah, a town originally established by Reclamation to house those who built the dam. The reservoir and the surrounding Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area stretch north from the Uintah Mountains in Utah to just south of Green River, Wyoming.

Water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir is released through the dam and back into the Green River. It then travels about 250 miles south to Canyonlands National Park, Utah, where it joins the Colorado River. The Green River is the largest tributary of the Colorado River.

Dam Facts

Type of dam:	concrete thin-arch
Height above bedrock:	502 feet
Height above original river channel:	455 feet
Crest length (arc length at axis of dam):	1,285 feet

Excavation total: 1,023,971 cubic yards of rock and sand, including 1,775 feet of tunnels, down to 60 feet below the original river channel.

History

Construction authorized:	April 11, 1956
First construction contract awarded:	Jan. 4, 1957
Cost of project (in 1957):	$114,900,000
Green River diverted:	Aug. 17, 1959
First bucket of concrete poured:	Sept. 18, 1960
Last bucket of concrete poured:	Nov. 15, 1962
Reservoir started filling:	Dec. 10, 1962
First generator started by President John F. Kennedy:	Sept. 27, 1963
Dedicated by First Lady “Lady Bird” Johnson:	Aug. 17, 1964

The Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Initial Storage Dams

The Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 allowed for the comprehensive development of water resources by the Upper Colorado Basin states (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) to provide long-term, regulatory storage of water to meet the entitlements of the Lower Colorado Basin states (Arizona, California and Nevada).

There are four initial storage units of the CRSP: Flaming Gorge, Wayne N. Aspinall, Navajo; and Glen Canyon. Each unit consists of a reservoir, dam and powerplant, with the exception of the Navajo Unit, which does not have a federally owned and operated powerplant. These units work together to regulate the flow of the Colorado River and its tributaries to provide flood control, store water for times of drought, produce hydropower, and deliver water for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses.

Meeting one of its important functions as an initial storage unit of the CRSP, Flaming Gorge recently delivered supplemental water to Lake Powell to help protect the reservoir from dropping below critical elevations. In 2021, Flaming Gorge sent an additional 121,000 acre-feet of water to Lake Powell, and delivered another 463,000 acre-feet from May 2022 to early March 2023. Flaming Gorge recovered from those supplemental releases in late February 2024.

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