

Project Financing

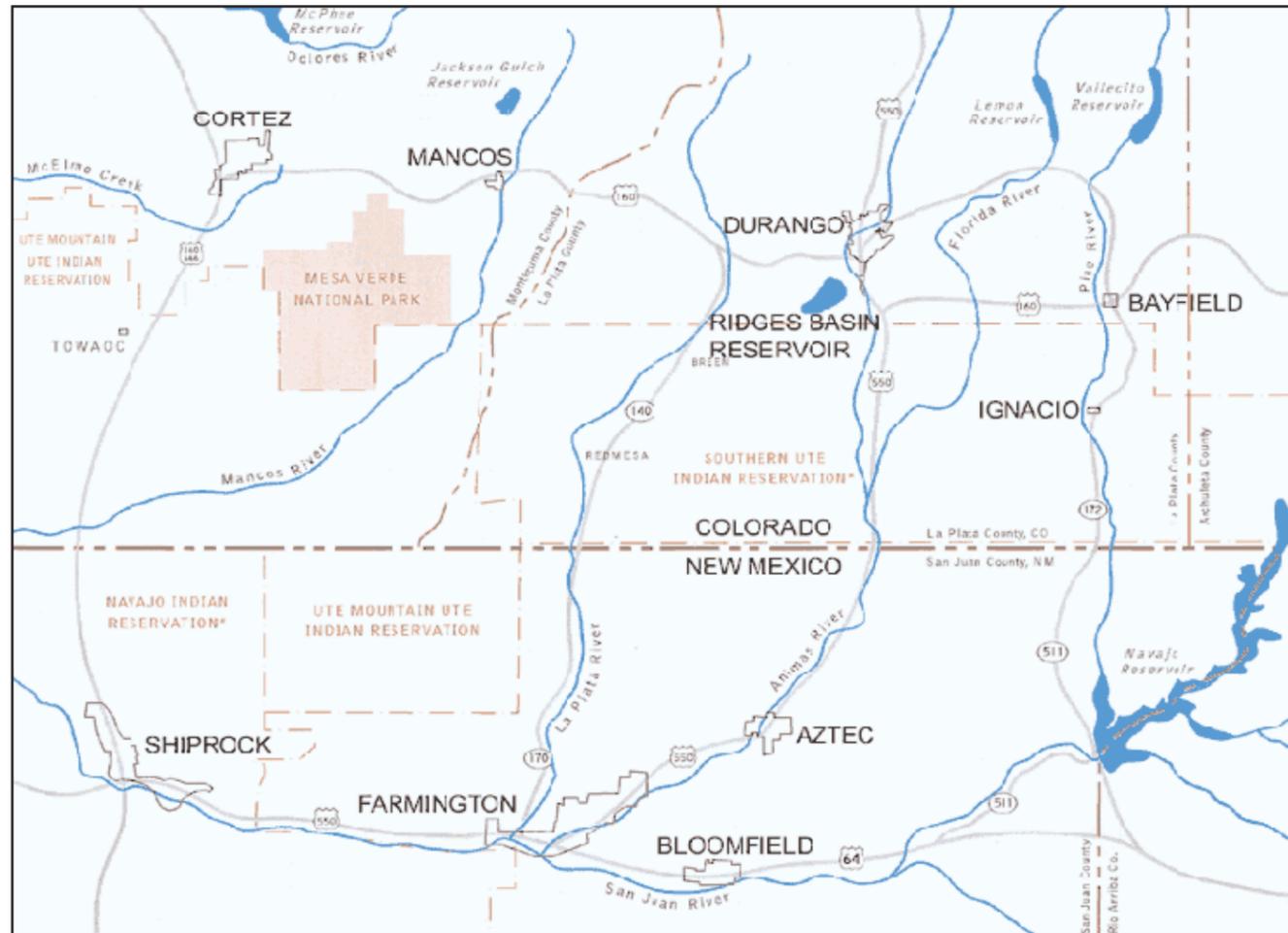
The Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000 provide that project construction costs allocated to the three benefiting Indian Tribes are non-reimbursable (The Indian Tribes will not pay any of the construction costs of the project). The project costs allocated to the non-Tribal participants are reimbursable and may be satisfied upon the payment in full of the non-Tribal water capital obligations prior to completion of construction. However, the non-Tribal capital obligations will be subject to a final cost allocation upon project completion and may warrant additional payment. Certain project costs allocated to recreation, cultural resources, and fish and wildlife mitigation are nonreimbursable consistent with Federal Reclamation law.

Additional Information

For additional information on the Animas-La Plata Project, please write the Four Corners Construction Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Dave Gates, 2200 Bloomfield Hwy, Farmington, NM 87401, or call (505) 324-5028. You may also visit our Web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/>



Aerial view - Durango Pumping Plant and Animas River



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Animas-La Plata Project

Upper Colorado Region



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Four Corners Construction Office
Durango, Colorado

Project Background

The Animas-La Plata Project (A-LP), located in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico, has been the subject of substantial public interest and environmental review since it was authorized. Following is a short history leading to the initiation of project construction, and current construction progress.

1968 - United States Congress authorized construction of the A-LP Project

1980 - The Bureau of Reclamation released a Final Environmental Statement on the project.

1988 - Congress passed the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act which authorized the implementation of a 1986 water rights settlement agreement.

1990 - Based on new biological information, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a draft biological opinion concluding that the project would jeopardize the continued existence of the Colorado pikeminnow.

1991 - The Service issued a Final Biological Opinion containing a reasonable and prudent alternative that limited the project depletions to 57,100 acre-feet per year. This opinion allowed construction of the project to begin.

1992 - A lawsuit filed by environmental organizations halted construction of the project.

1996 - Reclamation released a Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement, that addressed updated environmental information.

1996-97 - Supporters and opponents of the project addressed unresolved issues associated with the original A-LP Project to gain consensus on an alternative to the project. (Romer/Schoettler Process)

1998 - The Department of the Interior recommended construction of a substantially scaled-down project that was designed to satisfy the intent of Colorado Ute Tribes' 1986 water rights settlement agreement.

2000 - Reclamation released a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision that identified the selected alternative as a down-sized project that focused on providing the Colorado Ute Tribes, as well as others, an assured water supply.

Congress authorized construction of the scaled-down project with the Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000.

2001 - November 9, 2001, Reclamation Commissioner grants approval to initiate project construction.

2002 - Construction began with installation of the Inlet Conduit Sleeve.

2003 - Update of Project Construction Cost Estimate reveals increase of project cost from approximately \$338 million to \$500 million. Ridges Basin Dam Outlet Works excavation was completed. Durango Pumping Plant (DPP) excavation was initiated.

2004 - Construction continued on Ridges Basin Dam foundation excavation with over two million cubic yards of material excavated. DPP excavation, Intake Structure, and fish bypass were substantially completed. Preliminary design for the Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline continued.

2005 - Construction was initiated on the DPP structure. Erection of an onsite Sky Ute Sand and Gravel concrete batch plant at the DPP site was completed and brought into production. The main pumping plant bay foundation and first floor concrete were completed. The floor of the intake channel/fish screen was completed. The pipes to and from the pumps were installed and were encased in concrete. Ridges Basin Dam Completion Contract was awarded in March. Foundation grouting on the foundation and both abutments was initiated. Placement of the zone materials

Project Data

Ridges Basin Dam

Structural height270 feet
Crest length1,640 feet
Releases110 cfs with periodic peaks up to 200 cfs

Lake Nighthorse

Capacity
Active storage..... 90,000 acre-feet
Inactive storage..... 30,000 acre-feet
Total storage..... 120,000 acre-feet

Total water surface..... 1,490 acres

Durango Pumping Plant

Maximum dynamic lift..... 550 feet
Capacity..... 280 cubic feet per second

Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit

Length..... 2.1 miles
Capacity..... 280 cubic feet per second

Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline

Length.....approximately 30 miles
Initial capacity..... 12.9 cubic feet per second

Project Water Supply¹

	Supply (acre-feet)	Depletion (acre-feet)
Colorado		
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	33,050	16,525
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	33,050	16,525
Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District	5,200	2,600
State of Colorado	<u>10,460</u>	<u>5,230</u>
Total	81,760	40,880
New Mexico		
Navajo Nation	4,680	2,340
San Juan Water Commission	20,800	10,400
La Plata Conservancy District	<u>1,560</u>	<u>780</u>
Total	27,040	13,520

¹ The difference between total depletion shown and the average annual 57,100 acre-foot depletion is the allowance for evaporation that will occur at Lake Nighthorse, approximately 2,700 acre-feet.

(including sand and filter drains, impervious clay core, and Zone 4 shell) continued. The materials processing plant was erected and produced Zone 2 (sand), Zone 3 (gravel), Zone 6 (rock), and road base materials. On August 12, 2005, the Ridges Basin Dam Zone One Clay Placement Ceremony was held. During the ceremony, religious leaders of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes blessed the building of the dam. The outlet works tunnel and gate chamber was excavated and concrete invert tunnel lining was initiated. Construction of Basin Creek Drop Structures was initiated.

2006 - Construction continued on the DPP Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of concrete were placed through the end of 2006 at the intake fish screen, plant, and air chamber structures. Installation, at the pumping plant site, of a portion of the 72-inch buried steel pipeline (Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit) was initiated and completed. Ridges Basin Dam construction continued. Approximately three million cubic yards of embankment zoned fill material were placed bringing the dam elevation to an average height of 6,783 feet. Grouting operations continued through this season on the dam abutments and in the outlet works tunnel. The materials processing plant continued in full production until winter shutdown. The outlet works tunnel upstream reinforced concrete lining and down stream arch lining were completed. Concrete lining in the gate chamber was initiated in late fall. The intake tower was completed to elevation 6,760 feet. Construction of Basin Creek Drop Structures were completed.

2007 - Construction on the DPP is 78 percent complete. The DPP structure was completed using a total of 21,300 cubic yards of concrete and the roof was installed. The fish screen was installed in the intake structure and the air chamber for the 72-inch inlet conduit was completed. Ridges Basin Dam is 95 percent complete and the dam was topped out at an elevation of 6,893 feet. At the outlet works the gate chamber was completed and a 4 x 6 foot slide gate was installed. A 66-inch steel outlet pipe was installed in the downstream arch tunnel and the access walkways were completed. Construction of the control house started and a 60-inch jet flow and sleeve valve gate was installed.

Construction on the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit is 66 percent complete. The outlet and dissipation structures are complete and 6,600 feet of 72-inch pipe is installed, back-filled, and reseeded.

Project Plan

The structural components consist of:

- Ridges Basin Dam and Lake Nighthorse Reservoir, an off-stream dam and reservoir at Ridges Basin.
- Durango Pumping Plant, a 280 cubic-feet per second capacity pumping plant located south of Durango on the west side of the Animas River.
- Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, a buried pipeline that will carry project water from the pumping plant to Lake Nighthorse.
- Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline, a buried pipeline to carry municipal water from Farmington, New Mexico, to the Shiprock, New Mexico area to benefit the Navajo Nation.

Water stored in Lake Nighthorse will be released as necessary back to the Animas River for municipal and industrial users within Colorado and New Mexico. Water could also be pumped from Lake Nighthorse and conveyed to rural areas west of Durango; however necessary facilities to pump and convey the water would have to be provided by others. Lake Nighthorse will include an inactive pool of approximately 30,000 acre-feet for recreational, fishery, and water quality purposes. Recreation facilities will be provided by other entities. The nonstructural component of the project, administered by BIA, is the Tribal Resource Fund for use by the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes for protection, acquisition, enhancement, or development of natural resources for the benefit of the Tribes and their members.