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## UC Region Big Picture Issues from the Front Office

### Customer Service

*Brent Rhees*  
*Regional Director*

VIDEO: Brent Rhees discusses the significance of customer service and why it is important for each Upper Colorado Region employee to continually improve and implement this criteria. In the video, Brent demonstrates some of the exemplary examples of communication and collaboration throughout the region.

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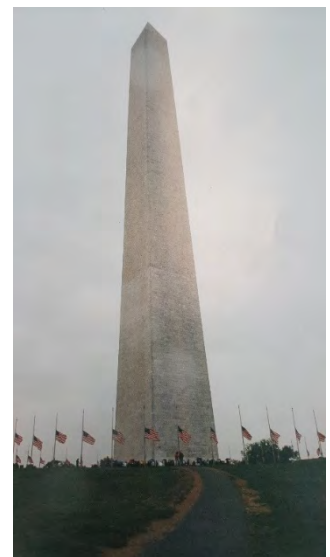
## In Remembrance of Eight Upper Colorado Region Employees Lost in Plane Crash

*By Ameer Andreason and Jayne Kelleher-Atkinson, Regional Office*

Tragedy struck Reclamation a little more than twenty years ago when a chartered plane carrying eight UC Region employees crashed with no survivors on the rugged Uncompahgre Plateau about 18 miles southwest of Montrose, Colorado. U.S. flags at all Department of the Interior facilities across the country flew at half-staff for two days to honor those eight employees lost on October 8, 1997.

On board from Montrose, Colorado, were Allen E. “Al” Inman Jr., age 47, Curecanti Field Division Manager and Jon E. Nees, age 42, Safety and Occupational Health Manager. The passengers from Page, Arizona, included William H. “Bill” Duncan, age 46, Glen Canyon Field Division Manager; Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Waite, age 41, Powerplant Operations Manager; Dephina D. “Dee” Holliman, age 37, Computer Assistant; Walter A. “Walt” Kaltmaier, age 62, Computer Specialist; Catrina M. Wall, age 33, Computer Specialist; and James L. “Jim” Bloomfield, age 43, Electrical Engineer. The pilot Robert Armstrong, a 63-year old Phoenix, Arizona, resident, had been flying with Scenic Airlines for 10 years.

The single-engine Cessna 208 took off from the Montrose Regional Airport on October 8, 1997, on what was to be a 90-minute flight to Page, Arizona, where employees were to attend a general Power Office meeting. The plane quickly vanished from radar. Search



*All flags on Interior lands, including the Washington Monument grounds, flew at half-staff October 15-17, 1997.*



and rescue crews from the local Sheriff's Office, Civil Air Patrol and National Guard searched for two days before finding the crash site on October 10. An investigation conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the cause of the crash was weather conditions.

Former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt precluded his remarks at a Departmental memorial service by reading a letter from former President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton of the United States:



Memorial stone in front of the Curecanti Field Division Office in Montrose, Colorado.

*“Hillary and I extend our heart-felt sympathy to the friends, families, and co-workers of the eight Bureau of Reclamation employees who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash.*

*Jim Bloomfield, Bill Duncan, Dephina Holliman, Al Inman, Walt Kaltmaier, Jon Nees, Jeff Waite, and Catrina Wall represented public service at its finest. Through their contributions to the Colorado River Storage Project and other assignments during their careers with the Bureau of Reclamation, they dedicated their time, talents, and energy to make life better for their fellow Americans. They have left a rich legacy of achievement and service to our country that will continue to inspire all who knew and worked with them.*

*Our hearts go out to each of you, as well as the people of Montrose, Colorado, and Page, Arizona, as you now strive to cope with this devastating loss. We are keeping all of you in our thoughts and praying for your strength and comfort.”*

Now, just more than 20 years since this tragedy occurred, it is important that we maintain the spirit that makes this agency what it is. Continue to treat each other with respect and kindness. Carry pride in the work you do while praising and acknowledging your coworker's accomplishments and contributions. Never forget to live life and love all that you do.

In words from former Regional Director Charlie Calhoun: *“Be sure to find balance between work and family, and that we will all live lives rich in service, fellowship, and happiness. In closing, I dedicate this message to the memory of Jim Bloomfield, Bill Duncan, Dee Holliman, Al Inman, Walt Kaltmaier, Jon Nees, Jeff Waite, and Catrina Wall. In life they served themselves and the public with distinction. In death, they have rekindled a sense of community and family within Reclamation that we shall never forget.”*



Bureau of Reclamation Memorial Fountain located in front of the Glen Canyon Dam Visitor Center.



## Reclamation's 2017 Year in Review

*From the DC Office*



*Reopening of the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam.*

The Bureau of Reclamation concludes 2017 by highlighting a busy and productive year in the Western United States. We saw a high runoff in the Pacific Northwest and New Mexico, the end of the drought in California with full reservoirs, the end of construction of the new spillway at Folsom Dam in California, the construction of the helix fish passage at Cle Elum Dam in Washington, hosting people from around the world at the International SEED Seminar, new exhibits at the Glen Canyon Dam Visitor Center, and continued maintenance and inspections at facilities

throughout the West. The year ended with Reclamation welcoming its new Commissioner, Brenda Burman. Click [here](#) to view the video.

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## Reclamation Holds Public Negotiations for Green River and Lake Powell Pipeline Water Exchange Contracts

*By Andrew Kirby, Provo Area Office*

After years of discussions between Reclamation and the State of Utah on the state's use of a specific Green River water right, the two parties began public negotiations on October 30, 2017 and December 4, 2017 for two water exchange contracts. In both negotiations, Reclamation is partnering with the state to help facilitate its use of its Colorado River apportionment.



*Green River water exchange negotiations (L-R) Brent Rhees, Wayne Pullan, Valerie Deppe and the State of Utah representatives.*

The first exchange negotiation is for water use in the Uintah Basin of Northeastern Utah and focuses on a concept whereby Utah will trade use of variable Green River tributary flows for reliable releases from Flaming Gorge Dam. Such an exchange preserves Reclamation's flexibility to meet Flaming Gorge Dam Record of Decision obligations while providing a reliable water source and more certain timing of flows for the Utah. The second negotiation is for water the state proposes using to supply its Lake Powell Pipeline project. Under the LPP exchange concept, the state will also trade use of variable Green River tributary flows for reliable releases from Flaming Gorge Dam. In addition, those flows would be allowed to flow from Flaming Gorge Dam to Lake Powell for delivery through the state's planned Lake Powell Pipeline. Each contract will include provisions under which the state will compensate the United States



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for benefits Utah receives from existing federal water facilities—like Flaming Gorge and Glen Canyon Dams.

The open nature of these public negotiation meetings is very important to Reclamation and the stakeholders we serve. “Public meetings are important. These public meetings are where a democratic government reports on its activities to its citizens, and it is where we receive feedback from them. In these aspects, public negotiations are some of the best things we do as public servants,” said Wayne Pullan, Provo Area Office Manager.

Negotiation attendees at the [St. George meeting](#) provided both formal and informal comments during a pre-meeting open house and a post-negotiation comment session. Comments were generally positive; several attendees expressed their support for the Lake Powell Pipeline, as well as their general appreciation for Reclamation’s work. Commenters also noted that they appreciated Reclamation’s decision to make the negotiation public. Some commenters expressed skepticism about the need for the project, noting that stricter conservation measures would be preferable to the construction of the pipeline.

While Reclamation is partnering with Utah for these water exchange contracts, it has not taken a position on state’s Lake Powell Pipeline proposal. A completed exchange agreement will support the state’s desire to develop its water right while preserving Reclamation’s ability to meet Endangered Species Act-related flow requirements in the Green River.

Reclamation’s negotiation team was led by Provo Area Office Manager Wayne Pullan and included Regional Director Brent Rhees and economist Valerie Deppe. The State of Utah was represented by lead negotiator and Utah Division of Water Resources Director Eric Millis as well as Gawain Snow, general manager of the Uintah Basin Water Conservancy District, and Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water District.

Negotiations will resume on Thursday, January 18, in Salt Lake City, where a public open house will begin at 8:00am. These negotiations are unrelated to the environmental review process associated with the Pipeline.

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## **New Mexico Hits the High Court On The Rio Grande**

*From the University of New Mexico/KUNM*



*Nambe Falls Reservoir on the Rio Grande*

On a frigid Monday morning in the nation’s capital, as most of the press corps turned its attention toward a water dispute between Florida and Georgia, attorneys for New Mexico and Colorado tried to fend off the ability of the United States government to protect its water interests on the Rio Grande.

Attorneys for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the states of Texas, Colorado and New Mexico presented oral arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court. The issue at hand is whether the United States has the right to intervene in the longstanding interstate water dispute under the Rio Grande Compact.



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Each attorney had 10 to 20 minutes to weigh in on whether the federal government has a right to join the case based on the interstate compact the three states signed to divvy up the Rio Grande's waters.

In 2013, Texas sued its two northern neighbors, alleging that by allowing farmers in southern New Mexico to pump groundwater, which is hydrologically connected to the Rio Grande, New Mexico wasn't sending its legal share of water to Texas under the Rio Grande Compact.

Under that compact, signed before World War II, New Mexico doesn't deliver water across the state line, but to Elephant Butte Reservoir about 100 miles north of Texas. From there, the Bureau of Reclamation sends Rio Grande Project water to southern New Mexico, Texas—and Mexico, too.

The United States says that by having allowed farmers to pump groundwater for decades, New Mexico has affected the agency's ability to deliver water under the compact and the international treaty that sends water to Mexico.

Associate Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Neil Gorsuch, and Stephen Breyer, as well as Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr. fired questions at each of the attorneys. In trying to understand the water rights issues and the role the Bureau of Reclamation plays in both Texas and New Mexico, the justices grappled with whether to allow the U.S. to intervene in the case under the terms of the compact.

For his part, Breyer seemed to think the case was clear. Citing the U.S. Constitution, Breyer said the case "seems to be quite simple." The Constitution, he said, allows the feds to intervene in cases in their own interest.

Of the four parties presenting oral arguments Monday, New Mexico was the only one to have a private attorney stand before justices. Marcus Rael, of Robles, Rael and Anaya in Albuquerque, represented New Mexico. The other attorneys included Ann O'Connell, assistant to the Solicitor General for the Department of Justice; Scott Keller, solicitor general of Texas; and Frederick Yarger, solicitor general of Colorado.

New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas attended the hearing and afterward, his spokesman issued a statement. "AG Balderas was pleased the Supreme Court seemed to balance interests throughout the hearing. New Mexico is seeking to protect state sovereignty and prevent the vast expansion of the United States' power over compacts among sovereign states," writes James Hallinan.

There's plenty more to say about this landmark case, to follow this story, check out [KUNM](#).

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## **Deer Creek Declared Free of Quagga Mussels After 3-year Surveillance**

*From the Deseret News*

State officials on Thursday gave the "all clear" for Deer Creek Reservoir, which had been under anxious surveillance for three years for a potential infestation of quagga mussels.

In October of 2014, five juvenile mussels were found in a water sample and widespread monitoring has continued ever since.



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Nathan Owens, aquatic invasive species coordinator with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, said no mussels have been detected in the frequent sampling, leading the reservoir to no longer be considered a quagga-suspected water body.

The "all clear" means boaters will no longer have to drain their watercraft and be subject to inspection.

"Our prevention and containment methods worked," Owens said.

Lake Powell remains the only water body in Utah infested with the quagga mussel, which can clog water infrastructure, ruin boats and fisheries.

Owens says preventing quagga mussels from establishing in Deer Creek was a team effort. "This is a shining example of what can happen when boaters and government work together on a common goal," he said.



*Downstream from Deer Creek Reservoir.*

The \$500,000 effort included funding from the Utah Legislature and boaters, anglers and personnel from the Reclamation, the Provo River Watershed Council and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District working together to keep additional mussels out of the reservoir.

During the past three years, staff at the park inspected more than 30,000 boats. They professionally decontaminated about 2,000 of them.

State officials urge boaters to continue to exercise caution and care to keep boats quagga-free.

"The threat quagga and zebra mussels pose to Utah's waters is still very real," Owens said.

Native to the Ukraine, quagga mussels were first discovered in U.S. waters in 1989 in the Great Lakes. By 2007, the first occurrence of quagga mussels west of the Continental Divide happened at Lake Mead.

Check out the [Deseret News](#) for more information.



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
*By Timmothy Coplin, Regional Office*



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has become a symbol of the struggle for equality in the United States and beyond. Every year people across the world celebrate his legacy on this day of commemoration. King's civil rights successes, inspired by the passive resistance of Mahatma Gandhi, led him to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and his legacy is still keenly felt throughout the world today.

Dr. King was born in Atlanta on January 15, 1929, and from an early age, admired social gospel proponents who saw the church as an instrument for improving the lives of Americans. Both his grandfather and father were pastors and his father, Martin Luther King Sr., was also an early civil rights leader.

Having completed his studies at Boston University, King returned to the south to become Pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He rose to national prominence soon after for his leading role in abolishing Alabama's segregation laws on the state's buses. He swiftly became known for his oratorical skills and in the spring of 1963 he and his fellow members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) organized mass demonstrations for voting rights. The origin of these was Birmingham, Alabama, where the police's use of dogs and fire hoses in quelling protesters generated worldwide media coverage and propelled many similar protests across the South, finally culminating in the August march of more than 250,000 people to Washington, DC.

Dr. King remained committed to his non-violent protests and his "I have a dream" speech is widely recognized as the most powerful civil rights oratory in the history of the struggle for equality.

Dr. King understood and articulated a vision of what America could be when respect and honesty is given. He believed that we are a society that should be a culture of inclusion and one that values the character of its people. Dr. King stated that he would not want to be remembered as someone who won a Nobel Peace Prize or for any other reason except he wanted to love and serve humanity. Unfortunately, he lost his life doing exactly what he wanted to be known for. For over 30 years, this national holiday has continued to remind us how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day - every third Monday of January - was designated a national holiday in the USA by former president Ronald Reagan in 1983 firsts observed in 1986. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated in over 100 countries across the globe.

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**Albuquerque Area Office Celebrates International Day**

*By Barbara Miller, Albuquerque Area Office*

The Albuquerque Area Office will be celebrating its second annual International Day on January 18, 2018. The International Day began as a way to explore different heritages that are not covered by the Diversity and Special Emphasis month celebrations.



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Choosing several random areas – Germanic, British Isles, Scandinavia, and Mediterranean – AAO team members voted on where they would most like to explore. Scandinavia won (by 2 votes!) with the British Isles second. Many of our staff have Scandinavian heritage and are looking forward to this event.

Scandinavia is a large region of northern Europe that is mainly made up of the Scandinavian Peninsula. It includes the countries of Norway and Sweden. Neighboring Denmark and Finland, as well as Iceland, are also considered to be part of this region.

The area has been gaining international attention for the “New Scandinavian Cooking”, a flavorful and healthy way to eat. They have many unusual and interesting ingredients that are almost impossible to find in America. Cloudberries, reindeer meat, lingonberries, reindeer moss, juniper and all sorts of fish.

A cook off will ensue with participants bringing in their takes on traditional foods of the Scandinavian areas. AAO employees will enjoy sampling all the offerings and vote on their favorite. The winner will receive a Scandinavian cookbook.

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## Winter Slips, Trips, and Falls

*From USAG Rheinland-Pfalz*

Most people have seen someone take a nasty spill on slippery winter ground. You may have even been the victim of it yourself. Whether it’s some unsuspecting, nearly invisible ice on your front porch steps, or that deceitful greasy floor surface near an entrance to the outside world that could double as a hockey rink, the possibilities of winding up on your rear more than your feet this winter seem endless.

Here are some steps to ensure you’re staying safe when walking around in snowy and icy conditions:

### ***Prevention***

- Wear Proper Foot Gear
- Take smaller steps when walking
- Walk slowly and never run on icy ground
- Keep both hands free for balance rather than in your pockets
- Use handrails from start to finish
- Avoid carrying loads
- Keep your eyes on where you are going
- Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them
- Step-don’t jump from vehicles or equipment
- Keep walkways clear of debris, water, ice and slippery materials



### ***Safe Winter Walking***

- Plan ahead; give yourself sufficient time and plan your route
- Wear shoes that provide traction on snow or ice: rubber and neoprene composite. Avoid plastic or leather soles.
- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible
- If a walkway is completely covered with ice; try to travel along its grassy edge for traction





***When given no choice but to walk on ice, consider the following:***

- Take short steps or shuffle for stability
- Bend slightly, walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over the feet as much as possible
- Be prepared to fall
- Relax as much as possible when you begin to fall
- Bend your back and head forward so you won't slam your head on the pavement as your feet shoot out from under you.
- Toss the load you are carrying. Protect yourself instead of the objects being carried.
- When entering buildings, remove snow and water from footwear to prevent wet slippery conditions indoors.

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**Don't Forget to Recycle!**

*By Jodi Benson, Regional Office*

The Upper Colorado Region's Sustainable Environmental Management System's practice allows our agency to strategically address and manage its controllable environmental impacts in a systematic way. It consists of standardized planning, measuring and reporting processes targeted at the organization's activities or operations that have potentially significant environmental impacts. As part of this implementation and to foster continuous improvement in addressing these impacts, the UC Region recycles to advance waste prevention and waste diversion.



As a kickoff to 2018, for the Regional Office's first quarter, they have recycled 8,000 pounds of mixed paper. These numbers are higher in comparison to fiscal year 2017's first quarter of 5,600 pounds. This is a positive step as it's showing employees are aware of the importance of recycling!

Keep up the good work!

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**Who's New**

**Amy Loveless – Central Contracts Group - Acquisitions Management Division**

I came to Reclamation because I was looking for a new experience outside of the Department of Defense. Some things about me are, I like playing volleyball, hiking and watching Ohio state football. I enjoy listening to country music. My favorite show right now is "This is Us", I love the surprise at the end of each episode. My favorite holiday was Thanksgiving as a kid. The one word that would best describe me would be independent.



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## In Transition

### **William (Bill) Alex Brown (May 4, 1959 - January 9, 2018)**

Beloved husband, father, grandpa, and friend William Alex 'Bill' Brown passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

He was born on May 4, 1959 in Lehi, Utah. His parents were JoAnn Karren Brown and Leo 'Jim' Brown. He lived most of his life in Lehi. He married Vonna Udy in 1983 and later divorced. He married Karen Shelton and they resided in Holladay, Utah. Survived by four children: Taylor (Megan) Brown of Sandy, Utah; Austin (Chelsea) Brown of American Fork, Utah; McKell (Zack) Mitani of American Fork, Utah; and Katelan (William) Cross of Sandy, Utah. He is also survived by his six grandchildren and a sister, Susan (Rich) Corson of American Fork, Utah.



Bill was well known as a musician and played guitar and sang throughout his life. He worked for the U.S. Government, Bureau of Reclamation. He loved people, Disneyland, and the Utah Utes. He and Karen loved to travel and spend time with their family and grandchildren.

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### **Ora F. Canfield 1924-2017**



Ora F. Canfield, age 93, passed away at her home on December 19, 2017. She was born on November 22, 1924 in Tremonton, Utah to Reuben H. and Edith P. (Adams) Fuller, the youngest of five children. She graduated from Bear River High School and attended BYU for two years.

She married John O. Canfield on April 3, 1946 in the LDS Logan temple and together they had five children. John's military career in the USAF led them to live in many different places, including California, Texas, Arizona, Spain, and Alabama before John retired and they bought their home in Layton, UT. A devoted wife and mother, Ora was the Officer's Wives Club President, and the chairman of the Hill Air Force Base Thrift Shop. She was also active in the

PTA. She worked as a secretary for Farmington Elementary, and then as a legal secretary for the US Department of the Interior.

Ora was an active member of the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and served in many ways over her long life, most recently leading the congregational singing for most of the last forty years. She had a lifelong love of music and delighted in hearing her children play and sing. Ora was an accomplished seamstress and quilter, and many friends and neighbors can attest to the deliciousness of her bread and roll baking skills.



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Ora was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John, and her brothers and sister, Alvin E. Fuller, Howard R. Fuller, Darald J. Fuller and Dora (Fuller) Nunnelley. She is survived by her two sons, Karlin Canfield and Dr. Anthony Canfield; her three daughters, Christie Canfield, Mary Canfield, and Sheila (Brian) Keyes; as well as her seven grandchildren, Steven (Ashley) Keyes, Andrea Keyes, Brendan Canfield, Melinda (Josh) Franzen, Nicholas Canfield, Alyssa Canfield and Nathan Keyes; and two great grandchildren, Benjamin and Naomi Keyes.

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## Reclamation Trivia

### Here's this week's set of questions:

1. U.S. flags at all Department of the Interior facilities across the country flew at half-staff for \_\_\_\_\_ to honor the eight employees who lost their lives on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Public meetings are important. These public meetings are where a \_\_\_\_\_ reports on its activities to its citizens, and it is where we receive feedback from them. In these aspects, public negotiations are some of the best things we do as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Dr. King was born in Atlanta on \_\_\_\_\_, and from an early age, admired social gospel proponents who saw the church as an \_\_\_\_\_ for improving the lives of Americans.

### Last week, We asked,

1. CE Power was awarded a **\$2.3 million dollar** contract in 2016. Construction began in July 2017 and will be completed by the end of **August 2017**.
2. The Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility serves as a focal point for **developing technologies** for the desalination of brackish and impaired groundwater.
3. Americans observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month by paying tribute to the **accomplishments** of the men and women with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming their **commitment** to ensure **equal opportunity** for all citizens.

Last winner was – **N/A**

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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