



Regional Director Larry Walkoviak Comments on Sequester Issues and Concerns

Howdy. Sequester, everywhere we turn there is another news story about this topic. Each of you probably has questions about sequestration (and perhaps some about the Continuing Resolution that expires in late March). I already have learned that I cannot answer all of the questions that people have -- but, I'll keep trying to find answers -- so, please keep asking.

First, let me single out the all-employee messages that [Secretary Salazar](#) and [Commissioner Connor](#) sent to us several days ago.

Next, let me emphasize that while all of these budget activities play out, we still have much to accomplish in fiscal year 2013 and, while our budgets may be decreased, I believe that one of our most important tasks is to keep focused on the jobs at hand. As employees, you and I are in control of one of the most important parts of our workflow and accomplishments processes. We are in control of us. We don't control the budget and finance part of those processes. However, we are squarely in the middle of getting the work done. So, please continue doing the excellent work that you do every day.

Lastly, some of you have asked me about exactly where any budget cuts might be felt and many of you have asked about possible furloughs. Regarding budget cuts, the Commissioner's Office has passed along several data calls and we have responded to all of them (let me pause here to sincerely thank Mary Halverson, Annie Lambert, Sterling Acree, Terry Farnham, Gloria Fullmer, Ann Gold and Brent Rhees; plus, many folks in the Area Offices -- I know that I am not doing justice to all of the folks that have worked so quickly and so well -- even though I haven't mentioned your name, please know that I sincerely thank you). Overall, the sequestration reductions appear to be about 5% (based on a full year of funding). We are still awaiting more detailed guidance regarding how these reductions will be dealt with. As soon as we know, we will share that information.

Regarding furloughs, let me emphasize that a final determination has not been made (as you might imagine, we need to get the budget decisions first). At this time, we have not identified any requirements to conduct furloughs in UC. The [Commissioner's All Employees Message](#) clearly stated that if any furloughs are required, there are numerous steps that must (and will) be followed -- for example, there is a 30 day advance notice requirement. The fact that no one has



received any such 30 day notices will hopefully comfort you and verify what I stated earlier -- no furlough requirements have been identified in UC at this time.

As I stated earlier, let's all focus on the things that we can control. Also, I commit to you that we will share information with you as quickly and efficiently as we can. Thanks so much for all of your great work.

Cheers, Larry Walkoviak

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

View the video message from the Secretary to employees [here](#).

March 1 2013

To: All DOI Employees
From: Secretary
Subject: Implementation of Sequestration

Over the last few weeks, I have provided updates on our efforts to plan for the implementation of sequestration should Congress not reach an agreement on deficit reduction. Unfortunately, we must now implement these plans. The President will issue a report today outlining reductions across the Government. At Interior, we must implement over \$800 million of reductions over the next 7 months. Because the reductions must be implemented in a shortened, 7 month period, the effective impact is a 9 percent reduction on our missions and programs.

Given our large footprint on the American landscape and the diverse constituency our programs support, we expect that impacts to the public will be felt in hundreds of communities around the Nation. I am deeply saddened by the impact that this will have on all of you and your ability to serve the American public.

Implementation and its Impact on Employees

As I wrote to you last week, we are facing very difficult choices in how to implement the sequester. We are managing hiring through freezes and tough controls. We are reducing overtime, compensatory time and the use of credit hours. While we were already examining all travel and conference spending, the sequester will force us to eliminate all but the most critical spending. We are reducing training and performance awards. We are reducing our grant programs. We are reducing or eliminating contracts and cooperative agreements. Each of these has a negative impact on mission delivery and on all of you.

Despite these extensive mitigating actions, we continue to expect that thousands of permanent employees will be furloughed for periods of time up to 22 work days. The numbers of employees and the duration will vary from bureau to bureau and program to program. As your bureau and office leadership finalize their implementation plans in the coming weeks for their respective organizations, they will be communicating the specific number of employees impacted and the duration of furloughs required. The earliest any furloughs would begin is in April. Let me assure you that all affected employees will be provided at least 30 days notice prior to executing a furlough or in accordance with the designated representative collective bargaining agreement as appropriate. We will also continue to engage in discussions with employee unions as applicable, to ensure that any furloughs are applied in an appropriate manner meeting agency mission requirements. If you have questions on this issue, I encourage you to go to the Office of Personnel Management website, which has helpful information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding furloughs (found at www.opm.gov/furlough, under the “administrative furlough” section).

March is a critical period for seasonal hiring. The leaders of your organizations will be making final decisions about seasonal hiring considering the reductions required by the sequester. For those seasonal employees we are able to hire, we still expect impacts in the form of furloughs, delayed starts, and shortened employment periods. All seasonal employees that are furloughed will be provided at least 30 days notice prior to execution of the furlough.

One of our top strategic priorities is youth. We have worked so hard over the last 4 years to accelerate youth hiring and engagement. These efforts are imperative for building the next generation of resource managers and

conservation leaders. I am especially disheartened by the difficult choices that we must now make. Some bureaus will be forced to cancel their summer youth programs altogether. Nearly all bureaus and offices will be forced to reduce the number of students hired or their cooperative agreements with our partners that fund youth corps.

Implementation and its Impact on our Stakeholders

While we face difficult choices, so too will our stakeholders whose own operations and budgets will be impacted by the sequester. Next week, we will begin formally communicating the impacts of sequester implementation to our many external stakeholders – tribes, states, partners, grantees, and contractors. While we do not have every aspect of our plans finalized, we will communicate what we know at this point. Tribal leaders will be informed about specific impacts to their tribe. States and counties will be notified about reduced grants and revenue payments. Our partners will be learning about our plans to reduce cooperative agreements and other actions that will impact their support of our mission. Grantees and contractors will be learning about planned reductions. I ask you to support your managers and bureau leadership over the coming weeks in these communication efforts.

While the March 1st sequester deadline has arrived and we must now implement, I maintain hope that Congress will act and reach an agreement on balanced deficit reductions. I have often remarked that we are the Department of America – the services we deliver and the work that we do is vital to the American public and for the generations to come. Time after time, I have seen you rise to extraordinary challenges with integrity and fortitude. I am so proud of the work that you do. Please know that I am doing everything I can to advocate on your behalf and the services that we deliver to the American public.

View the video message from the Secretary to employees [here](#).

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[Return to UC Today](#)

92-40000

March 7, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Daniel DuBray /s/
Chief of Public Affairs

Subject: Commissioner's Video Message for Employees

Commissioner Connor's latest video message for employees is now available at <http://intra.usbr.gov/commissioner/>.

In this video, recorded in his office in Washington, the Commissioner discusses the impacts of budget sequestration on Reclamation employees and programs.

Your feedback to these messages is always appreciated. As we continue with development of a plan to address budget sequestration, the Commissioner intends to record additional messages on specific topics of interest. Using the link at the bottom of the Commissioner's page, please feel encouraged to comment about this video as well as your ideas for topics you would like the Commissioner to address in future messages.

More information on the sequestration is available at <http://intra.usbr.gov/sequestration>.

Thank you for your continued interest.

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91-00000

March 7, 2013

ADM-1.10

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Michael L. Connor /s/
Commissioner

Subject: Sequestration Implementation at Reclamation

As Secretary Salazar said in his message on Friday afternoon, Department of the Interior agencies have begun to implement the budget sequestration plan that is required due to the inability of Congress to reach an agreement to resolve the situation. In FY 2013, we expect Reclamation to experience a reduction of more than \$80 million. As I said in my message to you last week, these forced reductions are clearly the result of poor fiscal policy and will have lasting consequences on our operations and our mission. Today, I want to outline the ways Reclamation is addressing this matter.

Reclamation developed an initial plan that we expect to refine in the coming month or so and, based on that plan, we realize that we will have impacts to our workforce and operations effective immediately. Some of those impacts are a result of actions we have already put in place. We instituted a hiring freeze, established restrictions on non-essential travel and continue our aggressive cost cutting efforts throughout Reclamation.

While I continue to anticipate that there will not be widespread furloughs across Reclamation in 2013, there is still the possibility of isolated furloughs in some specific programs, projects or activities due to a shortage of funding. If the sequestration continues into 2014, there will likely be the need for additional furloughs. Permanent employees will be notified 30 days in advance of any furloughs as set forth in my previous memo dated February 26, 2013. At this time, however, one tool we can use to manage through sequestration is to assign staff resources to cover mission execution gaps and reduce negative impacts to the extent possible. There is no doubt that the hiring freeze and other cutbacks will limit our ability to mitigate all impacts. We continue to plan to reduce spending in several areas including administration, travel, training, new hires and contracts.

Our initial sequestration implementation plan identifies some significant operational impacts. For example, the reduction in funding will result in deferred maintenance and delays in addressing safety and security issues at our facilities. A reduction in hiring will also require the deferment of some maintenance activities and a reduction in seasonal hires may impact projects as we move into summer months at some of our recreational facilities.

I am also very concerned about the impacts the sequestration may have on our ability to stay current with our legal obligations related to particular settlements and agreements. I am concerned that those impacts will extend into future years – resulting in additional demands on our workforce in accomplishing both prior year deferred work as well as honoring our future legal obligations. Our ability to carry out obligations associated with the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws is also likely to be affected.

Finally, this sequestration will impact our ability to address current and future water supply challenges by limiting our ability to develop new infrastructure and limiting the scope of our established grant programs. Those grant programs may now be run at a reduced level or, in some cases, be cancelled altogether. Again, we will make these adjustments in coming weeks and months as our initial plan is adjusted to meet this new budget reality.

At Reclamation, we are working together to minimize the on-the-ground impacts of sequestration while at the same time delivering our core services and meeting our mission-critical responsibilities. Nonetheless, I remain concerned that sequestration will ultimately impact our ability to reliably deliver water and power to our customers. As we continue with our efforts to mitigate impacts, I firmly believe it is your continued commitment and professionalism in the face of this difficult situation that will make the difference for the people we serve. I truly appreciate the work you and many others have performed in helping to develop effective plans to manage through this period of uncertainty.

Once again, your hard work and determination is appreciated at this very difficult time.

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[Return to UC Today](#)

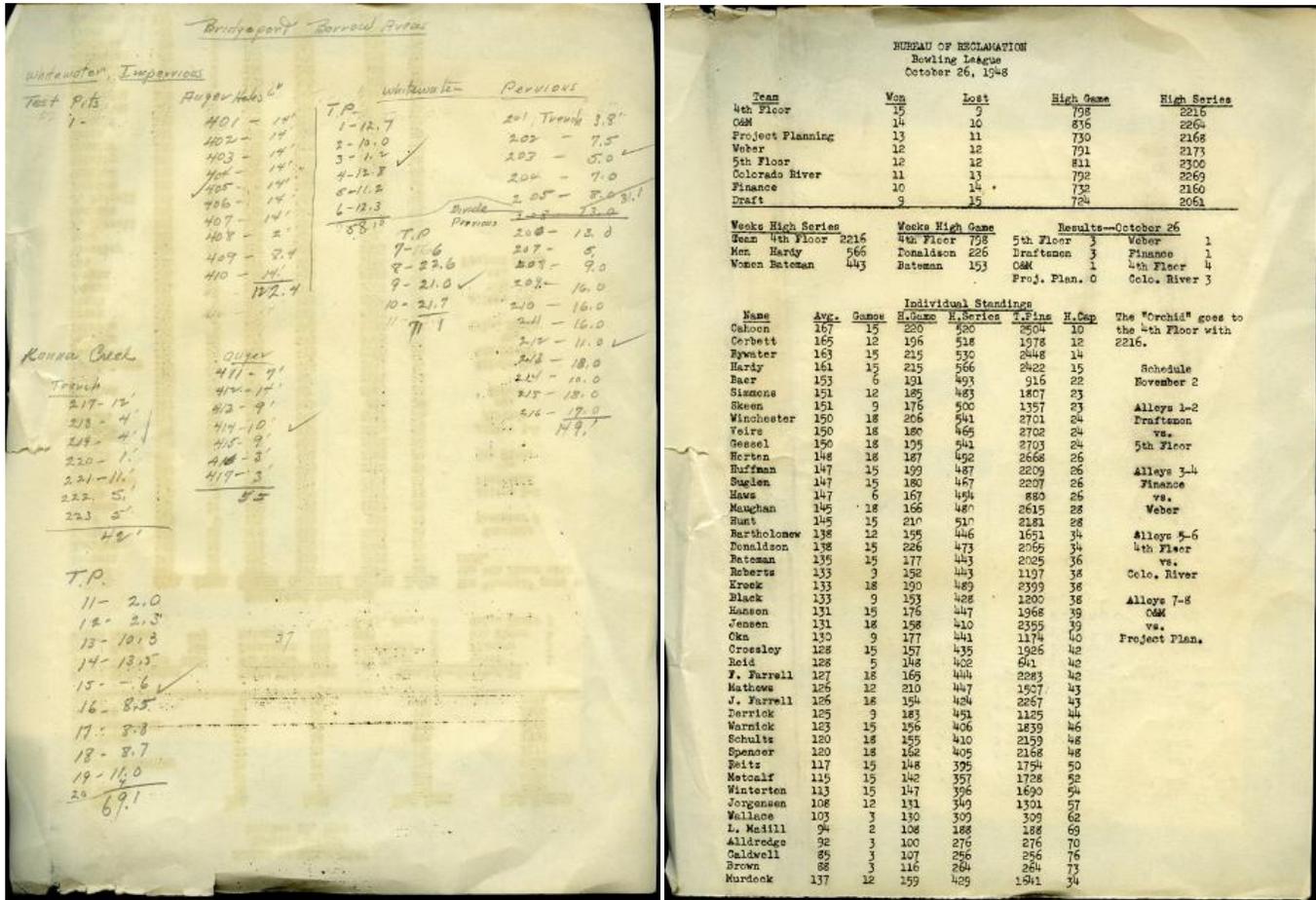
RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

March 2013
Upper Colorado Region



Reclamation's 1948 Bowling League and the Stories the Participants Could Tell



Bridgeport Borrow Areas computations, circa 1948, on left. Reclamation Bowling League score sheet for October 25, 1948, on right. Note the names, teams, scores, standings and - equally impressive - the amazing manual typing skills from the era. Remember, even the electric typewriter was a dream, much less a personal computer.

By Barry Wirth
Public Affairs Office

There are Official Records and then there are, for a lack of a better term, "Heritage Records." Our Records Management Group does a terrific job identifying and protecting all of Reclamation's official documents. However, this article is a plea to recognize and protect those items that tell us about our history, our evolution as an agency, and the people who came before us that built our projects and programs.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Recently Clyde Thomas in the Safety, Security, and Dam Safety Division in the Regional Office came across a treasure while clearing and purging materials for the eventual move into the new Regional Office space. He found a single yellowed sheet of paper that someone, presumably in the late 1940's, entered handwritten calculations on something called the "Bridgeport Borrow Areas." The work involved test pits, core drilling, and measurements. That page is interesting, but not remarkable since there is no context to the information.

However, on the other side was a gem --- a carefully typewritten page with the results of the Bureau of Reclamation Bowling League for October 26, 1948. It immediately caught my attention since that night's league play was only 57 days before I was born. Also, if you are old enough to have used typewriters, you will appreciate all of the tabs and formatting and the fact that there were no errors and no erasures or correction ribbons used.

Look at the photo of the score sheet. It must have been an activity that involved a large percentage of Reclamation's staff. There were eight teams including, by name: 4th Floor, O&M, Project Planning, Weber, 5th Floor, Colorado River, Finance, and Draft. For you competitive readers, you will see that 4th Floor had a narrow lead in the standings while "Draft" brought up the rear. There were 44 people playing with the next league night on November 2, 1948.

More importantly, give some thought to what those specific people were doing and how their work influences us 64 years later. Did you know that two weeks prior to bowling night, the Upper Basin States signed the Upper Colorado River Compact on October 11th in Santa Fe, NM? How many of those folks worked with the states on that compact settlement? Did they realize the significance of that compact and how it saved the Upper Basin States from years of acrimonious litigation as was to be the fate of the Lower Basin States who had no compact between them?

By 1943, Reclamation was the world's greatest producer of hydropower. What role did any of these people play in achieving that distinction?

These people helped to create the Upper Colorado Region as we know it today. Commissioner Harry Bashore issued the order creating the regions on September 9, 1943, on his first day as Commissioner. Before that, Commissioner John Page (for whom Page, AZ is now named) laid the ground work along with Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. The creation of regions came after fierce infighting between Reclamation's Chief Engineer, located in Denver, and the Commissioner in Washington. Bashore, by the way, began his career with the Reclamation Service in 1906.

Our bowling friends, Reclamation historian Brit Storey once wrote, were charged with project planning, public and water-user relations, and supervision of project operation and maintenance. Additional duties included negotiation of power contracts in accordance with Interior's Power



Division, coordination of construction projects with other Reclamation operations, and general administration of regional and project organizations and programs.

They were busy people. They worked on a report issued in 1950 that described plans for a series of dams and reservoirs to augment development in the Upper Basin. The Reclamation hydropower history says that report stated that revenues from hydropower developed at what would become CRSP mainstem units would be used to fund smaller irrigation projects – thus giving birth of the concept of “CRSP Participating Projects” we administer and maintain today. It’s a fair assumption that some of these people were also working on surveys to locate future dam sites at places like Flaming Gorge and Glen Canyon. They may have also worked on the famous “Blue Book” issued in 1946 that identified 134 potential reclamation sites in the Colorado River Basin.

Finally, what about the members of the “Weber” team? We know that the planning for the Weber Basin Project, started in 1942, was suspended during the war years with work resuming in 1946. A status report on investigations was published in January 1948. On the day they went bowling, these keglers worked on a project report that would be issued in July 1949, just prior to the 1949 congressional authorization of the project.

There’s a host of other activities our bowling friends probably worked on. The Central Utah Project evolved from continuous investigations starting in 1945 – work that actually traces back to plans in 1902 for the Strawberry Valley Project. Which of the group shaped that project?

It doesn’t appear that the Regional Director was a bowler. Ernest O. Larson was the RD at that time, just into the second year of his second stint as RD. Larson was the original Regional Director of Region 4 (renamed the Upper Colorado Region in 1972) from 1943 to 1946 and then came back to serve from 1947 to 1960. If you are wondering, we’ve had 10 people serve 11 periods of time as Regional Director. Larry Walkoviak has been with us since October 2007.

So --- back to what I call our “Heritage Records.” As we work with Records Management to make sure the official stuff is preserved, please be aware of the potential value of other items. You may find notes, programs, brochures, photos and scraps of historic paper that may tell us about our history and those who created it. If you aren’t sure what to do with it, give it to us in Public Affairs. We are already driving the move planners crazy with our storage needs, so what’s the problem with a few more items. The hope is to eventually incorporate more of our story-telling opportunities into our new space and your potential discards may help us.

Also, if you can shed any more light on those on the bowling league list, feel free to share it with us through UC Today.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Lake Powell Drives Economic Benefits in Arizona and Utah



Horseshoe Bend Scenic Overlook near Page, AZ

By Barry Wirth
Public Affairs Office

We all know Reclamation's projects have created some of the best recreational opportunities in Western America, but have you even wondered what that means economically to area communities? Well if Lake Powell, behind Glen Canyon Dam, is a favorite of yours, you are not alone. A new National Park Service report shows that in 2011, about 2.3 million visitors to Lake Powell spent \$238 million in nearby communities. That spending supported 2,819 jobs in the local area.



Lake Powell's recreation is administered by the Park Service and both Reclamation and NPS share in the operation of the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at the Dam in Page, AZ. Speaking about those who come to Lake Powell, park superintendent Todd Brindle said, "We attract visitors from across the U.S. and around the world that come here to experience the parks and then spend time and money enjoying the services provided by our neighboring communities and getting to know this amazing part of the country."

The information on Glen Canyon and Rainbow Bridge is part of a peer-reviewed spending analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by Michigan State University for the National Park Service. Most visitor spending supports jobs in lodging, food, and beverage service (63 percent) followed by recreation and entertainment (17 percent), other retail (11 percent), transportation and fuel (7 percent) and wholesale and manufacturing (2 percent.)

The visitor center is open daily. Included are several films in the auditorium on the history of construction of Glen Canyon Dam and its operations. Reclamation also provides tours of the dam and powerplant. Be sure to drop in when in the area and say hello to our fellow Reclamation workers at the dam and powerplant.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Employee Spotlight - Levi Hutchinson



Levi and Clayton Hutchinson

Career: Levi is the Executive Assistant to the Regional Director, Larry Walkoviak in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has been with the Bureau of Reclamation for 6 years, all of which in the front office. Prior to her current job, she worked 9 years with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the administrative field for branch, collection, and stakeholder partnership chiefs, at America Online Inc. as a Technical Support Representative troubleshooting computer and internet issues, and at a local company in Human Resources as an HR Assistant and Support Specialist conducting interviews, background checks, and all the processing of paperwork from new hire orientations.

Working in the front office is a good match for her skills as she's discovered from leadership courses she's a HUB (go-to person), Green/Red (thinker/director), ISTJ (Introvert, Sensing, Thinker, Judge; most Government workers); Levi's quick to analyze and make decisions (absolutely necessary for managing the always changing schedules), s senses when something isn't right or when an issue needs to be discussed more in depth rather than acting upon immediately; likes to have all things researched, see the



big picture, and has to at many times make numerous judgment calls in times of crisis. If you get the opportunity to attend any of the leadership courses, she highly recommends it, even if only to learn more about bettering yourself.

Levi's been fortunate to work in Washington, D.C. on several details now directly for the Commissioner and Deputies. It's great experience to see how Reclamation is run from that level. She's assisted Lower Colorado Region in the running of the National Water Resources Association's annual meetings with the Commissioner, tribes, and water districts. If you can imagine, drawing folks out of one room and directing the next set of meetings in another room down the hall every 15-minutes, some might pull their hair out, but rest assured this was fun for her and her personality type. Levi's gotten to know several key Reclamation Leadership Team members and their executive assistants along the years. Networking is crucial in today's world and to distinguish who to go to in order to obtain the information you need not only helps you succeed but Reclamation in whole.

Family: Levi comes from a family of Government employees. Her grandparents moved to Utah from Mobile, Alabama, when Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) opened and they worked in international logistics. Her father, Clark worked in sheet metal and in the control room at HAFB until retiring 6 years ago. Her mother, Cindy was a manager at IRS in the abusive tax scheme (off-shore banking) group until retiring 3 years ago. One brother currently works at HAFB while the other manages Best Buy in Ogden. Levi has been married to her husband Clayton, (originally from Midland, Texas) for 6 years who currently repairs credit scores for businesses and individuals while going to medical school; was on ski patrol at Brighton Ski Resort for several years, and who likes to tinker with hot rods (mostly Ford). They have a German Shepherd-Pit Bull named Aspen and have 6 nieces and 2 nephews.



Interesting Fact #1: Most people want to know the background of how her name came about. Her parents selected the name Levi for a boy but never settled on a girl name. Instead, they begun getting used to calling the baby, "Levi" and it stuck when she was delivered. She jokes that her younger brothers got the girl names: Lane and Loni.

Interesting Fact #2: Her maiden name is Hutchison, but her married name is Hutchinson. She says that she didn't have a big identity crisis when changing her name but, it was a heck of a lot of paperwork for one letter and people tend to say them both wrong anyway! Come to find out... her dad dropped the extra "n" along the way so she really is Levi Hutchinson Hutchinson.

Interesting Fact #3: Beginning at the age of 6, Levi was on a dance team competing nationally called Stars, until she decided watching cartoons on Saturday morning took more priority than practice. In junior high, she was on a softball team playing 1st and 3rd base until high school where she was a Lancelle for Layton High School's drill team. She almost tried out to be a Utah Jazz Dancer but changed her mind when the application mentioned it was a full-time job.





Hobbies: Levi enjoys quilting, cooking, designing, computers, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. She is a third generation quilter and up until last year was the webmaster for the [Utah Quilt Guild](#) website. Levi says she used to only attend monthly quilt group meetings with her mom and grandma for socializing (and free food) but one day they talked her into finishing a North Pole quilt for someone else who had dropped the ball on an exchange. Now it seems that she tends to have several projects going at once. If she had to count them, she still has approximately 30 unfinished objects (or UFO's as the quilter's world refers to them). Many of them are block exchanges and round-robins where others contribute. Once they are exchanged, a newer, exciting, and interesting technique is introduced which makes it hard to get back to those not quite finished with batting, a border and backing.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Sustainable Building Training Series - Low Cost Energy Reduction Strategies

In order to improve management and staff understanding of Federal sustainable building and related requirements, Reclamation will be conducting a series of Sustainable building training sessions. The first session will be held on March 15, 2013, and will be a case study of low-cost energy reduction strategies implemented at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility. The low-cost energy reductions resulted in the building winning the "Department of Energy's 2012 Better Buildings Federal Award."

These sessions will be held periodically and are a great opportunity to learn what other facilities are doing to meet Federal sustainable and energy requirements.

We also look forward to an up-coming session that will feature our Provo Area Office and the progress being made at their facility to meet sustainable building requirements.

Registration is required in DOI Learn. To locate the training, please use the key words, "Sustainable Building Training Series."

Please let Property Management Specialist, Wendy Monroe know if you have any questions.

Click here for [Training Announcement](#)

[Return to UC Today](#)



TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Sustainable Building Training Series – Low Cost Energy Reduction Strategies

This training will be conducted via Webinar on March 15, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (MST)

Background: In December 2012, the Bureau of Reclamation initiated a training series to improve management and staff understanding of Federal sustainable building and related requirements. The first training provided an overview of the “Guiding Principles” – the Federal standard for sustainable building construction, renovation, operations, and leasing. This training, and other training to follow, will provide more in-depth information on specific sustainability requirements and strategies.

What you will learn: This training session will provide participants with an overview of Federal energy and sustainability requirements required by statute and executive order. It will present a case study of low-cost energy reduction strategies at the **Brackish Groundwater National Desalinization Research Facility (BGNDRF)** that resulted in the building winning the Department of Energy’s 2012 Better Buildings Federal Award. There will be an interactive question and answer session. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of Federal energy and sustainability requirements and ideas for improving energy efficiency in their facilities.

Who should attend: Reclamation employees responsible for implementing the Guiding Principles at Reclamation buildings, including designers, construction managers, operation and maintenance staff, regional Sustainable Building Coordinators, and Contracting Officers.

Tuition: There is no charge for this training.

Registration: Reclamation employees must register in DOI Learn at <http://www.doi.gov/doilearn/index.cfm>. When searching for the course, use the keywords: **Sustainable Building Training Series**. Or, you can click on the “Register Now” link below. Upon electronic supervisory approval in DOI Learn, your name will appear on the class roster.

Any questions regarding course content or Webinar access information, please contact Kerry Whitford at 303-445-2949. Questions regarding registration or assistance in DOI Learn please contact Rolando Smith-Salazar at 303-445-2655.

REGISTER NOW

Distribution A



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

WCAO Attends Safety Fair



On February 21 and 22, 2013, the Western Colorado Area Office hosted a booth at the 34th Annual Mesa County Safety Fair in Grand Junction, Colo. The Safety Fair was attended by over 2,000, second and fourth graders from local elementary schools. At the booth the kids learned about the dangers of irrigation canals and that they shouldn't play in or near the canals. Also, there were water safety tips about learning to swim, swimming where there is a life guard, and to always wearing a life vest when you are in a boat. As the kids left the booth they all got a copy of an Otto Otter's coloring book.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Paradox Valley Unit Alternative Study



The Paradox Valley Unit was constructed to assist in meeting the objectives and standards of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 (P.L. 80-845) and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974, as amended and supplemented (P.L. 93-320). The Salinity Control Act authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of works in the Colorado River Basin to control the salinity of water delivered to users in the United States and Mexico.

The Paradox Valley Unit is located along the Dolores River in the Paradox Valley in Montrose County, Colorado, about ten miles east of the Colorado-Utah state line. The Dolores River is a major tributary to the Colorado River. The Paradox Valley was formed from the collapse of a salt anticline (dome). The unit is designed to prevent this natural salt load from entering the river and degrading the water quality of the main stem of the Colorado River.



Groundwater in the Paradox Valley is high in saline brine, and saline concentrations in this area have been measured in excess of 250,000 milligrams per liter, by far one of the most concentrated sources in the Colorado River Basin. Groundwater surfaces into the Dolores River and added more than 205,000 tons of salt annually to the Dolores River prior to operation of the Paradox Valley Unit.

The unit collects brine and injects it into deep geologic formations. The unit presently consists of a brine collection well field, brine surface treatment facility, brine injection facility, a 16,000-foot injection well, and associated roads, pipelines, and electrical facilities. Unit operations have been adjusted over time to address seismic activity and injection pressures. Under normal operations, the unit averages injection of about nine to ten million gallons of brine per month. The unit currently injects about 110,000 tons of salt per year that would have entered the Dolores River and in turn, degrade the water quality of the main stem of the Colorado River. The unit is one of the most effective salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin and provides about ten percent of the total salinity control in the Colorado River.

Paradox Valley Unit Alternative Study and Environmental Impact Statement

Because the existing brine injection well is nearing the end of its useful life, another well or alternative brine disposal mechanism is needed for continued enhancement and protection of the quality of water available in the Colorado River for use in the United States and the Republic of Mexico, and to enable the United States to comply with its obligations under the agreement with Mexico of August 30, 1973.

The Bureau of Reclamation intends to prepare an environmental impact statement to identify and evaluate brine disposal alternatives to replace or supplement the existing Brine Injection Well No. 1 which has a projected useful life of three to five years under current operational parameters.

This website will be updated throughout the EIS process with the most current information related to the Paradox Valley Unit.

- [Paradox Valley Unit EIS Scoping Report](#) January 2013 [PDF]

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Students Stun with Science at the 46th Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Competition at Bureau of Reclamation Laboratories



Lauren Meredith
Denver Federal Center

Students from across Colorado gathered to test their model bridges at the annual competition at the Bureau of Reclamation hydraulics and materials labs in Denver. Participants from Cheyenne Mountain High School, Cherry Creek High School and Longmont, Colo. took home top honors, including prizes and \$1,000 scholarships.

DENVER (PRWEB) February 23, 2013

The Bureau of Reclamation today proudly hosted students from across Colorado for the 46th Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Competition. Participants from Cheyenne Mountain High School, Cherry Creek High School and Longmont took home top honors, which included scholarships and prizes, with their homemade bridges.

In Region One, Ancil Lindley took first place with a 27.98 grams (.98 ounces) basswood bridge that held 121.61 kilograms (268.1 pounds) - approximately 4,346 times its own weight. Ryan Keefe of Cherry Creek High School won second place, and Noah Westfall of Cherry Creek High School placed third in Region One. Other schools with participants from Region One



included Front Range Christian School, Lakewood High School and Green Mountain High School.

In Region Two, Tim Johnson of Cheyenne Mountain High School won with a bridge weighing 26.9 grams (.94 ounces) that supported 133.27 kilograms (293.8 pounds), which is about 4,954 times its weight. Derek Hanley of Cheyenne Mountain High School placed second in Region Two, and Chase Wheeler of Cheyenne Mountain High School took third. Other participating schools included Coal Ridge High School, Buena Vista High School and Grand Junction High School.

Cherry Creek High School was the top scoring school in Region One, with three bridges that together held more than 6,697 times their collective weight. In Region Two, Cheyenne Mountain High School took home top honors, with their total efficiency coming in at 8,482 times the weight of their bridges.

Every year, students with an interest in science and engineering gather at the Bureau of Reclamation's hydraulic and materials laboratories to test out their homemade, small-scale bridges. These bridges, made only from basswood and common adhesive, are then tested to determine how much weight they can support. The winning models are determined by the structural efficiency ratio, which is the amount of weight the bridge can hold divided by the weight of the bridge. The winners have the highest ratios.

The state is split into two regions: northern (Region One) and southern (Region Two). The first and second place winners from each region will be invited to compete at the International Bridge Building Contest in Chicago, where prizes have included college scholarships. Winners from this year's competition in Denver were awarded \$1,000 scholarships or other prizes.

The High School Bridge Building Competition aims to encourage participation in the fields of math and science, giving students an opportunity to try their hand at constructing model bridges and glimpse into the world of professional engineering. In addition to the competition, attendees can take tours through Reclamation's laboratories and facilities. Students are given the opportunity to view current research being conducted, how cement is made for dams and see a 5 million pound press crush a giant cement cylinder.

The contest is jointly sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado and the Professional Engineers of Colorado.

Results from the Competition:

[Region One Individual Results](#)

[Region Two Individual Results](#)

[Region One Results by School](#)

[Region Two Results by School](#)

[Return to UC Today](#)



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Farmington's REA Ice Cream Social

By Beth Fox
Secretary
Four Corners Construction Office

The Four Corners Construction Office REA held a "Ice Cream Social" on Friday, March 1, in honor of post Valentine Day, early Day Light Savings Time, and early St. Patrick's Day – Simply just for because....

To hopefully say good bye to winter and in preparation to say "Hello" to spring!

REA provided the ice cream and other employees provided toppings.

It was a great way to mingle for a few minutes and get away from our busy desks. Laughing and giggling could be heard as employees enjoyed their sundaes.

"Life is too short to be anything but Happy"





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Bureau of Reclamation



[Return to UC Today](#)



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Bison Connect Tip of the Week

By Sarah Casale
IT Specialist
Upper Colorado Region

Tip for the week of March 4, 2013:

Downloading attachments. As you probably know, when an attachment gets sent with an email, you have the option to “View” or “Download.” Downloading the attachment saves it to a “Downloads” folder on your C: drive by default. What you may not know is that you can change the default download location so that downloads get saved into a different folder. You can even have Chrome prompt you for the download location for each document.

Here’s how:

1. Open Chrome Settings by clicking the 3 horizontal line icon at the top-right of your screen.



2. Click “Settings.”
3. Click “Show Advanced Settings...” at the bottom of the page.



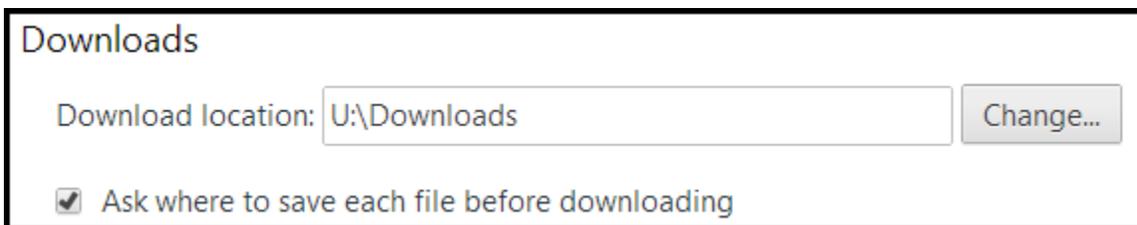
4. Scroll down to the “Downloads” section.
 - a. If you want to change the default download folder, click “Change” and browse to the folder you want **all downloads** to be saved to.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Downloads". Below the title is a text input field labeled "Download location:" containing the text "U:\Downloads". To the right of the input field is a button labeled "Change...". A mouse cursor is pointing at the "Change..." button.

NOTE: the selected download location will appear in the box

- b. If you want Chrome to prompt you for a download location each time you download a file, then leave the Download location alone and simply click the check box next to “Ask where to save each file before downloading.”



The screenshot shows a window titled "Downloads". Below the title is a text input field labeled "Download location:" containing the text "U:\Downloads". To the right of the input field is a button labeled "Change...". Below the input field and button is a checkbox that is checked, followed by the text "Ask where to save each file before downloading".

5. Close the Settings tab

Additional Bison Connect resources are available through DOI.

For FAQs visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/doi.gov/bisonconnect-resource-site/training>

For How To's visit: <http://howto.doi.net/>

You may also contact the Help Desk at 801-524-3784 if you have any questions.

[Return to UC Today](#)



Sharing Our Diversity by Sharing Your Recipes

From the kitchen of **Stacey Smith – Vegan Potato-Vegetable Pancakes**



Ingredients (6 servings)

- Canola oil cooking spray
- 4 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled
- 1 large carrot, peeled
- 2 tablespoons unbleached, all -purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, finely minced
- 2 tablespoons green onions, finely chopped
- 1 "Chia Egg" (1 T. ground chia seeds and 3 T. water)
- 1 ½ teaspoons canola oil
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon fresh ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

Preheat oven to 450°. Spray one or two baking sheets with cooking spray. Using a food processor or a hand grater, coarsely grate potatoes and carrots. Place grated vegetables in a large strainer and allow moisture to drain. Press on the vegetables to get as much moisture out as possible. Use paper towels to pat dry the mixture. Put potato/carrot mixture into a bowl. Stir in flour, parsley, onions, chia "egg", oil, salt, pepper and pepper flakes and mix until well combined. Spoon or form with your hands small "pancakes" of the mixture about 3 inches in diameter and place on baking sheet. It's messy, but they will stay together! Bake the potato pancakes until golden brown and crispy, 8 minutes per side, turning once with a spatula. They are delicious! Serve with unsweetened applesauce. Try substituting sweet potatoes and other vegetables.

[Return to UC Today](#)





What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Utility seeks L.A.'s stake in Navajo plant](#)

[Colorado: February storms fail to boost snowpack](#)

[March New Mexico runoff forecast: no break in the drought](#)

[Officials: Mexican Water Debt May Go Unpaid](#)

[Colorado snowpack depends on wet March for drought relief, says agency - 03/05/2013 06:16 PM MST](#)

[February brings nominal snowpack growth](#)

[Not much hope Mexico will release water](#)

[Texas A&M Galveston professor explores depths of West Texas cave](#)

[SRP, LA in talks about Navajo Generating Station](#)

[EARTH: Releasing a flood of controversy on the Colorado River](#)

[Ladies and gentlemen, water is served](#)

[Texas senator demands Mexico provide water - Houston weather, traffic, news | FOX 26 | MyFoxHouston](#)

[Demanding Water Rights](#)

[Officials: Mexican Water Debt May Go Unpaid](#)

[Agriculture and the Colorado River](#)

[Ott to Youth Summit on the Environment](#)

[Antiquated' state water laws should be changed as climate change looms, experts say](#)

[Panel poised to debate measure to ease environmental review of small projects](#)

[When it comes to water in the West, is any idea too crazy?](#)

[BASALT, Colorado — Anyone who drove alongside the Roaring Fork or Crystal rivers last summer knows that stretches of those waterways were almost completely dry during the drought of 2012. '\);"onmouseover="return hideTextPreview\(this\);" class="'](#)

[Daily Updates](#)

[Got a project? Canyon Ferry Trust offering \\$775,000](#)

[Water is life for the Navajo Nation](#)

[Study: Lake Powell and Mead Could Disappear in a Few Decades Due to Climate Change](#)

[Releasing a flood of controversy on the Colorado river](#)

[Water flowing to valley farms, but for how long?](#)

[Middle Rio Grande Valley water irrigation season beginning, but with drought, how much water, and for how long?](#)

[Arizona: How bright is Arizona's energy future?](#)

[It's Not Too Late to Change the Course of the Vanishing Colorado River](#)

[Carbon County, groups want revisit of Narrows dam project](#)

[When it comes to water in the West, is any idea too crazy?](#)

[National Park Service attempts to undo trout damage at Grand Canyon](#)

[Lake Roosevelt water levels to be steady](#)

[The default way for Colorado cities to increase their water supplies is to "buy and dry," buying agricultural water rights and permanently transferring them to urban use. '\);"onmouseover="return hideTextPreview\(this\);" class="entry-title"](#)

[Water shortages approach critical levels as Mexico's water debt is mounting](#)

[Utah To Set Up Boater Checkpoints to Stop Invasive Mussels](#)

[Fight over Pecos River Basin water still possible in Eddy County](#)

[Not enough money in the NM legislature to fix the Lower Rio Grande's drought problems](#)

[Carbon County, groups want revisit of Narrows dam project](#)



[Carbon County, groups want revisit of Narrows dam project](#)

[RDC discusses NGS lease behind closed doors](#)

[Hydropower project EA available for review](#)

[Arizona: How bright is Arizona's energy future?](#)

[Middle Rio Grande Valley water irrigation season beginning, but with drought, how much water, and for how long?](#)

[Farmers turn proactive in continuing drought conditions](#)

[Water flowing to valley farms, but for how long?](#)

[Sequestration would force thousands at agency to take unpaid leave -- Salazar](#)

[Board declares 'drought watch'](#)

[City, county sense water urgency](#)

[Dam of the Day: Avalon Dam](#)

[White winter forecast good for northern Utah](#)

[It's Not Too Late to Change the Course of the Vanishing Colorado River](#)

[WOTR: A lost world revealed by drought](#)

[Desalination Project Nears 100 Percent Efficiency Goal](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Launches New Lease of Power Privilege Website](#)

[Reclamation Releases Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment on Ridgway Dam Hydropower Interconnection Facilities](#)

[Climate Change May Dry Up Important U.S. Reservoirs](#)

[River expedition featured in speaker series](#)

[Obama's Interior nominee eyed cautiously by energy industry](#)

[Students Stun with Science at the 46th Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building ...](#)

[Navajo tribe considers extending Navajo Generating Station lease \[The Daily Times, Farmington, N.M.\]](#)

[Earth's Average Temperature For January Ties As Ninth Warmest On Record: NOAA](#)

[Short-Lived Federal Program Is Turning Parks Into Transit Hubs](#)

[Dredgers return to Lake Powell's Castle Rock Cut](#)

[Chairman Hastings Receives 'Water Warrior' Award, Delivers Keynote Speech at Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference](#)

[Snowpack Levels Increase Drought Conditions](#)

[Water is life for the Navajo Nation](#)

[EPA's clean air rule could send CAP rates sky high](#)

[To Extend Or Not To Extend The Navajo Generating Station Lease?](#)

[Study: Lakes Mead and Powell to Dry Up](#)

[CSU/USFS Study Projects Potential For Mead, Powell To Hit Dead Pool W/I Next Few Decades](#)

[Salazar reflects on energy policy, climate change](#)

[River restoration project to begin in Rio Rancho](#)

[Cave Divers Allowed to Explore with Reclamation's Help video](#)

[Colorado River Water Levels video](#)

[Reclamation Mascot to Chase Down Water Wasters in "Fix a Leak Week" Race in Peoria, Ariz. - Where can you join a running toilet, a water drop, and a otter all at the same event? At Central Arizona's Fix A Leak 4-Mile Race and Family Festival on March 9, 2](#)

[Water Congress looks at basin's supply and demand imbalance](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Names Engineer of the Year](#)

[Federal Contracts Awarded by Federal Agencies in Utah \(Feb. 21\)](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Names Engineer of the Year | Virtual-Strategy Magazine](#)

[Navajo tribe considers extending Navajo Generating Station lease`](#)

[Ditmer: "Rebranding?" There are bigger issues in Colorado, governor](#)

[Santa Fe preps for continuing drought](#)

[Lake-Effect Snow Sometimes Needs Mountains](#)

[Sequester cuts expected to hit home](#)

[The Coming Water Wars](#)

[Drought expected to persist](#)

[Big win for Colorado River](#)

[Thinking about water](#)

[Here's an Interesting Idea: Let's Flood the Grand Canyon](#)

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



In Transition

Former GP Region employee Robert Bigelow dies

Robert Bigelow, 91, Jamestown, ND died Monday morning February 18, 2013 at his home in Jamestown, ND.

Bob was born October 13, 1921 at Hutchinson, KS, the son of Albert and Margaret (Monro) Bigelow. He attended school in Hutchinson until moving to Topeka where he graduated from high school. He attended the University of Kansas for a short time.

He entered the US Army and served in WWII and also later served in Korea.

He returned and went to work for the Bureau of Reclamation, working in IA, NE and KS. In the 1960's he homesteaded in Alaska. In 2005 he moved to Jamestown for his retirement, and has continued to live here.

He is survived by his sister, Ruth (Leo) Jones, Statesville, NC: and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Services will be held at Chapel Hill, NC at a later date.

Online Guest Book – www.hautfuneralhome.com

Former GP Region employee David Lee Soker dies



David Lee Soker August 28, 1947 – January 28, 2013 David Soker passed away early morning on January 28, with his two daughters and sister at his side. Dave was a world traveler, living throughout the United States, and residing in Palisade, Colorado for the last twelve plus years. He was an avid out-doors-man, enjoying camping, fishing, and hunting. He was an active member in the community. Some of his many activities included helping with the River Front Commission, Child and Migrant Services, and Catholic Outreach. Dave worked the majority of his life with the Fish and Wildlife Services. He also gained life experiences by working in the



Navy, Army, logging, and even surveying roads outside of Yellowstone. Dave had an amazing artistic ability that he showed through his photography, drawing, and stained glass. Per Dave's request, there will be no services. In lieu of flowers to the family, please make a donation to the Catholic Outreach in Dave's name. The family will be hosting a celebration of Dave's life this summer. For information, please send your name and address to davidsoker1@gmail.com.

LETTER: Tribute to the late Dave Soker

Dave Soker loved rivers.

In working for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, he helped create fish habitat from abandoned gravel pits and riverbanks by constructing new wetlands and ponds to replace those that had been lost over the years. Conservation easements were obtained, wetlands were re-established. Openings to the river allowed spring flooding to reach low lying areas where fish could spawn and grow.

In serving on the Riverfront Commission, he was a strong advocate for more wildlife areas and interpretive signage, recognizing that the Riverfront Project is more than just a trail. It is a series of parks, wildlife sanctuaries, wetlands, ponds and natural floodplains.

As a resident of Palisade, he promoted the installation of interpretive signs in Riverbend Park, describing the history of this area which had included a Civilian Conservation Corps camp during the Depression of the 1930s, a prisoner of war camp in World War II, and an ill-conceived subdivision.

In broadening the perception of the Riverfront Project, he opened our eyes to the economic, environmental, cultural and historic importance of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers to the lives of our people.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Women's History Month Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. On July 30, 1942, the WAVES became a World War II division of the U.S. Navy, and consisted entirely of _____. The name was the acronym for "_____".
2. _____ served as the 48th United States Secretary of the Interior the **first** woman to hold the position.
3. _____ the Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region, she is the ____ female Regional Director. Who was the first? _____.

Last week, We asked,

1. The **Chinese New Year** (春節, 春节, Chūnjié; or 農曆新年, 农历新年, Nónglì Xīnnián), also known as the **Lunar New Year** or the Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.
2. What is the name of the Water Measurement App Created by Reclamation's Provo Area Office?
Measure H2O (letter 'O')
3. Reclamation Names Engineer of the Year - **Jonathan Aubuchon**.

Last winner was – **Marian Thornton – Elephant Butte Field Division**

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](#)

