

### Flaming Gorge Dam – Commemorating 50 Years of Service



By Lisa Iams

On Saturday, August 16, 2014, against the backdrop of beautiful Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Reclamation hosted a community celebration in the visitor center parking area to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Flaming Gorge Dam and Powerplant. Former First Lady Claudia Johnson, known as "Lady Bird" originally dedicated the dam on August 17, 1964 at a similar community event marking the beginning of the dam's service life and vital role in the Colorado River Storage Project.

An estimated 150 – 200 people attended the celebration event which included a number of retired long-time Reclamation employees, current employees, community members, recreation/tourist visitors, and Utah state government officials. Acting Reclamation Commissioner Lowell Pimley flew in from



Washington D.C., to speak at the event along with Upper Colorado Region Deputy Director Ann Gold. A unique commemorative plaque representing the Upper Colorado River Basin and Flaming Gorge Dam's important role in the Colorado River Storage Project was unveiled and which will be permanently mounted near the entrance of the visitor center.

The original fire engine Reclamation purchased in 1958, when the town of Dutch John was built to house the dam's construction workers and their families, was parked near the stage as a guest of honor at the ceremony. The engine was recently retired after 53 consecutive years of service because it no longer meets the new fire codes put into place. Because the engine represents an important reminder of the town's heritage, the engine will be the star attraction in a yet-to-be-built museum building in Dutch John. At the ceremony, Ann Gold presented the loan agreement and keys for the fire engine to Renee Wilde, chairwoman of the Daggett County Museum Board for this purpose. After the ceremony, a barbeque was provided for all the guests through the generous contributions of a number of organizations and private individuals including:

- Bridger Valley Electric Association
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
- Daggett County
- Flaming Gorge Area Chamber of Commerce
- Flaming Gorge Dam Employee's Association
- Flaming Gorge Recreation Services
- Flaming Gorge Resort
- Intermountain Natural History Association
- Various private individuals

In honor of the Flaming Gorge Dam's 50th anniversary, long-time Reclamation employee Ginger Reeve designed the artwork for a special cancellation stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service Dutch John Post Office from August 16 through September 13, 2014.

Flaming Gorge Dam is an important component of the Colorado River Storage Project authorized by Congress in 1956. The Colorado River Storage Project Act authorized four main water storage units including Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Wayne Aspinall, and Navajo, as well as a number of participating projects. The combined live storage capacity of the main CRSP reservoirs is 30.6 million acre-feet with a combined power generation capacity of over 4.1 billion kilowatt-hours annually. Flaming Gorge Reservoir is the second largest of the CRSP Reservoirs (Lake Powell is the largest) – extending about 91 miles upstream into Wyoming and storing about 3.8 million acre-feet of water. In addition to the water and power benefits provided by the dam and reservoir, a number of recreational opportunities are available that attract visitors from around the country. One of the primary attractions is the Blue-Ribbon designated fishing both on the reservoir and in the Green River below the dam. Other recreation opportunities available throughout the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area include boating, swimming, hiking, and camping.

When Lady Bird Johnson dedicated the dam in August 1964, she acknowledged the significant accomplishment the dam represented as part of the visionary future of western settlement that began with John Wesley Powell's famous expedition down the Green and Colorado rivers. In her remarks that day she said, "How many people have dreamed and planned and built this great reservoir into being! I wish John Wesley Powell could again board his boat at Green River City and float through Flaming Gorge to see how much greater today's reality than yesterday's dream."

In her conclusion, she encouraged continued optimism, innovation, and working together to build a better future. Almost to the day 50 years later, the unfolding of that future and the many collective benefits made possible through the foresight put into action by the visionary framers of the Colorado River Storage Project, were celebrated. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event not only commemorated the dam's 50



years of service, it was a celebration of the future that will be possible in the next 50 years because of Flaming Gorge Dam and the Colorado River Storage Project.

[ This story and additional photos are available on line at: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/feature/fg/50-Anniv/index.html> ]

## FCCO Makes FIFA World Cup Connections



FCCO Project Construction Engineer makes his connection

by Pat Page  
FCCO Deputy Construction Engineer

“What’s your connection?” That was the question posed to employees of the Four Corners Construction Office as part of a month-long celebration of the Federation de Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup held in Brazil, June 12 – July 13. This event was organized by FCCO’s Civil Engineer and “Futbol” Fanatic, Hilda Castillo Smith. She challenged her fellow employees to see how many “connections” they could make to the 32 countries who were participating in the World Cup. The rules were simple, describe your connection on a slip of paper and pin it on the country represented on a poster that Hilda had prepared showing the flags of all 32 countries transposed onto soccer balls. A “connection” could be anything from ‘you had traveled to that country’, or ‘your ancestors were from that country’, to ‘you knew



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someone from that country' or 'your parents had visited that country'. The goal was to see how many countries the office could connect to.



Hilda Castillo Smith announcing the results of the World Cup Connections contest at the All-Employee Pot Luck lunch.

The event culminated with a “Cultural Diversity Potluck Lunch” where employees brought in dishes inspired by their “connections” from countries all over the world. Dishes included homemade hummus (Greece), Arroz con Pollo (Honduras), Cevapi (Croatia and Bosnia), Chilean salad, Fettuccini Alfredo (Italy), and even a plate full of French Fries (representing USA, England, and of course France ☺). It was a veritable culinary delight that provided an opportunity for employees to diversify their palates and to share stories about their adventures to exotic and unique destinations all over the world.

At the potluck, recognition and awards were given in various categories to the following employees:

**Most Connected Division:** – Administrative Services Division and Office Engineering Division

**Most Creative Connection:** (tie) Kay Ellis – Brazil (Connection -- had a dog named Pele, greatest football player ever, from Brazil); Brian Wagner – Algeria (Connection: likes the movie “Casablanca”, which is the capital of Morocco , which borders Algeria (ok, that was a stretch!))

**All Work and No Play Connection:** Mike Braman – worked in seven different countries in his previous life as a Regional Manager for General Motors Corporation.



**Most Unique Connection:** Chico Quintana – only employee born outside the United States (Mexico)

**Thank You for Your Service Connection:** James Stone and Larry Haley who both got to see the world compliments of the US Army.

**FCCO World Traveler (Most Connections):** Mark DeMaio, who had connections to 19 countries!

Other results:

**Total Number of Connections:** 92

**Total Countries Connected:** 31 out of 32 (all but Cameroon).

**Most Connected Country:** Mexico (followed closely by Germany) (USA didn't count in this category)

**Photos below**



Bart Deming's "most connected" dish featuring Calestrano Olives (Italy), Welsh Cheddar Cheese (England), Reypenaer Cheese (Switzerland), and Nisa Cheese (Portugal).



FCCO Employees getting a sampling of food from around the world.



An example of a connection



A very diverse plate of food

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## Managing Utah's Water & Dam Engineering at the Discovery Gateway Children's Museum



Stacey Smith and Amee Baker observe as participants test their structure

The Bureau of Land Management-Utah (BLM) in partnership with Discovery Gateway Children's Museum in Salt Lake City recently launched the new "Utah's History, Heritage and Geology" series. This summer education program features weekly agency and American Indian speakers who will provide engaging, hands-on learning opportunities on a variety of topics; including, outdoor recreation, safety, water conservation and engineering, Utah's National Historic Trails, paleontological and archaeological resources, and Native American history and cultural traditions. Discovery Gateway is located in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah in the Gateway Mall. This 60,000 square foot facility is an interactive and hand-on fun for children to explore workshops, programs, and exhibits.

The series kicked off on July 11, 2014, with an outdoor safety presentation that drew over 100 youth and their families and local media outlets. The BLM youth and recreation programs showcased BLM's national Take It Outside! Program, Utah's Off Highway Vehicle Program, Tread Lightly, and several vehicle vendors including ATK Motorcycles were all on-site teaching outdoor family-fun adventures while focusing on safety, responsibility, and respect for the land.

Kids were given "passports" that were hole-punched after they went through each of the four safety and outdoor recreation stations. Completed passports were entered into a raffle for helmet vouchers and other giveaways, courtesy of ATK Motorcycles.



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Stacey Smith with the Bureau of Reclamation presented to the youth for a youth summer camp program with the help from Matt Allen and Ameer Baker on July 25, 2014. They presented three sessions, which included a presentation on Reclamation, a short video on the Teton Dam when it suffered the catastrophic failure in 1976, and then the youth experienced the opportunity to break out into smaller groups and construct their own model dam. The project was very interactive and captured the interest and excitement in the children. It was exciting for the presenters to watch the kids build each of their own unique structures and how they came up with their ideas.

The three sessions were well attended as well as the activities that were in the other areas of the museum like; Dollar\$ & Cents Financial Literacy, Early Utah Masterpieces, Discovery Fun Day, Amazing Me!, Studio 444 and Bob the Builder™ and his Can-Do Crew. We were concerned about attendances when we heard that Bob the Builder™ and his Can-Do Crew were replicating elements from Bob the Builder's world in Sunflower Valley. However, Tammy Spicer and the Discovery Gateway staff was amazing to work with, they ensured all the session were full and any supplies needed were available. The presentations were a huge success and Reclamation was invited/encouraged to come back and present again.

Discovery Gateway has teamed up with community organizations for summer fun and learning. Participants will delve into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), explore science and inventors with the Natural History Museum of Utah, uncover the art, science, and fun found in the world with The Leonardo, and illuminate what it means to reduce, reuse and recycle with the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art. This activity is also part of several youth outreach event between Reclamation and BLM, partnering up to engage, inspire, and mentor students to go beyond great and reach for the stars as part of the Department of the Interior's Engaging the Next Generation initiative.

Utah's History, Heritage, and Geology events are scheduled each Friday afternoon through August 15, and are free to the public. For more information about BLM's youth program, please contact Jeanette Shackelford, BLM-Utah Youth Program Lead at (801) 539-4232 or [jshackelford@blm.gov](mailto:jshackelford@blm.gov).

**Photos below**



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## Leadership Comes to Those Who Prepare for It



*“Excellent, great material; One of the best classes I’ve ever had”*

*“Empowering, great course with excellent tools”*

*“Awesome, amazing class, worthwhile investment” “It was a privilege. “*

*“Best training I’ve had in my career, great class, I will recommend to everyone”*

*“Great program, worthwhile, and very applicable to work and life;” “Not good, but GREAT.”*

*So, what are these folks so excited about? What event could possibly be that impactful to elicit these responses?*

Are you ready? The Upper Colorado Region, Aspiring Leaders program.



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June 24-26, 2014, employees from offices and disciplines throughout the Region came to Salt Lake for the second of two workshops that made up the 2014 Aspiring Leaders program.

So, how'd we get here?

In 2009, the Regional Human Resource Office approached the Upper Colorado Leadership Team with a concept for a new regional leadership development program. This was in line with a renewed emphasis on workforce and succession planning due to the demographic of our workforce and the critical need to develop "bench" strength for future leadership needs. The initial class was rolled out in 2012 and the program now completed its third year.

The Aspiring Leaders Program has three major objectives:

- **Personal Development**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Knowledge of Reclamation Mission and Key Program Areas**

Employees at the GS-7 through GS-13 levels and Bargaining Board employees who are not presently in a formal leadership role are the target audience.

The interest announcement goes out in the fall, usually November, with a specific set of criteria for consideration. Selectees attend two three-day workshops scheduled in advance and hosted by the Regional Office. Participants accepted into the program must attend all sessions and complete all assignments. The UCLT pays for all program expenses, except travel.

Personal and leadership components explored in class include a 360 assessment designed for aspiring leaders, the Strength Deployment Inventory, leadership development, meetings management, presentation skills, decision making, collaboration, and developing an Individual Development Plan.

Attendees spend time with senior leadership including the Regional Director and Deputy Regional Directors, as well as subject matter experts on the budget process, the technical side of the region, cultural resources, public affairs, human resources, employee/labor relations, and information resources management.

Through 2013 more than 75 employees have completed the program. Many have been given the opportunity to stretch themselves through detail and temporary assignments.

"I am very proud to be part of this program and to see it evolve over the past years," said Dick Jorgenson, Regional Learning Officer. "I am also grateful to the managers, supervisors, and key employees who graciously volunteer their time as presenters and, most importantly, the participants who give their maximum effort in making the most of this opportunity. As I was told many years ago — "The key to the competitive advantage in the future is to develop leadership not only at the top, but at all levels of the organization."

For more information please contact Dick Jorgenson, Regional Learning Officer, [rjorgenson@usbr.gov](mailto:rjorgenson@usbr.gov), 801-524-3678.

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## Mountain Park Project Wins 2014 Federal Energy and Water Management Award



James Allard, Darion Mayhorn, Matthew Warren, Nicholas Garmon

**Bureau of Reclamation/Oklahoma-Texas Area Office**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Mountain Park Project

*Matthew Warren*  
*James Allard*

*Nicholas Garmon*  
*Darion Mayhorn*

The Federal Energy and Water Management Awards recognize individuals, groups, and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at Federal facilities.

Reclamation's Tom Steed Reservoir (Mountain Park Project) in southwest Oklahoma serves as the primary water supply for the cities of Altus, Snyder, and Frederick, and for the expanding Altus Air Force Base. This region has experienced extreme drought conditions for several years. One indication of the severity of the drought has been the inability to irrigate cotton crops. The local irrigation district manager has indicated an estimated \$250 million per year

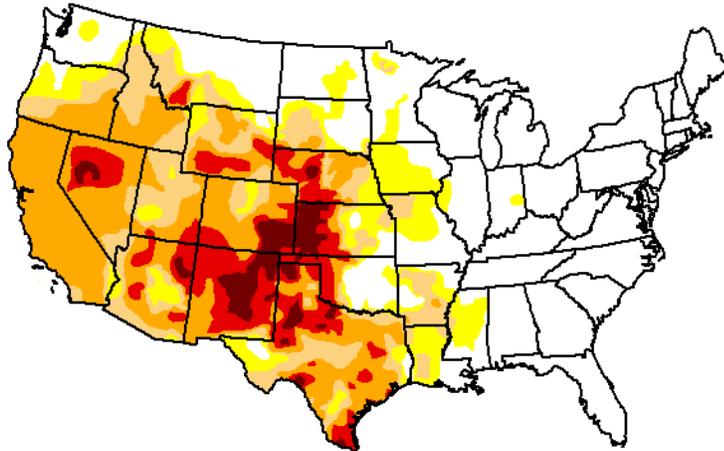


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direct impact on the local economy. The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has categorized this region as being in D4 Exceptional Drought with the drought projected to persist or worsen in 2014. With depleted inflows, the reservoir level continues to decline to new record low elevations with reservoir storage currently below 30%. Working with the Mountain Park Master Conservancy District (District), Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO) utilized its reservoir firm yield model to create a reservoir drought forecast model to estimate future water availability under continuing drought conditions. Use of this model resulted in an increased understanding of the significance of the ongoing drought, and led to implementation of significant water conservation measures.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
CONUS**

**July 30, 2013**  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	42.77	57.23	45.64	32.44	11.80	3.17
<b>Last Week</b> 7/23/2013	41.70	58.30	46.55	33.37	12.54	3.83
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 4/30/2013	39.88	60.12	46.90	32.73	13.96	3.40
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 1/1/2013	27.22	72.78	61.09	42.05	21.31	6.75
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/25/2012	23.41	76.59	65.45	42.12	21.48	6.12
<b>One Year Ago</b> 7/31/2012	20.62	79.38	62.91	45.57	22.27	3.01

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

**Author(s):**

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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## Provo Area Office Supports Nature High Summer Camp



Shane Mower and David Snyder from the Provo Area Office teach the students how to electrofish and use seining nets.

David Snyder  
Provo Area Office

Nature High Summer Camp (NHSC), held annually at the Historic Great Basin Environmental Education Center (GBEEC), has once again wrapped up another highly successful year. Located in the beautiful Manti-La Sal National Forest above Ephraim, Utah, the GBEEC (pronounced 'ga-beak') provides the perfect backdrop for research, high-energy learning, and having a "day in the life" of a natural resource professional. Several federal agencies, along with other supporters, pool talents and resources to organize and put on the week long camp once each summer. These include: Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, Utah State University Extension, and Snow College.

The goal of NHSC is to encourage Utah sophomore to senior high school students to become aware of public land management challenges, seek advanced education in natural resources, and become aware of federal career opportunities.

This year's camp was held July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2014 with 25 high school students, divided equally into five groups. Each group is assigned a counselor to help answer questions and direct group team building and exciting activities throughout the week. These group counselors are Utah college students looking for experience along their own career paths.

*"Being new to Reclamation, and never attending a camp like NHSC before, I didn't know quite what to expect. I was amazed to see how 25 high school aged youth, from all over*



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*Utah and from all walks of life, could band together for a weeklong journey of learning and real-life experience all in the name of our natural resources. The amount of knowledge and excitement these young campers brought to camp was incredible. I really enjoyed how the camp staff included fun, team building, and challenging events into learning, encouraging each of us to share our individual creativity, talents, and knowledge with our groups. NHSC helped me to gain a greater understanding and vision of how important this rising generation of youth will be when it comes to tackling the future challenges of natural resource management and conservation.”*



2014 Nature High Summer Camp participants pose for fun group photo

Each of the five groups represented different interest groups including: all-terrain riders, sportsmen, environmentalists, livestock producers, and clean water advocates. The groups were presented with a “real life” land use scenario and required to develop a resource management plan to help manage wildfires/fuels in Ephraim Canyon surrounding the GBEEC. Throughout the week the groups rotated through 3-hour stations each day taught by professional from each agency to spend a “day in the life” of a resource professional and gain understanding towards developing their resource management plan. Professionals taught about hydrology, entomology, soil science, aquatic and terrestrial biology, and forest ecology.

Reclamation’ Provo Area Office provided two specialists (Shane Mower & Dave Snyder) in the aquatic and terrestrial biology fields. For their station Shane & Dave taught hands-on lessons in fish data acquisition using seining, trapping small mammals, the consequences of forest fires, and microinvertebrate identification using microscopy.

On Friday evening July 18<sup>th</sup>, the interest groups met together in a “mock” town hall meeting to present their land management plan. Besides presenting their management plans, the groups



received valuable “real life” training for future public land management involvement throughout their lives. For more information and pictures visit Nature High Summer Camp and BLM Facebook pages or go to <http://www.naturehighcamp.com/>.

[http://www.heraldextra.com/sanpete-county/news/summer-camp-provides-environmental-learning-for-youth/article\\_a78534f6-ff7a-5461-9393-479959f63035.html](http://www.heraldextra.com/sanpete-county/news/summer-camp-provides-environmental-learning-for-youth/article_a78534f6-ff7a-5461-9393-479959f63035.html)

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## Recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month

# National Immunization Awareness Month



Each year in August, National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) provides an opportunity to highlight the value of immunization across the lifespan. Activities focus on encouraging all people to protect their health by being immunized against infectious diseases. In 2014, the National Public Health Information Coalition is coordinating NIAM activities.

### Get Toolkits to Help You Raise Awareness About Immunization

The [National Immunization Awareness Month Communication Toolkit](#), developed by NPHIC in collaboration with CDC, focuses on four weekly themes:

- [A Healthy Start \(Aug. 3-9\)](#)
- [Back to School \(Aug. 10-16\)](#)
- [Off to the Future \(Aug. 17-23\)](#)
- [Not Just for Kids \(Aug. 24-30\)](#)

The toolkit includes key messages, sample media materials, social media content, and event ideas. You can also get eye-catching [NIAM logos and banners](#) for each weekly theme to place on your websites and social media platforms. These branding elements highlight your participation in NIAM.

The National Health Information Center offers a toolkit with NIAM resources through Healthfinder.gov:

[August National Health Observances \(2014\)](#) [11 pages]

### Find CDC Resources for National Immunization Awareness Month

For a complete list of resources, download this [sell sheet for NIAM](#) [2 pages].

CDC develops immunization materials our partners can use in local outreach and education efforts during NIAM and year-round. Below are links to materials you can use during NIAM to

- Encourage parents of young children to get recommended immunizations by age two; reach out with



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[posters](#), [video PSAs](#), [tweets](#)  [2 pages], [Facebook posts](#)  [3 pages], and more

- Help parents make sure older [children, preteens, and teens](#)  have received all recommended vaccines by the time they go back to school; share information geared toward [parents of 9-18 year olds](#).
- Remind [college students](#) to catch up on immunizations before they move into dormitories
- Educate [adults](#), including [healthcare workers](#), about vaccines and boosters they may need
- Educate [pregnant women](#) about getting vaccinated to protect newborns from diseases like [whooping cough](#) (pertussis)
- Remind everyone that the next [flu](#) season is only a few months away

Check with your [state or local health department](#) to see if they have additional immunization resources you can use during NIAM, or plans to celebrate the month.

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## How you're reducing your Social Security benefit

The career and finance decisions you make while working will ultimately determine your future Social Security benefit. While there may be valid reasons for choosing a lower-paying job or spending a few years out of the workforce, those decisions will eventually result in a lower Social Security check in retirement. Here are some of the ways you may be inadvertently reducing your future Social Security benefit:

[See: [10 Numbers Everyone Should Know About Social Security](#) .]

**Don't work at least 35 years.** The 35 years in which you earn the most are used to calculate your Social Security benefit. If you work for more than 35 years, each higher-earning year cancels out a year when you earned less in the calculation. However, if you don't work for at least 35 years, zeros are averaged in, which lowers your benefit in retirement. "If you have gaps because you have been laid off or a housewife or someone who stayed home to raise children or you're an entrepreneur, filling up your earnings history will add to your benefits in the formula," says William Meyer, founder and managing principal of Social Security Solutions, a company that analyzes Social Security claiming strategies.

**Fail to maximize your earnings.** Most workers pay 6.2 percent of each paycheck into the Social Security system up to \$117,000, and employers contribute a matching 6.2 percent. If you can boost your salary by asking for a raise or switching to a more lucrative job, you will pay more



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taxes into the system and subsequently get a bigger payout in retirement. However, once you earn more than \$117,000 in 2014, you will no longer pay Social Security taxes on that income or have that portion of your salary factored into your retirement benefit. The tax cap is adjusted each year to keep up with inflation.

[See: [12 Ways to Increase Your Social Security Payments](#) .]

**Sign up before full retirement age.** You are eligible to collect the entire Social Security benefit you have earned at your full retirement age, which is typically age 66 or 67, depending on your birth year. If you claim a benefit before your full retirement age, it will be reduced for early claiming, depending on how much earlier you sign up. For example, a worker with a full retirement age of 67 will receive 30 percent smaller monthly payments if he signs up at age 62 or 13.3 percent smaller payments if he signs up at 65. Conversely, you can also increase your benefit for each month you delay claiming Social Security up until age 70.

**Forget to coordinate benefits with your spouse.** Members of married couples are eligible for spousal payments that can be worth as much as 50 percent of the higher earner's benefit. However, spousal payments are reduced if you first claim them before full retirement age. Spouses can also claim strategically to maximize their benefits as a couple. For example, members of married couples who are full retirement age or older can claim a spousal benefit and then later switch to payments based on their own work history, which will have increased due to delayed claiming. Divorced individuals are also eligible to claim spousal payments if the marriage lasted at least 10 years.

**Don't factor in survivor's benefits.** When one member of a married couple dies, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive the higher earner's payments. The higher-earning spouse can increase the amount his or her surviving spouse will receive by delaying claiming. Consider a 68-year-old doctor who is diagnosed with terminal cancer and thinks he only has a year or two to live. If he is single, he might want to sign up for Social Security as soon as possible so that he gets some money from the system before he passes away. However, if he is married, signing up for Social Security at age 68 will reduce his wife's future widow's benefit by 16 percent, according to calculations by Laurence Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at Boston University and a co-developer of the retirement planning software ESPlanner. But he could also boost the amount of money his wife will receive after he passes away if he continues to delay claiming, as long as he can up until age 70. "The delayed retirement credits the doctor would accrue



between ages 68 and 70 would extend to the wife in the form of a higher widow's benefit," Kotlikoff says.

**Continue to work after signing up for benefits.** If you work and claim benefits at the same time when you are younger than your full retirement age, part or all of your Social Security payments will be temporarily withheld. Social Security beneficiaries age 65 and younger in 2014 who earn more than \$15,480 will see \$1 deducted from their Social Security payments for every \$2 earned above the limit. For people who will turn 66 in 2014, the earnings limit jumps to \$41,400 and the amount withheld declines to \$1 for every \$3 earned above the higher limit. However, once you turn your full retirement age, the earnings limit no longer applies and your payments will be increased to reflect the withheld benefits. "At the full retirement age, Social Security not only stops withholding benefits but increases monthly benefits to replace those taken by the earnings test," says Andrew Biggs, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and a former deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration. "The earnings test delays benefits but does not tax them away."

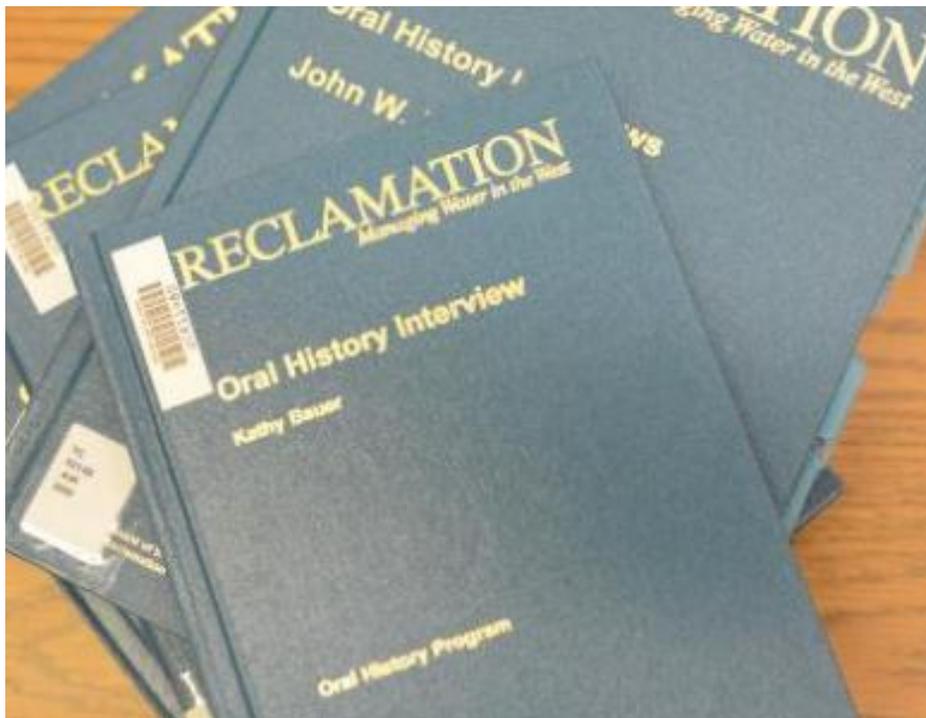
[Read: [The Most Popular Ages to Claim Social Security](#) .]

**Paying tax on your Social Security benefit.** Some people have to pay taxes on part of their Social Security payments. "The worst case is 85 percent of your Social Security benefit is taxable," says Andy Landis, author of "Social Security: The Inside Story." "Social Security taxation is triggered by having certain kinds of income over the threshold." If the sum of your adjusted gross income, nontaxable interest and half of your Social Security benefit is more than \$34,000 (\$44,000 for couples), as much as 85 percent of your Social Security benefits could be taxable. If those sources of income total between \$25,000 and \$34,000 (\$32,000 and \$44,000 for couples), up to half of your benefit may be taxable. Some people are able to avoid paying tax on their Social Security benefits by keeping their taxable retirement income below those thresholds. "If I am living on my IRA and Social Security and I have a Roth, if I pull out thousands of dollars in IRA withdrawals, half of my Social Security benefits are going to be taxed, but if I pulled out a few thousand from my Roth instead, then none of my Social Security would be taxed," Landis says. "If I can tune my income to keep it under those thresholds, then I can tune which years I have to pay income tax on my Social Security."



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## Oral History Spotlight



The UC Regional Library has a collection of 110 oral history interviews conducted by Historians, with various Reclamation employees throughout the years. The oral histories capture candid “in their own voice” memories of employees and their experiences working for Reclamation. The oral histories preserve information about Reclamation that would not normally appear in Reclamation’s official records. Contents of the oral histories range from the humorous to reflective of the situation at the time, and all are informative!

### Oral History Interview James B. Brooks

Mr. Brooks first worked for the Forest Service before joining the Bureau of Reclamation in 1975. He would devote a total 30 years within the government before retiring in 1995 as a Special



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Project Coordinator working with Native Americans. What follows are excerpts from Mr. Brooks' oral history book:

### **Joined Reclamation in February of 1975**

I walked into the Central Snake Projects Office, made an application for a civil engineering technician position, and in February went to work for the project office, and I've been here ever since. Its twenty years.

### **Neil Stessman Transferred Recreation Back to the Division of Lands**

The other thing Neil did was he gave me the responsibility of recreation because he knew it was something I was really interested in. But at that point in time, they gave me the responsibility but not on paper. That didn't bother me. I didn't care. I did enjoy recreation. The other person that had worked in the Division of Lands with me and Dick Fuller was a fellow by the name of Jack Hansen. Jack moved to the Division of Water Operations and Recreation. One of Jack's favorite expressions was, "No way." And in a sense, it affected recreation, in my opinion, in a negative sort of way. So then I began to really politic with recreation ought to come back to Lands. Under Neil Stessman, that was accomplished. Division then became Lands and Recreation again. I was still Chief of that division.

**"So rather than hang pipes below bridges, we try to get them moved up on the side of the bridge, and we're pretty successful . . ."**

So rather than hang pipes below bridges, we try to get them moved up on the side of the bridge, and we're pretty successful at getting that done. Pretty successful—I'd say we're *very* successful. Most of the pipes that hang below bridges were done before my time, when people weren't giving a whole lot of thought, I think. Back when you look around the valley, and you see mostly irrigated farms, and you don't see a lot of houses and subdivisions, some of those things don't really enter into our thinking until all of a sudden you notice you've got some problems, and we need to fix them. Everything changes over time.

### **Maintenance Responsibilities at Street and Highway Crossings**

Oh, it depends. It depends upon the facility. If the state's crossing with a state highway system road, we'll *often* require the *state* to be *responsible* for the maintenance, not operation, but maintenance of the facility underneath the highway right-of-way. So if something goes awry, they're responsible to fix it, in the canal. In most cases, if you're talking about a highway, we require them to put in a box called a concrete box culvert, but culvert. Culvert over time deteriorates faster than concrete. So we'll require the state to do the maintenance. On city streets, we continue to do the operation and maintenance of the facility. We have nothing to do with the maintenance of the street. If it creates a problem for the facility, like, for instance, a bridge that, in our opinion, was about to fail, we'll go to the state or the city and say, "Close it." And generally they are very cooperative. There's language in all of our permits that say that if the cost of the operation and maintenance is made more *expensive* because of the facility, then based upon the decision that the Secretary of the Interior—



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## **Move from Division Chief to Special Projects Coordinator Working on Native American Issues**

I had a good friend that had been there, and he called and they said, in essence, "We're really tired of the non-Indian people. Don't bother to come." So he called another friend who put us on the track of a cultural/spiritual leader, who happens to be Micmac. We called Tully, and Tully says he's headed for South Dakota to Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, why don't we meet him there and see what develops.

### **Adopted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**

To make a long story short, I'm adopted by the Cheyenne River [Sioux] people tribe which is Sioux, [unclear], and from that time forward I have been very much involved in my personal life with a lot of Indian tribes both here in Idaho and then back in South Dakota.

To read the full interview James B. Brooks [click here](#), or if you prefer a hard copy contact [Chantel Bouchard](#), Regional Office Library Coordinator.

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## **In Transition**

### **Former UC Region Employee Norma Anderson Day**



Norma Anderson Day, age 90, passed away from natural causes incident to age on June 19, 2014 in Sandy. She was born June 28, 1923 in Monroe, Utah to Joseph and Emma A. Mansor Anderson.



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## WHAT PAY DOES A NAVY WAVE GET?



RATE	Monthly Base Pay—Clear	Food Allowance*	Quarters Allowance*	Total Monthly Income
Apprentice Seaman	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$37.50	\$141.50
Seaman Second Class	54.00	54.00	37.50	145.50
Seaman First Class	66.00	54.00	37.50	157.50
Petty Officers	78.00 TO 126.00	54.00	37.50	169.50 TO 217.50

\*Unless food and quarters are provided by Navy)

PLUS \$200. for clothing, the finest medical and dental care, special tax exemption, low-cost Government life insurance, and free mail, reduced rates on transportation, theater tickets, etc.

Norma was always very headstrong and fiercely independent. She left home right out of high school with the intent to enlist in the Navy but, being too young to enlist she went to work in the Remington Arms Plant in Salt Lake City and for Northrup Aircraft in Los Angeles. As soon as she reached the required age she enlisted as a WAVE in the Navy in March, 1944 and left for boot camp at Hunter College in the Bronx. In boot camp she was asked where she would like to be stationed and she answered "California" so they sent her to Washington D.C. She was assigned to Communications where she was assigned to the classified department working on breaking the Japanese codes. While living in a barracks with three floors, 72 women to a floor, no air conditioning and no privacy, she made many great lifelong friends. In 1988, after more than forty years, she was reunited with many of these women for a WAVE's reunion in Washington D.C.

After leaving the service Norma eventually settled in Salt Lake City where she worked until her retirement for the US Government in the Bureau of Reclamation and raised her son, Mark. After retiring from the Federal Government she dedicated her time to her great passions, WAVES of the Wasatch, where she served for a time as president, and other women's WWII veterans groups. It was while she was serving these women's veteran groups that she came to be featured in the KUED documentary series, Utah WWII Stories. However, her greatest joy came from spending time with her grandson, Alex. He was truly the light of her life. Norma is survived by her son, Mark (Sandy) Day; grandson, Alex; sister, Donna. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: Steve, Laine, Ardell, Dick, Delean and Raeola.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the Magleby Mortuary, 50 South 100 West, Richfield, where friends may call from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Burial will be in the Richfield City Cemetery with military rites by the V.F.W. Sevier Post #5050 and Utah Honor Guard. Funeral Directors: Magleby Mortuary, Richfield, Salina and Manti. Online guestbook at [www.maglebymortuary.com](http://www.maglebymortuary.com) - [See more](#)

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## What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Salt Lake Chamber to organize water conservation committee, draws ire of advocate group](#)

[Rep. Jason Chaffetz and Maryland Democrat build political bridge in Utah](#)



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[Different channels to a 'living river'](#)

[Navajo Nation President Shelly applauds EPA BART determination for Navajo Generating Station](#)

[Western water suppliers reach Colorado River conservation agreement](#)

[Tipton slams federal land managers](#)

[NASA Satellite Study: U.S. West Using Up Underground Water During Drought](#)

[Feds approve endangered species listing for NM fish](#)

[This Is Your Government On Instagram](#)

[California drought causes need for water conservation in Utah](#)

[Fighting pot with water: Column](#)

[Feds sued over Rio Grande flow for minnow, bird](#)

[A critical look at America's dams](#)

[July 30, 2014 Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado](#)

[EPA Green Lights Navajo Generating Station, Interior Must Approve](#)

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## Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ first worked for the Forest Service before joining the Bureau of Reclamation in 1975. He would devote a total 30 years within the government before retiring in 1995 as a Special Project Coordinator working with Native Americans.
2. Nature High Summer Camp (NHSC), held annually at the \_\_\_\_\_, has once again wrapped up another highly successful year.
3. The Aspiring Leaders Program has three major objectives. What are those objectives?

Last week, We asked,

1. Studying [insect emergence](#) can lead to fundamental insights about the life history of insects, for example by identifying the specific times of year when emergence occurs.
2. [Janet Hunt](#) received the Upper Colorado Regional Director's Honor Award.



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3. Clifford (Cliff) Barrett's first job in Reclamation was as an engineer in the [Office of Design and Construction](#) in Denver in [1956](#).

Last winner was – [Tito Sepulveda – Power Office](#)

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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