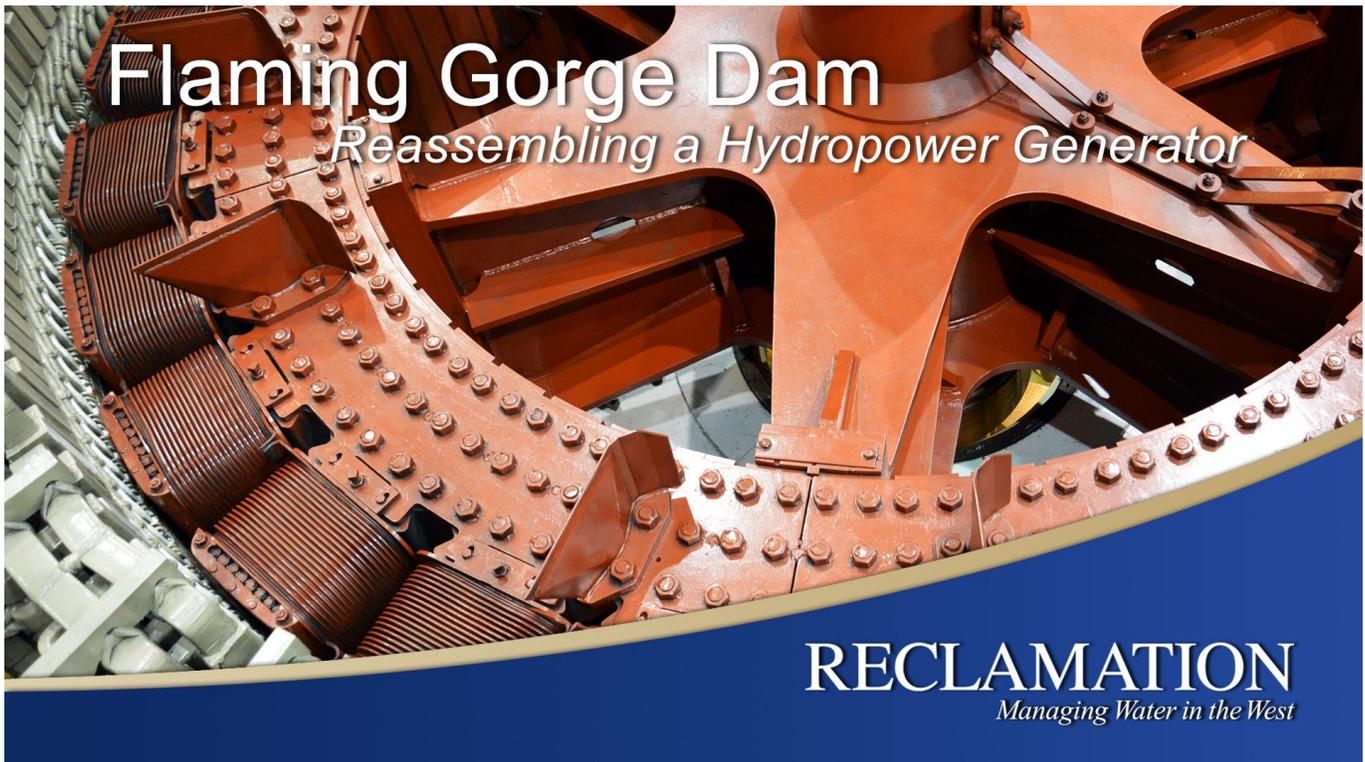


### Flaming Gorge Dam Video Reassembling a Hydropower Generator



By Chad Douglas  
Public Affairs Specialist

In September, Reclamation's maintenance crew at Flaming Gorge Dam had the rare task of disassembling one of three power generators at the facility, for a scheduled 'rewedge.' For many on the crew, this was a first experience, the last rewedge occurring more than 20-years ago. "This is a unique experience for us to see a unit all torn apart like this ... to see the internal workings of everything." said apprentice plant mechanic, Eric Johnson. "It's a big process for us here at the plant. All trades are involved in the effort." Take a sneak peek inside the facility and follow the path of water from reservoir to turbine in this great overview at <https://youtu.be/2dW4d7LMr1E>.

Visit our [website](#) for more on Flaming Gorge Dam and other Reclamation facilities.



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## 2015 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards Competition



By Wendy Monroe  
Property Management Specialist

On July 17, 2015, Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Permanent Operating Facility (POF) was selected as a winner in the 2015 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards competition. The Federal Energy and Management Program (FEMP) assist the federal government in recognizing individuals, groups, and organizations for their outstanding contributions toward energy and water management at federal facilities.

The 6,379 gross square foot (GSF) building encompasses 2,500 gsf of office space, a conference room large enough to facilitate frequent community meetings of up to 25 people, and a 3,500 gsf maintenance shop and storage facility. The POF serves as a support facility for the larger Animas-La Plata water storage and delivery project. It is utilized by Reclamation managing partners and supports the operations and maintenance of the Animas-La Plata and associated facilities that provide water delivery to Native American and non-Native American population in the Four Corners Region.

The POF was constructed with \$3.1 million of American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. This funding included a mandate for green building techniques. The POF was one of the first newly constructed buildings within Reclamation to incorporate comprehensive sustainable building design principles into project requirements. Through stringent verification and validation procedures, the POF was assessed to meet 100 percent of the Guiding Principles for new construction. As such, the POF met every applicable requirement for integrated design, water and energy performance, indoor



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environmental quality, and materials selection. Additionally, the POF surpassed its original design goal by achieving the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, primarily attained through better-than-expected energy efficient design. The energy efficient design exceeds the requirements of Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, and the Energy Independence Security Act of 2007 (EISA) for energy design 30 percent better than the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning (ASHRA). The POF is the first LEED certified building in the Upper Colorado Region and one of the first in Reclamation to achieve LEED Gold and comply 100 percent with the Guiding Principles.

An awards ceremony took place in Washington, DC, on October 14, 2015. Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Weeminuche Construction Authority, Janet Wiley Architects PC, and the Animas-La Plata Operation Maintenance and Replacement Association were in attendance to receive this prestigious award.

The POF is a bright example of how incorporation and adherence to Federal and Reclamation standards results in a greener and more efficient new building.

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## **Engineer of the Year Award Jay Bytheway**



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Jay Bytheway was awarded the Engineer of Year Award for 2015. The Federal Engineer of the Year Award honors engineers employed by a Federal agency and recognizes technical excellence, publications, and leadership. In honor of the award, Jay has conducted numerous Value Analysis Workshops for various offices in the Upper Colorado Region and for other Regions that include:

- AV Watkins Scoping and Value Planning Study, Utah (Study produced 11 alternatives)
- Blue Mesa Powerplant Controls, Colorado (Resulted in a recommendation for a more comprehensive project)
- Lemon Dam Gate Seals, Colorado (Maximum potential savings of \$526,000)
- Navajo Gallup Reach 12.1, New Mexico (Maximum potential savings of \$5,742,000)
- Navajo Gallup Reach 22b, New Mexico (Maximum potential savings of \$879,000)
- Newton Dam Outletworks Modification, UT (Maximum potential savings of \$490,000)
- Colorado River Storage Project Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming (Maximum potential life-cycle savings of \$2,857,000)
- Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System Value Planning, New Mexico (Study produced 10 alternatives)
- Carl Hayden Visitor Center Exhibits, Arizona (Produce the best exhibit possible and stay on budget)
- Silt Pumping Plant, Colorado (Added \$22,000 in actual value improvements)
- Flaming Gorge Excitation System, Utah (Maximum potential savings of \$280,000)
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Check Structures, Colorado (Reported actual savings of \$1,050,000)
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Reservoir, Colorado (Maximum potential savings of \$884,000)
- Vernal Unit Efficiency Project, Utah (Maximum potential savings of \$367,000)
- Howard Prairie Dam (Value Planning), Oregon (Study produced 17 alternatives)
- Mary's Lake Turbine Runners, Colorado (Proposed \$73,000 of value added improvements)
- 242 Well Field (Value Planning), Arizona (Study produced 3 alternatives)
- Arc Flash Mitigation, Idaho (Proposed savings are cost neutral)
- Big Horn Structure, Montana (Maximum potential savings of \$168,000)
- Horsetooth Supply Conduit Diversion Structure, Colorado (Maximum potential savings of \$2,215,000)
- Friant Dam Fish Hatchery, California (Maximum potential savings of \$1,755,000)
- Goose Bay Recreation Area, Montana (Maximum potential savings of \$677,000)
- Keswick Powerplant Bus Replacement, California (Maximum potential savings of \$485,000)
- Shelby to Cut Bank Pipeline, Montana (Maximum potential savings of \$1,500,000)

These workshops resulted in total savings (potential and actual) over of 3 year period of \$19,975,000 and added additional value of \$95,000 to U.S. tax payers.

Additionally, Jay facilitated a study on the Upper Colorado Acquisition Program, which produced 195 ideas and 14 recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. Many of the recommendations are currently being implemented, which has resulted in significant increase in customer satisfaction.

In a most recent value workshop the client (a representative for the tribe) was excited about two value proposals (1. placing all the control on the upstream end of a dam outlet works or 2. restoring the outlet



works in place), which were completely different from the original concept. Savings from these proposals are yet to be computed but will be substantial.

Jay also designed a boat decontamination station and entrance road for Lake Nighthorse near Durango, Colorado. Designed the sewer system overhaul for Glen Canyon Dam, Powerplant and Carl Hayden Visitor Center. Engineered a structural retrofit turning a historical church into high end apartments (Old Chapel Apartments) in Provo, Utah. The job included reverse engineering an old built up riveted steel beam using typical steel strengths that were common circa 1910.

With all of these accomplishments, this is a well-deserved award and please be sure to congratulate Jay for this wonderful honor.

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**Safety Front and Center**  
**Fire Prevention**



By Bill Brown and the Safety Council

As the holidays are here upon us, it's always good to review some basic fire prevention tips.

**What you can do:** The most effective way to protect yourself from fire in your home is to look for and remove fire hazards. Here are the seven most common fire hazards you should be mindful of that you can do something about:

1. Candles – Keep candles away from children. Always monitor burning candles. Never leave them burning if no one is in the room.
2. Smoking – If you smoke, designate a specific area for smoking, preferably outside. Use wide, sturdy metal ash trays.



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3. Electrical – Be aware of overloading outlets and electrical cords. Know how much electricity your circuits are rated for and avoid loading those circuits to their maximum rating. Turn electrical devices off when not in use or not at home.
4. Clothes Dryers – Make sure to clean lint screens between every use. Inspect dryer vents annually to ensure clear ventilation. Inspect dryer vent outlets to make sure they are clear of debris.
5. Matches and lighters – Look around your house for all of your matches and lighters. Are they accessible to children? If so move them.
6. Christmas Trees – Make sure Christmas trees are watered regularly and have that the needles are green and moist. Remove your Christmas tree if it becomes dried out, even if before Christmas. Better to buy another tree or have no tree at all than to have your house burn down during the Christmas holiday.
7. Cooking – Do you have an exhaust fan in your kitchen? When was the filter last cleaned? Keep paper towel rolls far from your stove. Look for cloth articles in your kitchen and make sure they are clear from all heat sources. Control the clutter.

Your Office Safety Council wants to wish you all a happy and SAFE holiday season!

**#####**



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## Superior Service Award Malcolm M. Wilson



In recognition of Malcolm Wilson's exemplary service and outstanding contributions in the area of drought contingency planning and implementation for the Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, he was granted the Superior Service Award of the Department of the Interior from Commissioner Estevan López.

Malcolm demonstrates exceptional skill and foresight in working with key stakeholders and governmental officials in the planning and implementation of contingency measures in response to the devastating sixteen-year drought afflicting the Colorado River Basin. Prior to and during his 24 year federal career, Malcolm developed a strong background in water rights, policy and water resources management and he applies these skills toward meeting Reclamation's mission obligations throughout the drought. Recent hydrologic modeling efforts, led by Malcolm, helped resolve complex questions related to developing a contingency plan to release Colorado River Storage Project water from upstream reservoirs to Lake Powell to protect and preserve valuable hydropower generational capacity.

Malcolm took it upon himself to acquire additional education in conflict mediation and dispute resolution competencies, which he puts to use in collaborative work with multiple stakeholders from seven basin states, each having diverse agendas and systems of water law. His contributions greatly added to the successful accomplishment of Reclamation's mission by staying at the forefront on the implementation of innovative and effective science and computer modeling, while conceiving, developing and implementing creative solutions to complex issues in relation to the ongoing drought.



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Malcolm supported the funding of weather modification research in Wyoming as part of the Upper Colorado Region's efforts on the drought contingency plan. He also continues to work very closely with key stakeholders on the implementation of a pilot program designed to test the applicability of funding conservation programs in the Upper Basin, resulting in storage of additional water in Lake Powell and other key reservoirs in the system.

Given Malcolm's professionalism, dedication and commitment to quality, he is truly an asset to Reclamation. For his many exceptional contributions and conscientious service in the area of drought mitigation, is why Malcolm was honored the Superior Service Award.

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## Hispanic Heritage Month



By Timmothy Coplin  
EEO Specialist

On October 8, 2015, Mrs. Jacqueline Gomez-Arias came to the Upper Colorado Regional Office to conduct a presentation for 25 employees in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mrs. Gomez-Arias has been the Executive Director for Latino Behavioral Health Services in Salt Lake City, Utah, for over 20 years. Her main focus was bringing awareness to the cultural and social contributions to America that have typically been overlooked throughout history. Mrs. Gomez-Arias also focused on the importance Diversity's role have in our personal lives and in each of our workplaces.

This was a wonderful presentation that showed the Regional Office employees the difference in how we all view and live different cultures. It was a great turnout and it was great having Mrs. Gomez-Arias come and speak on behalf of Hispanic Heritage Month.



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## Open Season for Federal Health Benefits, Dental and Vision



2016  
FEDERAL BENEFITS  
**OPEN SEASON**

**November 9 to December 14, 2015**

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced premiums for the 2016 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program will rise by an average of 6.4 percent.

In addition, OPM is offering a new Self Plus One enrollment type in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program that will provide coverage for an enrollee and one designated eligible family member. All FEHB plans will offer a Self Only, Self Plus One, and Self and Family enrollment type beginning in 2016.

“I am pleased that OPM has implemented the new Self Plus One choice for the 2016 plan year. This will give enrollees an opportunity to select coverage just for themselves and their spouse or child,” said OPM Acting Director Beth Cobert. “I urge FEHB participants to use the Open Season opportunity to carefully review their health care needs and to choose wisely among the plans and new enrollment options available to them.”

On average, enrollees with Self Only coverage will pay \$5.50 more each pay period; enrollees with Self and Family coverage will pay \$19.61 more per pay period. Those who opt for Self Plus One coverage will pay \$8.92 more per pay period than they previously paid for Self and Family coverage. The Government contributes approximately 70 percent of the total cost of a plan's premium.

Open Season, which begins November 9 and runs through December 14, will give Federal employees and retirees the opportunity to review the 2016 rates and benefits of their current plans and those of competing plans. During the Open Season, FEHB enrollees can change their health-care coverage; employees who are not enrolled, but eligible to participate, may elect coverage.



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The upcoming Open Season will be the first opportunity for enrollees to select a Self Plus One enrollment in the FEHB Program. For over 95 percent of enrollees, the enrollee share for Self Plus One will be lower than the enrollee share for Self and Family in their current plan. However, it is possible that some plans will have higher enrollee shares for Self Plus One enrollments than for Self and Family enrollments. Therefore, enrollees are encouraged to carefully review their choices before making a change; switching to Self Plus One is voluntary.

The upcoming Open Season will also give employees and retirees the chance to select supplemental dental and/or vision coverage. In addition, Federal employees can elect to participate in a tax-deferred Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for health care and/or dependent care.

Established in 1960, the FEHB Program is the largest employer-sponsored health benefits program in the United States. The government provides a weighted average contribution of 72 percent of premiums with a cap of no more than 75 percent of total premium cost. Approximately 85 percent of all Federal employees participate in the Program.

The OPM website provides a detailed breakdown of the [FEHB Program premium rates](#).

To choose the best health and insurance plans available in your state, as well as links to the plan brochures, changes for each plan from the previous year, information on plan patient safety program, and links to the plan provider directories, check out the [Plan Information](#) page at OPM.gov.

To [research your 2016 FEDVIP](#) plan to determine whether your FEDVIP plan premium will change in 2016 or to make changes, log in to your [BENEFEDS.com](#) account.

For more information, check out the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#).

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## **Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Reach 22A Pre-Construction Blessing Ceremony**

By Pat Page  
FCCO Deputy Construction Engineer

On the brisk morning of October 30, 2015, 37 people gathered near the base of Cutter Dam to witness and participate in the blessing of the site of the upcoming construction of Reach 22A of the Cutter Lateral, a feature of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP).

Mr. Earl Herrera, a Navajo Medicine Man from Counselor, New Mexico, led the traditional prayer and blessing ceremony, leading the group in song and prayer. His message mainly focused on Hózhó which means “living in a manner that strives to create and maintain balance, harmony, beauty and order”. Hózhó is similar to, but much richer in meaning than the term “conservation” as it implies a deep connection between people and land. In this sense, the Medicine Man was capturing the feeling of happiness and what NGWSP water will mean for the people it will serve. The ceremony culminated in attendees participating in a Navajo ritual in which corn pollen was applied on the ground in all four directions and then in a circle

Following the ceremony, Master of Ceremonies Bert Sandoval provided the opportunity for the VIP’s in attendance to offer some remarks. VIP’s in attendance included the following:



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Leonard Tsosie, Navajo Nation Council Delegate  
Sam Sage, Counselor Chapter Coordinator  
Chee Smith, Whitehorse Lake Chapter President  
David Rico, Torreon Chapter President  
Johnny Johnson, Tse'ii'ahi Chapter President  
Ervin Chavez, Nageezi Chapter President  
Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate  
Ramona Begay, White Rock Chapter President  
Sammie Jim, Pueblo Pintado Chapter Coordinator  
Darryl Vigil, Water Administrator with the Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Robert Kirk, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources  
Andrew Robertson, Souder-Miller & Associates  
Lionel Haskie, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry  
Sharon Pinto, BIA Navajo Regional Director  
Brent Rhees, Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Director  
Barry Longwell, Bureau of Reclamation, Project Construction Engineer  
Representatives from Meridian Contractors, Inc., Reclamation's contractor for the Reach  
22A construction work, were also on hand.

Following the ceremony and VIP remarks, the participants were treated to traditional Navajo fare including blue corn mush, squash stew, and Navajo bread.

Reach 22A will tie into the Cutter Dam outlet works pipe and extend 4.5 miles southward. Eventually, water will be conveyed through Reach 22A and Reach 22B to the Cutter Water Treatment Plant. From there, treated water will be provided to communities in the eastern portion of the Navajo Reservation as well as the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. Water will be conveyed not only through features constructed as part of the NGWSP, but also through portions of pipeline funded in part by six Navajo Chapters as well as the State of New Mexico, and constructed by the Navajo Nation. Actual construction of Reach 22A is expected to start in November 2015 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2017. It is anticipated that Project water will be available for delivery to communities as early as 2019.





Reach 12A Blessing Ceremony participants gather around to listen to the Medicine Man (on right side of photo wearing white headband). Regional Director Brent Rhees and FCCO Project Construction Engineer Barry Longwell are in the back row in the center of the photograph.

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## Greetings From the Front Office Deputy Regional Director



As we roll into the "holiday" season, I would suggest that we each take the opportunity to consider the many things that we have to be thankful for. Of course, we may immediately think of the natural things like our families, our employment, perhaps the freedom and opportunities that we enjoy in this country. Well, I would suggest that all these would be worthy of consideration and gratitude. In fact, these subject-matters have had me thinking for some time, and I would like to share a few thoughts with you this month.

The month of November, besides the turkey & stuffing which I love, has recently held more significance for me. As you may be aware, we celebrate and thank our Veterans during the month (November 11), as well as a celebration as federal employees, of the month being declared "Native American Heritage Month" by President Obama. I am quite proud of both my cultural heritage, as a Native American, and my heritage as an American. So, for the message



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from the Front Office for the month of November, please let me share a few items regarding this heritage that I hold dear.

First, let me share a bit of Native history that some of you may not be aware of.....information that I have collected over the years, which reflects my Native heritage and my American heritage being a shared pride. Let me give you a few examples of these "histories" being ONE.

Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa), was a Santee Sioux born in Minnesota in the late 1800's. He was educated at Dartmouth and Boston University, graduating in 1887 and 1889, respectively. He was a well-known doctor, both privately and having served with federal agencies in that capacity. He helped found the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, and also consulted in the founding of the Camp Fire Girls. Mr. Eastman was one of the most prolific authors and speakers of his time, on Sioux ethnohistory and American Indian Affairs.

Ely Parker (Hasanoanda), was from the Seneca Nation. He served in the U.S. Civil War, under Ulysses S. Grant, and rose to the rank of General. He was instrumental in writing the Articles of Surrender (as related to the Confederacy), that ended the Civil War. He later served under President Grant, appointed in 1869, as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He was the first Native American to hold the position, and was the only Native to have served in the position for over a century of the country's history.

Jim Thorpe (Wa-Tho-Huk), was a member of the Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma. He was considered to be the greatest athlete in modern history, winning Olympic gold medals in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics in both the Pentathlon (5 track & field events) and the decathlon (10 track & field events)). He also played collegiate and professional football and baseball. He served in 1920-21 as the President of the American Professional Football Association, which would, in 1922, become the National Football League.

William "Billy" Mills (Makata Taka Hela), is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation (Sioux). He is only the 2nd Native American (after Jim Thorpe), to win an Olympic gold medal. Mills won the gold medal in the 10,000 meter run, at the Tokyo Olympics of 1964. He is the only athlete from the western hemisphere, to have ever won a 10k Olympic gold. His win at the Tokyo Olympics, is still considered one of the greatest "upsets" in Olympic history.

I am sure that you may have heard of Ira Hayes, from the Pima Nation of Arizona? He was in the armed forces during World War II, and helped raise the American flag over the island of Iwo Jima. Perhaps, you have also heard of the "Navajo Code Talkers"? A group of individuals, also during WWII, that helped secure the defeat of the German and Japanese forces. Having "created" a code that could not be broken by the enemy (they were speaking Navajo/Dine', by the way). Perhaps you didn't know, that during WWII, of the approximately 400,000 U.S. forces that died, 44,00 of those were American Indian.

During World War I, which began in 1914, approximately 12,000 American Indians volunteered for service. They did so, while at the same time not even being able to be legal "citizens" of the United States. According to statistics of the Department of Defense, in 2010, there were 22,569 enlisted service members and 1,297 officers on active duty of American Indian heritage. This was 1.7 percent of the military personnel, while the U.S. Census recorded the Native population in the U.S. to be 1.4 percent. At that particular point, American Indians were the highest per capita, of any ethnic group serving to protect our country.



I have had numerous relatives serve in the military, including my father, who served in the Navy in the South Pacific during WWII, as well as an uncle and brother who served during the Vietnam conflict. I hope that I have not come across as arrogant, in my musings. But yes, I am quite proud of the history and heritage that has been afforded me by my relatives and friends.

I would challenge each of us to actively search out our family and cultural heritage and history. I would venture to guess that we each have a rich legacy in the building and support of our country. I would also suggest that we are continuing in that legacy, as we fulfill our responsibilities here within Reclamation. I have said it before, and will continue to say, it takes a special brand of individual to be a federal employee. We thank you for your commitment to your jobs, and for your commitment and support of the American people.

Finally, and especially, during this month of November, may we remember and be thankful for those who have served and given their lives for the ideals that we hold most dear. Thank you to America's Veterans.....our own "super-heroes".

Speaking for the entire Front Office, Have a wonderful Holiday season.....Daniel

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## Who's New

### Catherine Gonzales

Albuquerque Area Office - Human Resources Specialist



Catherine Gonzales is a new Regional Office Human Resources Specialist duty stationed here at the Albuquerque Area Office.

I have over 20 years of human resources experience in the federal government. Most of my career has been with the Forest Service; however, for the past 6 ½ years, I had the privilege of working for the Valles Caldera Trust in Jemez Springs, New Mexico. Effective October 1, 2015, the Trust was transitioned to the National Park Service. Although I will miss working for the Trust, I will not miss having to commute 3 hours a day for work, and I am excited about the opportunity to now work for the Bureau of Reclamation.

I have a 34 year old daughter, Maria who currently works at a call center and a son-in-law, Kimo, who works at CNM teaching culinary arts. I also have a dog, Ziggy, a Shih Tzu who is about 11 years old. I live with my boyfriend, Marty, who has retired and now does all the cooking in our home and some of the cleaning!

I enjoy taking my dog for walks in the early morning and bike riding whenever I get a chance. I am very family oriented and spend as much time as possible with my great nieces, Kala and Thena. Now that I no longer have to commute 3 hours a day, I expect to have more time to spend with them and pursue other hobbies/interests.



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One of my favorite books is the Milagro Bean Field Wars. I enjoy watching comedies, action movies, and law movies such as Perry Mason. I enjoy most music but especially like Latin music.

My favorite holidays are Thanksgiving and Christmas. I buy the food and my son-in-law does all the cooking. It's great! I enjoy everything about Christmas; the lights, the music, the spirit. I enjoy buying gifts for family and friends and spending time with them.

If I had to describe myself in one word, I guess it would be "friendly". One of my favorite quotes is: "In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took your breath away."

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## Aubrey Harris

Albuquerque Area Office – Civil Engineer



Aubrey Harris is the new Civil Engineer (hydraulics/hydrologic) in Robert Padilla's River Analysis Group in the Technical Services Division of the Albuquerque Area Office.

I recently received my M.S. in Civil Engineering from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. I'm from Houston originally, but moved to West Virginia as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and subsequently went to graduate school there.

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a domestic version of the Peace Corps. They provide full time workers to various community organizations "to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals out of poverty."

I was a Community Development Coordinator in AmeriCorps, working on projects such as development signage, brown field redevelopment, water quality monitoring and assisting engineers on restoration projects. That work then tied in with my Master's thesis which was on "Early Warning Systems for Spills" – focusing on modeling the use of deployable sensors to be used to track spills significant enough to be detected, such as the 2014 Elk River chemical spill.

I applied for the job at Reclamation because I wanted to do something civil service orientated, with water resources. I was excited when this job at Reclamation opened up. I'm interested in systems: water systems, social systems, how people work together; cooperative relationships, water quality, and policy.

My Dad and my Aunts and Uncles live in West Virginia, and my Mom in Canada. I enjoy rock climbing, hiking, playing board games, and food. I speak some Spanish, but understand it well. I like books on American history or surrealistic books by Latin American authors. I'm currently reading Jitterbug Perfume by Tom Robbins. My favorite genres of movies include comedies and bad scary movies. My favorite character is Peggy Olson from Mad Men. I like funk and blues music and I really enjoy dancing. I brought a Flamenco guitar with me to Albuquerque as I like to play classical guitar.



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My favorite activity is attending the Cheat River Festival in Albright, WV. This is an annual weekend festival hosted by the Friends of the Cheat with music, rafting, food, etc., for people interested in water.

If I had to describe myself in one word, it would be “colorful.”

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## Michelle Klein

Albuquerque Area Office – Civil/Hydraulic Engineer



Michelle Klein is the new Civil Engineer/Hydraulic in the Technical Services Division, based in Robert Padilla’s River Analysis Group.

Michelle worked at the Wyoming Area Office in Casper, Wyoming, for the last five years. Her husband, Ross, found a job with the Bureau of Land Management locally, so she started looking for jobs around Albuquerque and saw her “dream job” open at the Albuquerque Area Office.

Ross, Michelle, and their 8 month old daughter Samantha, are excited to be in New Mexico as she loves to explore other cultures. She also likes hiking and favorite places include the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon and the San Antonio Riverwalk.

Something people might not know about Michelle is that she completely remodeled and fixed up her last house, which they bought as a foreclosure.

As a busy working mother, Michelle enjoys spending her free time with her family. Her favorite book is *In the Garden of the Beasts*, by Erik Larson, and she likes both comedies and zombie movies. Her favorite television character is Daryl Dixon from the *Walking Dead* and her favorite genre of music is hip hop. Don’t expect to reach Michelle on Monday nights as she is also an obsessive Bachelor/Bachelorette fan!

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# In Transition

## Jake Padilla Retires



Jake Padilla of the Four Corners Construction Office retired in September 2015.

Jake started his official government career in the Army in September 1967 through September 1970.

In July 1997, he started with Reclamation as a Construction Inspector. He worked on Gallegos Pumping Plant, Block 8, and canal rehabs. With the Safety of Dams program, Wheatfield Dam, Tsaile Dam, and Asayaai Dam. He also worked at Glen Canyon on various rehabilitation contracts. From 2001-2004, Jake worked with Geology and the Drill crew. In 2004, Jake became a Civil Engineering Technician in the O&M division working at Gallegos, Block 8 and Block 9 pumping plants.

He was our master fabricator of projects and ideas!

Jake will have plenty of time to work on his hobbies, one is building street rods, he has a 1930's coupe that is done, he's working on a 1930's truck, which is just getting started, and his wife has a classic Mustang she wants done. Good luck Jake!

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**Frederick Conrad Keller**  
**(November 12, 1922 - October 31, 2015)**



Frederick Conrad Keller died Saturday, October 31, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah, of causes incident to age. Con was born November 12, 1922, in Manti, Utah, the second son of Clark and Lucile Anderson Keller.

His family and friends knew him as a generous, and loving man, patient and accepting of others, optimistic and cheerful in outlook, modest about his achievements, firm in his faith, and steadfast in service.

After graduation from Manti High School, Con attended Snow College, then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was selected for an Army Specialized Training Program, studying electrical engineering at City College of New York for two years, after which he was sent to Europe for one year in the army of the occupation in Germany. He was a member of the Manti Post of the American Legion.

After discharge from the army, Con continued studies in electrical engineering at the University of Utah, graduating in 1948. He worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 1948 to 1978, and for Salt River Project

1979 to 1991. He was a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. His employment took him to Davis Dam, Arizona; Spanish Fork and Provo, Utah; and Page.

In 1947, he married Carol Beth Smyth, with whom he had six children. Carol died in 1986. In 1991 he married his childhood friend Margaret Nielson Peterson. They served in the Illinois Peoria Mission, then settled in their home town of Manti, where they served in the Manti Temple. He served faithfully in many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Con was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Anne Jensen, brothers, Bob and Dan, wife, Carol, and daughter, Verona.

He is survived by wife, Margaret; sister-in-law, Athlen Keller, Price, Utah; brother-in-law, Clyde Jensen, Bountiful, Utah; children, Lewis (and Pat) Keller, Topeka, Kansas, Lucy (and David) Stewart, Evergreen, Colo., David (and Susan) Keller, Provo, Utah, Anita Keller, Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and Fred Keller, Page, Drew (and Donna) Peterson, Monument, Colo., Chad (and Leslie) Peterson, South Jordan, Utah, Kim (and Donna) Peterson, Centerville, Utah, Jill (and Don) Bailey, Farmington, Utah, Dana (and Gary) Brady, Centerville, Utah, Leesa (and Lyman) Rose, Farmington, Utah; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

[How does Durango get its water?](#)

### [CONCERNS OVER COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT SURFACE ONCE MORE](#)

[Colorado River - Scholars: Additional research is critical](#)

[Project of Albuquerque-area authority starts recovering water stored in aquifer](#)

[The Colorado River's desalination plant is on its last legs](#)

[ABC 4 News Features Salt Lake Climate Week](#)

[New Mexico's river diversion project overflows budget limits](#)

[Federal policies vex Utah water commission](#)

[Federal Water Tap, October 26: Report: Gold King Mine Spill A Result of Technical Errors and Mistaken Priorities](#)

[Chemical to be used on invasive Colorado River green sunfish](#)

[Terror Attack Simulation at Glen Canyon Dam](#)

[Agencies target invasive fish in Colorado River for removal](#)

[Heavy rainfall brings power outages](#)

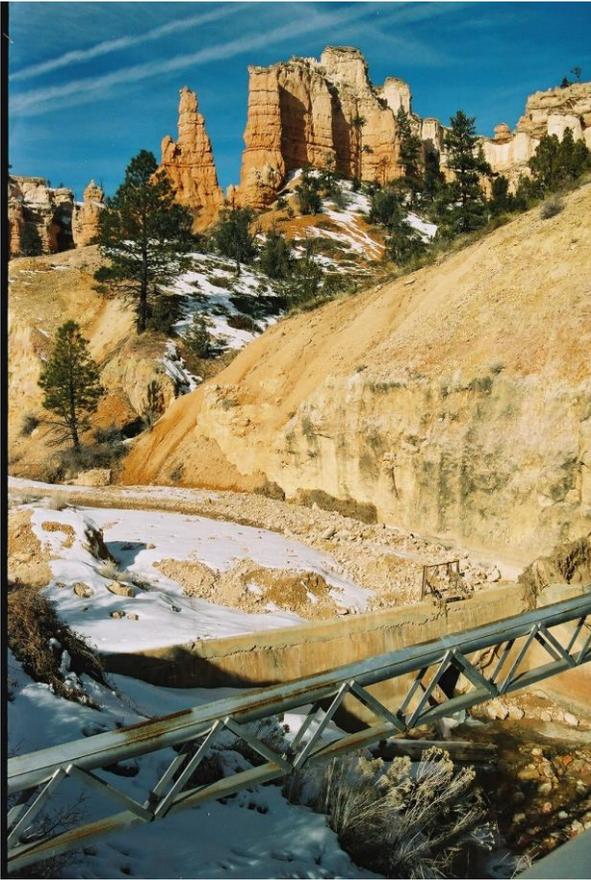
[Invasive Green Sunfish to be removed from backwater slough in Colorado River](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Announces Talmadge Oxford as Power Area Office Manager for the Upper Colorado Region](#)

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By Stacey Smith

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## Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. Mrs. Jacqueline Gomez-Arias has been the Executive Director for \_\_\_\_\_ in Salt Lake City, Utah, for over \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Earl Herrera, a Navajo Medicine Man, had a message mainly focused on \_\_\_\_\_ which means "\_\_\_\_\_".
3. Jay facilitated a study on the Upper Colorado Acquisition Program, which produced \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

Last week, We asked,

1. The country of Afghanistan has four main river basins: **The Amu Darya**, **The Harirud**, **The Helmand River**, and **The Kabul River**.



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2. Fairchild Challenge offers 11 fun environmentally-themed challenges aimed to **improve the environment** and **help schools win money**.
3. Encompassing more than **127 million acres**, the Southern Rockies LCC spans portions of five states: **Utah**, **Colorado**, **Arizona**, **Wyoming** and **New Mexico**.

Last winner was – **N/A**

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

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