



# Bureau of Reclamation Highlights

## Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation or BOR) is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States, delivering water to 31 million people for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and domestic uses. Reclamation is the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power, generating nearly \$1 billion in annual power revenues; its multipurpose projects also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

**BOR Mission**

*"To manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American people."*

Over the past 95 years, Reclamation has developed safe and dependable water supplies and hydroelectric power to foster settlement and economic growth in the West. In recent years, Reclamation has moved from development to management of these resources. Reclamation is investing in the future by placing greater emphasis on water conservation, recycling, and reuse; developing partnerships with customers, States, and Tribes; finding ways to bring competing interests together to address diverse water needs; transferring title and operation of some facilities to local beneficiaries; and achieving a higher level of responsibility to the taxpayer.

## Water and Energy Management and Development

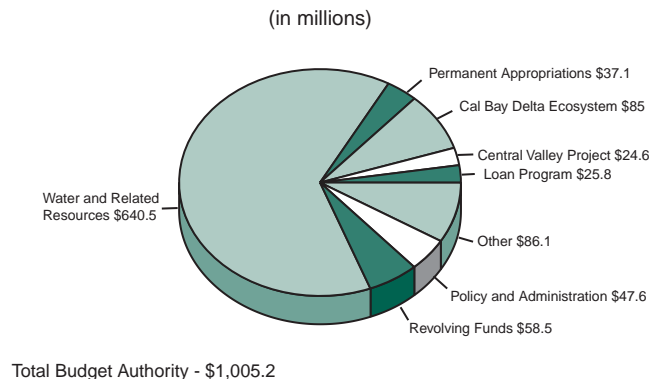
Competition for finite water resources requires maximizing the efficient use of developed water supplies. Greater efficiency enhances the delivery of water to existing uses and, in some circumstances, will make water available for other water needs consistent with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal law and other requirements. Almost 29.8 million acre-feet of water was delivered under all contracts in 1998.

## Increasing Water Availability

Reclamation approved 85 water transfers involving approximately 136,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project water in 1998. Most of these transfers are for agricultural purposes and helped water districts meet short-term water management goals. Reclamation is developing a water transfer clearinghouse to further facilitate efficient water use.

Water recycling projects are being constructed or studied in Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Nevada. The reclamation and reuse of municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural wastewater and naturally impaired groundwater and surface water are important ways to extend scarce water supplies.

## 1998 BOR Budget Authority



The number of districts Reclamation assisted in developing or implementing water conservation measures increased from 138 in 1997 to 160 in 1998.

### **Completing Projects**

Reclamation completed a total of three water supply and energy projects in 1998. All remaining construction on the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project, for which Reclamation is responsible, was completed in 1998. The Central Utah Project was authorized by the Congress in 1956. Construction on the Bonneville Unit features began in 1966. Completed facilities include six dams, eight major diversion dams, and 65 miles of aqueducts, tunnels, and pipelines.



Tracy pumping plant and fish facility (photo by Reclamation).

### **Fulfilling Obligations to Indian Tribes**

During 1998, Reclamation provided technical assistance of about \$5.5 million to approximately 81 Tribes. For example, the Commissioner's office provided emergency assistance to the Pueblo of San Ildefonso (New Mexico) to locate a supplemental well to back up their two existing wells that supply domestic water to more than 200 homes.

Reclamation participated in Interior's program to resolve Indian water rights claims through settlement when feasible. Reclamation expended approximately \$1.3 million for studies and investigations in support of negotiation and implementation teams, as well as providing leadership and staff support.

### **Maintaining and Protecting Water Quality**

Reclamation has several efforts underway to maintain and protect the quality of water in the rivers of the West. Under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, Reclamation began its third bid solicitation process for projects to control salinity in the Colorado River Basin under new basinwide authorities, with costs ranging from \$25 to \$35 per ton. The salinity program now has nine projects underway in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. The program will meet its long-term goal to keep costs below \$50 per ton (compared to \$70 per ton previously).

### **Research and Technology Transfer**

The Research and Technology Transfer Program has emphasized activities in the areas of water and environmental resources and facilities and infrastructure resources. Partnering with outside entities is an integral component of the program. In 1998, the overall program was leveraged approximately 1.3 times through contributions from outside partners. Examples of major program accomplishments include development and application of database and computer modeling technologies to improve decisionmaking for water resources, award of 19 cost-shared contracts to develop more cost-effective methods to desalinate water, and development of unique biocontrol pest management methods.

## Facility Operations

Currently, Reclamation manages and operates 348 reservoirs (with a total storage capacity of 245 million acre-feet), 59 hydroelectric powerplants, and more than 300 recreation sites. Hydropower generation availability of nonseasonal units increased from 84.6 percent in 1997 to 89.7 percent in 1998. The industry average is 90 percent.

## Facility Maintenance and Rehabilitation

Reclamation's maintenance and rehabilitation program is critical to preserving Reclamation facilities, meeting Reclamation's mission, and protecting the Federal investment. Reclamation continues to strive to attain a three percent or lower forced outage rate for Reclamation's hydropower generating units. The percent of time facilities were out of service in 1998 was 1.07 percent, compared to 2 percent in 1997.

Throughout the 17 western States, Reclamation has 457 dams and dikes, of which 362 would endanger people if a failure occurred. Reclamation places great reliance on dam safety activities to manage these risks. Specific dam safety activities include monitoring structural performance, developing and testing emergency plans, training dam operators, aggressively inspecting and evaluating facilities to detect developing problems, and implementing risk reduction modifications. Most of these dam safety activities are funded by the \$76.7 million Dam Safety Program.

A new Reclamation Security Officer is working with regional security coordinators to provide program and technical guidance to protect the public, employees, and Reclamation infrastructure. In its continuing effort to improve and upgrade the security of the Federal facilities and structures it manages, Reclamation expended approximately \$3 million in security assessments, upgrades, and training for its employees during 1998, as well as completing 102 security assessments of its facilities throughout the 17 western States.

## Land Management and Development

Reclamation manages approximately 8.6 million acres of Federal land, made up of approximately 2.2 million acres of acquired land and 5.8 million acres of withdrawn land. In addition, Reclamation has easements on another 600,000 acres of land.

Recreation management activities promote partnerships intended to enable facilities to be turned over to non-Federal entities for operation and maintenance and to bring facilities into legal compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. More than 19 partnerships have been formed with various groups throughout the West to improve recreational opportunities.



Construction of Mni Wiconi rural water project in South Dakota (photo by Reclamation).

Resource management plans provide a comprehensive framework for managing, developing, and protecting water and related resources in a given area, including recreation, fish, and wildlife. Resource management plans are being developed in several States, including at least 11 plans in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, and Utah.

Reclamation has 55 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, along with approximately 2,375 unevaluated archaeological and historical sites.

### ***Fish and Wildlife Management and Development***

In 1998, Reclamation continued to work with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund on-the-ground efforts to recover sensitive plant and wildlife species, restore riparian and wetland habitats, improve water quality, control noxious weeds, and conserve endangered fish. The foundation encourages the formation of partnerships between Federal agencies, Tribes, local governments, non-profit organizations, and individual land-owners to accomplish this work.

Reclamation contributed \$1.4 million during 1998 to help fund a variety of conservation projects. Reclamation's funds were matched by non-Federal challenge funds and contributions from other Federal agencies.

Watershed management studies have been underway in many watersheds throughout the West for several years. For example, the State of California and Federal Government Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) process is developing a strategy that would deliver water for agricultural and urban needs while also providing adequate supplies for the environment, including the needs of fish, wildlife, and endangered species. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council provides an equal role for representatives from the environmental community, water users, and people from the business community.



Reclamation employees volunteered to participate in CAST (Catch a Special Thrill) program for kids (photo by Reclamation).

Efforts continued on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Several Federal and non-Federal entities entered into an agreement in 1997 to cooperate in seeking solutions that will help accommodate water, power, and environmental needs on the Lower Colorado River. The program will address approximately 100 species and their habitats, including aquatic, wetland, riparian, and upland environments.