

Mid-Pacific Region Humboldt Project

The Humboldt Project is located in northwestern Nevada on the Humboldt River. The key feature is Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir, about 22 miles upstream from Lovelock, Nevada. The dam stores water for irrigation. The project lands are in Lovelock Valley, on the lower flood plains of the river in an area of approximately 45,000 acres. The project area's average annual rainfall is 5.76 inches, rendering the storage project key to the area.

Funding for authorization came from the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. On August 24, 1933, the Public Works Administration approved an allotment of \$2 million, and the President approved the Humboldt Project on November 6, 1935.



Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir

Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir

The dam was completed and began storing water in 1936. A rehabilitation and betterment program in 1976 raised Rye Patch Dam by three feet, and these improvements increased the reservoir's storage capacity by an additional 23,000 acre-feet bringing its active capacity to 194,300 acre-feet. Rye Patch Dam is an earthfill structure. The reservoir is 21 miles long from the dam north to the Callahan Bridge, near the town of Imlay.

Operating agency

The operation and maintenance of the project were transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Pershing County Water Conservation District on January 15, 1941.

Construction

Construction of Rye Patch Dam commenced on January 31, 1935, and was completed June 1, 1936. The purchase of lands and water rights and construction of minor works by Government forces in the vicinity of Battle Mountain, collectively called the Battle Mountain Water Collection and Development System, were completed by January 21, 1939.

For More Information:

MP Region Public Affairs

916-978-5100

www.usbr.gov/mp

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