

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service - Bureau of Reclamation
Coulee Dam, Wash.

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PARK SERVICE TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF COULEE DAM RECREATIONAL AREA

COULEE DAM, WASH., Thursday, February 20, 1947.—Public facilities for swimming, boating and fishing on Eastern Washington's 151-mile-long Lake Roosevelt and for camping and picnicking on its scenic shores will be developed by the National Park Service as rapidly as funds are made available, Claude E. Greider, Supervisor, Coulee Dam Recreational Area, announced today.

An agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service, recently approved by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug, has cleared the way for the Park Service to begin administrative supervision and development of this newly established recreational area consisting of approximately 82,000 acres of water on Lake Roosevelt and 12,000 acres of shoreland, the Park Service official said.

"Initial facilities for boating, picnicking, and bathing are scheduled for certain places on the lake to satisfy the immediate needs of the local public and the thousands of tourists attracted to the Grand Coulee Dam, the world's largest masonry dam, and its massive power plant," Mr. Greider commented. "Major facilities programmed for the near future include picnic grounds, a boat harbor, and expansion of the existing seaplane base for Coulee Dam; a bathing beach and picnic ground for Spring Canyon, 3 miles above the dam; boating, picnicking, bathing and camping facilities at old Fort Spokane, 43 miles above the dam, where the Spokane River enters Lake Roosevelt; picnic grounds and boat docks at the old Kettle Falls town site, 106 miles above the dam and about 100 miles north of Spokane; and a picnic ground, bathing beach, and boat docks at Marcus Island, opposite the town of Marcus, which is 112 miles from the dam and 3/4 miles by water from the Canadian Boundary."

Mr. Greider added "that the early development program also includes a number of less extensive boat landings and picnic grounds at convenient sites for day use of boating parties." These, he said, are in the San Poil, Hawk Creek, Hunters, Kettle River, and Northport districts.

"Qualified private investors will be given an opportunity to provide many of the needed public facilities considered practicable for concessioner operations," Mr. Greider stated. He added that "the rate and extent of developments made by the Park Service will depend entirely upon Congressional appropriations for this purpose."

"All the more than 500 miles of shore lands of Lake Roosevelt are owned or controlled by the Federal Government, and Federal laws and regulations require that a permit must be obtained for any use of these lands," Mr. Greider explained. "Permits may be obtained for essential agricultural, logging, and commercial uses at places where major recreational values will not be sacrificed."

"Permits for log dumps, irrigation, grazing, and agricultural uses within the boundaries of the Colville and Spokane Indian Reservations on the lake must be obtained from the Office of Indian Affairs, Nespelem, Wash. Applications for all other commercial, logging, or agricultural uses, and for all recreational uses should be sent to the National Park Service at Coulee Dam."

National Park Service headquarters for the Coulee Dam Recreational Area, including Lake Roosevelt, will be maintained at Coulee Dam. A small staff already established there will be increased within the next few weeks to include an engineer, landscape architect, two park rangers, and clerical assistance.

"The National Park Service will continue its policy of cooperation with the public and with all Federal and State agencies interested in providing full recreational opportunities in the Coulee Dam Recreational Area," Mr. Greider stated.

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