

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

Bureau of Reclamation  
Hungry Horse Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hungry Horse, Montana, July 5. -- Everybody's getting into the record-breaking act at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hungry Horse dam in northwestern Montana this year --even the tourists.

The 1951 visitor count at the huge multiple-purpose dam on the south fork of the Flathead River has passed the 77,000 mark, an increase of 53 per cent over the record of 50,200 set during the same period in 1950.

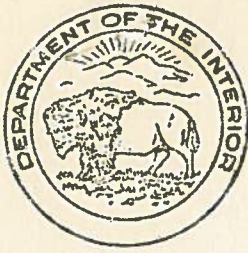
A total of 4,320 persons made the trip to the Hungry Horse dam vista point on the July 4 holiday. At the present rate, it is anticipated that nearly 300,000 tourists will visit the dam this year as compared with the record of 220,000 set in 1950.

Visitors counted at the vista point this year have included tourists from every state except South Carolina and Delaware, eight Canadian provinces, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, and 15 foreign countries.

From the attractive log vista house anchored high on the canyon wall, visitors get a bird's-eye view of the spectacular construction operations now under way on the world's third highest and fourth largest concrete dam.

A new feature at the vista house that is proving extremely popular with visitors is a photographic display of major dams constructed or proposed for construction by the Bureau of Reclamation, including Grand Coulee, Hoover, Shasta and Hells Canyon.

Guides are on duty at the vista point during the tourist season to give lectures and answer questions on the project, and illustrated folders are available. Folders may also be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Reclamation, Hungry Horse Project, Columbia Falls, Montana.



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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JULY 8, 1951.

Hungry Horse, Montana. -- Construction crews at Hungry Horse dam on the south fork of Montana's Flathead River will start the fourth year of work on the big multiple-purpose Bureau of Reclamation project Tuesday (July 10) with all phases of construction on or ahead of schedule, C. H. Spencer, Bureau Construction Engineer, reported today.

Construction on the Hungry Horse project was officially started on July 10, 1948.

General-Shea-Morrison, Seattle, Washington, is setting a record-breaking pace on the \$43,431,000 prime contract for construction of the 564-foot high dam and 285,000-kilowatt power plant, and has completed approximately 60 per cent of the job in 56 per cent of the contract time.

With concrete placement averaging more than 7,000 cubic yards per day from a plant originally designed for a maximum of 6,000 yards, the huge concrete arch-gravity dam is gaining about a foot-a-day in height and some 28,000,000 pounds each day in weight. High blocks in the dam are now 314 feet above lowest bedrock.

Approximately 1,605,000 cubic yards of concrete are now in place in the dam, power plant, valve house and spillway, and at the present rate of construction, it is anticipated that between 2,300,000 and 2,400,000 cubic yards of concrete will be in place by the end of the 1951 construction season. The completed project will contain about 3,100,000 cubic yards of concrete, placing it fourth behind Grand Coulee, Shasta and Hoover among the world's largest concrete dams.

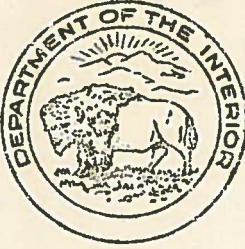


The completion contract on the powerhouse and high-voltage switchyard, which is being handled by the Grafe-Shirley-Lane company, Palo Alto, Calif., also is progressing on schedule with work under way on installation of the first three of four 105,000-horsepower turbines.

Removal of approximately 90,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber from the 34-mile long Hungry Horse reservoir is nearly complete, and clearing contracts are well ahead of schedule.

Under present plans, the 36-foot diameter diversion tunnel, which is carrying the Flathead River's south fork around the dam, will be closed this fall or winter to start storage of water behind the dam. The storage schedule calls for capture of 1,000,000 acre-feet of water during the 1952 spring runoff. Ultimately, the reservoir will store 3,500,000 acre-feet, of which all but 60,000 acre-feet will be live storage available for production of hydroelectric power and control of floods in the Columbia River basin.

The first two 71,250-kilowatt Hungry Horse generators are scheduled to go on the line in October and December of 1952, and the plant's full capacity of 285,000 kilowatts will be available by November 1953 to help meet the rapidly growing power requirements of Montana and the Pacific Northwest. In addition to the power that will be developed at the Hungry Horse plant, storage in the Hungry Horse reservoir will increase by more than a half-million kilowatts the firm power capacity of existing and authorized downstream plants including those at Kerr Dam and Thompson Falls in Montana, Cabinet Gorge and Albeni Falls in Idaho, and Grand Coulee, Chief Joseph, Rock Island and Bonneville dams in Washington and Oregon.



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FOR RELEASE AFTER 10:00 A.M., M.S.T., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1951

Hungry Horse, Montana. -- Construction crews placed the 2,000,000th cubic yard of concrete in northwestern Montana's huge multiple-purpose Hungry Horse dam at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday. There was no fanfare--not even a momentary pause in the high speed construction tempo to mark this milestone in development of the big Bureau of Reclamation project.

Placement of the 2,000,000th yard of concrete came just nine days less than two years after the first bucket of concrete was placed in the dam on September 7, 1949.

As a result of the record-breaking progress made this year by General-Shea-Morrison of Seattle, prime contractor for the 564-foot-high dam and 285,000-kilowatt powerhouse, and Grafe-Shirley-Lane Co., Palo Alto, California, completion contractor for the powerhouse and high-voltage switchyard, all major phases of construction are ahead of schedule. Both contractors plan to continue work at top speed through September, October and as late in November as weather will permit. It is anticipated that between 2,300,000 and 2,400,000 cubic yards of concrete will be in place by the end of the 1951 construction Season. When completed, the dam and power plant and appurtenant structures will contain approximately 3,100,000 cubic yards of concrete--enough to build a 20-foot highway from Seattle to San Francisco and back again.

Employment at the Hungry Horse Project will continue at a higher level during the coming winter than it has in past winters. Winter work scheduled this year will include installation of turbines and generators, installation of piping,



wiring and electrical equipment in the dam and power plant, and general cleanup and repair and maintenance of equipment.

Installation of the four 105,000-horsepower turbines is progressing rapidly, and installation of the first of four 71,250-kilowatt generators is scheduled to start this December. The first two generators are scheduled to go on the line in October and December of 1952, and the Hungry Horse plant's full capacity of 285,000 kilowatts will be available by November 1953 to help meet the rapidly growing power requirements of Montana and the Pacific Northwest.

Storage of water in the 34-mile long Hungry Horse Reservoir will be started within the next month with closure of the 36-foot diameter, 1,180-foot-long diversion tunnel. The multiple-purpose dam will start its service as a flood control project next spring when 1,000,000 acre-feet of the spring run-off of the south fork of the Flathead River will be captured and stored behind the dam.

Released during the fall and winter next year, this water will spin the first two Hungry Horse generators and then will be used and re-used to increase the prime power capacity of downstream hydroelectric plants at Kerr Dam and Thompson Falls in Montana, and at Grand Coulee, Rock Island and Bonneville Dams on the Columbia River.



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Hungry Horse, Montana, May 23. -- Construction of the Hungry Horse switchyard, eastern terminus of high-voltage transmission lines that will link the 285,000-kilowatt Hungry Horse Power Plant with other federal, municipal and private power plants in the northwest power pool, has been started, Bureau of Reclamation engineers reported today.

The switchyard work is being handled by the Grafe-Shirley-Lane Company of Los Angeles under a recently awarded \$1,792,782 contract covering completion work on the big Bureau of Reclamation Power Plant being constructed on the South Fork of Montana's Flathead River.

Initial work in the 225 by 165-foot switchyard, which is approximately 1200 feet downstream from the Hungry Horse Powerhouse, includes installation of concrete footings to support nine 68-foot high steel towers. Concrete footings will also be placed for high-voltage oil circuit breakers and a steel service building.

Plans call for installation of three 230,000-volt oil circuit breakers and disconnecting switches for a 230,000-volt transmission line to be constructed by the Bonneville Power Administration from Hungry Horse Dam to Hot Springs. Also scheduled for construction as a part of the BPA transmission grid is a 230,000-volt circuit from Spokane to Hot Springs to interconnect the Hungry Horse Powerhouse with the northwest power pool, and a line from Hot Springs to Anaconda.



Operated in coordination with other plants in the northwest power pool, the Hungry Horse Power Plant will have a prime capacity of 223,000 kilowatts as compared with a prime capacity of only 90,000 kilowatts if operated as an isolated plant.

In addition, the prime power capability of existing and authorized downstream projects, both federal and private, will be increased by 513,000 kilowatts as a result of coordinated operation of the Hungry Horse Dam and Power Plant.

Thus, generation at Hungry Horse, plus increased prime capacity at downstream plants resulting from storage in the Hungry Horse Reservoir, ultimately will provide 736,000 kilowatts of power to help meet critical defense industry power requirements in the Pacific Northwest as well as the mushrooming power demands of the region's expanding peace-time economy.



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Hungry Horse, Montana, Sept. 21 -- Montana's newest lake, the man-made Hungry Horse Reservoir, began forming behind the huge multiple-purpose Bureau of Reclamation Dam at 10:04 a.m. Friday, when steel stop logs were dropped into place in the mouth of the 36-foot diameter diversion tunnel to block the flow of the Flathead River's South Fork.

Closure of the diversion tunnel started water backing up into the 34-mile long reservoir which will ultimately be one of Montana's largest lakes. When the Hungry Horse reservoir is filled it will store 3,500,000 acre-feet of water, the equivalent of approximately 7,500 gallons for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Closure of the 1,180-foot-long tunnel, which was effected so quickly and smoothly that only a handful of construction workers were present, marked an important milestone in construction of Hungry Horse Dam. As the last stop log dropped into place, an important headwater tributary of the Columbia River, America's greatest power stream, was broken to harness, and Hungry Horse Dam began storing the energy of the South Fork of the Flathead River for use in Montana and the Pacific Northwest.

Within the next month, the reservoir will rise about 130 feet, and the river will then begin flowing through the 8-foot diameter river outlet pipes, three of which are embedded in the dam. When the Hungry Horse Project is completed, these outlet pipes will be used, when necessary, to lower the reservoir quickly to provide flood storage space.



Bureau of Reclamation engineers plan to capture 1,000,000 acre-feet of water behind the dam during the 1952 spring run-off. By holding this water back, Hungry Horse Dam will begin its service as a flood-control project, helping to reduce flood peaks in Montana's rich Flathead Valley, and as far downstream on the Columbia River as Portland, Oregon.

Water stored behind the dam next spring will be released during the fall and winter of 1952 to spin the first two 71,250-kilowatt Hungry Horse generators and to firm up generating capacity at downstream power plants, including Kerr Dam and Thompson Falls in Montana, and Grand Coulee, Rock Island and Bonneville Dams on the Columbia River.

The first two Hungry Horse generators are scheduled to go on the line in October and December of 1952, and the plant's full rated capacity of 285,000 kilowatts from four units will be available by November 1953 to help alleviate the critical power shortage situation in the Pacific Northwest.

Through special arrangements with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission, fish trapped in pools below the dam after the river was blocked were netted and transferred in tank trucks to the reservoir.