

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

For Release February 14, 1964

Ephrata, Ext. 258

PROJECT INVENTORY FOR 1963 SHOWS CROP DIVERSITY

The Columbia Basin Project's recently released 1963 crop summary lists a total of 36 crops grown in the Project on acreages varying from just under 84 acres of nursery stock to well over a hundred thousand acres of alfalfa hay.

Principal Project crops, such as sugar beets, alfalfa hay, wheat, early and late potatoes, dry and edible beans and pea seed--the crops that accounted for over 70 percent of the Project's irrigated acres and 81 percent of the \$57.1 million gross crop value--are fairly common to the Northwest. But peppermint, spearmint, safflower seed, Merion Blue Grass seed and lentils are not so common, but all are presently raised on Project lands along with a score of minor acreages of other crops such as Christmas trees, gladiola bulbs, popcorn, and peppers.

Excluding potatoes, sweet corn led the list of Project vegetables last year with 2,103 acres devoted to it. Green peas were raised on 1,905 acres, dry onions 828 acres, beans 708 acres, lentils 607 acres, asparagus 223

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acres, and carrots 203 acres.

Corn, silage, barley, oats, and other hay and mixed grains accounted for over 35,000 irrigated acres on the Project last year. These crops, in conjunction with some alfalfa hay and 21,010 acres of irrigated pasture, are principally used to feed the Project's growing resident cattle population-- a population numbering 72,902 as of November 1st.

Seeds raised on the Project are used throughout the nation. After pea seed, with its 21,795 acres in 1963, the acreage order was: Alfalfa seed, 13,891; red clover seed, 2,417; radish seed, 580; safflower seed, 497; Merion Blue Grass seed, 452; white clover seed, 353; and bean seed, 208.

Orchard and fruit produce are also gaining favor in the Project. Last year there were 648 acres of apple orchard, 371 acres of watermelons, 153 acres of pear orchard, 143 acres of cherry orchard, and 84 acres of nursery stock harvested. Over all, the fruit acreage harvested on the Project in '63 increased about 290 acres over 1962.

And finally, there were 2,725 acres of peppermint and 688 acres of spearmint. Smaller acreages of a variety of other Project produce, some in an experimental status, were also reported.

nearby. A boat launching ramp has been installed to provide easy access to the lake which is popular for fishing and water skiing. Other improvements include restroom facilities, a gravel-surfaced parking area and picnic tables and benches.

Actual construction of the improvements which include an under ground irrigation system and a domestic well to serve the restroom was done by corpsmen from the Columbia Basin Civilian Conservation Center as a part of their training program in skills that prepare them for gainful employment. These work-training programs serve a dual purpose by providing training for corpsmen through actual work on projects that contribute to useful development or conservation of natural resources. During the two and one-half years the Center has been operating, work projects have produced improvements valued at half a million dollars. Among other recreation development projects completed are those at Soda Lake, south of O'Sullivan Dam, Lind Coulee Arm of the Potholes Reservoir, and improvements at the Hunters Campground in the Coulee Dam National Recreation Area. Work is currently underway in conjunction with the State Parks and Recreation Commission on another state park located beside the Potholes Reservoir.

Note to News Editors: We would be pleased to have your news staff represented at the Dedication. Electric power for sound or other equipment is available at the park.

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★ news release

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Columbia Basin Project

For Release: June 2, 1968

Ephrata, Ext. 258

GRAND COULEE DAM AND COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT ATTRACT MANY VISITORS

Grand Coulee Dam and the recreation areas of the Columbia Basin Project attracted thousands of visitors during the four-day weekend beginning on Memorial Day.

Many, with campers or tents, set up camp at one or more of the campgrounds developed by the National Park Service, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other agencies. With sunny skies and warm weather, many of these vacationers also enjoyed fishing, boating, wild flower and bird watching and other outdoor activities.

The Grand Coulee Dam Tour Center reports that on Memorial Day 600 people visited the tour center where an information program is offered. It is estimated that 250 more tourists were in the Coulee Dam area to camp and see the dam and the construction work now underway on the Third Powerplant. Several viewpoints offer excellent opportunity to view this construction and the giant machinery used to excavate for the new powerhouse and its forebay and to build the cofferdam which will hold the water back while a 250-foot long section of the dam is removed to make way for the new powerhouse.

Project officials said the colored lighting program which is presented during the summer months is expected to begin the middle of June. This program begins at dusk each evening when a bank of 1500 watt colored lights, covering the entire spectrum, are focused on the water falling over the spillway of the dam. The lighting sequence with accompanying music is repeated every 45 minutes until 11:00 p.m. The tour center is open during the summer months from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.