

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata, Washington

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, APRIL 1st.

EPHRATA, Wash., Apr. 1--The final federal land sale for 1952 on the Columbia Basin Project, involving 32 farm units in Franklin County, was announced today by H. A. Parker, district manager, upon receiving approval of the public announcement from Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

This is the fourth land drawing for government-owned farm units in the Columbia Basin Project in 1952, making available, for the year, a total of 122 farms.

Veterans of World War II have first preference in filing applications for the units in the Ephrata, Washington office of the Bureau of Reclamation during a 45-day period which begins at 2 p.m. today and ends at 2 p.m. on May 16.

The farms, varying in size from 48 to 153 irrigable acres, will sell for prices ranging from \$1091 to \$7298, depending on size, classification of the land, etc. Irrigation water will be made available for the units in 1953, Reclamation Commissioner Michael W. Straus said.

Among the qualifications for veterans and others are a minimum of two years full-time farm experience after the age of 15 years and net assets of \$4500.

Approximately 10,000 announcements of the sale together with application blanks have already been sent to persons who have requested information about available farm units in the Columbia Basin Project. Persons who have not previously requested application blanks can obtain them from the Land Settlement Branch, Bureau of Reclamation, Ephrata, Washington, or from the Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho.

A land drawing will be held at Othello, Washington, Saturday, May 31, which will determine the order in which applications will be considered. This drawing is to be a feature of the 11-day Columbia Basin Water Festival in cele-

bration of the initial delivery of irrigation water from the Columbia River at Grand Coulee Dam to the million-acre project.

"There are indications that the number of farm seekers on this sale will surpass all previous drawings," Commissioner Straus said. "At the first drawing this year, there were 74 applicants for each farm available."

Sale of this land in Franklin County will bring a total of 121 full-time farm units made available to veterans in 1952 on the Columbia Basin Project by the Bureau, the commissioner pointed out.

"Over a period of years, the federal government is selling a total area in farms equal to about 20 percent of the project," he said. "Most of the remainder of the land is in the hands of private owners. The total project area is 1,029,000 acres, equal in size to a new state in the Union."

With the 32 Franklin County farms a total of 199 full-time units have been offered for sale on the Project to date by the Bureau. Beginning with the offering of 15 farm units near Pasco, Washington in 1948 the veteran settlement opportunities include land near Pasco, Moses Lake, Ephrata, Quincy and Othello, made available during 1950, 1951 and 1952. Although anyone may apply for these farms, Commissioner Straus pointed out that the number of veterans of World War II, who have priority, has been so great that no non-veterans have received full-time farm units to date.

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UNITED STATES
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For release Thursday, February 12th, 1953.....

EPHRATA, Wash., March 12—Methods to be used in the development of a plan for the transfer of the government town of Coulee Dam to self-government and private ownership will be discussed at meetings to be held on March 16, 17 and 18 in Ephrata, Phil Nalder, District Manager for the Columbia River District, announced today.

Coulee Dam, a town of several thousand residents, was built to house Bureau of Reclamation employees during the time that the major features were under construction. Nalder pointed out that it was never intended to become a permanent government town. The attitude of the Department of the Interior is further expressed in a letter of February 20, 1953 to Senator Magnuson from Fred G. Aandahl, assistant secretary for Water and Power Development. In this letter Mr. Aandahl stated "It has been our desire to eventually propose legislation to the Congress which will effect the separation and sale of the Government houses at Coulee Dam with the hope that the residents will incorporate the community under the laws of the State of Washington. This plan will allow the community to become as nearly self-supporting as possible and allow the townspeople to resolve their many local problems in the normal American way. To date these separation plans are only in the embryo stage."

Dr. George A. Shipman of the University of Washington; W. Darlington Denit, a consultant on the staff of the Bureau of Reclamation; and representatives of the regional office of the Bureau of Reclamation in

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Boise, as well as Mr. Nalder and members of his staff, will attend the meetings.

Coulee Dam is one of several government towns now in process of being transferred to private ownership. Denit has been working on details for the transfer of Boulder City, Nev., also owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. The atomic Energy Commission is working out details for the transfer of Richland, Wash., and Oak Ridge, Tenn. to private ownership.

The meetings starting March 16, 1953, are intended to establish a procedure to be used in developing a plan which will adequately reflect the varying interests of citizens of the area, as well as state and national interests. Subsequently, the actual plan for disposal will be developed through cooperative with the local residents of Coulee Dam and other interested individuals or groups which will all be given an opportunity to express their position. Nalder was emphatic in stressing that the final plan will be adopted only after full consideration of all of the diverging positions.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Ephrata, Washington

For release A.M.'s Monday, March 30.....

1953

108 COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT FARMS GO ON SALE

EPHRATA, Wash., Mar. 30--The largest number of family-size farms yet offered in a single land sale on the Columbia Basin Project of central Washington is included in Public Announcement No. 14, released today by Phil Nalder, District Manager.

Simultaneous 45-day filing period for 108 farms opens at 2 p.m. on March 30 ending 2 p.m., May 14. Veterans who served in the armed forces between September 16, 1940, and July 3, 1952, will have priority in the purchase of these units, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced in Washington, D.C., simultaneous with the local announcement. The priority of selection from among qualified applicants will be determined by lot.

The family-size farms vary in size from 38 to 107 acres depending on the productivity rating of the land and the prices range from \$728.80 to \$17,674.70. The highest price is for one of two units with full sets of farm buildings already built. All but six of the units have been dry-farmed previously.

To be eligible for the family-size farms, applicants must have two full years of farming experience after 15 years of age, and must possess at least \$4,500 in assets available for development of their units.

Approximately 10,000 applications are being mailed out today in response to requests. Application blanks and information about the sale may be obtained by writing the Bureau of Reclamation, Ephrata, Washington. Number of applicants under recent drawings has averaged 80 to 300 for each

farm available.

The farms, located 15 miles north of Pasco and 10 miles west of Eltopia, Washington, are among 680 units comprising 52,295 acres, which will receive irrigation water pumped from the Columbia River at Grand Coulee Dam beginning in 1954.

Ultimately, 1,029,000 acres will be irrigated in the Columbia Basin Project, and 14,000 irrigated farms created. Most of these already are in private ownership, Secretary McKay pointed out.

Public Announcement No. 14 marks the final land sale on the Columbia Basin Project in 1953.

"The great demand for farm land is not diminishing," Secretary McKay declared. "The highest demand yet is indicated in the letters about the present land sale. We expect this sale will surpass every previous drawing both as to the number of application forms requested and the number of applications received.

"Vitally needed food for the Nation is being grown on these irrigated farms being developed in the semi-arid regions of the West," the Secretary added. "The productive ability added to the land by providing irrigation water makes possible the creation of as many as 25 family-size irrigated farms out of a single dry-land wheat ranch."

A public drawing will be held at Pasco, Washington, probably in June, to determine the priority in which applicants for the units will be examined. Almost five years ago, a similar drawing was held at Pasco, when the first units offered for public sale in the Columbia Basin Project were up for drawing.

The current announcement will bring the total number of farms

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sold in the project by the Bureau of Reclamation to more than 300. Additional public announcements will be made in subsequent years, normally a year before water is made available to the land, Secretary McKay explained.

Purchasers may pay 20 percent down for the land and the remainder over a 20-year period.

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