

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO P.M.'s OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1949

BOISE, Idaho--Appointment of John S. Moore of the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise as Superintendent of the Minidoka Project in Southeastern Idaho to replace Stanley S. Marean, who is retiring on February 28, was announced today by Regional Director R. J. Newell.

Moore was superintendent of the 450,000-acre Yakima Federal Reclamation Project in Eastern Washington from 1931 to 1940, and in charge of operation and maintenance for the entire Bureau from 1941 to 1945, when the unit was moved from Denver to Washington, D. C.

Marean has been superintendent of the Minidoka Project for 10 years. In exercising his optional retirement, Marean is concluding 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of service with the Bureau of Reclamation and 43 years work on Reclamation projects. He is 65 years old.

"In the retirement of Stanley Marean, the Bureau of Reclamation is losing the services of a valuable employee," Mr. Newell said. "As an official in increasingly responsible positions on the Truckee-Carson and Humboldt Projects in Nevada and the Minidoka Project in Idaho, he made noteworthy contributions to the development of the arid sections of the West. His work will be long remembered. We wish him many happy years of retirement."

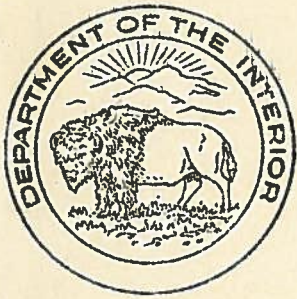
Newell said that Moore was expertly qualified for the position he will assume, having been associated with various phases of operation and maintenance of projects

since 1915. In the Regional office where he has served since 1945 he has been Field Operations Officer, dealing chiefly with the fields of construction, operation and maintenance, project planning and power. Moore, who is 62 years old, has been associated with the Bureau since 1908, when he joined the organization as a junior engineer and hydrographer on the Minidoka Project. He holds a civil engineering degree from Washington and Lee University.

"In selecting Mr. Moore for this position, we are appointing one of the most capable operation and maintenance men in the entire Bureau," Newell said. "His thorough first hand understanding of project problems and his friendliness and cooperativeness should make his tour of duty on the Minidoka Project a highly successful one from the standpoint of both the water users and the Bureau of Reclamation."

Mr. Newell pointed out that the Minidoka Project is an extremely complicated one, involving storage rights, regulation of water supply, and utilization of reservoirs for more than a million acres of land in the Snake River Valley from the Idaho-Wyoming border to Bliss and for hydroelectric power production. The Minidoka development involves the largest water storage capacity for irrigation of any Bureau of Reclamation project in the West.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A
CENTURY
OF
CONSERVATION
1849-1949

DEPARTMENTS ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT ON COLUMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT

BOISE, Idaho - The Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army today announced that they had submitted to the President on April 11 an agreement on principles and responsibilities for the parts of the comprehensive plan of development of the Columbia River Basin with which the two agencies are directly concerned.

The action was an important step in carrying out the President's instructions of last June and September to review the respective long-range basin development plans of the Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation in light of the 1948 floods and to coordinate them fully with other affected agencies of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Power Commission. While the plans of these other agencies are not set forth in the agreement between the departments of the Interior and the Army, the agreement will permit these two departments to go forward in submitting coordinated programs to the Governors of the Northwestern states for their views and comments.

The agreement provides the basis for further Federal development of the Region's water resources efficiently and in consonance with the views and the needs of the people of the region. In this respect it provides an inventory and framework which will be extremely valuable to the proposed Columbia Valley Administration recommended by the President.

As submitted to the President, the agreement carried the signatures of the

Secretary of the Interior Krug, Secretary of the Army Royall, Commissioner of Reclamation Michael W. Straus, the Chief of Engineers, Major General Lewis A. Pick.

The departments agreed as to which of them would be the more appropriate agency to build the projects recommended for construction and also agreed on areas of primary responsibility for future investigations and project planning. Agreement was also reached that the two departments would recommend that power revenues should be pooled to extend financial assistance for irrigation development.

The coordinated plan, --according to the joint statement of the agencies--is comprehensive in scope and is designed not only to meet the most pressing current need of the basin, but also to provide a basis for incorporation of future projects into the program as they become necessary.

The agreement provides for the inclusion when prepared by the appropriate agencies of plans for forest management, land treatment, protection and propagation of fish and wildlife, recreation development, meeting the needs and rights of Indians and inter-agency procedures for a coordinated operation of river control projects.

In further work upon the coordinated plan, the comprehensive report of the Interior Department is to be the guide where irrigation and related power are concerned, and the Army 308 review report is to be the guide where flood control, navigation, and related power are involved.

The related plans for the lower Columbia River fisheries, for a hydrometeorological reporting network, and for necessary power transmission facilities, presented in the Army report, are agreed to by the two agencies.

Neither the Glacier View Dam, which conservation spokesmen have opposed, nor the possible alternate Paradise Dam, which has some opposition in Montana, is recommended at this time, pending further study.

The agreement endorsed the pooling of all power revenue producing projects in the Columbia Basin and Coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest in order to extend financial assistance to irrigation in accordance with principles current in Reclama-

tion law. Irrigation repayment contracts in connection with all Army Corps of Engineer dams would be negotiated by the Bureau of Reclamation, in accordance with Reclamation law.

The agreement contemplates no change in responsibilities for presently authorized projects but proposes joint preparation of construction schedules in cooperation with the states and other Federal agencies, through such means as the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee.

With respect to multiple-purpose projects for future development, the agreement contemplates that the Army Corps of Engineers will have primary responsibility for further investigations concerning the main stream of the Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam; the main stream of the Snake River below the mouth of the Grande Ronde River; the Kooskia Project; the Willamette River Basin; the Kootenai River Basin; the Spokane River Basin; and the Pend-Oreille River Basin below and including Pend-Oreille Lake.

The Bureau of Reclamation would have primary responsibility in the Snake River Basin up stream from and including the mouth of the Grande Ronde River, which is approximately at the corner where the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho join; the basins of streams which are tributary to the Snake River below the mouth of the Grande Ronde River; the Clark Fork Basin above Pend-Oreille Lake; and the basins of streams flowing into the Columbia within the United States except the Willamette and Spokane Rivers.

The projects covered by the agreement which are now authorized or under construction, together with those recommended for early authorization are:

Bureau of Reclamation Project and Status

Anderson Ranch - under construction
Deschutes North Unit - under construction
Boise, Payette Division - under construction
Ochoco Dam rehabilitation - authorized
Hungry Horse - under construction
Columbia Basin Project - under construction
Yakima Project, Roza Division - under
construction₃

Corps of Engineers Project and Status

McNary - under construction
Dorena - under construction
Ice Harbor - authorized
Chief Joseph - authorized
Meridian - under construction
Hills Creek - recommended
Fall Creek, Middle Fork - recom-
mended

Continued:

Bureau of Reclamation Project and Status

Upper Star Valley - recommended
Lewiston Orchards - under construction
Missoula Valley, North Side Unit -
recommended
Palisades - authorized
Arrowrock F. C. outlets - authorized
Canby - recommended
Hells Canyon - recommended
Cambridge Bench - recommended
Council - recommended
Mann Creek - recommended
Bitterroot Valley - recommended
Vale, Bully Creek Unit - recommended
Kennewick Div, Yakima Project - authorized
Crooked River - recommended
Grand Coulee Flood Control Operation -
recommended
Mountain Home - recommended
The Dalles, West Unit - recommended

Corps of Engineers Project and Status

Dexter - recommended
Waldo Lake - recommended
Detroit, North Santiam - under
construction
Big Cliff - authorized
Lucky Peak - authorized
Albeni Falls - recommended
Lower Monumental - authorized
Libby - recommended
Cougar - recommended
Blue River, McKenzie - recommended
Gate Creek - recommended
Green Peter - recommended
Cascadia - recommended
Wiley Creek, South Santiam - recom-
mended
White Bridge - recommended
Willamette Falls Lock - authorized
Willamette Falls Fish Ladder -
recommended
Little Goose - authorized
Holley - recommended
John Day - recommended
Lower Granite - authorized
Priest Rapids - recommended
The Dalles - recommended
Lewisville - recommended
Tum Tum - recommended
Minor Extension, Willamette Basin
Plan - recommended - Levees, Bank
Protection, Clearing and Snagging,
Navigation, Major Drainage, Fish
Facilities
Minor Extension Columbia Basin -
recommended - Navigation Improve-
ments, Lower Levees, Local Flood
Control, Fishery Plan (responsibi-
lity of the Fish and Wildlife
Service)
Previously recommended:
Jackson Hole
Heppner
Pendleton
Umatilla Harbor
Columbia Slough
Westport Slough
Baker Bay



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A
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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO A.M.'s of Tuesday, May 3, 1949

REGIONAL DIRECTOR R. J. NEWELL OF BOISE, IDAHO, TO RETIRE

BOISE, Idaho - R. J. Newell, Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation at Boise, Idaho, who first went to work for the Bureau in 1903, when it was less than a year old, will retire from the Government service on July 1, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today.

Succeeding him will be Harold T. Nelson, presently Assistant Regional Director for Region One, Krug said. Region One encompasses the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Western Montana, and portions of Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah.

Mr. Newell is 69 years old, seven years beyond the usual retirement age for Government employees, and has been with the Bureau of Reclamation continuously since 1923, according to Commissioner of Reclamation Michael W. Straus. He became Regional Director in 1945 when Frank A. Banks resigned to devote full time to the construction of the million-acre Columbia Basin Project.

"Everybody in Reclamation and the Columbia Basin respects, trusts, and admires 'Bob' Newell," Mr. Straus said. "He has been a tower of strength in the development of the Pacific Northwest water resources, and Reclamation owes him a deep debt of gratitude. He has written his own record across the West in dams, canals, and operating Reclamation projects. He will remain with Reclamation as a consultant to carry forward plans he has originated."

Mr. Newell, a native of Iowa, received an engineering degree at Highland Park College, and was first employed by the Department of the Interior in 1903, in what was then the infant Reclamation Service. The Reclamation Service had been created

by President Theodore Roosevelt after passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902, and Mr. Newell was a member of one of the first survey parties to take the field in what has since become a billion-dollar program for western water resources development.

His first survey was on what is now the Minidoka Project, on the Snake River in Southern Idaho. A fellow member of the survey crew was J. L. Savage, who became chief designing engineer of the Bureau in the era of the first great multiple-purpose dams, Hoover, Grand Coulee, and Shasta. Mr. Savage retired from the Bureau in 1945.

Mr. Newell left the Bureau of Reclamation in 1908, taking on several engineering assignments with private organizations in Idaho and later serving with a group of engineers which investigated flood control in China.

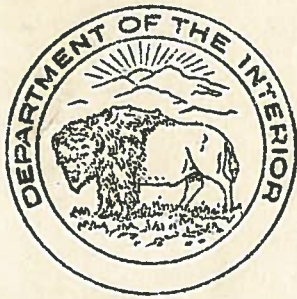
He reentered the Bureau of Reclamation in 1923, when he was employed on investigations of Colorado River tributaries and on the Owyhee, Vale, and Black Canyon Projects in Southwestern Idaho and Eastern Oregon. He was superintendent of the Boise Project in the rich Boise valley from 1926 to 1929, when he became construction engineer on the Deadwood Dam of the Boise Project and later on the Cle Elum Dam on the Yakima Project in Central Washington. He later returned to the Owyhee and Boise Projects as construction engineer, his principal job being to raise the height of Arrowrock Dam an additional five feet. The Owyhee Project has an area named Newell Heights after the retiring Regional Head.

When the Bureau of Reclamation was reorganized into regions in 1943 along the geographical lines of the great river basins of the West, Mr. Newell was named assistant regional director to F. A. Banks in the great Columbia River Basin. Mr. Banks constructed Grand Coulee Dam and is presently district manager for the Columbia Basin Project. Mr. Newell became regional director in 1945 and in this capacity has been in charge of all the postwar planning and construction work of the Bureau in the Columbia Basin. He was also the second chairman of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee, set up to coordinate activities of the various Federal agencies in the Basin, and is presently a member of the Snake River Commission to

apportion the Upper Snake River waters between Wyoming and Idaho.

Mr. Newell's successor as regional director, Harold T. Nelson, is a 41-year-old graduate of the University of Idaho, who has come up through the ranks since his first appointment to the Bureau of Reclamation as a junior engineer in 1936. A year later, he was transferred to the Yakima Project as an assistant engineer where he participated in several phases of the heavy construction work on the Roza Division. He was construction engineer on the Roza Division when transferred to the Boise office in 1946 as assistant regional director.

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO AM's of Sunday, May 15, 1949

BOISE, Idaho - Farmers on 16 Federal Reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest in 1948 produced crops valued at \$202,639,040, third highest on record, according to the final crop census completed today by the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The gross return in 1947 was \$225,235,236, and in 1946, it totaled \$210,337,163.

The average per-acre value in 1948 from the 1,910,502 acres under cultivation was \$106.07, as compared with \$120.18 in 1947, and \$114.35 in 1946, the tabulation shows.

Bureau records disclose that since the Bureau of Reclamation delivered its initial supply of water in the Pacific Northwest in 1907, the cumulative value of crops produced on projects in the area served full or supplemental water through Federal facilities exceeds 2-3/4 billion dollars.

The three Federal projects with the largest crop returns in the Northwest were: Minidoka Project and Upper Snake River area, southeastern Idaho, 1,036,915 irrigable acres, gross value of \$83,513,863; Yakima Project, eastern Washington, 436,417 irrigable acres, gross value of \$60,301,673; and Boise Project, southwestern Idaho, 326,924 irrigable acres, gross value of \$30,739,961.

The highest per-acre return of all Federally irrigated areas in the Northwest was recorded by the 5,346-acre Okanogan Project in Central Washington, with a total of \$398.32. Next highest was the Yakima Project with a per-acre average of \$165.93, followed by the Owyhee Project (Oregon-Idaho) with an average of \$126.49.

The net acreage under cultivation and the gross and per-acre crop values of the various projects are as follows:

	<u>Net Area in Cultivation (acres)</u>	<u>Gross Crop Value</u>	<u>Per-Acre Crop Value</u>
<u>Idaho</u>			
Boise	294,987	\$ 30,739,961	\$ 104.21
Minidoka	970,837	83,513,863	86.02
Rathdrum Prairie (Post Falls Unit)	2,183	136,620	62.58
<u>Idaho-Oregon</u>			
Owyhee	104,433	13,209,975	126.49
<u>Oregon</u>			
Baker	7,255	279,600	38.54
Burnt River	15,260	511,052	33.49
Deschutes	73,133	7,828,286	107.04
Stanfield Irrigation Dist.	5,073	267,787	52.79
Umatilla East & West Division	14,371	626,686	43.61
Vale	31,550	2,712,606	85.98
Westland Irrigation Dist.	4,819	243,126	50.45
<u>Washington</u>			
Columbia Basin	235	18,740	79.74
Okanogan	3,850	1,533,518	398.32
Yakima	363,410	60,301,673	165.93
<u>Western Montana</u>			
Bitterroot	16,442	602,792	36.66
Frenchtown	2,664	112,755	42.33

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE to PM's of Monday, May 16, 1949

BOISE, Idaho - Appointment of Donald S. Walter as Regional Engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation in its Pacific Northwest headquarters here, effective June 15, was announced today by Regional Director R. J. Newell. He will replace Grant P. Gordon, who resigned to accept a responsible position with the Guy F. Atkinson Company, a San Francisco, California, contracting firm.

Walter is currently Construction Engineer in charge of completing Anderson Ranch Dam in the Boise River Basin in Southwestern Idaho, highest earth-fill structure in the world. Prior to his present assignment he was employed in key positions at Hoover Dam and Grand Coulee Dam, world's highest and largest concrete dams respectively, and on the Central Valley Project in California.

Walter has been an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation since 1928 when he joined the organization as Senior Engineering Draftsman on the Kittitas Division of the Yakima Project, where he rose to become Assistant Engineer.

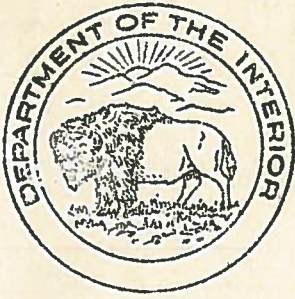
From 1931 to 1935 he was Assistant Engineer and Associate Engineer on the Hoover Dam Project, which assignment was followed by four years of service as Associate Engineer and Engineer at Grand Coulee Dam, serving as Assistant Chief Inspector. During 1939 to 1942 he was Field Engineer at Friant Dam of the Central Valley Project. The following two years he spent at Hoover Dam as Field Engineer in charge of spillway and river channel improvement work and in 1944 he came to Anderson Ranch Dam as Field Engineer. Since 1946 he has been in charge of that project. Walter is a graduate of the University of Colorado.

Grant Gordon has been employed by the Bureau of Reclamation since 1927, except

for 6 years service during World War II. He entered the Federal Service on the Boise Project as a laborer, rising to the position of Chief of Party and Inspector on Deadwood Dam in 1929.

During the succeeding two years he was shift inspector at Owyhee Dam in Eastern Oregon, following which he spent two years on the Cle Elum Dam of the Yakima Project as Assistant Engineer. From 1933 until he joined the army in 1940, he was Engineer at Grand Coulee Dam. He rejoined the Bureau in the Boise area early in 1947, becoming Regional Engineer in the fall of that year. Gordon is a graduate of the College of Idaho at Caldwell. His resignation is effective May 15.

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO PM's of Friday, June 17, 1949

BOISE, Idaho - The Bureau of Reclamation today began its 48th year of service, with 14 projects under construction in the Pacific Northwest that will bring irrigation benefits to 2,000,000 acres, and 30 projects being given active consideration as potential developments.

R. J. Newell, Regional Director for the Bureau, an agency of the Department of the Interior, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, explained that the studies in progress seek to determine the engineering and economic feasibility of new developments requested by local interests and are supplementary to the integrated master plan for the development of the land, water, and other resources of the Columbia River Basin, recently agreed upon by the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army.

Newell cited the coordination of the plans of the two agencies as one of the most significant events of the past year's work.

The Bureau currently has nearly \$70,000,000 worth of construction underway on irrigation and multiple-purpose projects in the Pacific Northwest, and is seeking an additional \$100,000,000 to carry this program forward during the next fiscal year. When completed the projects under construction would benefit about 2,000,000 acres of land, and provide large blocks of hydroelectric power and major benefits in flood control and irrigation.

Newell said that the Federal investment in the Pacific Northwest totals nearly \$500,000,000, and that except for some small projects the record of water users in

repaying reimbursable costs is excellent.

During the current fiscal year, planning reports were completed on 8 projects, including Upper Star Valley in Wyoming; Mountain Home, Minidoka North Side Pumping Division, Council, and Hornet Creek, all in Idaho; Bitterroot Valley in Western Montana; and Bully Creek Unit of the Vale Project and the Crooked River Project, both in Oregon. The Bureau also completed four special reports.

Studies were underway to determine the economic and engineering feasibility of 22 other projects, the list including the following:

IDAHO - Big Lost River, Michaud Flats, Bruneau, and Rathdrum Prairie.

WESTERN MONTANA - Kalispell.

WASHINGTON - Supplemental Storage for the Yakima Project, Foster Creek, Similkameen River, Greater Wenatchee, East Unit Greater Wenatchee, Milton-Freewater, and Sequim.

OREGON - Grande Ronde, Upper Unit of the Baker Project, Pendleton, Supplemental Storage for the Deschutes Project, Tualatin, Salem, Merlin, Rogue River, Talent, and Goose Lake.

Eleven other studies are in progress.

During the coming 12-month period additional public land would be opened to homesteading by World War II veterans, Newell announced. Eleven units are to be made available on the Roza Division of the Yakima Project and 48 units on the Payette Division of the Boise Project. Last March, the Bureau awarded 46 farm units on the Hunt Unit of the Minidoka Project in Southern Idaho.

Powerplants on four Bureau of Reclamation multiple-purpose projects in the Northwest produced approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ billion kilowatt-hours of electric energy in 1948--more than was produced by all generators in Idaho, Washington and Oregon in 1941. The installations are situated on the Columbia Basin and Yakima Projects in Washington and the Boise and Minidoka Projects in Idaho. An estimated \$9,000,000

was earned by these power installations.

Land on Bureau projects, much of which once grew only sagebrush, added \$202,000,000 in crop values to the wealth of the Pacific Northwest in 1948. The cumulative crop value on these projects since water was first delivered by the Bureau as a full or partial supply for the land, exceeds 2 3/4 billion dollars.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region I - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO PM's of Monday, January 9, 1950

BOISE, Idaho—A grand total of 405 potential irrigation, multiple-purpose, and other projects, are included in the coordinated Department of the Interior-Department of the Army plan for the development of water and land resources of the Columbia River Basin, according to a tabulation issued by the Bureau of Reclamation this week. The listing was prepared by the Bureau with the collaboration of the Corps of Engineers.

The projects, large and small, constitute the total future development of water resources in the Columbia River Basin as currently envisioned by these agencies. Many of the projects serve more than one function. Investigations of a number of the future possibilities have not been advanced to the point at which specific project data are available.

One hundred and ninety-six of the projects involve irrigation. The 108 of these projects on which data are available would provide irrigation benefits to 2,810,321 acres, of which 2,407,196 acres would be new land and 403,125 acres would be land currently irrigated but in need of supplemental water. The new irrigated land area would be almost equivalent to the irrigated acreage of the states of Idaho and Washington.

One hundred and fifty-two projects involve hydroelectric power production, the tabulation shows. The 141 of these projects for which data are available would have an installed capacity of 19,580,540 kilowatts -- more than four times

the current installed capacity of the region.

The tabulation shows that 295 projects would involve storage of water supply. They would have an aggregate active capacity of 79,166,800 acre-feet.

Some 180 projects would have flood control functions, 34 would benefit navigation, 2 would have drainage functions, and 7 would provide domestic water.

Cost data are available on 234 of the 405 projects. These would cost \$7,213,345,000.

A restricted group of projects which will meet earlier needs of the Pacific Northwest has been selected from the comprehensive list and, in mutual agreement, the Bureau and the Corps individually have recommended 93 projects from this group in accordance with the respective responsibilities of the two agencies.

Twenty-four of these involve irrigation (307,776 acres), 16 involve power production (5,337,000 kilowatts), 34 involve storage (21,663,800 acre-feet active capacity), 71 would assist in controlling floods, and 24 would contribute to improvement of navigation. The estimated total construction cost of projects recommended for authorization is \$2,252,664,000 at current price levels.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

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FOR RELEASE AFTER 1:00 PM, Tuesday, December 13, 1949

WENATCHEE, Washington—While the greatest Reclamation program in history is underway in the Pacific Northwest, future expansion of irrigation in the region is in serious jeopardy unless a number of difficult problems are solved, Harold T. Nelson, Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation, told the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce this noon.

He said the obstacles to further reclamation in the area primarily involve overcoming difficulties in finding projects to be economically feasible under existing laws.

Pooling of net revenues from Federal power dams to aid irrigation projects anywhere in the Columbia River Basin on which water users can't pay the full cost of bringing water to the land was strongly recommended by Nelson. He said the adoption of the pooling plan is the most important step which needs to be taken to assure expansion of reclamation in the Pacific Northwest.

"The effect of the plan would be to treat the power and irrigation developments in the Northwest as a single project for payout purposes," Nelson explained. "In other words, excess revenues from Federal powerplants, such as McNary, Chief Joseph, and Hells Canyon, would be made available on those individual projects where irrigation costs exceed the costs which water users might reasonably be expected to repay in 50 years. The use of interest paid on the power investment to return irrigation construction costs would permit balanced irrigation development to go forward without an increase in power rates which otherwise might be

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necessary."

Nelson explained that another major problem confronting the Columbia River drainage basin is to find ways and means of making economically feasible irrigation of lands lying at elevations up to 2,000 to 3,000 feet above available water supply.

The Bureau is completing a very general inventory of lands susceptible of irrigation in the region and has arrived at the astounding conclusion that in the neighborhood of 20,000,000 acres over and above previous estimates (3,800,000) conceivably could be irrigated were high pumping lifts not a limiting factor. In the Central Washington area alone - Okanogan, Chelan, and Douglas Counties - there are some 950,000 potentially irrigable acres which lie 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the rivers.

Nelson emphasized that, contrary to belief in some quarters, at present Reclamation is not a highly subsidized enterprise. Some \$535,000,000 is now invested for Reclamation construction in the Pacific Northwest. Of this total, \$109,000,000 has already been returned to the Federal Treasury. All but 2 percent of the current investment is scheduled to be repaid through power revenues and by repayments from water users. The small portion, some \$10,000,000, has been allocated to flood control and navigation or considered nonreimbursable.

"Closely related to the Northwest Reclamation problem is the urgent need for liberalization of Reclamation law," Nelson said. "What is needed, and what has been proposed in the halls of Congress, is a policy which would bring up-to-date the handling of costs which are properly nonreimbursable. Reclamation law today requires that water and power users pay all of the freight by themselves, regardless of distribution of benefits.

"Recognition of nonreimbursable expenditures in river development is a well-established national policy for such things as navigation and flood control. National policy should similarly recognize as nonreimbursable part of the costs of

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irrigation and multiple-purpose projects which provide benefits to recreation and other assets which are realized by the public generally."

Nelson also emphasized the problems confronting the Bureau in the settlement of the Columbia Basin Project, particularly those involving roads, schools, domestic water, housing, credit, and marketing and processing facilities. He stated that Washington State College has assigned a man to work with the Bureau full-time on the agricultural development phases of the project, and that the college would be the focal point of inter-agency coordination. Nelson urged all local, state, and Federal agencies to work with the Bureau and the college in bringing about the greatest possible success for the project settlers.

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