

PROJECT CROP RETURNS EXCEED \$57 MILLION IN 1963

Total gross crop returns from irrigated Project lands equaled \$57.1 million in 1963, an increase of \$10.3 million over 1962. This record high return for the project was earned by 2,425 farm operators on 4,821 farm units, irrigating 370,322 acres. Average gross crop return per irrigated acre in 1963 was \$154.25. This is the highest return per acre on the project since 1954 when a value of \$155.43 was recorded. Cumulative gross crop returns on the project since 1948 now exceed \$342 million.

The substantial increase in gross crop returns in 1963 as compared to 1962 resulted from a combination of such factors as an increase in both irrigated and harvested acreage, increased yields, and higher prices for certain crops. In 1963 the number of farm units using water for crops increased 5 percent over 1962, and the number of acres irrigated increased 7 percent. With the exception of 6 farm units or 707 acres in Block 23, this increase occurred because of land developed in Blocks receiving water prior to 1963. Within the irrigated acreage there was a shift towards more productive land use in 1963. The amount of acreage in the United States Department of Agriculture's diversion program declined from approximately 30,000 acres in 1962 to 15,000 acres in 1963. The net effect of this shift actually increased harvested acreage by 14 percent.

The seven major crops in the Columbia Basin Project from the standpoint of gross value in 1963 were sugar beets, alfalfa hay, wheat, late potatoes, early potatoes, dry edible beans, and dry peas. These crops together accounted for 81 percent of the total gross crop value and 71 percent of the irrigated acreage. Sugar beets were harvested from an additional 3300 acres in 1963 and a record high average yield of 27.8 tons per acre was reported.

Alfalfa hay was harvested from 113,400 acres in 1963, an increase of approximately 20,000 acres over the previous year. Although average yield per acre for the entire crop remained at approximately 4.7 tons, the yield from established stands increased from 4.8 to 5.1 tons per acre.

Wheat was harvested from a much larger acreage in 1963. Acreage increased about 70 percent, yields were up 18 percent, and total gross value of all wheat increased 84 percent despite a slight offsetting price decrease.

Extremely good harvest weather for dry edible beans resulted in high quality beans grading about 95 percent No. 1's. The high quality of the 1963 bean crop resulted in an average price increase to the grower of \$.70/cwt. field run.

Alfalfa seed growers experienced a very poor year in 1963. Seed was harvested from 13,891 acres, an increase of 79 percent over 1962. However, low yields because of poor pollination, and low prices resulted in a 60 percent reduction in gross value per acre.

Despite generally high gross crop returns on the project, farmers were still adversely affected by a national cost-price squeeze in 1963. The index of prices received by U. S. farmers had fallen 6 points from 243 on December 15, 1962 to 237 on December 15, 1963. The parity index or index of prices paid by farmers increased 1 point over the same period. Thus the parity ratio had fallen from 79 on December 15, 1962 to 76 on December 15, 1963.

The annual livestock census indicated that as of November 1, 1963, cattle numbers on farms totaled 72,902, an increase of 12,912 head over 1962. All other types of livestock decreased on the Project in 1963. Swine numbers decreased 5 percent to 16,767. Sheep numbers fell 29 percent to 22,160. Poultry decreased 74 percent to 13,985. The poultry decrease was primarily due to a change in turkey numbers from 36,157 in 1962 to 175 in 1963.

THE ACREAGE, YIELD, PRICE PER UNIT, PERCENT OF TOTAL ACREAGE AND PERCENT
OF TOTAL VALUE OF 36 CROPS GROWN ON THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT IN 1963

| Crop | Approximate Acreage | Unit | Average Yield Per Acre | Avg. Farm Price Per Unit | Percent Of Total Value | Percent Of Total Acres |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sugar Beets | 32,124 | Ton | 27.8 | 14.66 ^{a/} | 22.9 | 8.7 |
| Alfalfa Hay | 113,407 | Ton | 4.7 | 22.50 | 21.0 | 30.6 |
| Wheat | 45,561 | Bu. | 79 | 1.78 | 11.3 | 12.3 |
| Potatoes, late | 16,467 | Cwt. | 383.0 | .89 | 9.8 | 4.4 |
| Potatoes, early | 8,128 | Cwt. | 342.6 | 1.34 | 6.5 | 2.2 |
| Beans, dry & edible | 24,283 | Cwt. | 19.9 | 6.50 | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| Pea, seed | 21,795 | Cwt. | 25.6 | 4.25 | 4.1 | 5.9 |
| Silage | 10,372 | Ton | 22.1 | 7.00 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Corn | 11,774 | Bu. | 96 | 1.20 | 2.4 | 3.2 |
| Barley | 19,436 | Bu. | 62 | .90 | 1.9 | 5.2 |
| Irrigated Pasture | 21,010 | A.U.M. | 7.9 | 6.00 | 1.7 | 5.7 |
| Alfalfa, seed | 13,891 | Cwt. | 3.3 | 18.40 | 1.5 | 3.8 |
| Peppermint | 2,725 | Lb. | 73 | 3.60 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Onions, dry | 828 | Cwt. | 459.5 | 1.50 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| Clover, seed (Red) | 2,417 | Cwt. | 4.4 | 27.40 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Corn, sweet (proc.) | 2,103 | Ton | 6.2 | 20.50 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Peas, green (proc.) | 1,905 | Ton | 1.4 | 77.25 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Apples | 648 | Cwt. | 84.4 | 3.10 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Oats | 3,146 | Bu. | 81 | .65 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Nursery | 84 | M. | - | - | 0.3 | * 0.1 |
| Spearmint | 688 | Lb. | 81 | 2.50 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Root Crops | 937 | Ton | 20.0 | 7.00 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Radish, seed | 580 | Cwt. | 12.8 | 17.00 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Beans, (proc.) | 708 | Ton | 1.3 | 130.00 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Other hay | 2,518 | Ton | 2.1 | 18.00 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Asparagus | 223 | Crate | 112 | 3.65 | 0.2 | * 0.1 |
| Carrots | 203 | Ton | 29.2 | 15.00 | 0.2 | * 0.1 |
| Watermelon | 371 | Ton | 9.2 | 25.00 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Merion Blue Grass, seed | 452 | Cwt. | 5.4 | 30.00 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Cherries | 143 | Cwt. | 36.2 | 13.50 | 0.1 | * 0.1 |
| Mixed Grain | 714 | Bu. | 60 | 1.34 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Pears | 153 | Cwt. | 49.7 | 4.80 | * 0.1 | * 0.1 |
| Clover, seed (White) | 353 | Cwt. | 5.0 | 19.40 | * 0.1 | * 0.1 |
| Bean, seed | 208 | Cwt. | 20.2 | 8.17 | * 0.1 | * 0.1 |
| Lentils | 607 | Ton | 0.4 | 144.00 | * 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Safflower, seed | 497 | Cwt. | 21.6 | 3.09 | * 0.1 | 0.1 |

^{a/} Includes an estimated \$5.21 per ton for factory and sugar program payments.

Acres Irrigated 370,322

Total Gross Value of Crops - \$57,122,874

Average Gross Value of Crops Per Irrigated Acre - \$154.25

Increase in Total Value 1962 to 1963 - 21 percent

Increase in Irrigated Acreage 1962 to 1963 - 7 percent

Increase in Number of Farm Units Cropped 1962 to 1963 - 5 percent

* Less than 0.1 Percent.

CBP - February 1964

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

For release April 5, 1954

RECLAMATION TO SELL 91 FARM UNITS IN COLUMBIA BASIN

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced plans to sell 91 additional full-time farm units totaling 7,596 irrigable acres on the Columbia Basin Project in the State of Washington, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today.

Veterans will have preference in applying for all units not allotted to exchange applicants under the Act of August 13, 1953. Applicants should apply to the Bureau of Reclamation office at Ephrata, Washington.

Commissioner of Reclamation W. A. Dexheimer said that the family-size farms are in the South-Columbia Basin Irrigation District, about 15 miles north of Pasco, in Franklin County, Wash. The farms range from 43 to 135 irrigable acres and will be sold at prices ranging from \$1205 to \$3584, depending on size and the productivity rating of the land. There are no permanent improvements on the land.

A simultaneous 45-day filing period opens at 2 p.m. on April 5, 1954 for the filing of applications for the 91 farms. Veterans who are given preference must have served between September 16, 1940 and July 3, 1952, and have been honorably discharged. Applications received before 2 p.m., PST, May 20, 1954, the closing date of the simultaneous filing, will be considered as having been filed at the same time.

To be eligible for purchase of a farm unit, applicants must have two full years of farm experience after the age of 15, or have educational or vocational experience which can be substituted for a maximum of one of the years of farm experience, and must meet certain other qualifications of character and industry. Applicants must also possess at least \$4,500 in cash or other assets available for development of their farms. Exchange applicants are exempt from these requirements.

An examining board will review the qualifications of applicants according to the priority established in a drawing and will offer for sale to qualified applicants a farm unit in the order of their priority.

Purchasers may pay 20 percent down and the remainder over a 20-year period. Long-term credit for improvements can usually be obtained from various Government agencies or local banks.

This is the fourth land opening on the Columbia Basin Project this year. A total of 235 farm units with 19,762 irrigable acres are included.

MAY 19 1967

★ news release

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RECLAMATION APPOINTS BOARD OF ARTISTIC CONSULTANTS

The six consultants are:

"The members of this distinguished group are all nationally renowned authorities in the various fields of the fine and applied arts," said Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy. "We are seeking their counsel on questions of site planning, architecture, landscaping, and art work in visitors centers and other Reclamation areas and structures in order to further implement the national effort for preservation and enhancement of natural beauty. We want Reclamation's water resource developments in the Western United States to be as famed for their esthetic appeal as they are for their material benefits. This distinguished group can be of invaluable assistance to us in achieving our goal."

The Board will hold its initial meeting May 25 in Denver, Colorado, where the members will be briefed on Reclamation's current planning and construction program by Chief Engineer B. P. Bellport and his design staff. The principal item on the Denver agenda will be the plans for the \$390-million Third Powerplant at Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington. Other matters to be discussed in Denver include visitor facilities and landscaping at the Glen Canyon dam and powerplant.

On May 25, the consultants will go to Grand Coulee Dam for an on-site inspection of the construction area. Following the Grand Coulee inspection tour, the consultants will report their conclusions and recommendations to Commissioner Dominy.

"To the extent of my knowledge no Federal agency has ever before sought the guidance of a group of artistic advisors in planning a construction project," Commissioner Dominy said. "I feel it is high time for the government to consider esthetics and the relationship of public construction to the natural environment on an equal footing with function. We expect to seek the advice of our new Board of Artistic Consultants whenever we are planning a project that will have significant impact on the natural environment, especially in areas of high amenity value where the public interest will be substantially affected."

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

To the Editor:

During the past several years a far-reaching study has been made under the direction of the Bureau of Reclamation of problems that will arise in connection with the settlement of over a million acres on the Columbia Basin Project in the State of Washington, which will be irrigated by water diverted from Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake backed up by Grand Coulee Dam. In this study, Federal, State, and local agencies have cooperated, together with authorities from universities and other walks of life.

It is my belief that never before has so comprehensive a study been made looking toward the intelligent settlement and development of a large area in the West. Because of its scope, this is a new departure in Governmental activity, and one which should enable the settlers of the Columbia Basin Project to build one of the finest agricultural communities in the United States.

Years of trial and error and millions of dollars should be saved as a result of this study. Settlers should be enabled to develop their farms with a maximum of success.

I am enclosing a pamphlet which shows the scope of the study and the names of participants. Reports on Problems 2, 3, and 25 soon will be received from the Government Printing Office. Others will follow shortly. If your publication wishes to receive this series of reports, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



H. W. Bashore,
Commissioner.

Enclosure.