



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

ADVANCE RELEASE

FOR RELEASE to AM's of Sunday, February 18, 1951

BOISE, Idaho - Hells Canyon Dam would make available at the site, in downstream powerplants, and through interconnections nearly three times as much hydroelectric power as five low run-of-the-river plants plus interconnections and generate the energy at a lower cost per prime kilowatt, H. T. Nelson, Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation, said today.

Nelson made the statement in explaining that full consideration is being given to proposals suggested by Pacific Northwest groups pertaining to the authorization of the dam, including financial assistance to the Mountain Home Project, reservation of power for Idaho and Oregon, and protection of future upstream uses of Snake River water.

Hells Canyon Dam and its 900,000-kilowatt powerplant, when authorized and built, would be situated in the Snake River Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border, and would provide benefits in power, irrigation, flood control, navigation, and recreation.

Proposals under consideration, Nelson said, include the possible irrigation of the 192,000-acre Payette Division of the Mountain Home Project by use of power revenues from the new dam to make irrigation development feasible.

Nelson said Idaho interests requested that the Mountain Home development be given the benefit of power revenues from Hells Canyon Dam because water

users would be unable to repay the full cost of bringing water to the land. Power revenues would provide more than \$75,000,000 toward repayment of irrigation costs for the Payette Division of the project. With its new farms, new businesses and new jobs, the irrigation development would greatly expand the economy and tax base of southern Idaho.

Also proposed is the construction of the Scriver Creek power plants of the Mountain Home Project. Construction of the irrigation phase of the development would probably be deferred until the end of the national emergency. It is contemplated that a supplemental report will be made on the economic feasibility of irrigation in terms of current costs at such time as it is recommended.

Another part of the proposal under consideration would provide protection of future irrigation developments by subordinating the Government's power rights at Hells Canyon to future upstream consumptive uses, Nelson said.

Also considered is the reservation of Hells Canyon power for use in the Snake River basins of Idaho and Oregon above the Grande Ronde River, equivalent to the amount of energy that would be available if five run-of-the-river low dam power plants were to be erected instead of the Reclamation dam.

Nelson said he was conferring with such interested groups as the Southwest Idaho Water Conservation Project, Inc., the Idaho Reclamation Association, Upper Snake River irrigation interests, the State of Idaho, along with others in Oregon and elsewhere. He explained that the Bureau of Reclamation desired to obtain the fullest possible information as to the views and needs of the people of the areas which would be served by the huge dam and related works.

Hells Canyon Dam, highest in the world, would provide for maximum utilization of Snake River water resources, Nelson said. He declared that the

prime (year around) power attributable to Hells Canyon storage dam is estimated to be nearly three times greater than the prime power attributable to the construction of five low run-of-the-river dams - approximately 1,400,000 kilowatts as compared with 487,000 kilowatts.

"Roughly a million kilowatts of prime power - three times the existing installation of southern Idaho - would be lost to the Northwest power supply if the five low dams, which have no storage were constructed instead of Hells Canyon, with its 4,400,000 acre-feet of storage", Nelson explained.

Of the 1,400,000 kilowatts of prime power to be added to the Northwest power supply by the project, 688,000 kilowatts would be generated at Hells Canyon Dam and the balance would be generated at the downstream Federal powerplants through which storage water released from Hells Canyon Reservoir will pass and at other Federal powerplants interconnected with the Hells Canyon powerplant.

The cost of Hells Canyon Dam is estimated at \$357,000,000 (December 1950 prices), all of which would be repaid to the Federal Treasury at 3 percent interest, except \$44,000,000, which it is proposed to allocate to flood control, navigation and recreation as non-reimbursable. Initial storage for power production could be available within four years after construction begins.

The estimated unit cost of generating the year-around kilowatts attributable to Hells Canyon Dam would be lower than that attributable to the five low-dam plants.

"Hells Canyon Dam is recommended by both the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation as a major element in the coordinated plan for the comprehensive development of the land and water resources of the Columbia River Basin, which includes the Snake River", Nelson said. "This coordinated

plan has been approved by the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee, on which are represented the various states of the Northwest, and affected Federal agencies."

Nelson emphasized that the Corps of Engineers does not recommend construction of Mountain Sheep Dam in place of Hells Canyon Dam, as reported in newspapers. It advises construction first of Hells Canyon, followed either by Mountain Sheep or Nez Perce dams. The latter structure, which would be erected on the Snake below the Salmon River, would make greater use of Snake River water resources than Mountain Sheep, but until a means of preserving the salmon run up that tributary is resolved no recommendation for its construction will be made. To build only Mountain Sheep Dam would result in a waste of water resources totaling at least 350,000 kilowatts - equal to the entire installed capacity of southern Idaho.

Although power production is a major purpose of Hells Canyon Dam, important irrigation, flood control, navigation, and recreational purposes would also be served. The dam is an integral part of the main control plan for flood control on the lower Columbia River. Release of storage water would increase minimum channel depths in the lower Snake River as an aid to navigation, and a 90-mile long navigable lake would be created. The dam, situated in one of the Nation's most scenic areas, would be a tremendous tourist attraction, drawing an estimated 300,000 or more sight-seers to the area each year.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO AM's of Sunday, May 27, 1951

BOISE, Idaho - Crops valued at \$184,056,530 were produced in 1950 on 2,000,000 acres under cultivation on 17 Federal Reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest - an average of \$92.04 per acre - the Bureau of Reclamation announced today from its regional headquarters here.

The total gross return was about \$11,000,000 more than that of 1949 and the per-acre return was \$3.26 greater than that of last year. The highest gross and per-acre returns on record for the Federal Reclamation developments were set in 1946 at \$225,235,236 and \$120.18 respectively.

The three Federal projects with the highest returns in the Pacific Northwest were: Yakima Project in southeastern Washington, where 375,405 acres under cultivation grossed \$64,922,586; Minidoka Project and Upper Snake River areas in southern Idaho, where 987,956 acres under cultivation grossed \$64,018,590; and the Boise Project in southwestern Idaho, where 306,644 acres under cultivation grossed \$25,744,938.

As usual, the apple-producing Okanogan Project in central Washington with 3,955 acres under cultivation, showed the greatest per-acre return of all projects in the region - \$296.32. Next highest per-acre return was that of the 2,770-acre Lewiston Orchards Project, Idaho, with \$237.17, and third highest was Yakima Project with an average of \$172.94.

The net area under cultivation, the gross crop value and the per-acre

crop value of all the projects are shown below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Net Area in Cultivation (Acres)</u>	<u>Gross Crop Value</u>	<u>Per-Acre Crop Value</u>
<u>Idaho</u>			
Boise	306,644	\$25,744,938	\$ 83.96
Lewiston Orchards	2,770	656,950	237.17
Minidoka	987,956	64,018,590	64.80
Rathdrum Prairie(Hayden Lake)	514	31,281	60.86
(Post Falls)	2,108	132,371	62.79
<u>Idaho-Oregon</u>			
Owyhee	110,046	11,566,218	105.10
<u>Oregon</u>			
Arrold	3,625	191,588	52.85
Baker	7,255	212,080	29.23
Burnt River	15,260	456,960	29.94
Deschutes			
(Central Oregon Irrigation District)	42,784	3,925,398	91.75
(North Unit)	46,523	5,224,381	112.30
Grants Pass	7,594	848,288	111.71
Ochoco	7,983	688,843	86.29
Umatilla			
(East and West Divisions)	12,972	524,825	40.46
(Stanfield)	5,259	411,148	78.18
(Westland)	4,920	257,464	52.33
Vale	31,150	1,839,715	59.06
<u>Washington</u>			
Columbia Basin	4,353	527,328	121.14
Okanogan	3,955	1,171,948	296.32
Yakima	375,405	64,922,586	172.94
<u>Western Montana</u>			
Bitter Root	16,492	548,011	33.23
Frenchtown	3,510	138,750	39.53
Missoula Valley (Big Flat Unit)	636	16,869	26.52

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE to AM's of Sunday, November 25, 1951

BOISE, Idaho - Under a \$72,000,000 construction program, work is being carried forward on eight Federal Reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest, H. T. Nelson, Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation said today.

The construction activities outlined for the current fiscal year calls for starting construction of a new dam - the Palisades in eastern Idaho - initial delivery of water to the million-acre Columbia Basin Project in Washington, the near completion of the Hungry Horse Dam in Montana, completion of rehabilitation programs on the Bitterroot (Montana), Yakima (Wash.) and Ochoco (Oregon) projects, and finishing minor work on the Anderson Ranch and Lewiston Orchards projects in Idaho.

Nelson said that Congress had made available \$52,000,000 for the current fiscal period, which together with a carry-over from the previous year, makes the current construction schedule one of the largest ever carried out in the region by the Bureau of Reclamation. The potential current program is about \$7,000,000 below the program accomplished during the past fiscal year.

With the \$2,000,000 just appropriated by the Congress for the Palisades Dam, near the Wyoming border, the Bureau plans to complete

relocation of the first section of U. S. Highway 26 and award contracts for construction of the two river diversion tunnels. The award of a prime contract to build the Palisades project is to be made early in the spring of 1952. Palisades will provide supplemental water for some 650,000 acres of land and irrigate a block of new land in the Snake River Valley, produce 114,000 kilowatts of new hydroelectric energy, and create substantial flood control and recreational benefits.

The program for the Columbia Basin Project, involving a potential expenditure of \$36,250,000, calls for completion of the major irrigation works by next July. Work will proceed on all principal canals and laterals in areas scheduled for early development by the second unit. Water will be made available to an initial block of 87,000 acres, with construction moving forward to serve additional blocks of 60,000 acres in succeeding years.

Approximately \$30,500,000 is available for work on multi-purpose Hungry Horse Dam, on the South Fork of the Flathead River in northwestern Montana. Installation of two 71,250-kilowatt generators will be in progress in the power house, now being erected. Clearing of the 34-mile long reservoir will be substantially completed by the end of the current fiscal period. Last September 21, the diversion tunnel was closed and the big dam began to store its first water. Ultimately 286,000 kilowatts will be generated at the site and 375,000 additional kilowatts provided in existing downstream plants through river regulation by Hungry Horse. On July 1, approximately a third of a million cubic yards of concrete will remain to be poured of the 3,000,000 that will constitute the world's fourth largest concrete dam.

With a fund of \$713,500, remaining power facilities of Anderson Ranch Dam of the Boise Project in Southwestern Idaho will be completed in the near future, along with other minor work, to complete the project. In

addition to producing power, Anderson Ranch Dam provides supplemental water for 290,000 acres of irrigated land in the Boise Valley.

On the Payette Division of the Boise Project, the Bureau will proceed with clearing the remainder of Cascade Reservoir, involving some 4,000 acres, and complete relocation of county roads in and around Cascade Reservoir.

Clearing in the Wickiup Reservoir area on the Deschutes Project in north-central Oregon is underway, and steps will be taken to alleviate the drainage problems in the Agency Plains and in the Haystack Draw area, south of Madras. Minor work on the rehabilitation of Ochoco Dam will be completed this year, with additional toe drains in the right abutment being installed and the spillway drain extended.

The Lewiston Orchards Project was completed during the past fiscal year at a saving of about \$46,000 on the original project cost estimate. With carryover funds, the project will receive some minor additions to the water treatment plant and irrigation system in the current program. Lewiston Orchards Project provides an irrigation supply for ³⁴⁰⁰~~34,000~~ acres and domestic water for 4,000 people.

Work on the Roza Division of the Yakima Project will be directed toward completion of the domestic water system for ditchrider residences, sub-sealing two sections of the main canal, and continuation of the required drainage work. Rehabilitation on the Bitterroot development in Montana will be finished this fiscal year.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE to AMs of Sunday, December 30, 1951

BOISE, Idaho - A contract whereby the Bureau of Reclamation will turn over operation of the 100,000-acre Owyhee project in eastern Oregon to the water users has been approved by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman, it was announced here today by the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The contract, recently drawn up jointly by the Bureau and the irrigation districts of the project, will go into effect following formal approval by the districts. A January 1, 1952 transfer date has been tentatively set.

"I'm happy to announce that another Federal Reclamation project has matured to the point where operation can be turned over to the water users," Secretary Chapman said. "Operation of Federal Reclamation projects by the farmers has been a long-standing policy of the Bureau of Reclamation. I wish the Owyhee people good luck in their operation and offer them assistance whenever they feel they need it."

The project, which in 1935 received the first water from Owyhee Dam and irrigation works constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, has been operated by the Bureau during the past 16 years, while the area was

being brought to full development and water was distributed on a rental basis.

Under the new Owyhee agreement the water users instead of the Bureau will have the responsibility for delivering water and operating the project, except for Owyhee Dam and reservoir and a main tunnel at the dam. Operation will involve the hiring of irrigation managers, ditchriders and all other personnel needed in the water distribution, plus maintenance of the network of canals and laterals carrying water to the project lands.

Also included in the contract are provisions for the setting up of two boards of control -- the North Board and the South Board -- through which the water users will run the project. The North Board will consist of five representatives from the Owyhee Irrigation district, one man representing the Ontario-Nyssa and Advancement districts and one man representing the Payette-Oregon Slope, Crystal, Bench and Slide Irrigation districts. The South Board will consist of five representatives from Gem Irrigation district and one from newly formed Ridgeview Irrigation district.

The new agreement supplements a new amendatory repayment contract drawn up by the water users and the Bureau of Reclamation in August, calling for a more equitable repayment of construction costs. The new repayment contract was approved by a House committee during the last session of Congress and is expected to be passed by both houses in the next session. Turning over project operation to the water users does not require Congressional approval.

The operating arrangement will be in effect as a supplementary contract until the new repayment contract is passed by Congress, after which it will become a part of that contract.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE TO AM'S of Sunday, January 20, 1952

BOISE, Idaho - Consolidation of Bureau of Reclamation planning offices in Walla Walla, Washington, and Kalispell, Montana, into a single office in Spokane was announced here today by the Bureau's Regional Director Harold T. Nelson.

The merger of the two offices is advisable in the interest of efficiency and economy, Nelson said. An annual saving of approximately \$30,000 is expected from the single office operation.

The new Spokane office, scheduled to be opened in the Haskins Building about mid-February, will handle the Bureau planning program for western Montana, northern Idaho, western and central Washington and parts of eastern Oregon, the areas formerly covered by the separate offices. The Spokane site was selected for its convenient central location to the bulk of current work and the investigations programmed for the near future.

Employees of the Walla Walla and Kalispell offices will be used to the fullest extent possible in the staffing of the new Spokane office, Nelson said. The Walla Walla office has 17 employees and the Kalispell office has 11.

Among the major investigations to be undertaken from the Spokane office is the Clark Fork Basin Project in Montana and Idaho, involving the

preparation of a basin-wide report outlining ultimate plans of development of this important tributary to the Columbia River; the Rathdrum Prairie Project in northern Idaho, which study would determine ways and means of providing a full supply of water to 37,000 acres of new land and about 4,000 acres already developed; and the Foster Creek Project in north central Washington, embracing examination of the possibilities for providing a full or supplemental water supply for up to 10,000 acres of new and inadequately irrigated land through gravity canals provided with water pumped from Chief Joseph Dam reservoir.

Other major work includes: the Greater Wenatchee Project near Wenatchee, involving determination of possibilities of obtaining storage in Lake Wenatchee and distributing water to approximately 12,172 acres of land presently inadequately irrigated and a study of the alternative of pumping to the area from the Columbia River; the Baker Project in eastern Oregon, embracing the study of possibilities of storage of surplus Powder River flows to provide needed supplemental water for approximately 12,172 acres of land now farmed; the Yakima Supplemental Water Project in south central Washington, under which the Bureau is exploring possibilities for obtaining additional storage capacity as a means of avoiding possible water shortages in the 500,000-acre Yakima Valley development; and the Pendleton, Oregon Project, involving an investigation of the feasibility of providing full water supplies to 30,000 acres of new lands in conjunction with flood control by storage of surplus Umatilla River flows.

The Spokane office will also supervise investigations on the Milton-Freewater Project to determine the feasibility of providing supplemental water to about 12,000 acres of land near Milton and Freewater,

Oregon, and a full supply for 20,000 acres of new land in that area; Dayton Project, involving storage development to provide irrigation water and flood control for 14,000 acres of dry and irrigated land in a 70-mile strip along the Touchet River between Dayton and Touchet, Washington in southeastern Washington; the Kalispell Project, which has been in progress for some time to determine the feasibility of irrigation development of approximately 60,000 acres of land in the Flathead Valley of western Montana; and the Middle Clark Fork Project in Bonners County, Idaho and Sanders County, Montana, to develop power for irrigation pumping and commercial use on that tributary.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 1 - Boise, Idaho

FOR RELEASE to PM's of Thursday, April 10, 1952

BOISE, Idaho - Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs in the Snake and Yakima River Basins have been put into operation against potential flood threats by discharging water to provide storage space to hold anticipated runoff from heavy snow packs, the Bureau's Regional Director Harold T. Nelson said today.

Pointing out that Bureau reservoirs -- essentially serving irrigation purposes - provide the bulk of the flood protection for the entire Columbia River Basin, Nelson outlined a joint flood protection program to be carried out by the Bureau in collaboration with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Water Management Subcommittee of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee. Bureau coordinator will be William H. Tuller, Regional Director of Operation and Maintenance.

Some discharges are now being made from reservoirs where runoffs assure an ample irrigation supply with a surplus. Water in other reservoirs will be held as long as possible with later discharges to be made as runoff patterns develop.

Tuller, who will correlate reports on snow depths and anticipated runoffs and then arrange reservoir discharges with project chiefs in the field, will be in daily teletype contact with the Corps of Engineers. The

CBIAC Water Management Subcommittee, concerned with lower Columbia flood conditions, will be kept advised of the operation and may serve as an advisor in the program.

Actual reservoir operations will be the responsibility of the project superintendents who will be in close contact with representatives of irrigation water users. The supervisors include O. W. Lindgren of the Yakima Project, Yakima, Washington; James Spofford of the Minidoka Project, Burley, Idaho; George Carter of the Boise Project, Boise, Idaho; and H. A. Parker of the Columbia River District, Ephrata, Washington. Discharges for flood control must be made with the okay of water users, who are paying much of the cost of Bureau of Reclamation structures and who have established rights to the water in the reservoirs.

"Our basic aim", Nelson said, "is to evacuate these reservoirs so that we can cut down flood peaks as much as possible and at the same time assure full water supplies to the water users during the coming irrigation season."

The following Yakima Basin reservoirs will be included in the flood control operation: Bumping Lake, Kachess, Keechelus, Tieton and Cle Elum, all in Washington. In addition, Jackson Lake in Wyoming, and American Falls, Anderson Ranch and Arrowrock, all in Idaho, will be included in the Snake River Basin operation.

Bumping Lake, Kachess, Keechelus, Tieton and Cle Elum reservoirs in the Yakima Basin, which have a combined storage capacity of 1,058,500 acre-feet, had a total of 401,300 acre-feet of vacant space on April 1, and are now holding that space open to impound the flood peak when it arrives.

Jackson Lake and American Falls have a total storage capacity

of 2,547,000 acre-feet and are now making evacuations to hold the peak of flow of the Snake River. On April 1 the reservoirs had together 635,000 acre-feet of vacant storage space, of which 327,000 acre-feet was in Jackson Lake.

Anderson Ranch and Arrowrock reservoirs in the Boise Basin, with a total storage capacity of 840,700 acre-feet, by April 1 were drawn down to the point where there was 660,900 acre-feet of vacant storage to meet anticipated flows.

Grand Coulee Dam, on the Columbia main stem in Washington, has discharged much of its stored water for power production and will have approximately 4 million acre-feet of vacant storage space to help in the flood control. Hungry Horse Dam, under construction in northwestern Montana, will be storing a million acre-feet of water and, in the process, will provide some incidental flood control.



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