

Bureau of Reclamation



Eluid Martinez, Commissioner
Carrie C. Kemper, Bureau Editor

Water Conservation, Environmental Restoration are FY98 Budget Priorities

Reclamation's fiscal year 1998 budget request of \$6.9 billion includes \$763.6 million for ongoing programs, a decrease of \$11.8 million from the 1997 acted level.

The major new initiative included in the budget is the California Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration. The \$43.3 million for this program is requested in a single new account. But the funds will be distributed among participating federal agencies based on a program commended by CALFED—a consortium of federal and state agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta—and approved by Secretary Bennett.

This budget reflects Reclamation's continuing evolution from civil works construction to water resource management," said Reclamation Commissioner **Eluid Martinez**. "It emphasizes environmental restoration several river basins and in California's Bay-Delta, and our increasing focus on dam safety and repair work that is necessary as our structures age."

The request includes \$666.4 million for a new account—Water and Related Resources—which will fund most of Reclamation's activities. This is a \$2.2 million decrease from the total amount acted in 1997 for the three predecessor accounts.

The request for the new account is presented in terms of five major program activities: Facility Operation, Facility Maintenance and Rehabilitation, Water and Energy Management and Development, Fish and Wildlife Management and Development, and Land Management and Development.



Excessive rain, warm temperatures, and heavy snowpack forced the Payette River in Idaho over its banks. High flows destroyed parts of the parking lot and left the area strewn with debris. The peak release was 33,000 cubic feet per second. BOR photo by David Walsh



The budget requests \$96.1 million for Reclamation's Dam Safety Program, including \$15.6 million to fully fund a new project at Horse Mesa Dam, Salt River Project, Arizona. The request also would provide funds for moving several large water projects under construction toward completion, including \$61.2 million for the Central Arizona Project, \$30.9 million for the Mni Wiconi and Mid-Dakota Projects in South Dakota, and \$10.6 million to complete the Dolores Project in Colorado.



Eluid Martinez

The budget also would fund a number of high priority activities that emphasize water conservation, environmental restoration, and innovative ways of managing water resources. A request for \$31.2 million continues federal cost-sharing in four water reclamation-reuse projects in California.

Increased funds are requested for programs that would reduce salinity in the Colorado River. A request for the Efficiency Incentives program of \$5.3 million, an increase of \$3.8 million from the 1997 level, will provide for partnership capability with states and other entities in seeking solutions to water use efficiency and conservation.

The budget requests \$9 million for a new project, the Arsenic Wellhead Treatment Demonstration, Middle Rio Grande Project in New Mexico, and \$1 million for ten new planning studies that will identify ways to meet water quality, water quantity, and environmental needs through enhanced management of existing facilities.

In addition to funds for the Central Valley Project, California, that are included in the Water and Related Resources account, \$39.1 million is requested for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund. Financed by revenues collected from project beneficiaries, this fund is available to improve fish and wildlife resources in the Central Valley Project Area.

The FY98 budget also requests \$10.4 million for the Loan Program, a \$2.3 million decrease from 1997. The money would continue funding for five loans—four in California and one in Oregon—and begin funding for the San Savaine Creek Project in California.

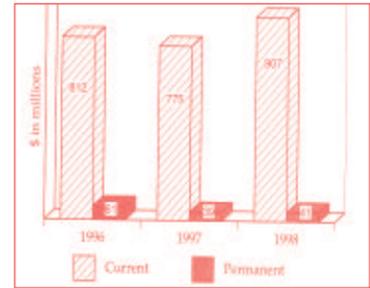
Let the Rivers Run

Spring runoff expected from snowpack at or near record levels is forcing many Reclamation regions to lower the amount of water in many of their reservoirs. Low elevation snowmelt and unseasonably warm, wet weather resulted in flood flows in several Pacific Northwest river basins with Reclamation storage projects.

Pacific Northwest projects were generally operated to release minimum outflows during the peak and consequently contributed to reducing the magnitude of flooding. Cooler and drier weather is expected and will allow opportunity to evacuate flood control space filled during this event.

Snowpack is currently more than 200 percent of normal for this time of year. In the Great Plains, snowpack in basins which drain into reservoirs ranges from 130 to 200 percent above average. In the Mid-Pacific Region, Central Valley Project reservoirs are recapturing much of the flood space used to hold back water from the deadly storms that hit California over the New Year weekend.

The current Colorado River basinwide snowpack in the Upper Colorado Region is about 165 percent of normal, which is impacting the releases at Lake Mead in the Lower Colorado Region. Reclamation will continue to operate its reservoirs to maintain recreation facilities and to meet fisheries needs, but the highest priority is public safety and property protection.



Symposium on the 1996 Controlled Flood

Last spring Reclamation conducted a beach-habitat-building flow by releasing water from Glen Canyon Dam into the Colorado River of the Grand Canyon. Initial reports were positive, but have the objectives and goals been met? What can we learn from this experiment? Should this water management technique be used in the future and on a regular basis? Should it be used on other dammed rivers in America?

Interior's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center will sponsor a symposium to present answers to these questions as the first anniversary of the experiment nears. The scientists involved will make the presentations.

Attendees will enjoy three days of information, findings, and camaraderie. On the final day, discussion groups will be formed to assess future efforts at monitoring the effects of operating the Glen Canyon Dam, especially the effects on the Colorado River inside Grand Canyon National Park. Recommendations from these groups will be used to guide future projects on the Colorado River.

The symposium will be held April 8-10 at the Best Western Woodlands Plaza Hotel in Flagstaff, Arizona. Registration is \$25 per person. Please call **Katie Dunn** at (520) 556-7094 for more information.

Labor-Management Partnerships Recognized

Phil Varnak, Reclamation Service Center

The Snake River Area Office in Boise, Idaho, recently received Reclamation's first annual Labor-Management Partnership Council Award during a ceremony in Denver, Colorado. Area Office management and the local partnership council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 283 worked together to resolve issues such as improving labor partnerships, bringing all employees into the decision-making process, and enhancing employee morale and job satisfaction.

The Phoenix Area Office received the runner-up award for the outstanding level of cooperation between the National Federal of Federal Employees, Local Union 376 and management during the difficult time of staff realignments that will soon reduce the size of the office by about 650 employees.



Congratulations to the original Snake River Area Office Partnership Council, from left, in back row, Larry Robinson, Al Inman, Leon Denney, Janel Potucek, Marilyn Collins, George Pethel, Tom Smith; sitting are Johnny Roache and Steve Jarsky.



From left, Eileen Nistetter, Larry Moron, Area Manager Dennis Schroeder, Jerry Mantzey, and Charlotte Crawford make up the Phoenix Area Office Partnership Committee.

Holding Back the Flood of '96

Diana Cross, Pacific Northwest Region

The Willamette River was just inches from topping the sea wall in downtown Portland last winter, but the water would have been seven feet higher had it not been for the actions taken by a team of professionals representing several government agencies. Their swift effort and coordinated response helped to avert a major disaster that could have caused an estimated \$3.2 billion in damage.

In recognition of this extraordinary response, **Doug Farbrother** of the National Performance Review presented Vice President Gore's Hammer Award at Portland's Waterfront Park on February 10 to the local and federal agencies that kept the floodwaters down. NPR recognized Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the City of Portland.

The Corps water management team made critical decisions on how much water could and should be released downstream from the dams in the Willamette and Columbia river systems. Dam

operators throughout the system cooperated, from Canada to Grand Coulee.

Within a 6-hour period, the staff at Bonneville Power Administration imported enough power into the region to supply cities along the rivers from Portland to Eugene. This meant the lights stayed on, despite power generation being all but turned off. At Reclamation's Grand Coulee Dam, outflows were reduced to near minimum, which reduced the peak flow in Portland by about 60,000 cubic feet per second.

But all the action was not on the mainstem, as Regional Director **John Keys** pointed out. "Tributary flood operations on the Tualatin River in Oregon and Yakima River in Washington were also significant in contributing to damage reduction," said Keys.

The operation of five Yakima storage reservoirs was coordinated to capture all controllable runoff during the flood. This reduced the peak flows from the Yakima by about 35,000 cubic feet per second, with comparable reductions downstream in the Columbia.

Reclamation Recognition

Larry Gordon, energy manager for the Upper Colorado Region, is the recent recipient of the National Energy Management Award for 1996. He was honored at a congressional reception at the Senate Hart Building and received the award at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The award was presented to Gordon for his leadership in developing and carrying out a highly effective energy management program for the Bureau of Reclamation. He reduced energy consumption for the Upper Colorado Region in fiscal year 1995 by 20 percent over the fiscal year 1985 baseline, a reduction of more than 6 billion BTUs (British Thermal Units).

Gordon also developed a training package for the Upper Colorado Region focusing on renewable (solar) energy technology, cost-benefit comparisons of different types of insulation, energy efficient lighting methods, utility bill analysis, and alternative fuel vehicles.

In addition, Gordon planned and carried out the development of the Carl Hayden Visitor Center energy showcase, which incorporates solar hot water heating, the latest lighting technology, high efficiency glass, and multiple water conservation improvements. The facility exposes nearly one million visitors every year to multiple energy conservation techniques.



[Photo #8] Energy Under Secretary Thomas Grumbly, left, presented Larry Gordon with the 1996 Federal Energy and Water Management Award.



Aerial view of Reclamation's new Water Quality Improvement Center in Yuma, Arizona.

Water Quality Improvement Center Dedicated in Yuma

There was a large turnout January 23 in Yuma, Arizona, to attend the grand opening of Reclamation's Water Quality Improvement Center, the first of many National Centers for Water Treatment Technology to be opened around the country.

Reclamation, the American Desalting Association, and the National Water Research Institute sponsored the

ceremony. Keynote speaker Commissioner Martinez shared his enthusiasm for the research that will serve the whole country in its quest for quality water throughout the nation. After there was a tour of the new facility by Area Manager **Gary Bryant**, who said he wants this research center to be the facility of choice for the desalting industry.