

From the
Commissioner

Drought

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Happy Birthday



RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

ETA

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**Efficiency
Transparency
Accountability**

Reclamation priorities

water conservation, infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, Indian Water Rights, renewable energy

Reclamation has a legacy of achievement that continues to be an example for America and the world. Generations of dedicated employees have worked with public and private partners to make a difference in the West.

As we continue that mission – and as the drought of 2012 has underscored – the new challenges for carrying out our mission in the 21st century are clear. To meet those challenges, our attention is focused on five significant priorities to build upon Reclamation's history of achievement.

The first is infrastructure, which has proven to be immensely valuable to the West over time. The Department of the Interior's most recent economic study has set an annual value on the water, energy and recreational opportunities we provide at about \$19.6 billion. Those dollars have an even bigger impact when you consider they support about \$55 billion in annual economic activity and about 416,000 jobs. Our important work with our partners to support this vital infrastructure is fundamental.

Our second priority is the WaterSMART program, which is expanding water supplies in the West, meeting future challenges

and helping us avoid future conflicts. We are now meeting a high priority goal we have established: saving 730,000 acre-feet of water through 2013. The progress is impressive: through 2011 we saved about 488,000 acre-feet. WaterSMART gives us tools to help stretch our water supply and meet challenges such as adapting to climate change.

A third priority is ecosystem restoration. Over the years, there has been quite a discussion about whether this is part of our core mission or not, but that debate is settled in my mind. If we are going to continue to manage water and power with the same reliability of our history, we must focus attention and investment on ecosystem restoration.

Our fourth priority area is helping to strengthen tribal nations. Our Indian Water Rights Settlement program is very active, and our implementation efforts will continue to be a big part of our portfolio for decades.

The fifth priority area is renewable energy. We are increasing the renewable energy we provide through our hydropower program, but we are also bringing online

non-hydro renewable energy sources. For example, earlier this month President Obama announced that Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management will work together to expedite permitting and review decisions in the development of the 425-megawatt Mohave County Wind Farm on nearly 56,000 acres of public land the two agencies manage in Arizona. This is just one way we are working to build upon our legacy of renewable energy production.

Reclamation values its long and beneficial relationships with its partners, and we welcome the daily opportunity to create new alliances to strengthen our mission of managing water and power in the West.



**Commissioner
Michael L. Connor**

Drought grips country Reclamation reservoirs responding to meet needs

Drought is gripping most of the country this summer, and the West is no exception. While the Columbia River Basin and parts of northern Montana and North Dakota are doing well, the rest of the western United States is dry. Despite these challenges, Reclamation reservoirs that supply most of the West with water throughout the year are meeting demands being placed on it.

The effects are being felt the most within the Colorado River Basin, which has been in a drier period since 1999. While there was an inflow to Lake Powell of 139 percent of normal in 2011, the inflow in 2012 is anticipated to be only 46 percent of normal.

Despite this year's lower runoff, Reclamation is meeting all of its obligations to the lower Colorado River basin and all treaty obligations with Mexico. This can be attributed to the design of the Colorado River Basin storage system, which was conceived to store approximately four times average inflow, about 60 million acre-feet of storage versus 15 million acre-feet of annual natural inflow.

The decreased

lake levels and potentially lower releases are having minimal impacts to hydropower during the drought. At Lake Powell, the reduced releases will result in approximately 27 percent reduction in hydropower generated or about 1.612 gigawatt-hours of electricity.

Also impacted by the drought is the efficiency of the turbines because of the lower lake levels. For every 10 feet of elevation decline of Lake Mead, Hoover Dam loses from 55 to 60 mega-watts of capacity, about 0.5 percent of a turbine unit's capacity.

Reclamation is seeking to minimize the loss of efficiency in its power plants. Wide-head turbines are being installed at Hoover Dam and have the capability to generate hydropower at lower lake levels.

Meeting the challenges of future drought

conditions requires careful planning. Long-term strategies for water management are taking place at Reclamation. Through the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program, Reclamation is conducting basin studies throughout the West. Basin studies are comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected.

Since 2009, Reclamation has funded 17 basin studies and five plans of study. Two basin studies have been completed this year, the Yakima River Basin and St. Mary and Milk River Basins. Reclamation also recently announced it will be conducting studies in the Los Angeles Basin in California, the Pecos River Basin in New Mexico, the Republican River Basin in Colo-

rado, Kansas and Nebraska, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin in California and the Upper Washita River Basin in Oklahoma.

Water Basin	Water Year Precip. (% of average)	Spring Run Off (% of average)	Reservoir Storage (% full)
Columbia River	106	121	N/A
Klamath River	88	80	57
Lake Mead	N/A	N/A	50
Lake Powell	72	33	61
North Platte River	68	38	65
Rio Grande	80	8	11
Sacramento Valley	83	65	79
San Joaquin Valley	61	54	70
Truckee River	64	40	64
Upper Snake	89	87	65

Wildfires scorch West

Reclamation supports firefighting efforts

This summer's dry conditions have led to more wildfires, and Reclamation employees have assisted in efforts to contain fires and prevent impacts to reservoirs

One of the largest fires was the High Park Fire in Colorado near Horsetooth Reservoir. It started burning June 9 and was finally brought under containment July 1. While it was burning it was the second largest fire in the country and continues to be one of the largest this summer -- burning more than 100 homes and consuming more than 87,000 acres.

Since containment, Reclamation has worked with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District to place debris berms in Soldier Canyon above the northwest corner of Horsetooth Reservoir. The berms collect ash and other debris washed down from burn areas through the canyon during monsoon-like rain storms that occurred after the fire was contained. The berms have worked well and prevented most ash and debris from entering the reservoir.

Near Grand Coulee, Wash., Reclamation teamed with the Bureau of Land Management and local agencies to fight the Cache Butte fire on the far side of Banks Lake. About 25 Reclamation personnel joined in the effort under the leadership of BLM Incident Commander Janet Rogers. Reclamation assisted BLM in extinguishing the fire, setting up a perimeter at the staging area, and ferrying crews across the lake to the fire scene.



Horsetooth Reservoir provided a source of water for helicopters fighting the High Park Fire in Colorado.

Varied career leads Thomas to Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation is an agency full of intelligent, charismatic, enthusiastic and ambitious employees. Valerie Thomas, chief of the Resources Management Office in Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, has all those attributes. Thomas, better known as "Val" by friends and colleagues, is a great asset to Reclamation.

For months, Thomas has shown a superior commitment in her work on the Laughlin Regional Heritage Greenway Trails Park Project, which is part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. She was appointed as the project's "AGO Quarterback" by the acting Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp. On July 27, a dedication ceremony was held to honor the completion of the project.

The Heritage Greenway Park and Trail is a result of a collaborative partnership among many parties, including Reclamation and other federal agencies, Clark County, the town of Laughlin, Nev. and local organizations and schools. The park and trail offers opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, hike, ride horses, fish and enjoy the Colorado River. The trail is one of 51 projects identified by Secretary of the Interior Ken

Salazar as models of the America's Great Outdoors River Initiative to conserve and restore key rivers across the nation, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and support jobs in local communities.

"The facilities are exquisite - visitors and residents of all ages can't wait to recreate there. Reclamation and our partners have developed a world-class site for which our entire nation can be proud," Thomas said.



Val Thomas, left to right, greets Jackie Brady, Laughlin, Nev. town manager, and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior Anne Castle at the dedication ceremony for the completion of the Laughlin Regional Heritage Greenway Trails Park Project on July 27.

"On one of my early visits to the project, I was reviewing a just completed portion of the trail along the Colorado River. Despite the construction 'keep out signs' and barriers, six runners, four walkers, three bicyclists and a horseback rider passed me by, all within a few minutes, smiling, waving and giving me the thumbs-up... and the park wasn't even opened yet!" she said,

describing a moment that stood out to her while working on the Laughlin Regional Heritage Greenway Trails project. "At that moment, it struck home just how great the need was for this project and how its presence would enable people of all ages to enjoy our America's Great Outdoors in a safe, amenable and accessible manner."

Thomas has worked at Reclamation since 2009. However, she's spent her professional life as a federal employee including a career in the U.S. Marine Corps. Before joining the Marines, Thomas worked as an archeologist on Isle Royale National Park in Michigan.

Thomas spent 10 years on active duty in the Marines before transferring to the Reserves where she completed her career, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. While in uniform, she held

Thomas, *continued on Page 6*

Touseull wins ASTM award

The American Society for Testing and Materials presented Reclamation employee Jack Touseull an award of merit at its national conference in June.



Jack Touseull is a Reclamation employee in Denver.

Touseull is a geological engineer in Denver. The Award of Merit is ASTM's highest organizational recognition for individual contributions to ASTM standards activities.

Touseull works on multiple technical subcommittees; he serves as member at large on the executive subcommittee and as chairman of the subcommittee on standards development and review.

In 2005, Touseull received the A. Ivan Johnson Outstanding Achievement Award for his excellent performance as chairman of a subcommittee on rock mechanics. He also received the D18 Wood-

land G. Schockley Memorial Award in 2009 and a Special Service Award in 2011 for his three terms as a subcommittee chair.

As a graduate of the University of Arizona, where he received a bachelor's degree in geological engineering, Touseull has worked at the Bureau of Reclamation since 1979, when he started as a rock mechanics specialist. He has worked on new and existing concrete dams, earth dams, tunnels and shafts across the United States. In 2005, he joined Reclamation's Geotechnical Services Division, Geotech Group 2, where his geological engineering work is focused on rock and soil mechanics issues for Reclamation water projects.

Touseull is a licensed professional engineer in geological engineering in Arizona and a professional geologist and engineering geologist in Washington, and has completed more than 200 college and continuing education credits in his field of work at various universities and specialty schools.

Thomas, *continued from Page 5*

positions around the world.

Thomas's expertise in logistics and her fluency in the French language drove her to a profession in teaching peacekeeping operations in the African nations of Mali, Malawi and Senegal. She taught cultural anthropology and environmental studies as an adjunct professor at the Copper Mountain College in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

And, while serving in Iraq, Thomas experienced something that could have been life changing: surviving a missile attack on March 20, 2003. This incident didn't slow her down, however. She immediately began combat support operations in Iraq two days later, as the civil affairs officer for the 1st Force Service Support Group (Forward), becoming the senior female officer in country for the first couple months of the war.

Her training and experience as a war veteran prepared her for most challenges. "Honor, courage and commitment to God, Corps and country is what makes a U.S. Marine, and what carried me through the dark days of war and other stressful times I've experienced throughout my life. I approach my daily job duties with that same sense of honor, courage and commitment – as a manager and leader to my employees, and in my trusted business adviser responsibilities to my supervisors, peers and customers. I've learned to face each day with equal parts gravitas, humor and resolve."

Reclamation Excellence

A great place to work

YUMA

The Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Area Office was recognized recently by the Yuma Sun newspaper and the Southwest Arizona Human Resources Association for the office's excellent employee programs.

Sue Kuettel, a Reclamation information technology specialist, submitted her area office for the award. "Employees have numerous opportunities to embrace a healthy balance, including family-friendly leave,

flexible work schedules and lunchtime training through Toastmasters meetings," Kuettel said in an article announcing the recognition in the Yuma Sun.

Quoted in the same article, Jennifer McCloskey, area manager, said, "The Yuma Area Office supports a work-life balance through these programs. We recognize that our most valuable assets are the employees."



The Yuma Area Office has 170 employees and its focus is to distribute water for agricultural use and operate and maintain well fields and one of the world's largest reverse osmosis desalinating plants.

The Yuma Area Office has several programs in place aimed at improving employee morale and well-being, including a Performance Management Program, Special Thanks for Achievement Award and Non-Monetary Award.

"The leadership values its employees and works hard to ensure programs are in place that enhance their skills and motivate them to achieve results," McCloskey said. "The leadership and employees are very proud of this achievement."

Let's Move Outside!

Reclamation, other federal agencies encouraging people to enjoy outdoors

In 2010, President Obama charged the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies with spearheading his America's Great Outdoors initiative. Inspired by the vision of a sustainable natural heritage for America, the February 2011 AGO Report to the President identified major areas ripe for action. In particular, the Report called for improved support of outdoor recreation on federal public lands, waters and shores by improving coordination among federal agencies and state, local, tribal and private recreation providers.

To accomplish this, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, also known as FICOR, was created in the fall of 2011. The first year has been dedicated to identifying the areas needing improvement and developing a path to success. The FICOR is working with existing recreation-focused federal advisory committees, First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Outside! initiative and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. In June, Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the departments of Agriculture and

Commerce formalizing the FICOR and its purposes. The FICOR is working to coordinate all aspects of recreation across multiple agencies; including access for all communities and groups, streamlining information and procedures and develop-

ing and expanding resources and benefits at all sites and with new non-federal partners. In addition to the FICOR, our senior leaders have been busy across all parts of the West supporting the AGO initiative through events such as Catch a Special Thrill. Recently, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle participated in the C.A.S.T./Let's Move Outside! event at Strawberry Reservoir, located about 70 miles from Salt Lake City. She went out on the lake to help the children fish and then presided over the awards ceremony after lunch with the fish wranglers and their families.

In her many travels, the Assistant Secretary also had the chance to visit the AGO exhibit at the California State Fair in Sacramento, Calif. She was warmly welcomed by Otto Otter, Reclamation's mascot. She visited with volunteers and participated in some of the children's activities offered by the participating agencies. The interactive exhibit offered free fun and educational hands-on activities for children emphasizing conservation, recreation and water safety.



Commerce formalizing the FICOR and its purposes. The FICOR is working to coordinate all aspects of recreation across multiple agencies; including access for all communities and groups, streamlining information and procedures and develop-

The Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle greets young fishermen at a C.A.S.T event at Strawberry Reservoir in Utah.

Focus on ethics

Government employees have specific ethics related to election support

The 2012 Presidential election is less than three months away. Political perspectives and opinions are running at a fevered pitch, and many people are more than willing to express their opinions in public. However, federal employees have certain restrictions on what they can do, where and when involving politics. This is covered in the Hatch Act.

The Hatch Act, originally passed in 1939, applies to federal employees. The Act “permits most federal employees to take an active part in partisan political activities and campaigns. While federal employees are still prohibited from seeking political office in partisan elections, most employees are free to work, while off-duty, on partisan campaigns of candidates of their choice.”

One prohibition is that pictures of candidates for partisan political office may not be displayed in the federal workplace, with a couple of exceptions. Official photos of the president may be displayed.

Also, government employees may not:

- Participate in any political activity while on duty or in a federal building.
- Use the insignia of a government of-fice or any official authority while participating in political activities.
- Solicit, accept or receive political contributions, regardless of where these activities take place.

- Display campaign posters, buttons, bumper stickers, screen savers or any other campaign materials in a federal building.
- Engage in political activities while using a government owned or leased vehicle.
- Host a fundraiser for partisan candidates.

- Run for public office in a partisan election.

Exceptions to these restrictions are if the employee is appointed by the president, such as Secretary Salazar and Commissioner Connor. Presidential appointees may engage in certain political activity while at work if the costs associated with the political activity are not paid by money derived from the treasury of the United States.

Some of this can be confusing. If you have questions, call the Department of the Interior Hatch Act Unit at (202) 208-7960.



Reclamation History

Reclamation celebrates 110th birthday

On July 8 the Bureau of Reclamation celebrated its 110th birthday. 1902 was a year of several firsts and events of interest.

January 1: The first college football bowl game, the Rose Bowl between Michigan and Stanford, is held in Pasadena, Calif. and on the same day, Nathan Stubblefield makes first public demonstration of radio/wireless telephony.

February 21: Dr. Harvey Cushing, first U.S.

brain surgeon, does his first brain operation

March 4: AAA, or the American Automobile Association, is founded in Cleveland

March 6: Bureau of the Census is established; it later becomes part of the Department of Commerce

April 2: Electric Theatre, the first movie theater in the United States, opens in Los Angeles

April 7: Texas Oil Company, aka "Texaco,"

forms

April 13: JC Penney opens its first store

June 28: Congress authorizes Louisiana Purchase Expo \$1 gold coin and U.S. buys concession to build Panama Canal from French for \$40 million

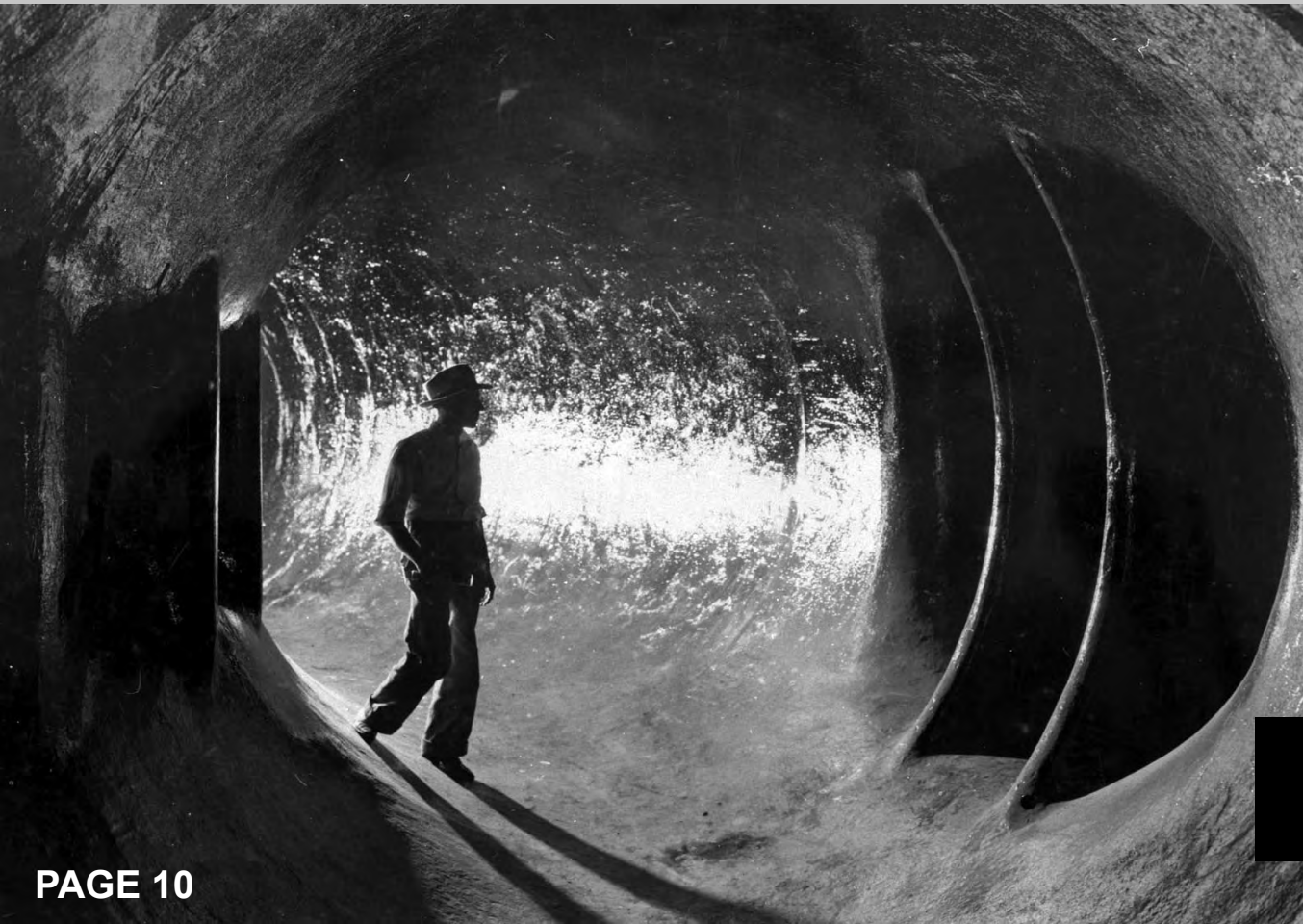
July 8: Service of Reclamation established within U.S. Geological Survey

August 22: Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first American president to ride in an automobile when he rides in a Columbia Electric Victoria through Hartford, Conn.

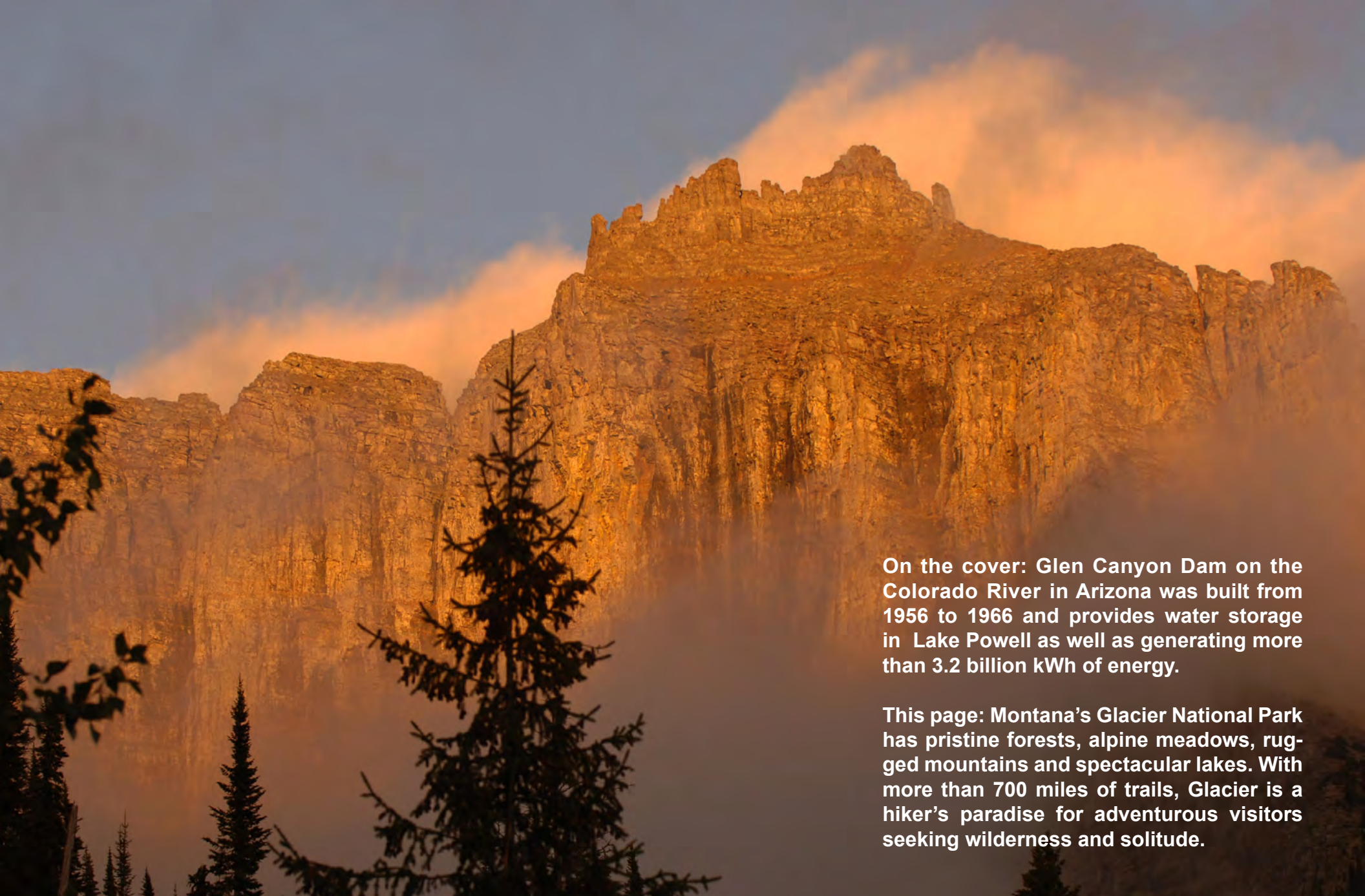
Additionally that year, Willis H. Carrier designs the first system to control temperature and humidity, inventing modern air conditioning. Aswan Dam is completed in central Egypt, becoming the chief means of storing irrigation water for the Nile valley.

- President: Theodore Roosevelt
- Vice President: None, There was no vice president from Sept. 14, 1901 to March 4, 1905 because Roosevelt succeeded to the presidency after William McKinley's assassination. The succession issue was corrected by the 25th amendment in 1967.

- Population: 79,163,000
- Federal spending: \$0.49 billion



An interior photo of a portion of a scroll case being installed in 1941.



On the cover: Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River in Arizona was built from 1956 to 1966 and provides water storage in Lake Powell as well as generating more than 3.2 billion kWh of energy.

This page: Montana’s Glacier National Park has pristine forests, alpine meadows, rugged mountains and spectacular lakes. With more than 700 miles of trails, Glacier is a hiker’s paradise for adventurous visitors seeking wilderness and solitude.

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