to the river below the dam. The spillways were tested in 1941 and not used again until the record high flows of 1983.

Water is released from Lake Mead through similar sets of diversion works and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also promotes preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources for Southern California communities.

The Dam

Lake Mead when full is 710 feet or 217 meters thick and has an 832-mile or 1332-kilometer shoreline.

All figures are for the reservoir filled to the top of the spillway gates in the raised position — elevation 1221.4 feet or 372.28 meters.

The Powerplant

The 17 large generators are being uprated. With the completion of nine uprated units in mid 1989, the powerplant had a nameplate capacity of 1,920,000 kilowatts. The uprating program being funded by non-Federal entities is scheduled to have all 17 units complete by 1992.

The cycle of either too much or too little water limited the river’s usefulness. To protect the low-lying valleys from flooding, and to assure a stable, year-round water supply, the river had to be tamed. A disastrous flood in California’s Imperial Valley, which occurred when the river changed its course in 1905, provided additional incentive for its control and regulation.

For millions of years the Colorado River has left its mark on the land. The river flowed into the valley for 16 months before it was tamed. A disastrous flood in California’s Imperial Valley, which occurred when the river changed its course in 1905, provided additional incentive for its control and regulation.

President Herbert Clark Hoover

Herbert Hoover was the 31st President of the United States. As a conservationist, he was a strong proponent of preserving our natural resources and protecting our nation’s lands from misuse and from the destruction by disastrous floods. As an engineer, he strongly supported the construction of a concrete high dam on the Colorado River, to control the river, and to provide irrigation water to the rich farm lands nearby as well as a dependable supply of water for Southern California communities.

Water is released from Lake Mead through similar sets of diversion works in both sides of Black Canyon. The water, thrown down the river, was drawn through spillways called penstocks to the powerplants. The spillways also can be used to discharge water directly from the reservoir.

Floods occurred when early spring flash floods bolstered the normally high spring runoff. These high flows washed away small earth dams that had been constructed in a temporary channel cut for the purpose of diverting water from the river to the Imperial Canal. This canal ran through Mexico on its way to the Imperial Valley. As the heavy flows deepened the channel, the river changed course and began flowing into the Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea.

The river flowed into the valley for 16 months before it returned to its original course. In that time, it destroyed homes and crops, heavily damaged highways, railroads, and irrigation works; and increased the size of the Salton Sea from 25 to 305 square miles. The Salton Sea now measures 360 square miles and has 110 miles of shoreline.

Before the river could be harnessed, its waters had to be made safe to control the river, and to provide irrigation water to the rich farm lands nearby as well as a dependable supply of water for Southern California communities.

President Hoover advocated that the Boulder Canyon Project be self-supporting. Financial resources through the sale of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam. He was personally involved in the promotion and administration of the project, concerned about the location, feasibility and safety of Hoover Dam, and personally heard every word and plot and key to control and regulation of the Colorado River.

Construction of Hoover Dam began in 1931, and the last concrete was poured in 1935 — 3 years ahead of schedule. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the dam on September 30, 1935. The powerhouse structures were completed in 1938, and the first generator began commercial operation in October of that year. The seventh and final generator went into commercial operation in 1961.

As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes managing wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.

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Arizona, and California. About 4 billion kilowatt-hours of energy were produced at the Hoover Dam powerplant since 1937. More than 700,000 people now visit the dam annually, and a topographical model of the Colorado River Basin is available upon request for schools, civic groups, clubs, and other public gatherings, and television stations.

**Guided Tours**

**Bureau of Reclamation guide tours through Hoover Dam**

City of Las Vegas, Nevada

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-6:45 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. daily during the remainder of the year.

- An exhibit building houses a model of the generating unit and a historical model of the Colorado River Basin, also open to the public.
- More than 26 million visitors have toured the dam and powerplant since 1935. More than 700,000 people now tour the dam each year.

In 1965 Hoover Dam was designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark and a National Natural Landmark. The American Society of Civil Engineers named it a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

Hoover Dam was without precedent, the greatest dam ever conceived. It was an engineering marvel of its day, with a height of 726 feet above bedrock. Hoover is still the highest dam in the United States.

The reservoir, Lake Mead, has an area of 296 square miles at its base, 43 feet at its crest, and stretches 1,244 feet across the Black Canyon. There are 4.4 million cubic yards of concrete in the dam, powerplant, and related structures.

The reservoir, Lake Mead, is America’s largest man-made reservoir. Named for Dr. Elizur T. Mead, Reclamation Commissioner from 1924 to 1956, the lake backs up the Colorado River and is the nation's largest man-made lake, containing about 26 million acre-feet of water. (An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons, or enough to cover an acre to a depth of one foot.) Lake Mead contains 1.44 billion acre-feet of water, or enough to cover the United States to a depth of two inches, or enough to fill 435 million swimming pools.

The Hoover Dam and Powerplant irrigation systems carry water from Lake Mead to communities throughout the West. The Colorado River Aqueduct was also selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of this Nation's 20th Century Civil Engineering Landmarks.

The lake and surrounding area are administered by the National Park Service as the National Recreation Area. The area also includes Lake Mohave, which was created by Parker Dam and Davis Dam.

Hoover Dam and Lake Mead draw tourists from all over the world. People come here to enjoy the scenic beauty of Lake Mead and the surrounding Black Canyon, and to participate in a wide variety of water-oriented activities, such as fishing, boating, water-skiing, and sightseeing.

Lake Mead is America's most popular recreational area. A 12-month season attracts more than 8 million visitors each year for boating, swimming, water-skiing, and fishing.

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