

pioneer project

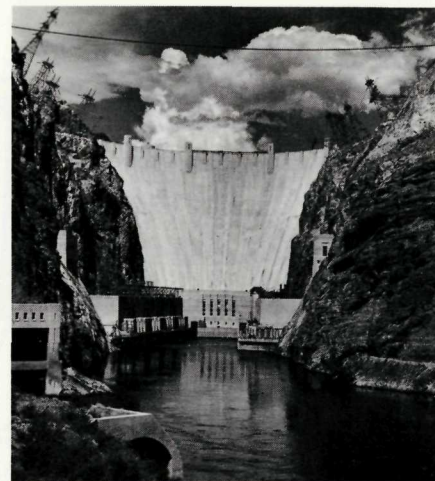
Hoover Dam pioneered Reclamation's present-day giant multiple-purpose developments. Its benefits encompass the whole concept of river control.

The dam controls floods and stores water for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Hoover Dam's reservoir—Lake Mead—stores more than 2 years of average Colorado River flow. This water is released in a regulated, year-round flow to farms, homes, and factories downstream. Passing through Hoover's turbines, it generates low-cost hydroelectric energy for markets in Nevada, Arizona, and California.

Water stored in Lake Mead irrigates three-fourths of a million acres of land in this country and nearly one-half of a million acres in Mexico. This water supplements the municipal and industrial needs of 10 million residents, and generates about 4 billion kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric energy annually. Sparkling clear reservoirs and river stretches, created by Hoover and other dams on the river, provide recreation for more than 10 million people each year. Fish and other wildlife abound in and around these bodies of water, once muddy and almost barren.

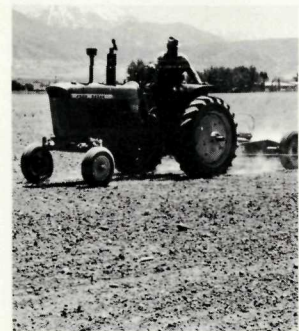
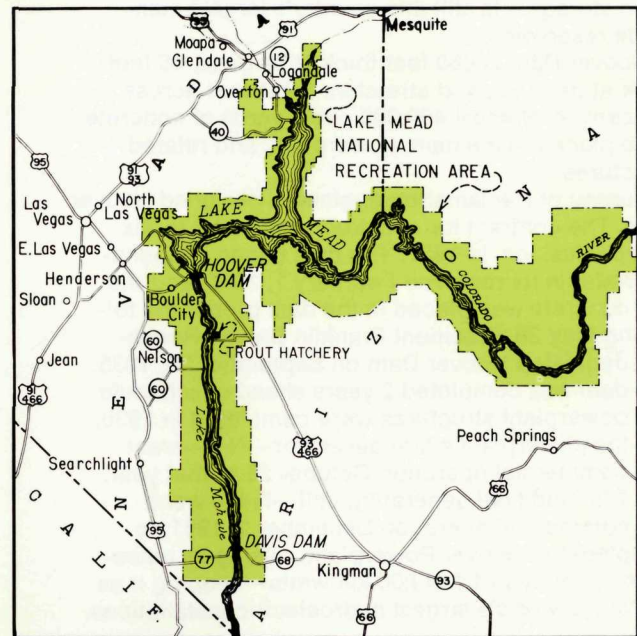
Hoover Dam changed the Colorado River from a natural menace to a national resource—strengthening the economy of the Pacific Southwest and the Nation.



farms

Colorado River water stored behind Hoover Dam irrigates some of America's richest farmlands. Valley and mesa lands in the warm desert climate along the river grow winter fruits and vegetables and other nonsurplus crops throughout the year for the Nation's dinner tables. Yearly gross income from these crops is high—averaging hundreds of dollars per acre.

Major irrigation developments which benefit from Hoover Dam's control and regulation of the Colorado River include the Palo Verde Valley, the Colorado River Indian Reservation, the Yuma and Gila Projects in Arizona, and the Imperial and Coachella Valleys in California. When water reaches its farthest point on the All-American Canal System—which diverts from the Colorado River at Imperial Dam, 300 miles downstream from Hoover Dam—it has traveled some 500 miles since leaving Lake Mead and has required 10 days to make the trip.



industry

Hoover Dam is still one of the world's largest hydroelectric installations, with a nameplate capacity of 1,344,800 kilowatts, provided by 17 large generating units and two station service units. The Hoover Powerplant became the world's largest plant in 1939 and retained this distinction until 1949.

Hoover Dam's first generator, N-2, began commercial operation October 26, 1936, and the 17th and last generator went on the line December 1, 1961—25 years later.



Hoover Dam's approximate cost of \$175 million is being repaid over a 50-year period with the exception of a \$25 million flood control allocation which has been deferred, without interest, until 1987. As of May 31, 1975, the project had grossed approximately \$361 million, with a net return to the Federal Treasury above operating costs of over \$196 million, of which \$78 million has been applied to the principal and \$118 million to interest payments.

Hoover Dam energy is sold to both public and private agencies under contracts which expire in 1987. This energy is allocated as follows (by percent): States of Arizona and Nevada 17.6259 each, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 35.2517, City of Burbank 0.5773, City of Glendale 1.8475, City of Pasadena 1.5847, City of Los Angeles 17.5554, and Southern California Edison Co. 7.9316.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Southern California Edison Co. operate Hoover Dam's generating equipment under contract as agents of the Federal Government.

cities

Hoover Dam's regulation of the Colorado River assures municipal and industrial water for Los Angeles, San Diego, and other Pacific Southwest cities.

Since 1941, the Colorado River Aqueduct has delivered water from Lake Havasu behind Parker Dam to the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The San Diego Aqueduct, which began operations in 1947, taps the Colorado River Aqueduct to take water to the San Diego water system.

Parker Dam—155 miles downstream from Hoover Dam—provides a forebay and desilting basin for the Colorado River Aqueduct. Parker Dam was constructed with funds advanced by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Part of the hydroelectric energy generated at Hoover and Parker Dams pumps water along the aqueduct. The 242-mile-long aqueduct has an annual capacity of 1,212,000 acre-feet, or a billion gallons of water a day. Five pumping stations lift this water 1,617 feet over mountain barriers between the Colorado River and the coastal plain.

Like Hoover Dam, the Colorado River Aqueduct was selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of this Nation's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders.

Completed November 1, 1971, by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Southern Nevada Water Project is delivering water from Lake Mead to cities and industries in the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

recreation, fish & wildlife

Hoover Dam and its Lake Mead have created one of America's most popular recreation areas. A 12-month season attracts more than 5 million visitors each year for swimming, boating, skiing, and fishing. Large-mouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, trout, channel catfish, and other species abound in the lake. There is no closed season on fishing, and anglers take large numbers of game fish each year.

Lake Mead—extending 110 miles upstream into the lower end of Grand Canyon and with a shoreline of 822 miles when full—was named in honor of Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation from 1924-36.

The lake and surrounding area are administered by the National Park Service as part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The area also includes Lake Mohave, which extends from the tailrace of Hoover Dam 67 miles downstream to Davis Dam.

The cold waters flowing through Lake Mohave—drawn from the depths of Lake Mead and stocked by the modern Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery—provide excellent trout fishing.

