

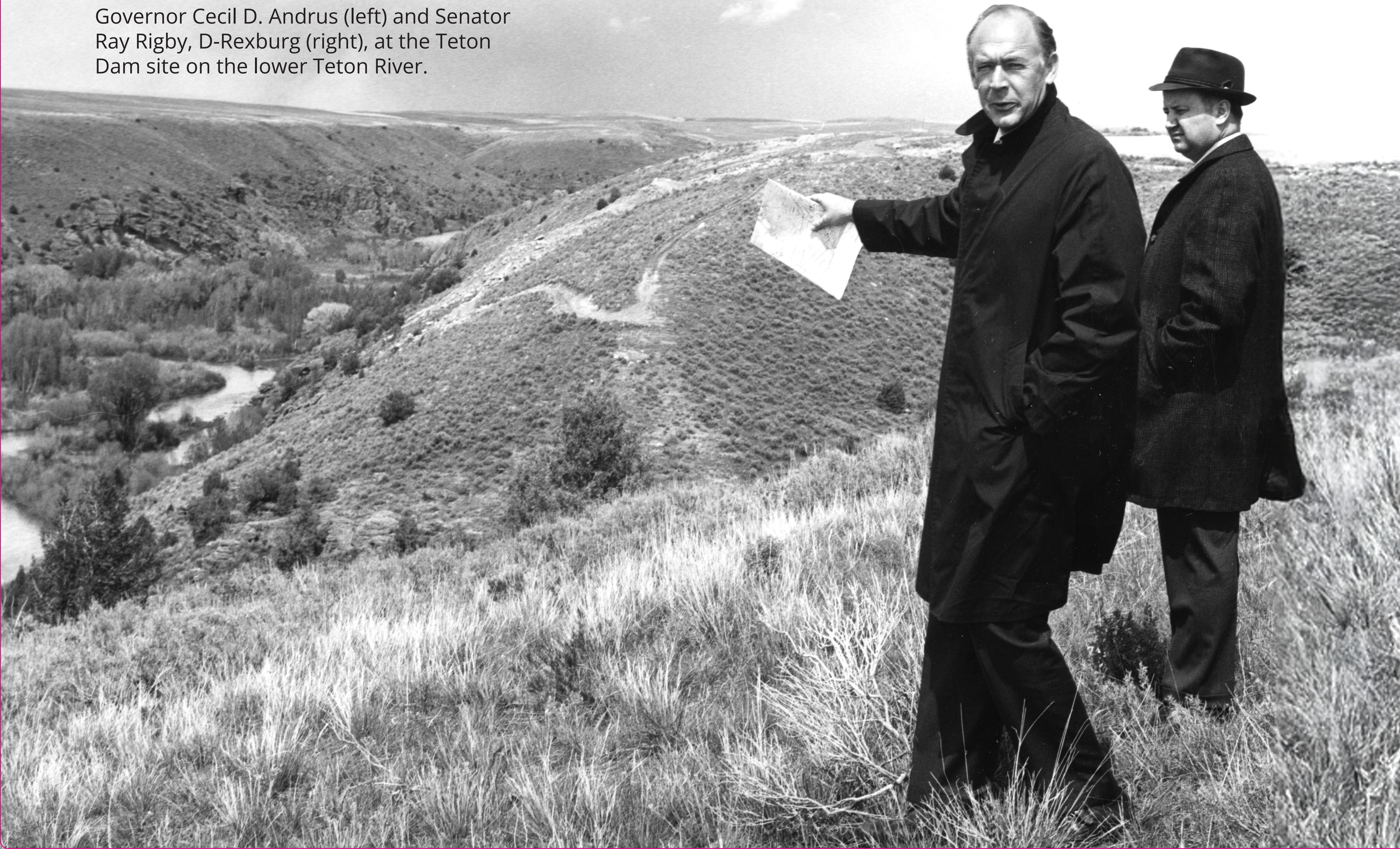
## Teton Dam

# An unpredictable climate

In the mid-20th century, eastern Idaho faced alternating years of serious drought and severe flooding. In 1962, it experienced one of the highest years of snow melt flooding, resulting in over \$10 million in damages (equivalent to \$109 million in 2025). Building the Teton Dam was an effort to bring stability to the region.

Congress authorized the Teton Basin Project in 1964 to provide supplemental irrigation for 111,250 acres of farmland in the upper Snake River valley while delivering flood control, hydroelectric power generation, and recreational opportunities, as well as mitigation for losses in fish and wildlife due to dam construction.

Governor Cecil D. Andrus (left) and Senator Ray Rigby, D-Rexburg (right), at the Teton Dam site on the lower Teton River.



## Where to build

The desire to build a dam on the Teton River was first documented in 1904. Multiple potential dam sites, including this one, were tested in the 1930s. Decades later, similar studies occurred as a joint effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. After substantial investigations and planning, the preliminary designs and estimates for Teton Dam were forwarded to Congress, which authorized the Teton Project on Sept. 7, 1964.

