DAM QUICK FACTS

Glen Canyon Dam is the key feature of the Colorado River Storage Project. The CRSP is a set of dam and reservoir units in the Upper Basin that work together to regulate the flow of the Colorado River and its tributaries to provide flood control, store water for times of drought, produce hydropower, and deliver water for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses.

- At 710-foot-high, it is the second tallest concrete arch dam in the U.S. It has a crest length of 1,560 feet.
- The arch design helps distribute pressure along the face of the dam and into the surrounding canyon walls. The dam also thickens at the base, which distributes the majority of the pressure it receives from Lake Powell into solid bedrock. At its crest it is 25 feet wide, and at its base is over 300 feet wide.
- The dam contains 4,901,000 cubic yards of concrete, which is enough to pave a four-lane highway from Phoenix to Chicago. It took 450,000 buckets of concrete to complete the dam.
- The dam has two spillways, each with an intake structure with two 40 by 52.5-foot radial gates and a lined spillway tunnel.

LAKE POWELL

Glen Canyon Dam is located on the Colorado River eight miles below the Utah-Arizona border and 15 miles upstream from Lees Ferry. Built in a virtually inaccessible area, it is considered one of the major engineering and construction achievements in the United States.

Lake Powell, the reservoir behind the dam, is not only an important recreation area, but serves as a "savings account" of water that can be drawn upon during dry years, a vital function amidst increased demand, persistent drought and hotter temperatures. It can store up to 25 million acre-feet of water which is critical to the survival of cities, industries and agriculture throughout the west and Mexico. The reservoir can reach a length of 186 miles and a surface area of 161,390 acres. Hydroelectric power produced by the dam's generators helps meet the electrical needs of the West's population.

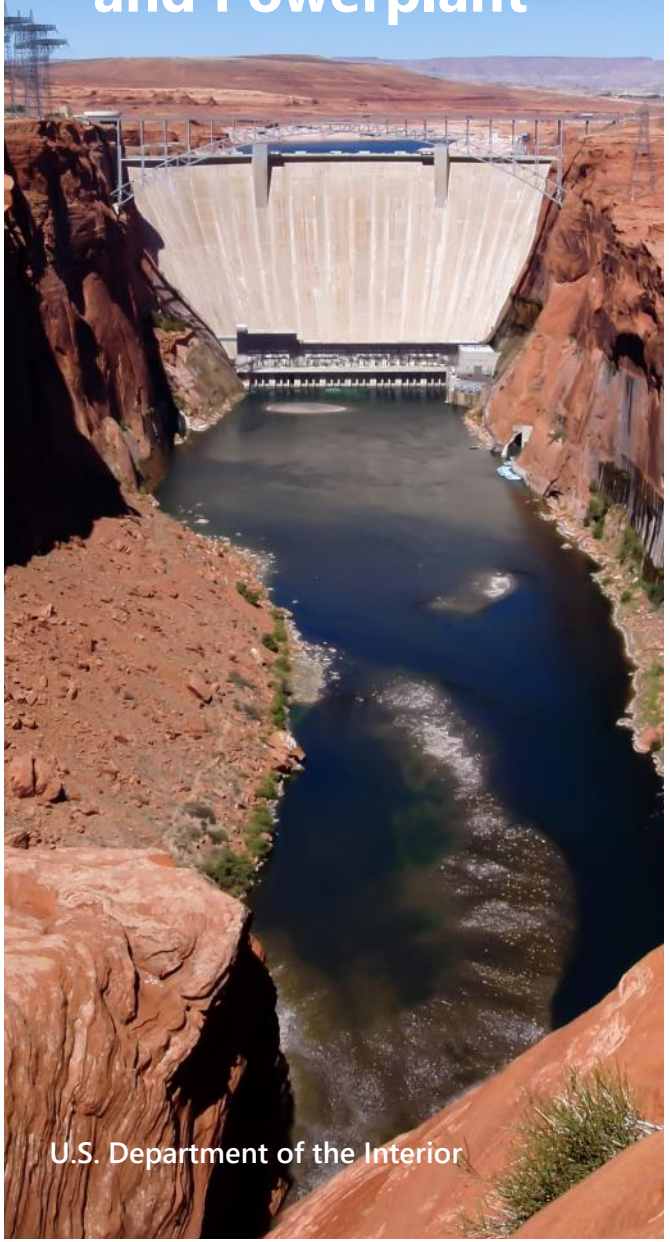
Drought: Reclamation is working with states, tribes, agriculture, power customers, municipalities, conservation organizations, and other stakeholder communities on projects across the West to address drought conditions and impacts. **Scan here for more information and interactive visualization tools.**

Recreation: Encompassing over 1.25 million acres, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area offers unparalleled opportunities for water-based and backcountry adventure. **Scan here to learn more about recreation at Lake Powell and the surrounding area.**

Social Media: Interested in staying up-to-date on the latest news in the Colorado River Basin? **Scan here to like and follow us on Facebook!**

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Dam and Powerplant



U.S. Department of the Interior

2000s

The southwestern North American megadrought begins in 2000 and still continues.

1990s

The Grand Canyon Protection Act was signed in 1992. Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program established in 1996.

1980s

Lake Powell reached capacity for the first time in June 1980. Floods in 1983 caused severe spillway damage.

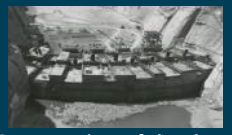
1970s

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area established in 1972.

1960s

Lake Powell begins filling in March 1963. Power generation begins September 1964.

1950s

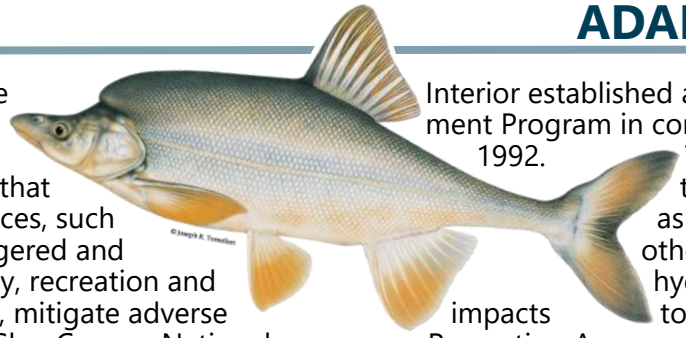


Construction of the dam authorized in 1956. In 1959, the Colorado River was diverted around dam site for construction to begin.

THE COLORADO RIVER

Flowing approximately 1,400 miles from the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, to the Gulf of California in Mexico, the Colorado River is a critical resource in the West. The Colorado River Basin occupies an area of approximately 250,000 square miles across seven basin states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) who depend on the river for water supply, hydropower production, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other benefits. Approximately 70% of Colorado River water is used for agriculture and between 35 and 40 million people rely on the same water for some, if not all, of their municipal needs. The United States also delivers some Colorado River water to Mexico pursuant to a 1944 Treaty.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The Secretary of the Interior established and implemented the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program in compliance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992. This established long-term programs and activities to ensure that the effects of dam operations on downstream resources, such as water, sediment, fish, vegetation, wildlife and habitat, endangered and other special status species, cultural resources, air quality, recreation and hydropower, would be monitored and assessed to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established. A federal advisory committee was also established to continue collaboration and public involvement in the decision-making process and incorporate stakeholders with interest in the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and downstream resources. By blending the best science and management practices, the Adaptive Management Work Group makes recommendations to the Secretary on how to protect the resources and meet the requirements of the law.

WHAT IS HYDROPOWER?

Hydropower is one of the oldest and largest sources of renewable energy. By using turbines and generators, it converts kinetic energy from flowing water into electricity, which is then fed into the electrical grid to power homes, businesses and industries. Glen Canyon Dam's powerplant has eight hydroelectric power generators which can operate at a combined output of up to 1,320,000 kilowatts, producing on average about four billion kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power a year.