

FACTUAL DATA ON THE FRENCHMAN-CAMBRIDGE DIVISION

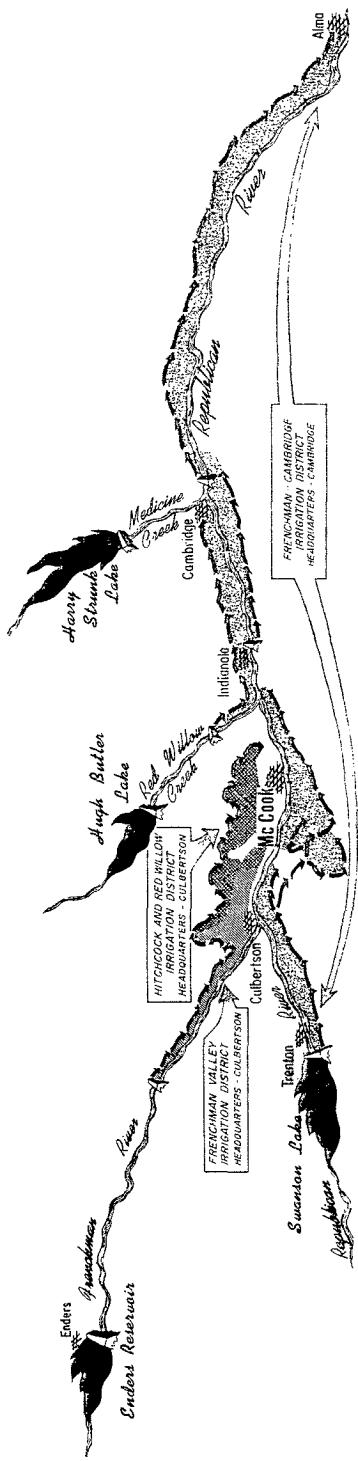
FEATURES OF THE PROJECT PLAN

Water supply to 55,480 acres of irrigable land and a supplemental supply to 9,400 acres along the Republican River and its tributaries in southwestern Nebraska. The storage facilities also protect lives and property from floods, provide for fish and wildlife conservation and recreation, and in water quality and sediment control.

The four rolled earthfill dams form reservoirs to control head and normal streamflow. Capacity is also provided to store sediment. Irrigation releases are made from all reservoirs to the streams for diversion into downstream canal systems. In addition, irrigation releases are made from Swanson Lake directly into the Meeker-Brittwood Canal System, RISBELL AND CEDARVILLE TUNNEL DAM AND SWANSON LAKE, RED WILLOW, CEDAR, HIGH MULLETT, LAKE, and MEDICINE CREEK Dams and HARRY STRINN LAKE are located on the Frenchman River, Republican River, Red Willow Creek, and Medicine Creek, respectively.

The CULBERTSON DIVERSION DAM and the CULBERTSON CANAL and LATERALS in the Frenchman Valley Irrigation District were privately built about 1890. Project construction in the 1950's included rehabilitation of the canal to add a supplemental water supply for the 9,600 acres in the district and to carry water to the CULBERTSON EXTENSION CANAL that serves 11,190 acres in the Brittwood and Red Willow Irrigation District. The 43,190 acres in the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District are serviced by the MURKER, DIRTWOOD, RED WILLOW, HARTLEY, and CAMBRIDGE DIVISION DAMS divert water from Red Willow Creek and the Republican River to the RED WILLOW, HARTLEY and CAMBRIDGE CANALS.

The total length of the canals in the division is 204.3 miles. In addition, 154 miles of laterals have been constructed since 1947 to distribute the irrigation water to individual farms. Open and closed drains are constructed as the need arises.



CHARACTER OF SOILS

The Division lands are located on uplands, terraces, and valley bottoms. The uplands, about 23 percent of the area, are covered with wind-deposited loess that is steep and well drained. The surface is gently rolling between deeply eroded draws. Terrace lands comprise 70 percent of the lands and have soils developed on loess or alluvial (water-deposited) materials and have deep loamy subsoils. The bottom lands, representing about 7 percent of the lands, have alluvial soils derived from a mixing of fine sand with silt outwash from loess uplands.

IRRIGATION

Lands selected for irrigation are located along a 120-mile section of the Republican River and its tributaries in southwestern Nebraska. The elevation varies from 2,740 to 1,980 feet above sea level. The irrigation season extends from May 1 to October 15, or 168 days. The average annual diversion requirements vary from 1.8 to 2.1 acre-feet per acre and farm delivery from 1.3 to 1.5 acre-feet.

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS

Principal crops grown under irrigation are corn, alfalfa, and sorghums. With stabilized livestock feed supply, farm operators tend to increase the feeding of cattle and hogs.

PRINCIPAL MARKETS

Agricultural products are marketed in the immediate area or are shipped directly to large market centers such as Omaha, St. Joseph and Kansas City. Excellent rail and highway facilities serve the area.

OPERATION

The dams and reservoirs are operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. When water surfaces rise above the top of the conservation pool the dams are operated under instructions furnished by the Corps of Engineers. All diversion dams, canals, laterals and drains are operated and maintained by the three irrigation districts.

WATER SUPPLY

Water supply for the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District comes from the Republican and Frenchman Rivers and Red Willow, Medicine Creek, and Hartley Creeks. The available supply, based on a 23-year period of record, averages 3,130 acre-feet annually. This allows for senior water rights and future developments. Drainage areas in square miles above the dams are: Brooks—220; Werner—4,600; Red Willow—280; and Medicine Creek—656.

CLIMATE

Precipitation has averaged a little over 19 inches annually but has varied from 8.74 to 38.26 inches. About 84 percent of the precipitation occurs during the growing season. Much of it is received from intense storms of short duration. Temperatures range from a record low of 38°F. to a record high of 117°F. The frost-free season averages 156 days.

FLOOD CONTROL

The 1935 flood on the Republican River took 110 lives, the 197 flood on Medicine Creek claimed 13. Property damage was to the millions of dollars. Today flood waters are stored in the division reservoirs or released as needed at rates which minimize downstream damage. No monetary value can be placed on the preservation of human life. The effects due to reduced flood damage property, crops and livestock are estimated to average \$1,185,000 annually.

WATER QUALITY CONTROL

The year-long live streams resulting from construction of the reservoirs, irrigation return flows, and natural increases provide flows adequate for the maintenance of water quality.

Address all inquiries regarding additional information concerning this Division to:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION 7
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Bldg. 20, Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

SIDEGAGE FACILITIES

Item	End-of-Year & Seasonal elev.	End-of-Year & Seasonal elev.	Red Willow Dam & Hatch Box	Medicine Creek Dam & Hatch Box
Dams	Foothill	Foothill	100	100
Type	Height above Streambed Ft. 1	Structural height, Maximum Ft. 1	134	134
	Width of Crest (Ft.)	Hydro. height (Ft.)	126	122
	Length of Crest (Ft.)	Gash Elevation (Ft.)	3,137.5	2,773.0
	Width of Crest (Ft.)	2,003	8,600	2,614.0
	Volume of Embankment Cu. Yds. 1	30	30	30
Soilwork	Volume of Embankment Cu. Yds. 1	1,570,000	8,130,000	2,700,000
Concrete	Ground with	Ground with	Ground with	Ground with
Crest Elevation (Ft.)	Ground with	Ground with	Ground with	Ground with
Other Works	Reservoir Initial Condition	Ground Condition	Ground Condition	Ground Condition
	Total Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	8,500	133,000	4,910
	Active Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	1,500	27,433.0	2,604.9
	Surficial Initial Condition	3,097.2	2,003	2,386.2
	Crest Elevation (Ft.)	Ground Condition	Ground Condition	Ground Condition
	Top Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	3,112.3	3,752.0	2,581.8
	Active Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	345,000	104,700	28,900
	Surf. Area (Ac. Ft.)	1,037	4,974	1,628
	Shoreline Top (Acres)	26	30	35
	Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	30,000	133,800	48,800
	Excav. Flood Control Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	74,500	256,000	86,400
	Flood Capacity (Ac. Ft.)	74,500	256,000	86,400

DIVERSION DAMS

Capacity	Initial Capacity	Length (Miles)	Height (ft.)	Length (ft.)	Height (ft.)	
Item	Acres Served	Length (Miles)	Item	Type	Item	
Culbertson	400	21.3	Culbertson	Concrete Gated	7	30
Cambridge Extension	248	27.3	Cambridge Extension	Concrete Wtr. Cr.	10	90
Upper Meeker Sub	152	284	Upper Meeker Sub	Concrete Open	2	130
Upper Meeker Sub	30	990	Upper Meeker Sub	Concrete Open	2	325
Deford-Wes	137	225	Deford-Wes	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Deford-Wes	60	3,150	Deford-Wes	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Marker Erosion	62	30	Marker Erosion	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Marker Erosion	90	1,160	Marker Erosion	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Red Willow	90	4,750	Red Willow	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Barley	90	24.1	Barley	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Cambridge	154	130	Cambridge	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced
Cambridge	325	325	Cambridge	Long	Reinforced	Reinforced

LATERALS AND DRAINS

Length (Miles)	Length (ft.)	Remarks
1,160	1,160	
10.6	10.6	
90	90	
122	122	
165	165	
86	86	
2,614.0	2,614.0	
3,137.5	3,137.5	
2,773.0	2,773.0	
4,910	4,910	
2,581.8	2,581.8	
1,628	1,628	
35	35	
130	130	
325	325	
400	400	
248	248	
11.3	11.3	
2,800	2,800	
30	30	
10	10	
90	90	
130	130	
325	325	
350	350	
30	30	
10	10	
154.0	154.0	
4,750	4,750	
24.1	24.1	
90	90	
130	130	
325	325	
350	350	
21.7	21.7	

RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE

The four lakes or reservoirs in the Division are providing many thousands of people from southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and northeast Colorado with the water sports of boating, swimming, fishing, and waterfowl hunting. Anglers enjoy excellent fishing—their catch includes bass, catfish, crappie, pike, drum, walleye and other common warm water species. Numerous trails at each location afford a hiking opportunity, developed and maintained to provide an antelope and pheasant quail habitat for the benefit of the public and the environment. Various opportunities for the enjoyment of the water surface are numerous for wildlife and recreation by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION - LM REGION
PICK - SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN PROGRAM
FRENCHMAN CAMBRIDGE DIVISION

FRENCHMAN UNIT
LOCATION MAP

DENVER, COLORADO JULY 1976

DRAWING NO. 328-700-225

SCALE OF MILES
4 0 4

