TRINITY RIVER DIVISION

Central Valley Project • California

Trinity Reservoir Takes Shape Behind the Dam

A new giant takes its place alongside the others of the Central Valley Project, already at work for the farms, cities and industries of the great valley of California.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Tallest Earthfill Dam in the World

For centuries the waters of the Trinity River in northwestern California have flowed almost unused to the Pacific. For more than two decades, men have dreamed of harnessing these waters and putting them to beneficial uses.

Trinity Dam, the tallest earthfill dam in the world, is the first step in making that dream a reality. Other tunnels, smaller dams, and power plants, forming the link between surplus mountain waters and the fertile fields of the valley, are swiftly taking shape.

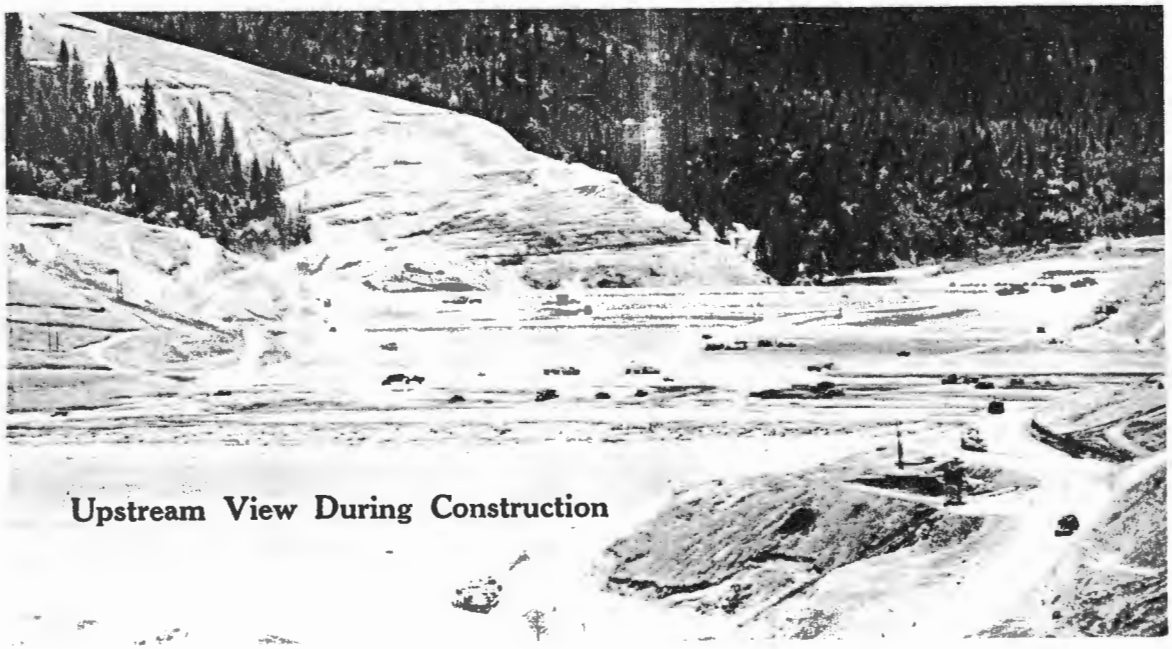
Trinity Dam, towering 537 feet above its bedrock foundation and 465 feet above the old streambed of the Trinity River, stands complete. Behind its massive bulk of 33 million cubic yards of earth and rock are being stored 2,500,000 acre-feet of water, awaiting the day in 1963 when its network of power plants go on the line, and water flows into the distribution systems of the Central Valley Project.

A few facts suffice to demonstrate its size. It is equal in height to a 40 story office building. Two Empire State Buildings, laid end to end, would be completely covered by the dam. More than six million truck miles were traveled in placing the material for the embankment.

From canyon wall to canyon wall, its crest reaches 2,450 feet, or nearly a half mile. Its thickness at the base is even greater, or 2,960 feet.

When torrential mountain storms sweep the Trinity watershed, and it is necessary to spill water from the reservoir, a 20-foot diameter glory hole spillway and outlet conduits in the dam can release 30,000 cubic feet per second, or about 20 billion gallons per day.

Visitors can reach the dam by turning west from U. S. Highway 99 in Redding at the junction of U. S. 299. After a 40-mile drive on scenic routes, Trinity Dam is about 10 miles off the main highway.



Upstream View During Construction

Multiple Use of a Great Natural Resource

The great natural wealth of the upper Trinity River Basin will be put to use in a variety of ways, and an even greater number of places.

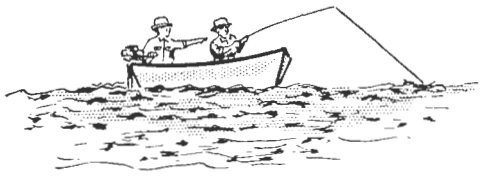
Operating in conjunction with Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River not far to the east, Trinity Dam and its related units will make available 1,422,000 acre-feet of water for irrigation, municipal and industrial use, production of electric power, navigation, and provide important fish and wildlife and recreational benefits.

Even though it is primarily a conservation structure, Trinity provides a measure of flood control to communities downstream on the river.

Its operations call for release of water into the river downstream to help sustain the great salmon and steelhead fisheries of the Trinity. A fish hatchery downstream from the dam will compensate for spawning areas inundated by the reservoir.

The dam creates a lake covering 16,400 acres with a scenic 145-mile shoreline in heavily timbered mountains. The main arm of the reservoir, on the main stem of the Trinity River, will extend 19 miles northward from the dam. A second arm will extend several miles to the west on Stuart's Fork.

Recreational areas around the reservoir will be administered by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.



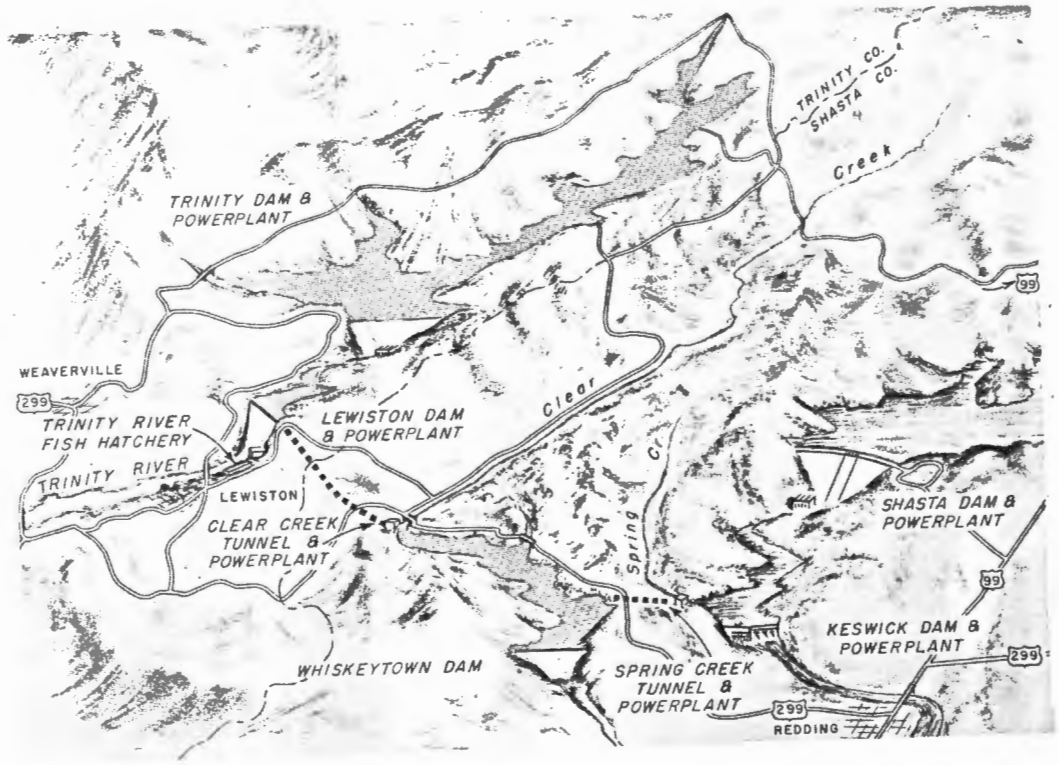
Just below Trinity Dam a 100,000 kilowatt hydroelectric power plant is included. This plant and the three others of the project will add 385,000 kilowatts of capacity to the Central Valley Project generation system.

The entire project is located in an area rich in early California history. Gold was discovered on Clear Creek immediately following the Mother Lode discovery, setting off a northern offshoot of the Gold Rush of 1849. Ghost towns, some of them restored, dot the area. Trinity Reservoir is the center of some of the state's finest hunting and fishing country.

Another Vital Unit of the Central Valley Project

Trinity Dam and its related features comprise the Trinity Division, a major segment of the Central Valley Project. Construction began in 1955 with completion scheduled for 1963 at a cost of $250 million.

Trinity River water will be stored in the 2,500,000 acre-foot Trinity Lake behind Trinity Dam. Releases from this reservoir will be utilized by a 100,000 kilowatt powerplant and reregulated in Lewiston Reservoir about seven miles downstream. Lewiston Dam with the 350 kilowatt Lewiston Powerplant will regulate and release water to meet the downstream requirements of the Trinity River Basin, including those of the important Trinity River fishery. Water not needed in the Trinity River Basin will be diverted by Lewiston Dam through the Clear Creek Tunnel to the 134,000 kilowatt Clear Creek Powerplant and then into the 253,200 acre-foot Whiskeytown Reservoir on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River. From Whiskeytown Reservoir, the water from Trinity River and surplus flows from Clear Creek will flow through the Spring Creek tunnel to the 150,000 kilowatt Spring Creek Powerplant and discharge into existing Keswick Reservoir on the Sacramento River. Below Keswick Dam, Trinity Division waters combined with the Sacramento River will be used to provide irrigation service to lands in Shasta County, to meet the ultimate requirements of the Sacramento Canals, and to help supply lands in the Delta-Mendota Canal service area and other areas of the Central Valley Project.



In its assigned function as the Nation's principal natural resource agency, the Department of the Interior bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum yields, and that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress, prosperity, and security of America, now and in the future.

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