

Two million more trout will be placed in Lake Powell this fall and another five million will be planted in 1964.

Lake Powell is the largest of several artificial lakes which are being created by the Department's Bureau of Reclamation as part of the vast upper Colorado River Storage Project. It will reach 210 miles upstream from the Glen Canyon Dam site at Arizona just south of the Utah line.

Other major dams in the upper Colorado Basin Project are at Flaming Gorge Utah, on the Green River near the Utah, Colorado, Wyoming boundaries; the Navajo Dam on the San Juan River in northwestern New Mexico and the Curecanti on the Gunnison River, in the heart of the Colorado Mountains. There will be three reservoirs in the Curecanti Unit.

In addition to the four major units there are twelve participating projects-- Central Utah and Emery County in Utah; Hammond, New Mexico; La Barge, Lyman and Seedskadee in Wyoming; Florida, Paonia, Pine River Extension, Silt and Smith Fork in Colorado; and the San Juan-Chama Project in Colorado and New Mexico.

The requirements for fish for the stocking of waters being created by dams on the Colorado River exceed the potential production of existing National and State hatcheries in that territory. During the fiscal year of 1963 Congress provided funds to initiate the establishment of two National fish hatcheries, one to be located in Jones Hole near the Dinosaur National Monument in the northeast corner of Utah and the other in the Curecanti unit of Colorado.

The Jones Hole Hatchery, when completed, will have an annual output of 300,000 pounds of trout and the Curecanti unit, 125,000 pounds of trout annually.

Already half a million fingerling trout from the Springville National Fish Hatchery, Utah, have been planted in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and initial plantings have been made in the Navajo. Rough fish eradication projects preceded the planting of trout in both of these reservoirs.

As the other projects develop, the fish planting program which will be done according to the dictates of biological research management will progress. Other Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and the Forest Service will share in the overall development of the huge recreational resource which is now in the making.

Planning for the initial stocking of this new lake, which will reach a maximum depth of 575 feet and back water up for more than 200 miles into the red rock canyons of Utah, began in 1957. Fisheries biologists of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Mountain States of Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico began the pre-impoundment studies which decided the species of fish to be stocked and the numbers needed to do the job properly--not only in Lake Powell, but also in the smaller reservoirs upstream and on the tributaries.

Lake Powell will form distinct habitats for game fish, with trout prospering in the cold, deep waters and bass and panfish finding favorable surroundings in the warmer water where the Colorado forms shallow bays as it floods the lowlands.

The States of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, California, and New Mexico have already committed a large part of their State hatchery output to the big job of stocking the waters of the entire Colorado--starting at the lower end with the lake above Laguna Dam near Yuma, Arizona; Havasu Lake formed by Parker Dam on the California-Arizona border; Lake Mohave formed by Davis Dam upstream from Havasu; Lake Mead above Hoover Dam; and the smaller, but equally important reservoirs on the tributary streams leading into the Colorado, including Flaming Gorge, Curecanti and the Navajo.

When Glen Canyon has completed its work of harnessing the unruly Colorado, Lake Powell will rise as much as five vertical feet per day. Launching a boat on its waters, the angler and boating enthusiast will be able to travel into country heretofore impossible to reach because of the ruggedness of the terrain. Fishermen will pursue trout and bass in surroundings of unmatched scenic grandeur. The forecast for boating and camping in the area is best described by the National Park Service....

"Lake Powell will gradually swell into the upper trunk of the Colorado and arms will lengthen in each successive side canyon. As water continues to inch upward on the dam, riverside landmarks will progressively submerge. At the 50 foot mark on the dam face, the old boat launching site at Kane Creek will disappear beneath the surface; at 100 feet the camping shelf at Aztec Creek, present entrance to Rainbow Bridge, will be flooded. As the lake passes the 315 foot line at the dam, its waters will push into Hite, Utah, 147 miles upstream. When the lake reaches 370 feet, Hite will be under 55 feet of water, and a diver will have to descend 320 feet into Lake Powell to stand on the old riverbank launching site at Kane Creek. The National Park Service has made plans to accommodate boat launching regardless of the elevation of the lake surface. It is considered likely that boat launching can be resumed in the Wahweap Basin before summer."

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