

# RECLAMATION

*FY 2003*

## **Annual Report**



*United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation*



## **Bureau of Reclamation**

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

# RECLAMATION

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# Annual Report

*Fiscal Year 2003*

*United States Department of the Interior  
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# From the Commissioner

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Fiscal Year 2003 has proven to be a challenging, yet rewarding year for the Bureau of Reclamation. We remain committed to our core mission of providing water and power to the western United States, despite prolonged drought, exploding populations and other increasing demands on an already limited supply. I am proud of the vital role that Reclamation plays in finding resolutions to these issues.

I am pleased to present to you Reclamation's *2003 Annual Report*, which describes our major accomplishments this past year. This report discusses Reclamation's continuing dedication to deliver water to our customers and meet project purposes, while simultaneously providing for the fish and wildlife and recreational purposes of our projects. It also outlines Reclamation's proactive approach to ensure safe, secure facilities at our more than 430 dams and reservoirs, which have a total storage capacity of 245 million acre-feet of water. This report also describes Reclamation's growing role in exploring desalination and other new technologies that could stretch and even increase water supplies. Finally, it discusses our unique contribution as a facilitator in bringing different groups together to find innovative, workable solutions to complex water issues.



Even though the future promises to be challenging, Reclamation is not alone in its commitment to respond in a proactive, responsible manner. Last summer, Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced *Water 2025*, a problem-solving initiative that will help manage scarce water resources, and develop partnerships to nourish a healthy environment and sustain a vibrant Western economy. *Water 2025* provides a basis for public discussion about the realities of the problems facing the West, so that decisions are made at the appropriate level in advance of water supply crises. Second, the initiative identifies those watersheds facing the greatest potential risk of water issues in the next 25 years, evaluates effective ways to address these risks, and recommends cooperative planning approaches and tools to successfully resolve these challenges.

I welcome your comments on Reclamation's *2003 Annual Report*. Even more importantly, I request that you actively work with Reclamation by providing input and ideas to help us continue to address water management issues. Secretary Norton's "four C's" communication, consultation, and cooperation, all in the service of conservation—say it best. We must work closely together in addressing present and future water supply challenges and help protect the important economies and environmental resources of the West.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Key, III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

