

INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IRRIGATION
AND POWER SYSTEMS OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN IRRIGATION
PROJECT, MONTANA

JUNE 23, 1962.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. METCALF, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1912]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1912) to increase the appropriation authorization for the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 1, line 5, strike the figure "\$4,100,000" and insert "\$6,200,000".

PURPOSE

The purpose of S. 1912, introduced by Senators Metcalf and Mansfield, of Montana, is to increase the appropriation authorization for the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana. Additional construction is necessary to complete the irrigation and power facilities through extension and rehabilitation of the canal and lateral systems and of the power and electric service lines.

This project on the Flathead Indian Reservation was begun in 1909, and various acts of Congress through the years have provided appropriations for the continuation of the project.

The project consists of two main features: (1) The irrigation system which includes 138,194.55 acres of irrigable lands (a total of \$11,307,904.66 had been invested in the irrigation system as of October 31, 1960) and (2) the power distribution system and small generating plant in which approximately \$1,900,447.03 of reimbursable

funds, plus \$875,854.62 of earned power revenues, or a total of \$2,776,301.65, have been invested.

Approximately \$2,615,896.70 of the investment in the irrigation system and \$70,532.73 of the power investment have been repaid. Within the irrigation system 110,000 acres are presently assessable.

The irrigation system already constructed consists of six main canals totaling 194 miles, 775 miles of laterals, and three pumping plants with lifts of 335 feet, 43 feet, and 79 feet. The power system consists of 420 miles of transmission and distribution lines, a 320-kilowatt generating plant, and several substations. The power system serves some 5,400 customers within the Indian reservation.

NEED

The act of May 25, 1948, authorized the appropriation of \$1 million to continue the Flathead project. Through fiscal year 1961, a total of \$3,013,782 was appropriated. This exceeds the authorization in the 1948 act, and because of this fact the Department of the Interior has not sought additional construction money in the budget request for fiscal year 1963. In its initial request for this legislation, the Department of the Interior recommended that the authorization in the 1948 act be increased to \$4,100,000. However, following the completion of a recent project report, it was found that additional funds would be required in order to complete the project, and by supplemental letter of April 25, 1962, it was recommended that the authorization be increased to \$6,200,000. It is believed that the latter sum which authorizes approximately \$3 million in addition to that already appropriated under the 1948 act, will be adequate to complete the project. The entire amount is reimbursable.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The letter from the Department of the Interior, dated April 27, 1961, requesting the introduction of S. 1912 and the supplemental letter of April 25, 1962, follow:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., April 27, 1961.

HON. LYNDON B. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is a draft of a proposed bill to increase the appropriation authorization for the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana.

We recommend that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and we recommend that it be enacted.

Section 5(c) of the act of May 25, 1948, authorized the appropriation of \$1 million to continue the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project. Appropriations for this purpose since the date of the 1948 act have, up through fiscal year 1961, actually amounted to \$3,013,782, which is, of course, in excess of the authorization. An additional \$1,086,218 is needed to complete construction. The bill therefore increases the authorization

from \$1 million to \$4,100,000. This will cover the prior appropriations and also authorize the additional funds that are needed. The entire amount will be reimbursable.

The first appropriation for construction of the Flathead project was made under the act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 795). Subsequent acts provided appropriations for continuing the irrigation work, as the demand for farming lands increased.

The project is located in the lower Flathead Valley within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation in Lake, Sanders, and Missoula Counties in northwestern Montana. The area served by the project is bounded on the north by Flathead Lake, on the east by the Mission Range, on the west by the Cabinet Mountains, and on the south by the Nine Mile Divide.

The project consists of two main features:

(1) The irrigation system which includes 138,194.55 acres of irrigable lands. This figure will probably be reduced by the removal of some of the class 3 land. A total of \$11,307,904.66 had been invested in the irrigation system as of October 31, 1960.

(2) The power distribution system and small generating plant in which approximately \$1,900,447.03 of reimbursable funds, plus \$875,854.62 of earned power revenues, or a total of \$2,776,301.65, have been invested.

Approximately \$2,615,896.70 of the investment in the irrigation system and \$70,532.73 of the power investment have been repaid. One hundred and ten thousand acres within the irrigation system are presently assessable. Approximately 84 percent of the project area is owned by non-Indians. In 1959, approximately 100,000 acres were cropped and irrigated and they produced crops valued at \$4,401,882.

The irrigation system already constructed consists of six main canals totaling 194 miles, 775 miles of laterals, and three pumping plants with lifts of 335 feet, 43 feet, and 79 feet. The power system consists of 420 miles of transmission and distribution lines, a 320-kilowatt generating plant, and several substations. The power system serves some 5,400 customers within the Indian reservation, 20 percent of whom are Indians.

Additional construction work is needed to complete the irrigation and power facilities which consists of the extension and rehabilitation of the canal and lateral systems and the extension of the power and electric service lines.

The appropriation authorized by the bill will permit the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power system.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us that there is no objection to the presentation of the draft bill from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH HOLUM,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

4 THE FLATHEAD INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT, MONTANA

A BILL To increase the appropriation authorization for the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection 5(c) of the Act of May 25, 1948 (62 Stat. 269), is hereby amended by changing \$1,000,000 to \$4,100,000.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., April 25, 1962.

HON. CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: S. 1912, a bill to increase the appropriation authorization for the completion of the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana, was introduced at the request of this Department in an executive communication dated April 27, 1961.

The bill increases the appropriation authorization in a 1948 act for continuing the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the Flathead Indian irrigation project from \$1 million to \$4,100,000. Appropriations actually made since the 1948 act through fiscal year 1961, however, totaled \$3,013,782, which was, of course, in excess of the authorization, so the additional funds provided by the \$4,100,000 figure amounted to \$1,086,218.

The appropriation for the project for fiscal year 1962 brought the total since the 1948 act to \$3,135,632. The pending appropriation bill for fiscal year 1963 does not contain any additional funds for the project because of the lack of an authorization.

A project completion report that is now in process of preparation shows that the estimated amount needed to complete the project, in addition to the amount appropriated through fiscal year 1962, is \$3,064,368, which will bring the total since the 1948 act to \$6,200,000.

We therefore recommend that the bill be amended by changing \$4,100,000 to \$6,200,000, which we believe will permit the completion of the project in accordance with present plans.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. CARVER, JR.,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill (S. 1912), as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF MAY 25, 1948 (62 STAT. 269)

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SEC. 5. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following sums, for the following purposes, to be reimbursed to the United States as hereinafter provided:

* * * * *

(c) The sum of ~~[\$1,000,000]~~ \$6,200,000 to continue the construction of the irrigation and power systems of the project. Amounts expended pursuant to this subsection shall be added to the construction costs of the project and shall be reimbursable.

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