NOTICE OF INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION

Name of investigation: Battlement Mesa project, Colorado

Location of investigation: Mesa County in northwestern Colorado, Colorado River Basin


1. Scope of investigation: To determine feasibility of developing unused water in Buzzard Creek, a tributary of Plateau Creek, for irrigation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Irrigation water would be supplied to about 6,600 acres on the north side of Plateau Valley in the vicinity of Collbran and Molina, Colorado. The tentative plan of development would utilize a reservoir on Buzzard Creek, a canal diverting from Buzzard Creek downstream from the dam, laterals, and drains.

2. Problems: Soils in the project service area have good permeability and surface slopes but many areas have limited depth to bedrock or gravel. Elevations range from 5,500 to 6,300 feet. Buzzard Creek and tributaries are comparatively small streams, so development of water supplies to the full extent practicable will be desirable.

3. Prospective solutions: A detailed land classification will be required to identify land suitable for irrigation development. Potential dam sites on Buzzard Creek downstream from Owens Creek and possible feeder canals from headwater streams of Muddy Creek in the Gunnison River Basin will be investigated; however, these streams are also sources of supply for the potential Grand Mesa project. The water supply studies for this project will, therefore, need to be correlated with those for the Grand Mesa project. Potential reservoirs may provide significant fishery and recreation benefits.

4. Participation by local, State, and Federal agencies: Interested agencies are requested to forward, within 30 days, an expression of interest in the investigation, to inform us of pertinent data that can be made available for our use, and to furnish comments and suggestions as may be considered appropriate.

Prepared: April 22, 1963

Transmitted: April 28, 1963

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F. M. Clinton
Regional Director