

CBP-1237  
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INFORMATION SHEET  
March 1983

#### SUMMARY--POTHOLES BANK STORAGE AREA

There are both naturally occurring and artificially stored ground waters present in the Quincy Ground Water Subarea. These ground waters are commingled and cannot be physically separated. In addition, the State of Washington Department of Ecology, in establishing the Quincy Subarea on January 8, 1975, has defined in their regulations both a shallow and a deep ground water management unit and limits on the total amount of ground water withdrawals for each unit. The shallow management unit includes all ground water between the land surface and a depth of 200 feet into the underlying basalt formation. The deep management unit includes all the ground water below the shallow management unit.

In general, the public or naturally occurring ground waters in both management units have been fully appropriated and no more public waters are available for withdrawal under the surface and ground water codes of the State of Washington.

A State-financed study of 1972 determined that by the spring of 1968 there were approximately 2,730,000 acre-feet of imported or artificially stored ground water in the Quincy Subarea, most of which is stored in the shallow management unit. By the spring of 1973 the amount of artificially stored ground water had increased to 2,880,000 acre-feet.

The artificially stored ground waters are those which have resulted from Project development and were contained by the construction of the O'Sullivan Dam across the natural outlet to the Quincy Basin. The dam impounds the return flow waters (both surface and subsurface) in Potholes Reservoir for re-use in the southern part of the Project.

On January 8, 1975, the State of Washington Department of Ecology, after evaluating the Project's claim for 3,498,000 acre-feet stored and 614,142 acre-feet per year withdrawn for use, accepted the Project's claim "in the amount of 3,493,142 acre-feet stored, of which 614,142 acre-feet are subject to withdrawal and use" by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Two ground water management regulations--Chapter 173-136 WAC and Chapter 173-134 WAC--concerning artificially stored ground waters were also adopted by the State of Washington on January 8, 1975. Chapter 173-136 WAC sets forth the procedures for management and use of artificially stored ground water everywhere within the State of Washington. Chapter 173-134 WAC, which pertains only to the Quincy Subarea, provides for management and use of artificially stored ground water.

The State of Washington by order of October 9, 1975, Docket Number 75-54, established a buffer zone prohibiting withdrawals of artificially stored ground water in bank storage areas where the ground water is hydraulically connected to Potholes Reservoir. Pumping from these areas would have had the direct effect of depleting the supply to Potholes Reservoir.

The United States by reason of completion of the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel in December 1980, now has the ability to supply First Phase Continuation Water to the Potholes Reservoir bank storage area without impacting fish and wildlife populations or Project lands lying south of Potholes Reservoir served by Project irrigation districts. First Phase Continuation Water is the additional water supply available as the result of the construction of the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel and other facilities defined in Article 8(a) of the Master Water Service Contracts the United States signed with the East and Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts.

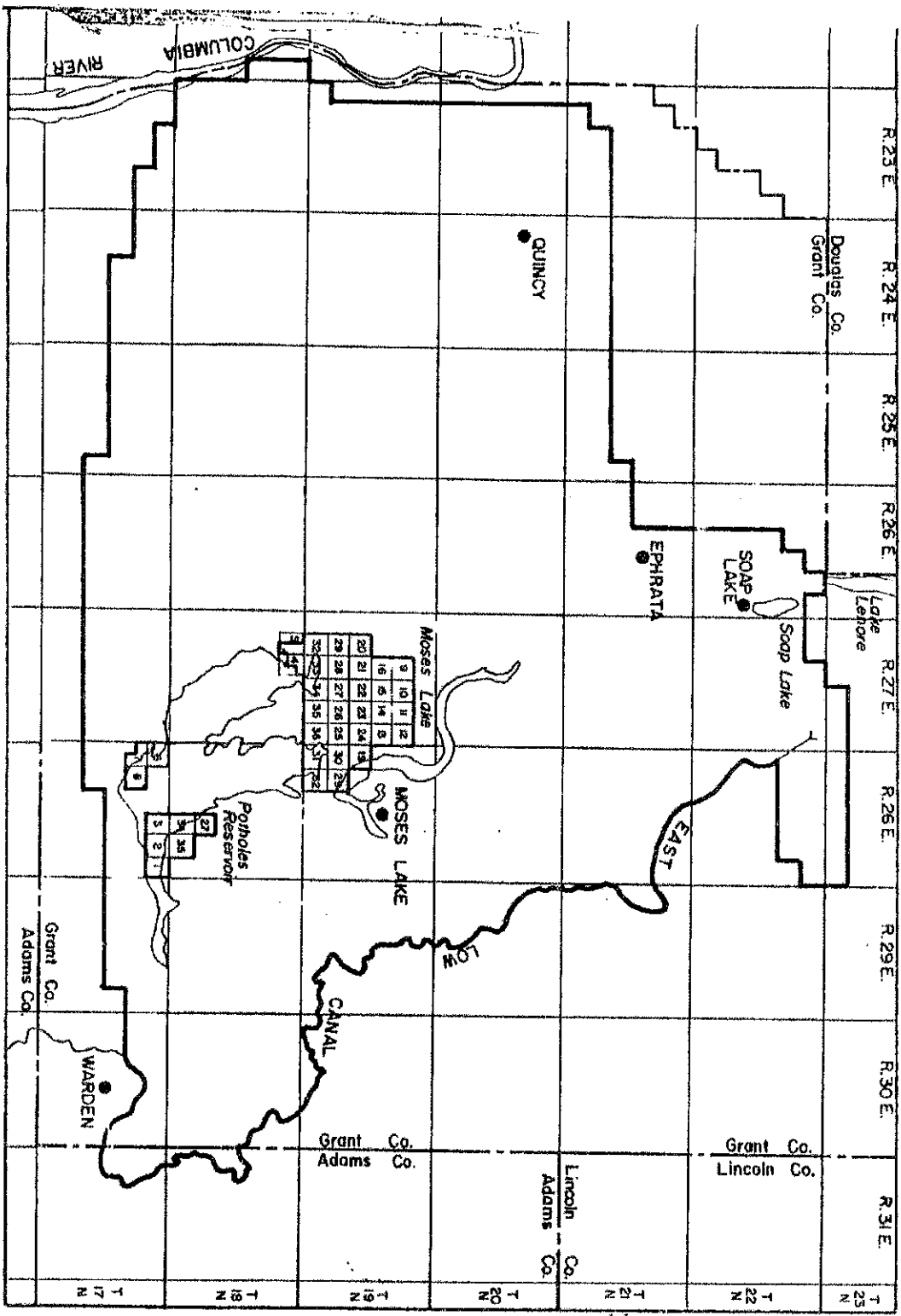
The Bureau of Reclamation has determined that up to 17,500 acre-feet of First Phase Continuation Water may be withdrawn annually from artificially stored ground water in the bank storage area of Potholes Reservoir. The Bureau will issue water service contracts (effective for a period of 20 years and subject to renewal for a like period), for the use of First Phase Continuation Water tributary to Potholes Reservoir. The contracts will provide for the withdrawal of said water by wells or similar works for agricultural purposes, and will specify quantities, rates, terms, and conditions in compliance with Reclamation Law and Bureau policy.

Withdrawals under the bank storage program are not to exceed 3.5 acre-feet per acre annually. Charges for the water will be based on the Irrigation Districts' estimated per acre operation, maintenance and replacement costs for the current year plus a construction component and an additional \$3 per acre-foot as established in the Master Water Service Contracts.

The water service contracts are subject to the expanded acreage limitation and full-cost pricing as well as all other applicable provisions of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982. The water service contracts entitle the holder to the use of, rather than a right to, First Phase Continuation Water for irrigation purposes.

# QUINCY GROUND WATER SUBAREA

Bank storage pumping area



Appendix A