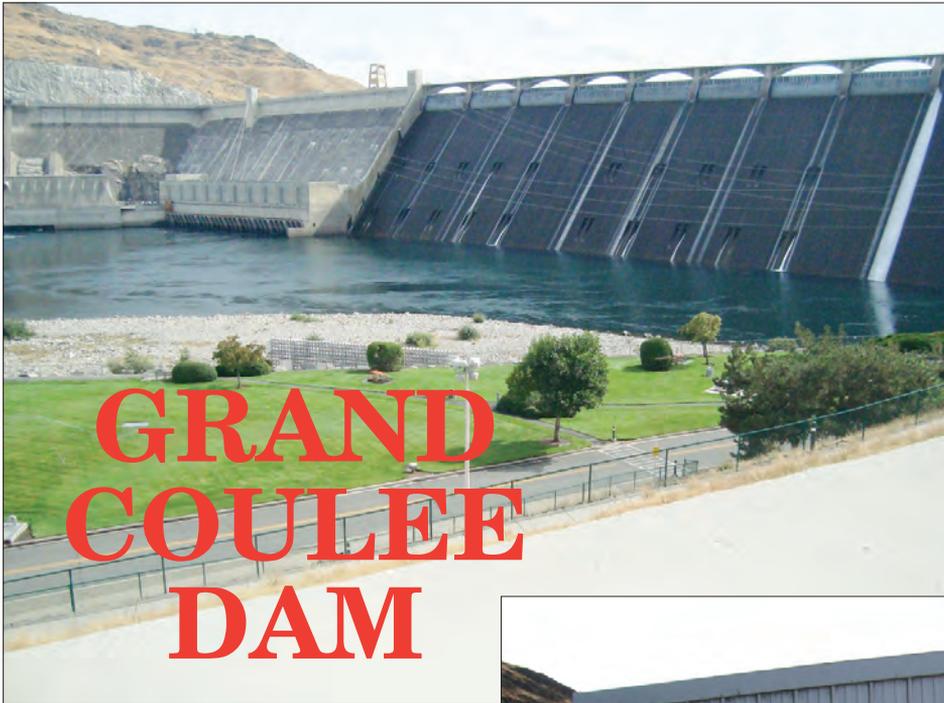


STATESIDE JOTTINGS



by
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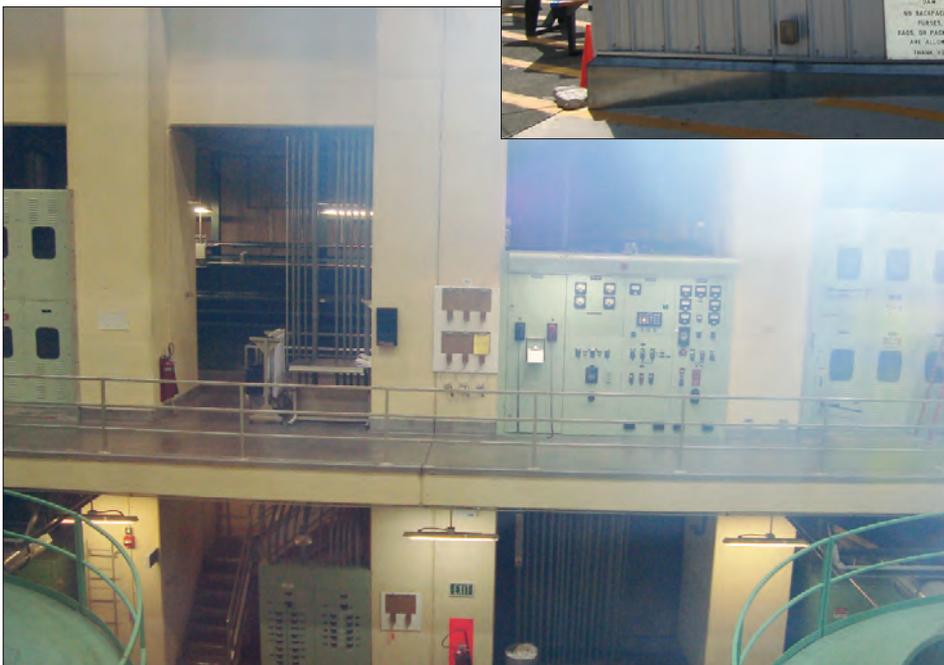


GRAND COULEE DAM

When you find yourself in the State of Washington you can get a fantastic tour of the world's second largest dam. The Grand Coulee Dam is a treat to be taken in by almost anyone. This dam was planned in the beginning of the 1930's and took many years to be finished. There is constant work going on all the time. President F. D. Roosevelt charged into the building of it with hopes of helping persons during the 'Great Depression'.

Congress authorized the dam in 1935 with hopes of providing irrigation waters for land holders in the central Washington state area. The use was planned by the Bureau of Reclamation for many years and small attempts were made to indicate the use of water to assist farm land. After President Roosevelt finally succeeded in getting the project going there had been an increased need for electricity. This propelled the project into a hard moving construction unit.

A coulee is a name given to large valleys with flat bottoms and almost cliff sides. This dam was chosen to fit into a very large area and other water holding areas for storage of water. Irrigation was also planned nearby.



Different rivers get involved with this dam and gives it millions of gallons of water to hold for electricity and irrigation. Rivers involved head down to the south and form the Columbia River with the Snake River to head west to the Pacific Ocean. During the process, many loved fishing sights draw sportsmen. Outdoor sports also give fantastic camp areas that offer hunting, tracking, water fun sports and various other sports. Thousands of farm acres are irrigated from the used waters south of the dam. There are 10 dams along this waterway before it exits into the ocean. Grand Coulee



Dam is a gravity dam and has a length 5,223 feet. Its height is 550 feet. It required 11,975,521 cubic yards of concrete. It generates 6,809 megawatts.

The evening hours do not shut the entertainment down. Depending on the season you can see a light show. There are laser lights in the warmer seasons and they are really great. At colder times lights will shine with various colors. At times they will open water gates to allow a flow of white water down the dam. There are parking areas by the visitor center. Also down by the lawn area where there are good locations to watch the light shows or just picnic. You can take a free guided tour that lasts about 50 minutes. Follow the signs from the visitor center to get to the area where the tours start. Security is tight for the tour. You can only take minimum amounts of items with you and must pass through a scanner before boarding the tour bus.

