

## MEMORANDUM

From: Ronald L. Ferrari  
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Subject: Bonny Reservoir Bathymetric Survey

### Background

In fall 2009, the Great Plains Regional Office requested a bathymetric survey of Bonny Reservoir to develop reservoir topography and current area/capacity conditions. For several years the reservoir has been operated at very low levels and in fall 2009, the reservoir elevation was around 3,651 feet (project elevation) making the launch of a large survey vessel nearly impossible due to shallow conditions at the boat ramp. Windy conditions are typical at the reservoir, so a larger vessel was preferable for data collection due to its added safety and stability. In April 2010 the reservoir reached an elevation of 3654.3, allowing a larger survey vessel to be used. At this elevation, the reservoir is around 30 percent full, but with reservoir levels predicted to begin to drop later in May, the survey was conducted on April 27 and 28 of 2010 by the Sedimentation and River Hydraulics (Sedimentation) Group of the Technical Service Center.

Kent Collins and Ron Ferrari of the Sedimentation Group conducted the bathymetric survey. Ron Ferrari processed the data to generate reservoir topography along with updated area/capacity tables. During this study, results were generated for reservoir elevation 3,557.0 and below. This is the highest elevation that recent data was available. Following is a brief description of the field collection, analysis, and final results.

### Summary and Conclusions

The primary objectives of the Bonny Reservoir survey were to gather data needed to:

- develop reservoir topography;
- compute current area-capacity relationships; and
- estimate storage depletion, by sediment deposition, since dam closure.

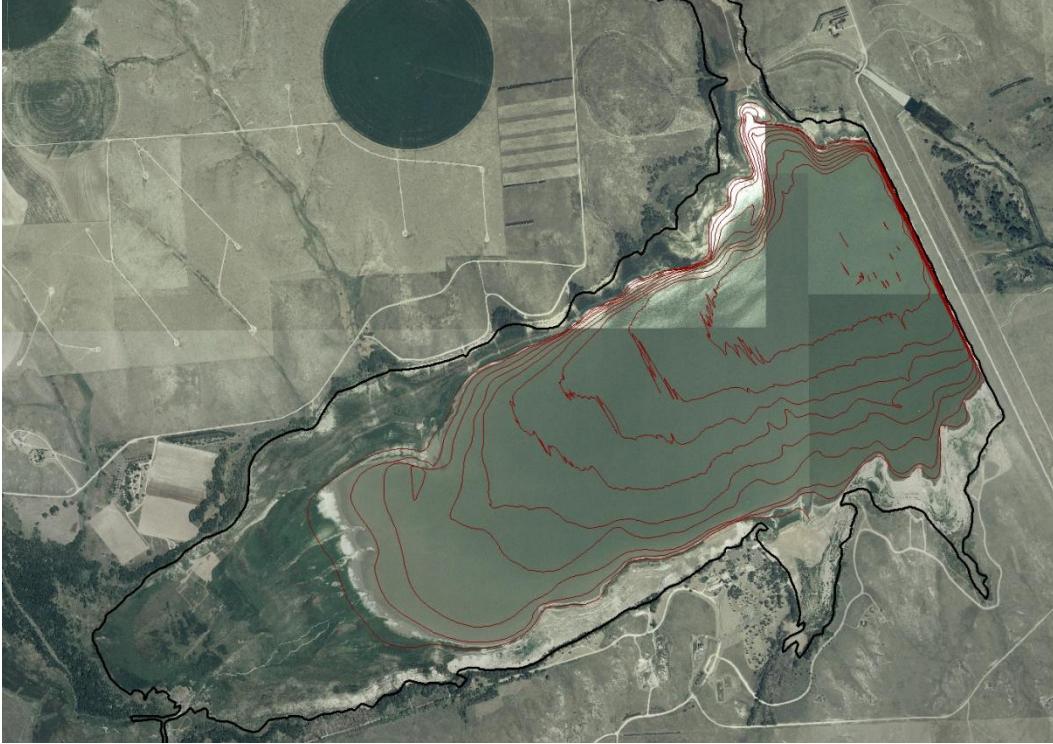
A control survey was conducted using the on-line positioning user service (OPUS) and RTK GPS to establish a horizontal and vertical control network for the hydrographic survey. OPUS is operated by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and allows users to submit GPS data files for processing with known point data to determine positions relative to the national control network. The GPS

base was set over a temporary mark near the boat ramp. The coordinates were processed using OPUS and from this base the water surface was measured during calm conditions. The horizontal control was in feet, Colorado North state plane coordinates, in the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83). The vertical control was in feet, tied to the North American vertical datum of 1988 (NAVD88) and the Reclamation project vertical datum. All elevations for the map and resulting tables are referenced to Reclamation's water surface gage reading at time of collection which was elevation 3,654.3 feet. The OPUS solution found the gage readings to be 1.1 feet lower than the NAVD88 and 0.5 feet higher than the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29). There was only one day of data available to submit to OPUS, so these vertical shifts should be verified.

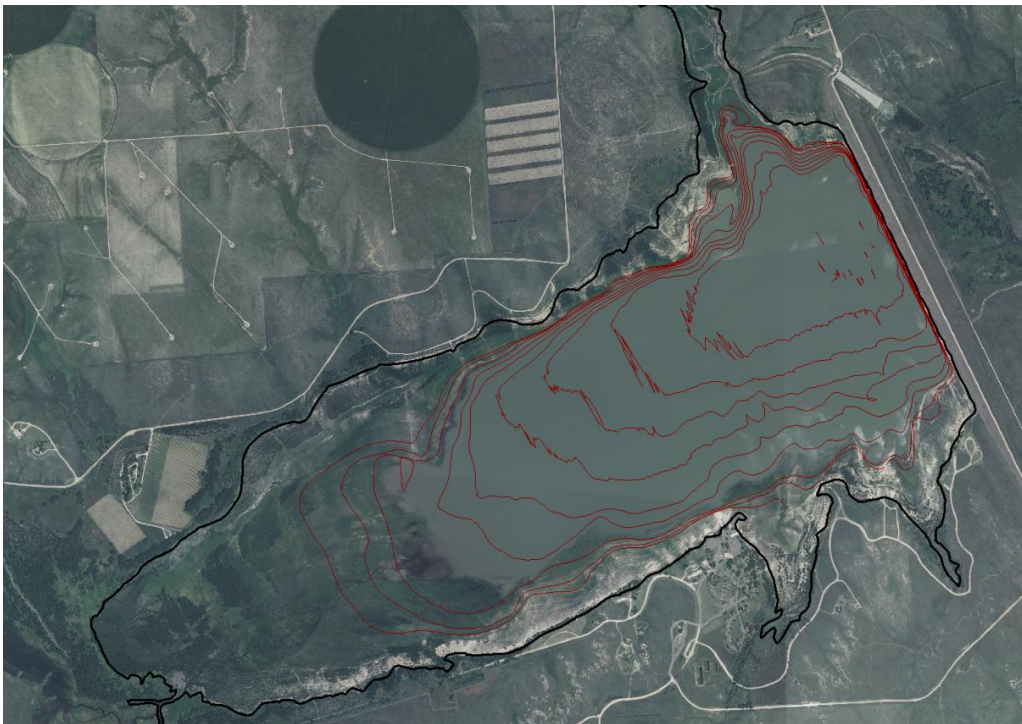
The bathymetric survey was conducted using sonic depth recording equipment interfaced with the RTK GPS for determining sounding locations within the reservoir. Prior to collection the depth sounder was calibrated for the water conditions. The system continuously recorded depth and horizontal coordinates of the survey boat as it navigated along predetermined grid lines and along the shoreline. The positioning system provided information that allowed the boat operator to maintain a course along these grid lines. At times wind hindered the shallow water collection, but main hindrance was thick vegetation that developed along the shoreline during the reservoir drawdown. Water surface elevations recorded by a Reclamation gage during the time of collection were used to convert the sonic depth measurements to reservoir bottom elevations.

The initial above-water topography for the 2010 survey was developed by digitizing contour lines from the USGS quads of the reservoir area. Orthographic aerial images collected from 2004 through 2009 between water surface elevations 3,651.9 and 3,656.4 were downloaded from the USDA data web site for the analysis. Reservoir contours were developed at various water surface elevations by digitizing the edge of water from the aerial images, allowing development of new contours from elevation 3,657.0 and below. The aerial images were collected at high altitudes, making it difficult at times to distinguish the edge of the reservoir's water surface. However, these digitized contours were best available means to accurately locate the shoreline at the different elevations, Figures 1 and 2.

The 2010 Bonny Reservoir topographic map is a combination of the digitized water surface edges from the USDA orthographic aerial photographs and the 2010 underwater survey data points, Figure 3. The 2010 area and capacity tables were produced by a computer program that used the measured contour surface areas and a curve-fitting technique to compute the area and capacity values at prescribed elevation increments. The topographic computer program generated the 2010 reservoir surface areas at 1-foot increments from elevation 3,637.0 through 3,657.0 from the combined reservoir data.



**Figure 1 - Bonny Reservoir 2005 aerial photo, elevation 3,654.4.**

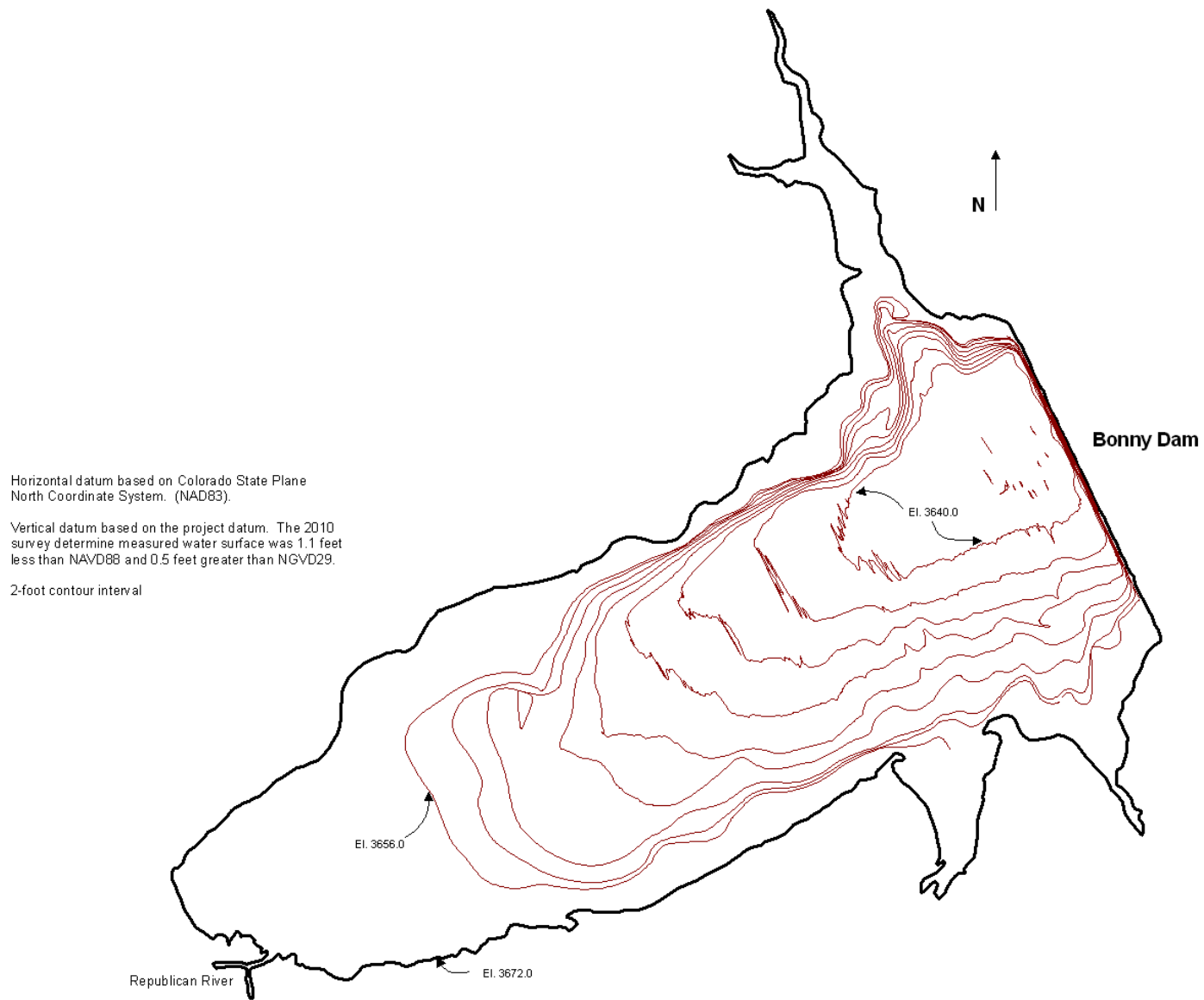


**Figure 2 - Bonny Reservoir 2009 aerial photo, elevation 3,651.9.**

The following tables and plots summarize the results of the 2010 Bonny Reservoir survey and analysis from elevation 3,657.0 and below. Detailed aerial data would be required to accurately develop full reservoir topography and resulting capacity information. The storage-elevation relationships based on the measured surface areas were developed using an area-capacity computer program that can compute area and capacity at elevation increments from 0.01 to 1.0 foot by linear interpolation between known surface areas. The following table presents the results in 0.1 increments. If requested the tables can be developed in 0.01 and 1.0 foot increments. The original and 2010 area-capacity relationships are listed on Table 1 and the curves plotted on Figure 4. As of April 2010, at elevation 3,657.0 feet, the surface area was 1,166 acres with a total capacity of 11,998 acre-feet.

The maximum depth measured during the 2010 survey was at elevation 3,637.7 feet. The computed surface area at elevation 3,638.0 feet was 0.2 acre-feet, indicating there is virtually no storage available due to sediment deposition in the dead (elevation 3,635.5 feet) and inactive (elevation 3,638.0) zones. At the maximum elevation that could be developed by this study (elevation 3,657.0 feet) an original capacity loss of 4,832 acre-feet due to sediment deposition was computed. A detailed aerial survey would be required to determine present capacity and loss of original capacity above elevation 3,657.0 feet.

The following plots and table summarize the results from the April 2010 survey conducted by the Sedimentation Group. If additional information is needed on this study please contact Ron Ferrari of the Sedimentation Group at 303-445-2551.



**Figure 3 – 2010 Bonny Reservoir 2-foot topography from elevation 3,657.0 and below.**

1	2	3	4	5	6		
					2010		
	Original	Original	2010	2010	Sediment		
Elevation	Area	Capacity	Area	Capacity	Volume		
<u>Feet</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Ac-Ft</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Ac-Ft</u>	<u>Ac-Ft</u>		
3,657.0	1,253	16,830	1,166	11,998	4,832		
3,655.0	1,157	14,420	1,095	9,733	4,687		
3,653.0	1,049	12,214	1,000	7,641	4,573		
3,651.0	940	10,226	825	5,774	4,452		
3,650.0	886	9,312	785	4,969	4,343		
3,649.0	838	8,451	730	4,212	4,239		
3,647.0	741	6,872	606	2,872	4,000		
3,645.0	644	5,487	467	1,803	3,684		
3,643.0	548	4,296	354	982	3,314		
3,641.0	451	3,297	236	390	2,907		
3,640.0	403	2,870	176	185	2,685		
3,639.0	367	2,485	97	49	2,436		
3,638.0	331	2,136	0	0	2,136	Inactive Zone	
3,637.0	296	1,822	0	0	1,822		
3,635.5	242	1,419	0	0	1,419	Dead Storage Zone	
3,635.0	224	1,302	0	0	1,302		
3,630.0	103	485	0	0	485		
3,625.0	43	120	0	0	120		
3,620.0	3	5	0	0	5		
3,617.0	0	0	0	0	0		
	1	Reservoir water surface elevation.					
	2	Original reservoir surface area.					
	3	Original reservoir capacity recomputed using ACAP.					
	4	2010 reservoir surface area.					
	5	2010 reservoir capacity.					
	6	2010 computed sediment volume, column (3) - column (5).					

**Table 1 - Reservoir Sediment Data Summary**

### Area-Capacity Curves for Bonny Reservoir

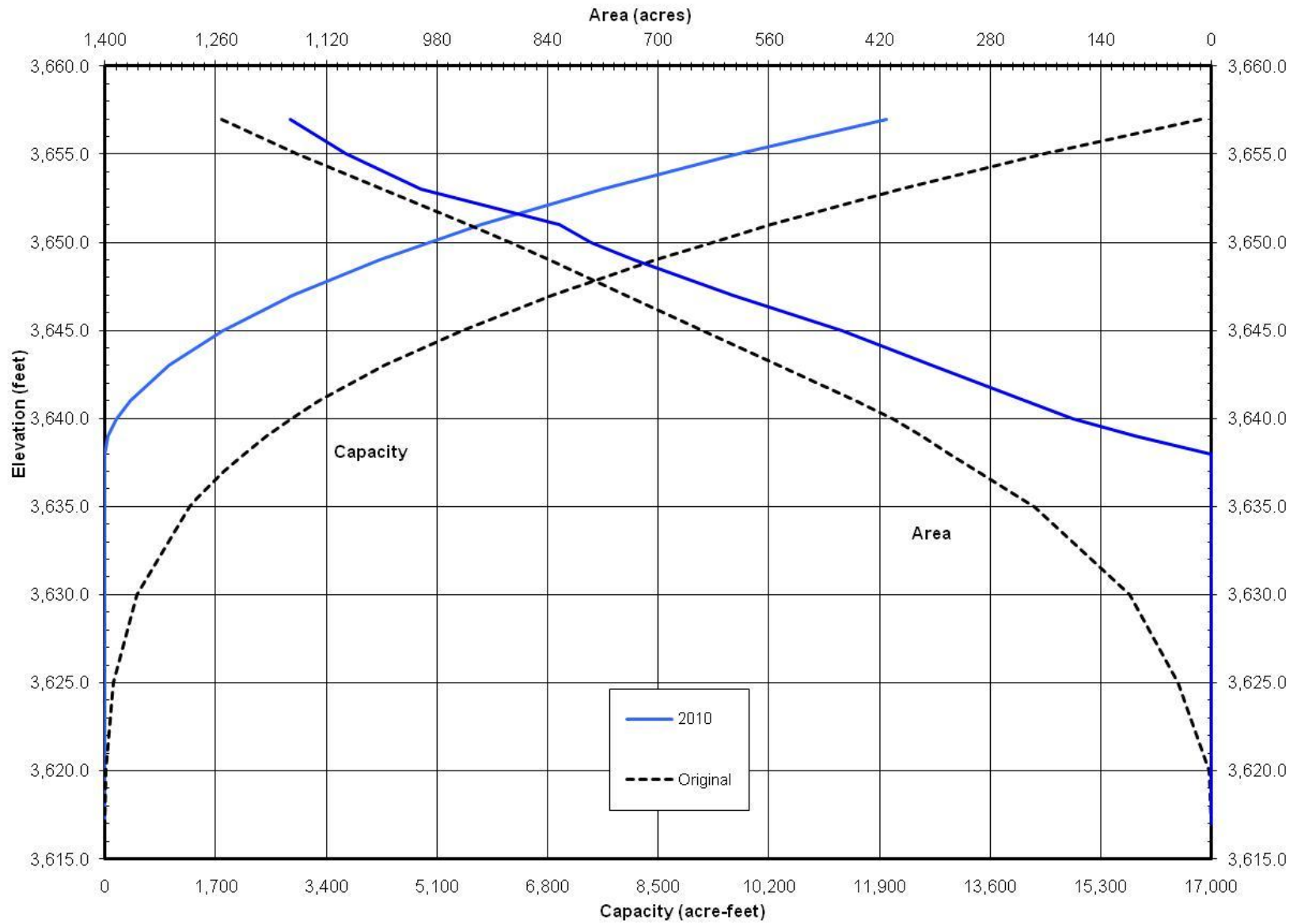


Figure 4 - Bonny Reservoir Area and Capacity Plots

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# **Bonny Reservoir**

## **April 2010 Area and Capacity Tables**





