

Betsy Pringle

Ms. Helen Roth

Environmental Science

23 April 20--

Supplying More Water

All living things need water. People need “about a dozen cupfuls of water per day to survive.” (Miller 295) Much more water is needed to grow our food. We need water to keep us and things clean. Water is also used to move products to markets. However, water is not always present where or when we need it.

To help supply water where and when it is needed, large dams and reservoirs have been built.

The main purpose of dams and large reservoirs is to capture and store runoff water and release it as needed for (1) controlling floods, (2) producing hydroelectric, (3) supplying water for irrigation and for towns and cities.

Reservoirs also provide recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating. (Miller 301)

The Oroville Dam and Hoover Dam are the two highest dams in our country. The Oroville Dam is on the Feather River, 75 miles north of Sacramento, California. It’s the 13th highest dam in the world. It is 754 feet high. The Hoover Dam is on the Colorado River 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas. It’s the 18th largest dam in the world. It is 725 feet high. Lake Mead, the reservoir formed by Hoover Dam, is the largest in the United States. However, it is not one of the world’s 15 largest reservoirs. (The World Almanac 447)

Works Cited

Miller, G. Tyler, Jr. Living in the Environment, 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group, 2002.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004. New York: World Almanac Books, 2004.