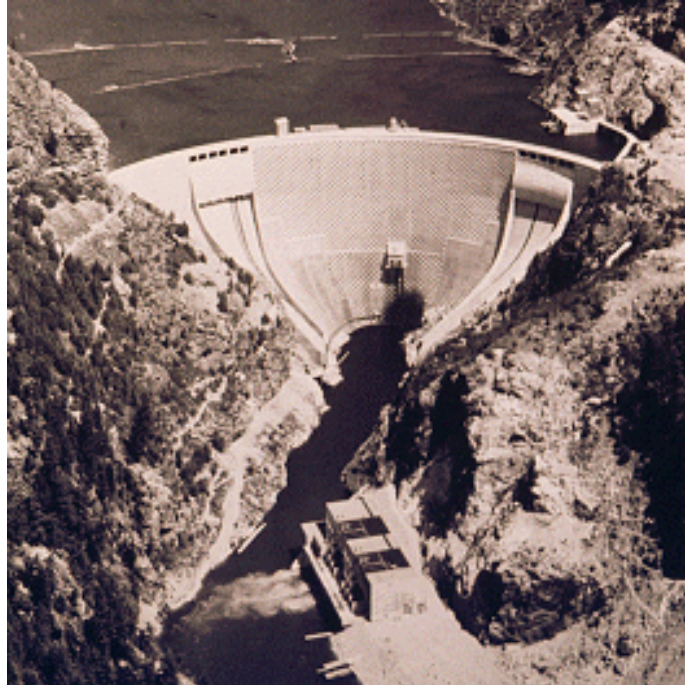


# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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An aerial view of Seattle City Light's Ross Dam and Powerhouse. The dam provides direct power production up to 450,000 kilowatts, and the lake provides water storage for more efficient operation of the downstream Diablo and Gorge plants. It is an excellent example of multiple use of a river – providing power, recreation and flood control. It is one of the better sports fishing lakes in the state and one of the most scenic. It's storage has helped prevent major flood damage in the lower valley since completion in 1949.

## FOREST SERVICE PLEASSED WITH WORK OF CLEARING ROSS LAKE, RECENTLY COMPLETED BY CITY LIGHT

Satisfactory completion of the creation of Ross Lake, begun 25 years ago, was acknowledged this week by the United States Forest Service. The announcement that the 24-mile-long lake behind Seattle City Light's

Ross Dam had met strict Forest Service requirements was made jointly by Mt. Baker National Forest Supervisor H.C. Chriswell and City Light superintendent Paul J. Raver.

The Federal Power Commission

<sup>1</sup> Photo, very similar to Concrete Herald original, copied and cropped from Seattle Municipal Archives, <http://tinyurl.com/ato3n>

license authorizing City Light to build Ross Dam required City Light to meet U.S. Forest Service standards on the utilization of the area. This including logging and marketing of merchantable timber in the 11,820 acres of land to be flooded, clearing and burning all debris marring the beauty and navigability of the lake, and rebuilding forest trails at higher levels.

In commenting upon the sweeping operation, Chriswell wrote to Raver, "As you so well realize, Ross Lake will become, particularly with the advent of the North Cross-State Highway, one of the most popular scenic areas in the entire State of Washington and perhaps in the entire United States.

"As a result of your cooperation we now have a 24-mile lake which helps produce electric power provides a beautiful recreational area with excellent sports fishing and also aids in controlling floods.

"At times during your sweeping operation it appeared to be an almost impossible job to ever clean it up so that its full potential could be developed under the multiple use management ideals of the Forest Service.

"Through a great deal of hard work and ingenuity by Mr. Ira Cotton and his able assistant Mr. W. "Curley" Chittenden, you have accomplished this almost impossible task which will be of benefit to many millions of Americans in the future."

Cotton, assistant superintendent at City Light, has been in charge of the major part of the clearing operation. Chittenden has been the foreman on the job.

Raver explained that preliminary clearing began in 1937 with start of construction on the dam. "The clearing operation began in earnest in 1943. Logging was completed in 1955, and the clearing of debris was completed in 1961. Cost of the clearing operation to City Light was over \$3 million."

The logging of merchantable timber –

a 10-year operation from 1945 to 1955 – was conducted by the Walton Lumber Company of Anacortes.

The clearing was done partly by City Light crews partly by contract and in part by Canadian crews.

The operation required the use of four sizable tugs and a small self-sufficient floating dry-dock to keep the hulls in repair. Burning of the accumulated 10 square miles of debris provided some of the biggest controlled fires ever seen in this area.

"Acceptance by the Forest Service does not mean the end of cleanup work by City Light," said Raver. "City Light crew and boats will continue to keep Ross Lake, one of the cleanest and most beautiful lakes in the nation."