



***FLAMING GORGE***

***NATIONAL RECREATION AREA***

***WYOMING, UTAH***

# Through spectacular canyons and arid, sagebrush valleys, Flaming Gorge Lake follows the ancient course of the Green River—opening a new world for boating, fishing, swimming, water-skiing, and camping.



More than 90 miles long, Flaming Gorge Lake is flanked by the walls of Red and Horseshoe Canyons in the south, and by the rolling hills and occasional abrupt cliffs and promontories to the north. The shoreline ranges from low flats to cliffs more than 1,500 feet high. A few buttes rise above the general level of the uplands and stand out as landmarks in the otherwise rolling country.

The highly scenic canyon country in the south is within Ashley National Forest. With 7,000 acres of open water, it has several campgrounds, boat camps, and two boat-launching ramps. The remaining 187 square miles also offer many recreational opportunities. In the wide, shallow valleys north of the canyon area you will find excellent campsites and boat-launching ramps.

Flaming Gorge Dam, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, rises 502 feet above bedrock in the Red Canyon of the Green River on the flanks of the Uinta Mountains. Storage capacity of the lake is 3.8 million acre-feet of water. Enough energy can be produced to supply the needs of an average city of 180,000 persons. The last bucket of concrete was placed in Flaming Gorge Dam on November 15, 1962; the first hydroelectric power was produced on November 11, 1963; the structure was dedicated on August 17, 1964.

## ANCIENT AND MODERN MAN

On many cliff walls you will see ancient Indian petroglyphs, giving evidence that these native Americans at least passed through this area. To the aborigines, the Green River was known as the Sheet-sadec—a Crow Indian word meaning prairie hen.

The part of the Flaming Gorge area in Wyoming once belonged to Mexico, but was annexed to the

United States after the Mexican War. Parts of the area have been claimed by France, Spain, Britain, Mexico, the early state of California, and the Mormon state of Deseret, before becoming a part of the United States in the Territory of Dakota.

From 1824 to 1840, the fur trade flourished in the central Rocky Mountains. The sheltered valleys in the general region of Flaming Gorge were popular with traders and trappers because less snow was found there. This relieved mountain men of one of their most pressing problems—winter pasturage for their animals.

Only a few of the traders actually settled here. In 1834, John Robertson built a permanent home on Black's Fork to become the first white settler of the region. In 1842, Jim Bridger established a fort and trading post (today the town of Fort Bridger) to become the second. Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area lies south and southeast of the famous emigrant trails of the 1840's.

With Fort Bridger as a start, the cattlemen's frontier moved to the reservoir area in the 1870's. This industry prospered early and has consistently remained the major enterprise.

The era of scientific exploration of the West also had its effect on the Flaming Gorge story. Princeton and Yale Universities and four Government agencies explored the area between 1868 and 1878. But it was John Wesley Powell, the one-armed major and professor, who initiated mapping and geological studies of the Green-Colorado River system and other western rivers. His first expedition left Green River, Wyo., in 1869, and passed through the area canyons. He named Flaming Gorge, Firehole Chimneys, Red Canyon, Ashley Falls (now on lake bottom), Beehive Point, Kingfisher Canyon, and Horseshoe Canyon.



## NATURE'S HANDIWORK

**Geology.** The entire region is fascinating to the geologist—amateur or professional. Take time to study the twisted and distorted strata, produced by the thrust and exposed by erosion. Outstanding examples are located in Firehole Canyon and at the very portals of Flaming Gorge itself.

The National Recreation Area includes two very dissimilar geological situations. In the area within Wyoming, the rocks generally lie flat, one stratum upon the other, resembling the layers of a cake. They accumulated as silt and mud on the bottom of great fresh-water lakes which occupied much of what is now Wyoming during the early Tertiary period, some 40 million years ago. Fossils of ancient mammals occasionally have been found in these beds. The famous fish fossils of the Green River shale are found in similar formations farther to the north. These rocks are mostly light colored, soft and easily eroded by occasional flash floods and by wave action along the reservoir shore.

In the Utah section, colorful rocks, once lying flat, have been bent upward and forced into grotesque positions by tremendous earth movements which accompanied uplift of the Uinta Mountain Range some 60 million years ago. Most of these rocks were deposited as sediments in shallow areas. Erosion-resistant sandstones (such as the Blair and Frontier formations) stick out as long east-west ridges; softer layers (such as the Hilliard and Mowry shales) have been washed away to produce narrow east-west valleys. These rocks are all of the Cretaceous period some 70 million years ago.

Possibly the most dramatic geological feature is the entrance to Flaming Gorge proper. Here the Green River has cut into steeply tilted layers of brightly colored rock of the Jurassic period (including the Morrison, Curtis, and Entrada formations and the cream-colored Navajo sandstone). The portals of Flaming Gorge have been of geologic interest since Powell's early explorations.

**Plants and Animals.** Most of the area's plantlife is of the hillside and upland plain type. Dominant shrubs are shadscale, big and little sagebrush, hop-sage, gray molly, winterfat, and little rabbitbrush. Principal trees include the narrowleaf cottonwood, river birch, juniper, pinyon, and yellow pine. More than 80 other plants grow here as well, many with blossoms of rare beauty and color, especially in spring and summer.

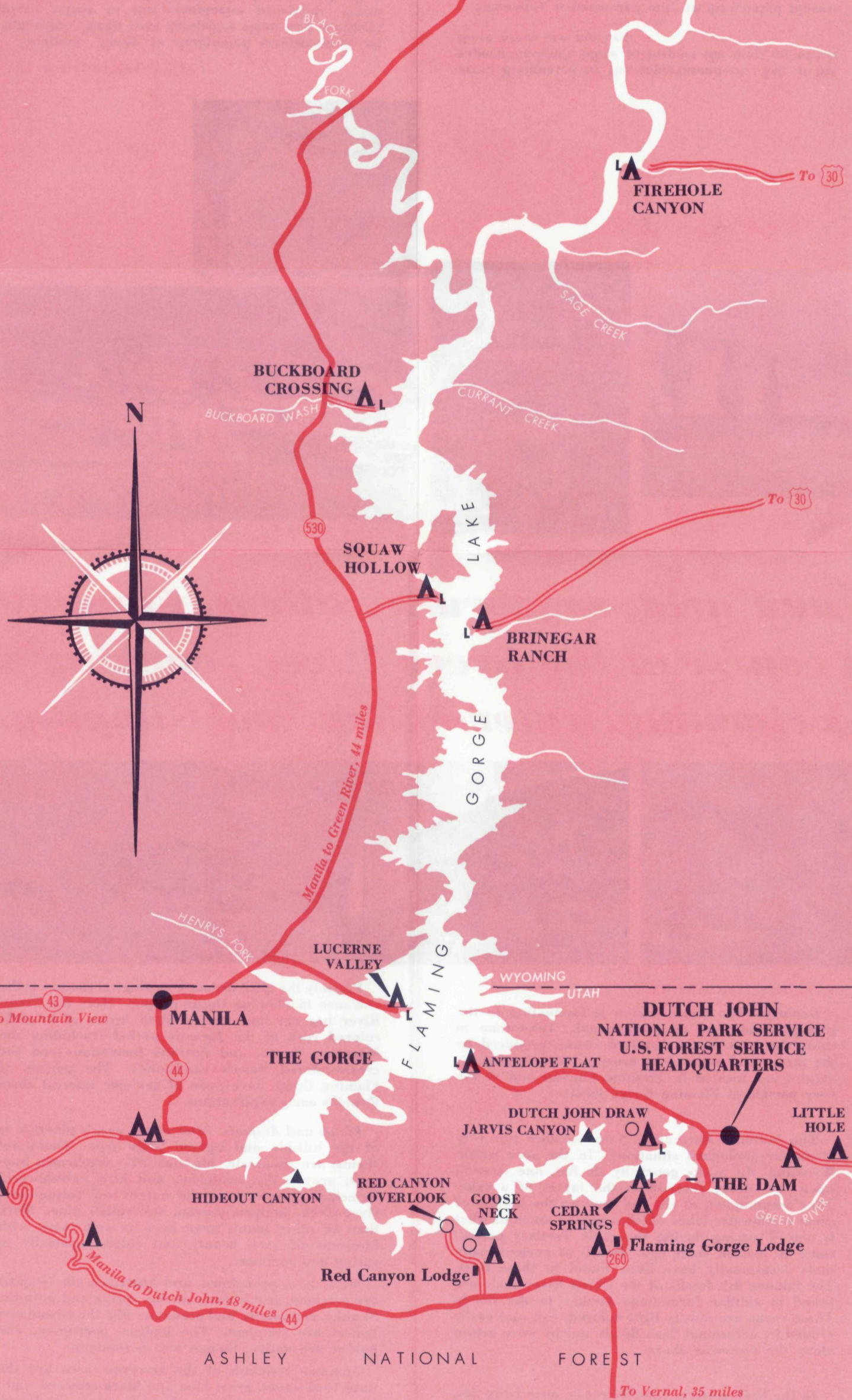
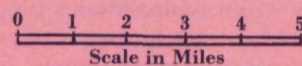
Mule deer, pronghorn, and American elk (wapiti) are common, particularly during spring and autumn. Skunks, cottontails, and predators like the coyote and bobcat are frequent. The badger, porcupine, and beaver are native, though not so common.

Summer residents of the reservoir area are the waterfowl—coot, great blue and black-crowned night heron, American bittern, Canada goose, redhead, common merganser, pintail, and ruddy duck. Hawks, ospreys, and golden eagles are relatively common and you can see old eagle nests on cliffs in the canyon section. The sage grouse is a permanent resident, and the mourning dove is quite common.

The lake has been stocked with rainbow trout and kokanee salmon. While fishing in the reservoir, which lies in both Utah and Wyoming, a valid State fishing license must be in the possession of the angler at all times. (See section on Fishing.)

# FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

- ▲ Campground
- ▲ Boat Camping
- Picnic Area or Overlook
- L Launching Ramp
- Paved Road
- Gravel or Dirt Road



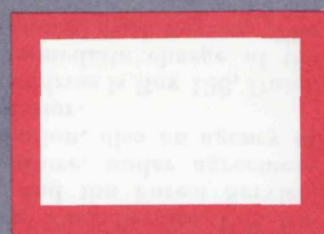
**SWIM AREA**  
DIAMOND SHAPE with cross  
**BOATS KEEP OUT**



**ROCK**  
DIAMOND SHAPE warns of DANGER



**5 MPH**  
CIRCLE Marks CONTROLLED AREA (as indicated)



**SQUARE OR RECTANGLE** gives information, names, distances, permitted activities



**ANCHOR OR MOORING BUOY**



**DIVER'S FLAG** indicates presence of a diver. Boaters must keep away!

## CHANNEL BUOYS



**1**  
ALL-BLACK BUOY, indicates boat should pass between it and its companion all-red buoy.



**2**  
ALL-RED BUOY, indicates boat should pass between it and its companion all-black buoy.

## CARDINAL SYSTEM BUOYS



**RED-TOPPED WHITE BUOY**, indicates boat should pass to south or west.



**BLACK-TOPPED WHITE BUOY**, indicates boat should pass to north or east.



**RED-STRIPED WHITE BUOY**, indicates boat should not pass between buoy and nearest shore.

### WHEN TO VISIT

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is open all year. The normal visitor season is from mid-April to mid-November. Daytime temperatures in summer may reach 100°F., but nights are cool. Chilly weather is common in spring and autumn.

Winters are severe, with the thermometer occasionally dropping to -40°F., so come prepared with warm clothing. Due to fluctuating water levels, the ice on the reservoir is quite hazardous. You are therefore cautioned not to venture onto the ice; check with a ranger first!

### HOW TO REACH FLAMING GORGE

From the north at Green River, Wyo., drive south on Wyo. 530.

From the south at Vernal, Utah, follow Utah 44 and 260 which lead to Dutch John and nearby camping and boating developments.

Unimproved dirt roads provide access to the eastern side of the reservoir in Wyoming. These are often impassable during rainstorms. Be sure to check with a ranger before traveling in this area.

Additional roads are under construction, including Utah 44 from Greendale Junction to Manila and from U.S. 30 leading southward along the east side of the reservoir. Inquire at the nearest ranger station regarding travel on these routes.

Major transportation facilities serve the nearby communities of Green River and Rock Springs, Wyo., and Vernal, Utah.

### FOR HAPPY BOATING . . .

**Keep your boat in top shape.** Be sure the hull is tight, bilges and engine clean, and all machinery and equipment in the best working condition.

**Carry equipment required by law** and other equipment needed for safety and comfort.

**Learn the "Rules of the Road"**—who has the right of way, and the meaning of buoys.

**Practice fire precaution.** Be sure there is proper ventilation and no gasoline spillage or leakage.

**Watch your wake.** Waves from a speeding craft are annoying and dangerous to others.

**Keep an eye on weather, wind, and currents.** Don't take chances; sudden, strong winds are common and can arise without warning. Be alert and prepared to head for shore and shelter.

**Don't overcrowd.** An overloaded boat is uncomfortable and unsafe. Conform with the manufacturer's recommended capacity rating.

**Know your boat**—its capabilities and limitations.

**Always be alert when towing water skis, surfboards, and similar devices.** Towing is permitted only from sunrise to sunset, and there must be two persons in the vessel, one as observer.

### DEVELOPMENT OF FLAMING GORGE

The National Park Service has constructed access roads and boat launching ramps at Lucerne Valley and Antelope Flat. Additional construction is planned which, when completed, will provide campgrounds, picnic areas, marinas, motels, restaurants, service stations, stores, and similar services.

### NEARBY ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

	Hotel/motel	Meals	Service station	Groceries/supplies	Sporting goods
<b>WYOMING:</b>					
Green River	x	x	x	x	x
Rock Springs	x	x	x	x	x
<b>UTAH:</b>					
Vernal	x	x	x	x	x
Manila	x	x	x	x	
Dutch John		x	x	x	
Flaming Gorge Lodge	x	x	x	x	
Red Canyon Lodge	x	x	x	x	



#### FOR A CAREFREE VISIT . . .

**Camping.** Camp in designated campgrounds or campsites. Keep your campsites clean and sanitary; place refuse in the receptacles provided. When camping from a vessel, return refuse to a landing and put it in a refuse container.

At Antelope Flat Campground and Lucerne Valley Campground there is a user's fee during the season. The Federal Recreation Area Permit will admit the driver and passengers of a private automobile, or the purchaser regardless of mode of travel. Individual daily and seasonal permits can also be purchased.

**Fishing.** You can fish throughout the year at the National Recreation Area. A fishing license from either Utah or Wyoming is required. To the license must be affixed a special-use stamp from the other State if fishing within its boundary. Before fishing, read the current regulations. They can be obtained at ranger stations. Clean fish at designated sites—deposit refuse in cans provided for this purpose. Do not dump refuse into the lake.

Ice fishing is permitted, except in hazardous areas and during periods when thin and broken ice may endanger life or property.

**Hunting and trapping** are permitted at Flaming Gorge in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws, except in developed and concentrated public-use

areas designated by the superintendent. Ask at the superintendent's office to inspect the map on which those areas are marked.

**Swimming** is permitted only in designated places. Do not swim from unanchored boats, boat docks, or launching ramps!

**Firearms and explosives.** Carrying loaded firearms or explosives in developed or concentrated public-use areas is prohibited. In all other areas do not use firearms or explosives in a manner which would endanger persons or property.

**Pets** must be under physical control when in developed or concentrated public-use areas.

**Keep clear** of restricted areas. Construction is in progress at many points. If you are traveling through these zones, exercise caution. *Obey warning signs.*

**Aircraft.** Do not attempt to land aircraft in the National Recreation Area.

**Fire** is the area's greatest enemy. Build fires only at designated places. Be sure your campfire is out before you leave it. Be careful with cigarettes and matches.

**Accidents.** Report all accidents or injuries to the appropriate agency.

*Be sure that you comply with boating and fishing regulations of Federal and State agencies applicable to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.*

#### ADMINISTRATION

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is jointly administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, also an agency of the Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 188, Dutch John, Utah 84023, is in immediate charge of the area administered by the National Park Service. The forest supervisor in charge of Ashley National Forest is in Vernal, Utah.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE  
INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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