

THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--

For Immediate Release  
July 29, 1936.

Hopkins Reports to President 32,010 Destitute Farmers at Work on WPA  
Projects in Six of the Nine Western Drought States.

Administrator Harry L. Hopkins reported to the President at Campobello today that in six of the nine states comprising the Great Plains drought area a total of 32,010 destitute farmers were at work on Works Progress Administration projects.

In making public here the report submitted to the President by Mr. Hopkins, Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced that the Works Progress Administration had received approvals by the President of 828 conservation and 8,810 road projects designed for special drought relief purposes in the nine states in the western area.

The report gave the following summary of Works Progress Administration activities in the western drought area:

## Present employment -

Minnesota	1018
Wyoming	900
Montana	3042
South Dakota	13000
North Dakota	13467
Colorado	583
Total	<u>32,010</u>

MINNESOTA

38 roads and miscellaneous projects, 65 water conservation included in total of 233 approved by the President ample for any needs.

Estimated cost of present drought activities approximately \$3,000,000.

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The 233 projects provide for \$9,000,000 Federal funds.

Drought employment is now 1018. Expect case load to increase to 5,000 in the Fall.

Lac Qui Parle Dam in Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Swift and Big Stone Counties, now started, will create a lake 20 miles long and 2 miles wide, giving water control of a large area, and peak employment of 3,000 persons.

Whetstone water diversion and dam project in Big Stone County will provide 113,000 acre feet reservoir on one of Mississippi's chief tributaries. The cost will be \$250,000.

65 of the immediately operating water conservation projects will provide 1,000,000 acre feet storage.

#### WYOMING

198 projects selected for special operation will carry an expenditure of \$4,100,000.

100 of these projects are water conservation.

Drought employment is now 900. Expect heavy increase in the early Fall to Winter.

Wheatland Reservoir in Albany County near Laramie is in operation, two-thirds complete, and will cost \$300,000.

This reservoir will aid in a large agricultural area 500 families in Platte County.

Men were transferred from WPA to combat forest fires and paid from Emergency Relief Administration funds. Similar plan used in Minnesota, State Department of Conservation paying them for this work.

MONTANA

Total projects operating or selected for operation 458, expenditure of \$5,365,000 for completion. These largely county-wide road projects by applications are being received, and action taken on water conservation projects. Water conservation projects are rapidly increasing. Anticipated in the region that this case load will grow rapidly in the Fall and Winter, estimating as high as 30,000.

Drought employees are now 3,042.

COLORADO

Drought conditions are not yet as severe as others in Great Plains Area. The first projects to be used for drought employment is by expansion of present road programs.

Drought quota granted 4,000. Total quota now 32,000.

KANSAS and NEBRASKA

Conference now being held with State Officials and Field Representative to get programs there for immediate operation.

NORTH DAKOTA

Combined quotas in operation or applications for water conservation projects total of over 200.

Drought employment at present 13,467.

\$5,000,000 are estimated to be spent this year including approximately \$2,000,000 now available on warrants for water conservation projects.

Farm-to-Market roads are now ample to meet employment demands of 53 counties in the state.

Drought employables are working on road work in 40 counties at this time.

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800 projects, all types, are now in use or available for drought purposes.

Epping Dam, Williams County, in process and nearing completion as one of the largest clay core dams in the world. Will create a lake 12 miles long, 2 miles wide and benefit an area of approximately 200 square miles. Water now accumulating behind the dam.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Total projects selected for special operation 964 involving estimated total of \$8,005,814.

Total probable destitute load in the Fall 55,000.

Drought employment at present 13,000.

Rural Resettlement estimates subsistence grants will be needed for 22,000.

#### SUMMARY DROUGHT PROJECTS

Attached table shows character, distribution and total of projects available for drought employables. A classified list of water conservation projects is there shown.

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PROJECTS GIVING SPECIAL DROUGHT RELIEF  
AS A PART OF TOTAL PROJECTS FOR THESE STATES

<u>State</u>	<u>Land Repair</u>	<u>Drainage and Irrigation</u>	<u>Water Conservation</u>	<u>Conservation Total</u>
KANSAS	11	72	63	146
	Road projects available a part of the total		1,232	
MINNESOTA	13	55	41	109
	Road projects available a part of the total		1,706	
MONTANA	21	50	35	106
	Many of these projects County-wide for large number farm ponds and wells.			
	Road projects available a part of the total		629	
NEBRASKA	10	32	9	51
	Road projects available a part of the total		608	
NORTH DAKOTA	4	9	46	59
	Many of these projects County-wide for large number farm ponds and wells.			
	Road projects available a part of the total		713	
SOUTH DAKOTA	5	13	144	172
	Many of these projects County-wide for large number farm ponds and wells.			
	Road projects available a part of the total		1,070	
WYOMING	4	11	33	48
	Road projects available a part of the total		89	
COLORADO	5	57	17	79
	Road projects available a part of the total		674	
MISSOURI	4	43	11	58
	Road projects available a part of the total		2,089	
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TOTALS . . . . .	.77	.342	.399	.828
TOTAL ROAD PROJECTS . . . . .				<u>8,810</u>

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