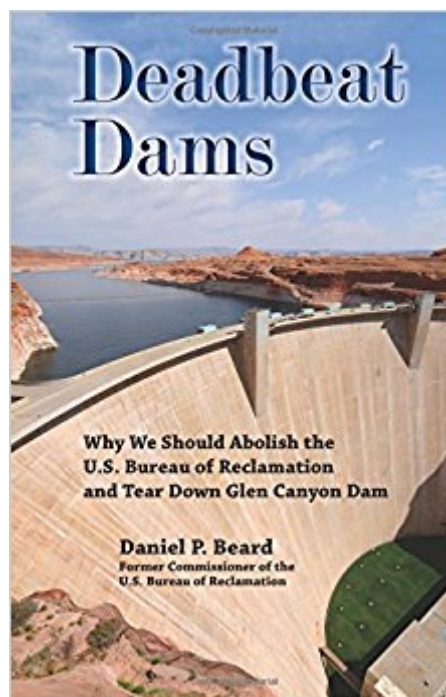




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Deadbeat Dams: Why We Should Abolish The U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation And Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam



Synopsis

Deadbeat Dams informs and educates people about how their tax dollars are being used and misused, why we are ignoring some immediate problems, and what can be done to correct this state of affairs. The faults of the present system of federally assisted water management efforts are amply detailed. And a series of specific changes are suggested to re-direct water policy decision-making and implementation. These reforms show how we can extract the federal government from worthless activities that cost millions of taxpayer dollars and provide little or no benefit - an agenda for reform that can be used as ammunition by a new generation of water reformers.

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Customer Reviews

Advance Praise for Deadbeat Dams: Deadbeat Dams is a courageous book and much needed caveat published just when the dam builders are starting their latent cataclysmic assault on the rivers of the American West... Dan Beard's voice and leadership are needed more than ever to protect and restore rivers, and to end the dam builder schemes to engineer America's living rivers into concrete plumbing systems. Dams kill rivers--Deadbeat Dams restores rivers and our hope for a sustainable future. --Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Advance praise for Deadbeat Dams: Dan Beard, who spent much of his long career in key positions in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government working on western water policy, has an axe to grind. He thinks our policy is deeply misguided, and he offers some specific ideas about how to fix it. You may not agree with everything he says, but you will almost certainly come away with a deeper understanding of why

water policy needs more attention, just in time for us to confront the serious challenges that climate change is posing for how we manage water...Written in an accessible style, without jargon, it's fun to read, at least when your blood is not boiling. --John Leshy, Harry D. Sunderland Professor of Law, University of California Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco

Advance praise for Deadbeat Dams: I highly recommend Deadbeat Dams. As former Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Dan Beard is an authoritative voice who has penned a seminal book in America's river restoration movement that all environmentalists should read. After reading Deadbeat Dams, join me in grabbing a sledge hammer, going down to your neighborhood river, and turning this book's message into action. --Gary Wockner, Executive Director, Save The Poudre and Save The Colorado

Advance Praise for Deadbeat Dams: A rare and captivating inside view of a giant federal water project agency by its former commissioner. Beard's convincing case should attract the support of many conservatives and liberals who want to get rid of government waste. Beard punctures the bubble of California water barons as he shows how they perpetually farm governments for subsidies. With growing concern about water supplies, Beard shows ways to scrap wasteful practices of the past and move to new approaches. This book has the potential to change the global approach to water: Beard shows the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of new approaches to water problems, especially the astonishing results achieved in the Western United States when these better approaches have been implemented. --Dr. Brent Blackwelder, President Emeritus, Friends of the Earth

--Kennedy, Leshy, Wockner, Blackwelder

The subtitle of Daniel P. Beard's whistle-blower expose, Deadbeat Dams, indicates the breadth and depth of his piercing analysis Why We Should Abolish the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam. As a former Commissioner of the Bur Rec, as some of us like to call our government's dam-building agency, Beard is an expert whose words should be heeded. In just a hundred and forty insightful pages, Beard argues for a radical, logical rethinking of water resources issues and policies. That's not an oxymoron. Beard's ideas may sound radical, but they are absolutely logical common sense, twenty-first century solutions to America's water problems. Sometimes books like Beard's turn into rampages that unearth a plethora of ills but offer no solutions. Even though he attacks a number of water policy sacred cows, he inevitably suggests ways to ameliorate the situation. Deadbeat Dams ends with a ten point program for change, ten basic reforms explained in earlier chapters [that] will help channel that emotional outrage in a productive way, and result in better water policy decisions in the future. They include suggestions to stop catering to the Water Nobility and to stop subsidizing water delivery....any reasonable taxpayer or any American citizen cognizant of water resource issues will find Deadbeat Dams provocative and sound. Beard wisely

balances the needs of agriculture against the needs of urban dwellers, and suggests many conservation measures that might be taken by both farmers and city folk. In sum, *Deadbeat Dams* is a book of common sense, full of ideas that every one of us ought to consider. --Ann Ronald, *Bookin' with Sunny* book review site

Advance praise for *Deadbeat Dams*: I highly recommend *Deadbeat Dams*. As former Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Dan Beard is an authoritative voice who has penned a seminal book in America's river restoration movement that all environmentalists should read. After reading *Deadbeat Dams*, join me in grabbing a sledge hammer, going down to your neighborhood river, and turning this book's message into action. --Gary Wockner, Executive Director, Save The Poudre and Save The Colorado

DANIEL P. BEARD has been a forceful advocate for reform of water resource policy and management issues for more than four decades. He has extensive experience working in the private sector and government. His government service includes positions with the White House, U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, Interior Department, Library of Congress, and serving as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. He currently lives in Columbia, Maryland.

Mr. Beard's book is an important and entertaining dissection of the federal program that fueled settlement of the western US using tools that a good many policymakers today would consider wasteful, dangerous, socialistic or anti-American -- or maybe even all of those terrible things. There is probably very little about the federal Reclamation program that would survive a vote in Congress today. It would be ridiculed from the right and the left as a manifestation of what each side thinks is wrong about government programs. And, yet, it lives on, sharply defining how our most valuable natural resource is used in the western half of the country. At the heart of wealth, power, environment, and politics in the West is a program that almost nobody would vote for today. Now that's a heck of a thing, isn't it? As many other reviewers note, Dan seems to have a point of view. I have known Dan for many years and I can assure you that he does indeed have a point of view. None of it is hidden here. He's outraged and he wants us to be, too. Dried up rivers? Subsidized water-hungry crops flourishing alongside towns where lawns are illegal and drinking water is dirty or in short supply? International agricultural corporations posing as family farms? It's useless to pretend that these are signs of good policy, even if they may have come of good intentions set to law a century ago. Dan is banging the table here to make us mad, sure, but I'm pretty confident he'd admit that he's really interested in making a bigger point. History is catching up to the nearly inert bulk of federal water programs. Federal budgets, climate change, urban growth, environmental

priorities and just our overall sense of the contract between government and society -- these are all changing in ways that cast very unflattering light on many features the traditional model of the federal water program. Even if your only concern is with protecting traditional irrigated agriculture, you have to be uncomfortable with Dan's explanation of how "junior" agricultural water rights holders in California have used their political influence over federal water programs to shrink supplies for "senior" agricultural rights holders with less clout in Washington and Sacramento. There are good guys and bad guys on every side of every story about western water. What's important isn't settling scores, however much the lizard parts of our brains want to pick those fights. Dan's book makes this one thing crystal clear: Neither the government nor the private sector nor any westerner can afford to be indifferent to the archaic condition of federal water policy. Things are changing, not for the good, and federal policy has to catch up to today's reality. Dan's book should help kick a lot of chickens up into the air. We better hope they come to roost in the right places. Read the book. Kick the chickens. Nobody with even an ounce of curiosity about our own history, let alone an appreciation of irony, can afford to miss this book.

I heard Beard's interview on NPR and ordered the book. This ought to be required reading for everyone! If you worry about water usage, you'll STILL be surprised, especially when you find out that dams aren't about water---they're about politics.

Wonderful book about a terrible problem. We need to build a coalition of people opposed to more dam-building, and in support of more dam removal. This book should help. (I feel compelled to add: I wish Dan had mentioned the imperative to tear down the Hetch Hetchy dam and restore Hetch Hetchy Valley for the ages).

The title does not begin to describe the breadth of information contained in this easily read and timely discussion of western water issues. Anyone interested in the politics of western water distribution past and present should be delighted with this book. Revelations such as the fact that native american tribes along the Colorado river have no rights to the water and degree to which water for agriculture has been subsidized by taxpayers are astonishing. The arguments for the removal of some dams and the elimination of the dam building Bureau of Reclamation are compelling. Most importantly, these arguments are based on climate, current water usage, available resources and potential conservation efforts. I learned much fact but was not overwhelmed by data. It is apparent that Dan Beard knows his subject and his audience. It is a must read for the general

public in the western states.

Dan Beard's publication has a great title and is filled with an insider's critical views of the national political process that results in the mismanagement of our nation's water resources. His extreme call for eliminating the US Bureau of Reclamation is meant to get the agency and the politicians' attention. Just as the US Corps of Engineers and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have seen their missions morph into protectors of the environment, now requiring protections of wetlands and construction of fish ladders at hydroelectric dams, the Bureau of Reclamation can begin to lead our cities in the West toward sustainable water systems by encouraging, funding and monitoring their water contractors for highly efficient water use and reuse (also sometimes referred to as Reclamation 2.0, as opposed to the Reclamation 1.0, which meant supplying water to arid lands.) I look forward to the BOR soon partnering with urban communities to facilitate the locavore movement and help plumb cities to reuse wastewater to grow locally grown food throughout the urban landscape. In fact they've funded one such project in Silicon Valley, where the first community garden in CA is irrigated with high quality recycled water from our advanced waste(d)water treatment plant.

If this book don't get you riled up about Government mismanagement nothing will. Classic example of why they always want to shoot the messenger. The book contains very uncomfortable news and unbelievable statistics of monetary waste and environmental destruction by our Federal Government. But the truth usually does hurt when it comes to historical descriptions of Federal and State Resource Management (aka Mismanagement). I do thank the Author for his patience and effort to expose the ugly facts about Water Policies/Politics especially in the Southwest. For me, and hopefully others, this book represents a call to action to get involved in the civil, humane and political process to effect a change. "You might as well expect rivers to run backwards as any man born free to be contented penned up".

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