DEADMAN'S BASIN DAM

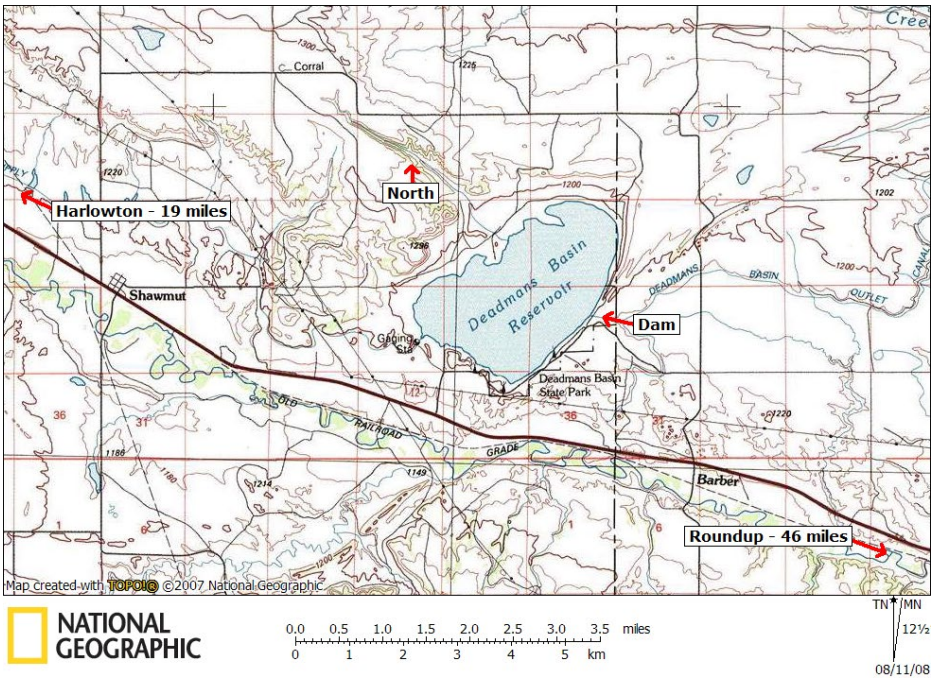
Fact Sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Off-stream reservoir with supply canal from the Musselshell River, located 10 miles east of Harlowton in Wheatland County
- Construction completed in 1941. The dam was raised 10 feet in 1958.
- Owned by DNRC & managed by the SWPB
- Operated by Deadman's Basin Water Users Association since 1959
- Project consists of:
  - Earthen Embankment Dam: 60 feet high and 1,490 feet long
  - Earthen Embankment Dike: 18 feet high and 2,950 feet long
  - 300 foot long horseshoe-shaped reinforced concrete outlet tunnel, with 102' foot long 8'concrete box culvert extension and two 60 x 60-inch cast iron slide gates with vertical gate tower
  - 11.5 mile supply canal (600 cfs), two delivery canals (total 12.5 miles): Barber and Careless Creek
- Reservoir stores 72,218 acre-feet at normal full pool, covering 2,120 surface acres.
- The dam is a "high hazard" structure, which means that its failure could cause loss of life. Farms and ranches, roads, bridges, and utilities are located in the flood plain.

WATER USE

- 40,500 acre-feet through 134 contracts used for irrigation and municipal water (Melstone, Ryegate, and Roundup)
- Reservoir is a popular recreation site; MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks maintains two day-use facilities



September 2021

REHABILITATION SUMMARY

The Deadman's Basin Dam was rehabilitated in 2009 – 2011. The rehabilitation project involved extending the outlet, installing a filtration and drainage system to allow for the safe discharge of seepage, constructing a toe berm, and replacing the original gatehouse. Funding included a $100,000 RRGL grant, $400,000 RRGL loan, $585,000 from the Water Storage Special Revenue Account, and $65,000 from Deadman's Basin Water Users Association.

- 2009-2010 Outlet Extension Project Approximate Costs = $780,000
- 2011 Gatehouse Replacement Project Approximate Costs = $340,000

FUTURE NEEDS

The project was rehabilitated in 2009 – 2013 and meets or exceeds current dam safety standards. No deficiencies currently exist.

Terminal outlet structure

Gatehouse