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Dinosaur National Monument

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July 2024

## 1950 Secretary of Interior Approves Echo Park & Split Mountain Dam Proposal

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### Recommended Citation

Butcher, Devereux, "1950 Secretary of Interior Approves Echo Park & Split Mountain Dam Proposal" (2024). *Dinosaur National Monument*. 15.  
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June 29, 1950

*Handwritten notes:*  
7/10  
Patricia  
Muriel Cole  
Oliver  
S. A. Cole

DINOSAUR DECISION FAVORS DAMS

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman has decided in favor of the proposal of the Bureau of Reclamation to build two big dams in Dinosaur National Monument, in Utah and Colorado. Announcement of the Secretary's decision was made public in a release dated June 27, issued by the Department of the Interior.

The release emphasizes the need for water, and for reservoirs having the minimum of surface evaporation. Quoting from a letter by Secretary Chapman to Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, the release states:

"Without intending by this action to establish a precedent for tampering with the inviolability of our national parks and monuments, I have approved the plan calling upon the Bureau of Reclamation to draft necessary recommendations to the Congress for the building of Echo Park and Split Mountain dams. I have at the same time asked the National Park Service to cooperate with its sister agency in working out the most feasible ways to insure appropriate recreational use under the circumstances of the Dinosaur National Monument."

To wilderness preservationists and to all who value our great system of national parks and monuments, this is a severe disappointment; the more so since there are adequate alternate plans for dams in the region.

The struggle to preserve the magnificent wild canyons of Dinosaur, and to uphold the integrity of the national park and monument system, will now move to Congress, where representatives who are friends of the parks and of wilderness will work to defend this priceless and irreplaceable heritage.

The National Parks Association will spearhead the fight in Congress, and this may require the help of Association members. Your Association will keep you posted on developments in this important matter.

Press work on the July-September magazine being far advanced, it was not possible to include this information in it. The magazine will reach you soon. Be sure to read the report, page 110, on the Dinosaur hearing of April 3. Review also the article "Stop the Dinosaur Power Grab" in the foregoing April-June issue.

Devereux Butcher  
Field Representative