

NATIONAL IMPACT OF THE 1976 TETON FLOOD DISASTER



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The Teton Dam remains one of the largest dam failures in U.S. history that forever changed federal programs relief and design

IDAHO
Gov. Cecil Andrus
Frank Church
George Hanson
...AND MANY OTHERS

= 1976 Volunteer States & Countries

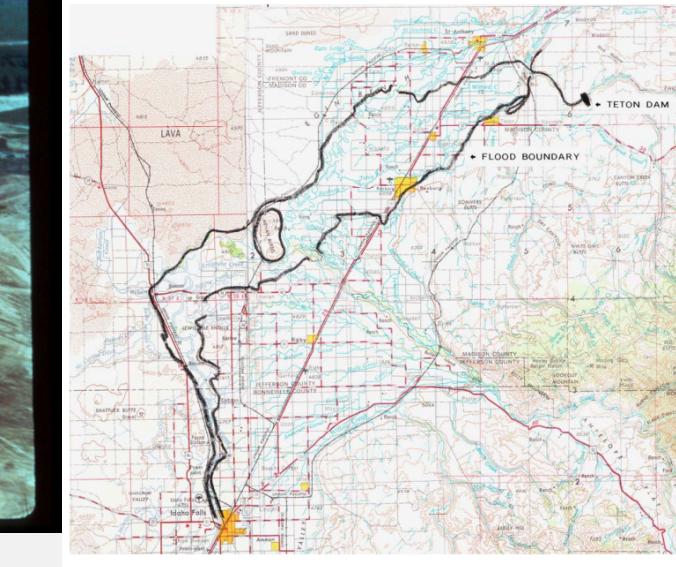


Figure 2 – Teton Dam Failure Inundation Map from Teton Dam to Idaho Falls

Quick Facts

Approved: 1964
Build Started: 1972
Completed: Nov 1975

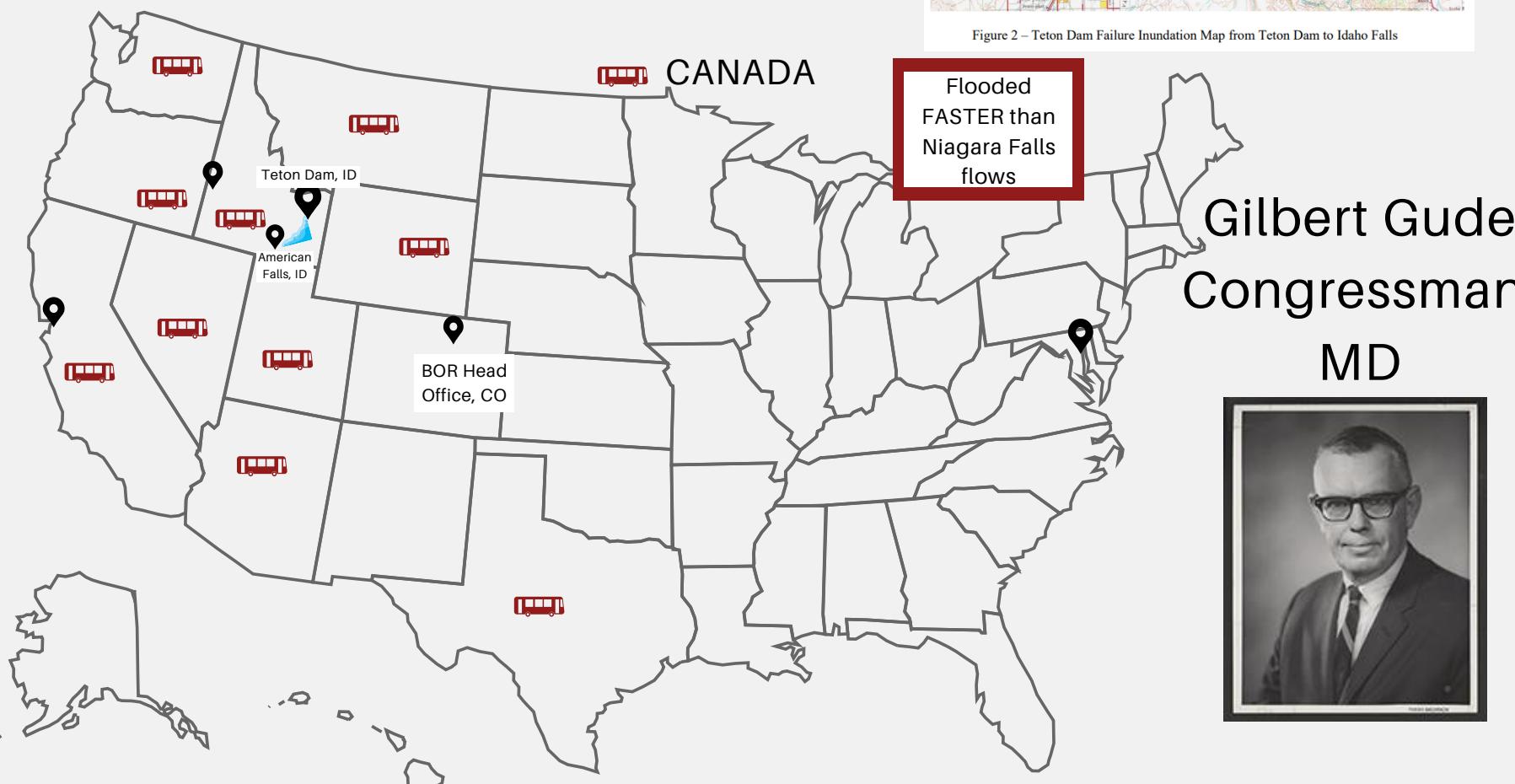
Height: 305 ft tall
Reservoir: 17 miles long, holding 80 billion gallons of water

Base of Dam Leak: June 5, 8:30 am
Dam Failure: June 5, 11:57 am

Warning: only minutes for closest towns
Speed: 1-2 billion ft/second



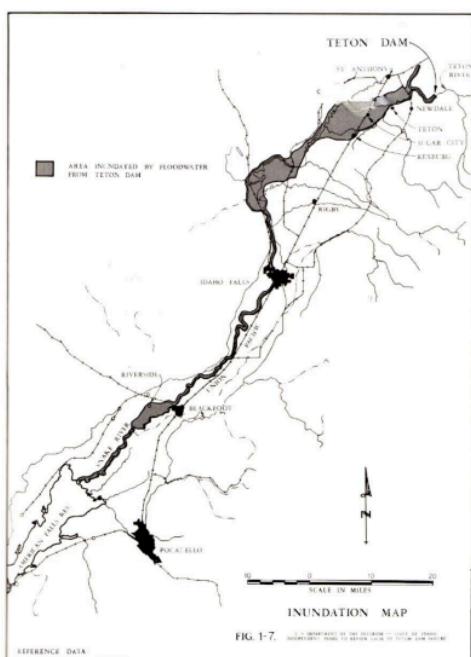
Leo Ryan
Congressman,
CA



Gilbert Gude
Congressman,
MD

Conclusion: Federal programs relief and dam design were improved or created to address the Teton Dam and future disasters

Total cost estimated in ranges from \$300,000 (initial cost) to 2 billion



Dam Failure to containment: 3 days, 100+ miles (Teton to American Falls)

Bureau of Reclamation

1st dam failure in 75 years

Result: Restructuring, increased on-site supervision, Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) program

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Teton named as 1 or 3 disasters to create FEMA

Result: 1979 Executive order by President Jimmy Carter

National Weather Service (NOAA)

Only tracked flood by rainfall measures

Result: 1st time tracking flooding by dam breakage



50 Year Anniversary
June 5, 2026

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