



Libby Dam and Lake Koochanusa

Quick Facts

- ▶ Stream: Kootenai River (RM 221.9)
- ▶ Location: Libby, MT
- ▶ Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
- ▶ Authorized Purposes: Flood Control, Hydropower (1950 Flood Control Act)
- ▶ Other Purposes: Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Water Quality
- ▶ Type of Project: Storage
- ▶ Authorized Flood Storage: 4,980,000 acre-ft

Dam

- ▶ Completed: 1973
- ▶ Features: powerhouse, spillway
- ▶ Height: 432 ft
- ▶ Length: 2,887 ft
- ▶ Forebay Elevation Normal Operating Range: 2,287–2,459 ft msl
- ▶ Spillway Capacity (at full pool): 150,000 cfs

Powerhouse

- ▶ Generation Capacity: 525 MW, 5 Units
- ▶ Hydraulic Capacity: 24,100 cfs



Libby Dam was authorized by Congress in the 1950 Flood Control Act for hydropower and flood protection, and construction was completed in 1973. The dam is located on the Kootenai River, 17 miles upstream of Libby, MT.

The reservoir behind the dam, Lake Koochanusa, extends 90 miles upstream into British Columbia, Canada.

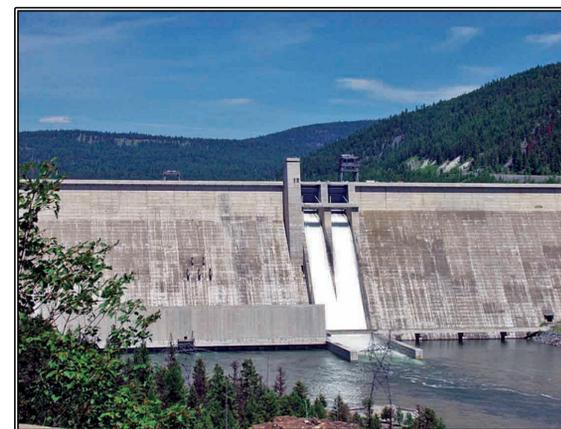
Libby Dam is the fourth dam constructed under the Columbia River Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. The other three treaty projects are located in Canada.



Libby Dam, Lake Koochanusa, and associated facilities are operated for Flood Risk Management, Hydropower, Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, and Water Quality.

Flood Risk Management

Libby operations for flood risk management are based on a variable flow operating criteria. Lake Koochanusa has nearly five million acre-feet of storage space available for local and regional flood control.



Hydropower

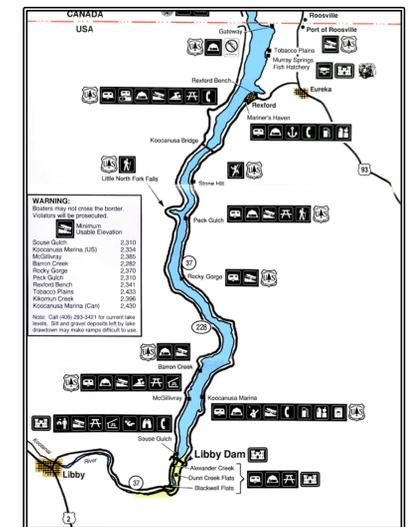
Libby Dam has 5 turbine units and a total generating capacity of 525 megawatts—enough to power roughly 400,000 homes.

Water Quality

Water quality is monitored and managed consistent with Clean Water Act and state standards for the health of aquatic species.

Recreation

There are nine Corps-managed public recreation areas and visitor facilities at Libby Dam and Lake Koochanusa that provide opportunities for a variety of activities, including fishing, camping, hiking, boating, and dam tours. The U.S. Forest Service manages additional recreation sites along the shores of Lake Koochanusa.



Fish & Wildlife

The Kootenai River, downstream of Libby Dam, is home to two fish species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act – bull trout (threatened) and white sturgeon (endangered). Libby Dam is operated to provide adequate flows during critical periods for protection of these species.

Lake Koochanusa is home to a variety of sport fish, including rainbow trout, west slope cutthroat, brook trout, kokanee salmon, burbot, whitefish, Kamloops trout, and others.