

Key Dates:

1951 US congress passed a bill approving construction of the Libby Dam, to be located near the town of Libby, Montana.

1964 The US and Canada sign the Columbia River Treaty, permitting construction of the Libby Dam, as well as three others in Canada (Duncan, Keenleyside and Mica)

1966 Construction begins on the Libby Dam

1973 Libby dam completed.

The building of the Libby Dam on the Kootenay River created the reservoir now known as Koocanusa (named for KOOtenay, CANada and USA). It extends northward 145 km (90 mi) - 77km (48 mi) on the southern side of the International border and another 68 km (42 mi) on the northern portion.

Along with wildlife habitat, the two East Kootenay communities of Waldo and Wardner, BC., as well as about 25 ranches on the Canadian side would be submerged.

Introduction

The photographs you see here were taken between 1969 and 1972 by Nelson-born Stanley G. Triggs. They document not only the buildings and landscape of the East Kootenay communities affected by the construction of the Libby Dam, but the people whose lives would be forever and dramatically altered by the rising water level.

Selected from a larger collection in the Shawn Lamb archives, look for more of these photographs featured in future exhibitions.