



# WATERSHED 360°

## EPISODE 4 | "BALANCING ACT"

### **BALANCING ACT (3:09)**

#### **Viewer Guide**

"This was known as the Great American Desert. They needed water so people could come in and farm". This is a very short episode but is packed with information and sights that might require more than one showing to appreciate the full 360 view. This episode leaves Colorado to move into Wyoming and hear from Mahonri Williams of the Wyoming branch of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He explains the need for a system of dams and canals to service the needs of communities and farmers downstream. Viewers will see the Pathfinder Dam, the Whalen Diversion Dam, and several canals. Make sure to move the view to see the map of the North and South Platte Rivers, their basins, and the Bureau's system of dams on the North Platte River.

#### **Captions**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages water resources in the west. (0:30)

U.S.B.R. irrigates more than 10 million acres of farmland. (1:37)

U.S.B.R. delivers water to more than 31 million people. (2:05)

#### **Pre-Questions**

1. Why do people build dams on rivers?
2. How many dams are on the North Platte River?
3. What is a canal? What is a lateral?

#### **Post-Questions**

1. Describe the difference in the landscape in this video compared to the earlier Watershed videos. Does the landscape in this video make you think the watershed is a valuable and fragile commodity or something that needs very little attention? Explain.
2. How does the name of the video, "Balancing Act", fit with message of Mahonri Williams?
3. What, according to Mahonri Williams, are the reasons the Bureau built dams on the North Platte River?

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