

Amagase\_Dam.jpg

## NAWAPA Update: Economic Development or 'Back to Nature'?

As of January 22, 2013, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported that the dry conditions which decimated the Great Plains throughout 2012 are showing no signs of abatement, reporting that nearly 58% of the contiguous United States remains in at least "moderate" drought. They project that these conditions are likely to remain entrenched through April, and that the drought may even worsen across the Plains states to the Rockies, and into the Southwest. The impact this has had on the food supply continues to be a disaster, threatening our wheat, corn, and soy production, and causing the U.S. cattle herd to shrink to its lowest level in 60 years. The consequences of this natural disaster are already being felt by every consumer visiting the grocery store.

It may come as a surprise to many,

but a solution to these cyclical droughts, and the worsening shortage of potable water for cities and irrigation water for farmers, was formulated more than 50 years ago. The North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) project, designed during the 1960s, and supported by then-President John F. Kennedy, proposed to put millions of acre-feet of freshwater runoff in Alaska and Canada to work, irrigating the continent's western states via an integrated system of dams, reservoirs, lifts, tunnels and canals, replenishing the rivers and groundwater before flowing back into the Pacific Ocean water cycle once again.

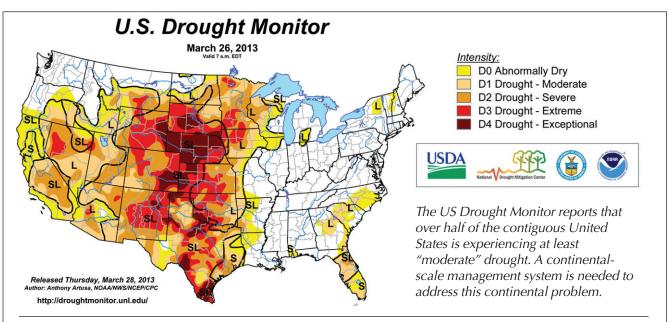
This diversion of now-wasted runoff water would not only solve the shortage problems in the western states, it would create a reliable naThe Amagase Dam and reservoir, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. By controlling rivers, we turn a potential danger into a stable, dependable resource.

tional water grid, like our electrical grid, of constantly replenishable surface and groundwater supply and transform the climate of many regions throughout the continent, and create, directly and indirectly, 14 million new, highly productive jobs.

However, due to the cultural and economic paradigm shift after the assassination of President Kennedy, and the philosophical hegemony of the "zero growth" so-called "environmentalist" movement by the late 1960s, NAWAPA has remained stalled on the books of the

Army Corps of Engineers and private engineering firms, replaced by the self-destructive ideology that man should go "back to nature."

In 2010, under the direction of Lyndon LaRouche, a team of economists and researchers began revamping and expanding the original 1960s NAWAPA project to include additional water management extensions and a nuclear power component for the project's heaviest pump lifting operations. The updated proposal, NAWAPA XXI, which includes draft legislation for financing the project, is currently making its way through the halls of the U.S. Congress, provoking a storm of polarized responses. Among our elected representatives, the most common argument is that NAWAPA will "cost too much." This argument is



The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC-UNL.

easily countered, however, as it is easily shown that only by vectoring federal credit and investment in to great development projects, as in

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Then, on January 5, in response to the current nation-wide mobilization to implement NAWAPA, The Nature Conservancy's Brian Richter attacked the project by name in an article published in National Geographic. Richter asserted that the best thing we could do for the greater Colorado River Basin would be to end the "top-down decision making" for water management, instead taking a "laissez faire" approach to environmental stewardship and by doing so, reduce the amount of water allocated to farms and cities, letting "nature take its course." Richter does not address the question of how many millions of Americans would have to go without food, or would be washed away in floods, were "nature to take its course." What is the survivable population density in the Western states, if, as he suggests, we reverse two centuries of developing our environment to reach the standard of living we have today, and go "back to nature?"

If this proposal sounds remarkably similar to the "free market" argument used by leading transatlantic banks, to deregulate flows of capital, letting the "market forces" work their magic, it is because it is the same argument. The same people who are heading up the Nature Conservancy are also the board members of such "charitable organizations" as Goldman Sachs, as in the case of Henry Paulson, who not only was the Nature Conservancy's board chairman and the CEO of Goldman Sachs, but was also the U.S. Treasury Secretary under George Bush Jr. when the hyperinflationary bank bailout process was first launched five years ago. The "environmentalist" movement, from its very beginning, was funded by the established international banking institutions, whose sole interest it is to enforce policies that keep their financial system intact.

But there is an opportunity for physical reality to trump both stupidity and ideology. NAWAPA is now on the table.