

# State

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## Panel will 'look at' rebuilding failed dam

POCATELLO (AP) — Rebuilding eastern Idaho's failed Teton Dam has been added to the agenda of a special legislative committee reviewing ways to increase water storage and reduce the impact of future droughts.

House Resources and Conservation Chairman Dean Haagenson, R-Coeur d'Alene, who is heading up the special panel, said that because of the dry year reconstruction of the Teton Dam warrants re-evaluation as does a decade-old plan for a dam and reservoir just below Palisades Dam on the Wyoming border.

"I want to make it clear that these projects aren't firm by any means," Haagenson said. "But they are things we'll have to dust off and take a look at when we consider ways to mitigate the drought conditions we're in."

He said the committee, created to assess current water storage capacities and future needs, would hold hearings in both Boise and eastern Idaho later this year before making recommendations to the 1989 legislative session.

The Teton Dam ruptured as it was being filled for the first time in 1976,

killing seven people and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage in the Upper Snake River Valley.

"It was considered a viable project at one time, and maybe it still is," Haagenson said.

The other project, known as the Lynn Crandall Reservoir, was proposed in the late 1970s for an area of the South Fork of the Snake River below Palisades Dam. A \$1.4 million project for water storage and flood control, the plan failed to win legislative authorization and was effectively mothballed in 1982.

State officials acknowledged the need for more reservoirs in regions with inadequate water supplies, but the issue has always been the economic feasibility of the expensive projects, especially when they are prompted by temporary drought conditions.

"I think one thing we have to consider is the difficulty of forecasting a drought three or four years in a row," state Water Resources Director Keith Higginson said. "And planning for such an occurrence becomes increasingly costly."