

# Woody Guthrie Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) recordings

AFC 2018/003

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
July 2018

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655208>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af018006>

Prepared by Marcia K. Segal

Finding aid encoded by Marcia K. Segal, July 2018  
Revised February, 2020

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Woody Guthrie Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) recordings

**Inclusive Dates:** circa 1941

**Call No.:** AFC 2018/003

**Creator:** Guthrie, Woody, 1912-1967

**Extent (Manuscripts):** 5 original paper dust jackets

**Extent (sound recordings):** 11 sound discs (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, various speeds, 74 to 80 rpm; 33 1/3 rpm ; 12 in.

**Language:** In English

**Location:** Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655208>

**Summary:** Woody Guthrie songs, performed by Guthrie with guitar and harmonica. Twenty-six new songs were written by Guthrie on a one-month contract for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in May 1941, and were recorded during 1941 or later in Portland, Oregon. These are likely the originals or near copies of the 1941 studio recordings Guthrie made at the BPA Headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Some are first-generation discs, others are second-generation or other copies; songs include alternate takes and outtakes. Three of Guthrie's songs were included in the 1948 film "The Columbia."

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Guthrie, Woody, 1912-1967, composer, performer.

### Organizations

United States. Bonneville Power Administration

### Subjects

Topical songs.

### Places

Columbia River--Songs and music.

Grand Coulee Dam (Wash.)--Songs and music.

### Form/Genre

Songs.

## Arrangement

Organized by format into the following series: 1. Manuscripts; 2. Sound Recordings.

## Acquisition

The collection was purchased in 2018.

## Processing History

The collection was processed by Marcia K. Segal.

## Copyright Status

Duplication of sound recordings may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

## Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access to recordings may be restricted. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

## Electronic Format

Preservation digitization complete, 2018.

## Preferred Citation

Woody Guthrie Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) recordings (AFC 2018/003), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content

Woody Guthrie songs, performed by Guthrie with guitar and harmonica. Twenty-six new songs were written by Guthrie on a one-month contract for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in May 1941, and were recorded during 1941 or later in Portland, Oregon. These are likely the originals or near copies of the 1941 studio recordings Guthrie made at the BPA Headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Some are first-generation discs, others are second-generation or other copies; songs include alternate takes and outtakes. Three of Guthrie's songs were included in the 1948 film "The Columbia."

## Description of Series

### Container

### Series

#### Series 1: Manuscripts

One folder holding five original disc sleeves. Only the original paper sleeves with any notes written on them were retained. Unless otherwise described all notes are in pencil and are exact transcriptions.

#### Series 2: Sound Recordings

Titles are as they appear on the discs. Published titles are taken from "Columbia River Collection" (Rounder CD 1036).

#### Appendix: Sound engineer's notes

# Container List

Container	Contents
	<b>Series 1: Manuscripts</b>
	One folder holding five original disc sleeves. Only the original paper sleeves with any notes written on them were retained. Unless otherwise described all notes are in pencil and are exact transcriptions.
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: MS01	Disc sleeve  Guthrie Sleeve for SR01. "Guthrie" is underlined.
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: MS02	Disc sleeve  [see note] Sleeve for SR02. A few numbers and calculations, plus two names that are undeciphered.
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: MS03	Disc sleeve  Hydro Music Not Used Record No. 1 Sleeve for SR03.
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: MS04	Disc sleeve  4-1 Roll Columbia Sleeve for SR04. "Roll Columbia" is underlined in red ballpoint pen.
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: MS05	Disc sleeve  4-2 Biggest thing Sleeve for SR05.
	<b>Series 2: Sound Recordings</b>
	Titles are as they appear on the discs. Published titles are taken from "Columbia River Collection" (Rounder CD 1036).
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR01	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 74 rpm ; 12 in. Side A Ballad of the Grand Coulee Dam Published title: Grand Coulee Dam Side B Roll On Columbia, Roll Published title: Roll On Columbia
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR02	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 74 rpm ; 12 in. Side A

## Series 2: Sound Recordings

### Container

### Contents

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- Columbia Talking Blues  
Published title: Talkin' Columbia
- Side B  
Song of the Grand Coulee Dam  
Published title: same
- ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  
SR03
- on one side of 1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 74 rpm ; 12 in.
- Side A  
Jackhammer Blues  
Published title: same. Side B is blank.
- ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  
SR04
- 1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 74 rpm ; 12 in.
- Side A  
Pastures of Plenty  
Published title: same
- Side B  
Roll Columbia, Won't You Roll  
Published title: Roll Columbia, Roll
- ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  
SR05
- 1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in.
- Side A  
Columbia Talking Blues  
Published title: Talking Columbia
- Side B  
Good Morning, Mr. Captain  
Published title: Columbia's Waters
- ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  
SR06
- 1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in.
- Side A  
Jackhammer Blues  
Published title: same
- Side B  
Way Up In That Northwest  
Published title: Song of the Grand Coulee Dam
- ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  
SR07
- 1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in.
- Side A  
Pastures of Plenty  
Published title: same
- Side B  
[the song is unidentified on the disc]  
Published title: Grand Coulee Dam. This song is an outtake from the recording session(s).

## Series 2: Sound Recordings

Container	Contents
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ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR08	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in. Side A Roll, Columbia, Won't You Roll Published title: Roll Columbia, Roll Side B Roll On Columbia Roll On Published title: Roll On, Columbia
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR09	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in. The narrator is unidentified. Side A The World Has Several Wonders Published title: Grand Coulee Dam Side B narrated segment 4
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR10	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in. Side A The Biggest Thing That Man Has Ever Done Published title: The Biggest Thing Man Has Ever Done Side B Roll On Columbia Published title: same
ITEM-ID AFC 2018/003: SR11	Woody Guthrie recording, circa 1941  1 sound disc (lacquer on aluminum) : analog, 80 rpm ; 12 in. Side A Pastures of Plenty Published title: same Side B Roll, Columbia Published title: Roll Columbia, Roll

Appendix: [Sound engineer's notes](#)