

Clearwater Dam Foes Organize

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — "The fight against the proposed storage dams on the Clearwater River has just began," Frank Cullen, chairman of a District No. 1 Wildlife Federation "Clearwater Dam Fight Committee," said Tuesday.

The dams, Cullen declared, would block the river to salmon and steelhead runs and to a large extent spoil forever the winter range of the largest elk herds and deer habitat in the primitive area.

The Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation has taken up the fight against the dams. The Boundary County Sportsmen's Assn. and the Bonner County Sportsmen's Assn. have joined in, along with the Oregon Fish and Game Commission.

"So has the District No. 1 Wildlife Federation and the Nez Perce Agency headed by Chief Joseph Black Eagle who demands their rights of a treaty signed by Gov. Isaac Stevens in 1855 be protected," Cullen said.

"As the situation now stands the Corps wants two dams built with a total storage capacity of 3,730,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoirs.

"The Snake and Columbia rivers salmon and steelhead runs already have been dealt serious blows by the construction of other high dams such as Bonneville and McNary which has just started making power.

"We are not opposed to Northwest development or to the generation of needed electric power but we do feel that other streams already blocked be developed to their utmost before our primitive area is doomed by construction of these proposed storage dams.

"Opposition to this program must be written and forwarded to Col. F. S. Tandy, Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla before Dec. 1, 1953."