

## Wildlife Club Opposes Dams On Clearwater

Officers of the Lewis - Clark Wildlife Club of Lewiston last night passed a 300-word resolution against construction of two proposed flood control and hydroelectric power dams on the Clearwater River.

The resolution backed building of a proposed similar purpose dam on the Snake River.

### Three Give Reports

Executive board members of the club framed the resolution after receiving advisory reports from Fred Stillings, Orofino, supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest; Harry Palmer, Lewiston, Second District supervisor for the Idaho Fish & Game Department; and Ray J. Kernan, Lewiston, Nez Perce County conservation officer for the department.

It was the first public expression by the club concerning the proposed Bruce's Eddy dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater and the proposed Penny Cliffs dam on the Clearwater's Middle Fork. Both have been proposed and backed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Vernon Speer of Lewiston, president of the club, said "The real reason we are against the Clearwater dams is to gain time until additional research on fish propagation and the run of fish over high dams can be completed.

"It is entirely possible before these dams are built there will be a better method of handling salmon (over the dams)."

The resolution will be sent to the Corps at Walla Walla for inclusion in its official record of a Nov. 20 meeting at Orofino at which proposals were presented for all of the dams the resolution mentions. Copies also will go to Idaho Wildlife Federation officials and to the Idaho Congressional delegation, Speer said.

The resolution backed the proposed Mountain Sheep dam on the Snake River about 50 miles south of here, with the condition a diversion tunnel "not larger than 20 feet in diameter be used and that adequate access for fish up and down the diversion dam on the Salmon River below Lucile be provided and maintained."

### Charge Wishes Ignored

The resolution declared the Corps has ignored the wishes of sportsmen in constructing other dams, that dams have been authorized in this region which wouldn't fundamentally be harmful to wildlife and that Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs dams would "totally destroy the present salmon runs" and in the case of Penny Cliffs the dam would destroy vital winter range for elk herds.

Speer said through Oct. 1 of this year 11,501 steelhead fish had been counted here as they headed up the Clearwater River and during the same period 67 Chinook salmon had been counted.

An elk herd of 3,000 is estimated to winter on the Middle Fork drainage.

Other executive board members of the club attending the meeting at the Speer Products Co. office on Snake River Avenue were Charles Fite, vice president; Dean Brown, secretary, and Walt Engle, treasurer, all of Lewiston. Eight other club members were present.