

Clearwater Dams Dispute Seen Heading Wildlife Meet

The controversy over proposed construction of two dams on the Clearwater river continued in force Friday as sportsmen from over the Gem state began assembling in Boise for the annual meeting of the Idaho Wildlife federation at Hotel Owyhee.

The pros and cons of the proposal made up the major discussion among the sportsmen at an open house and in hotel rooms at the Owyhee Friday night.

Two districts Nos. 1 and 2—already are on record in opposition to construction of the two high dams, one at Bruces Eddy and one at Penny Cliffs, as proposed by the Army Engineers at a hearing in Orofino last Nov. 20.

State Federation on Spot

The controversy probably will revolve around whether the state federation should approve or endorse the dams. Theo H. Wegener, president, said.

The two district federations oppose the dams on grounds they will endanger the winter range for elk and deer and will destroy the salmon and steelhead runs.

Dr. W. R. Jacobs of Lewiston said some sportsmen believed the dams should be built elsewhere on the Clearwater to provide a minimum of damage to fish and big game.

The state federation's board of directors met Friday night but discussed only finance and rules that should be used in conduct of the convention, which will open at 9 o'clock this morning with an outline of Idaho Fish and Game department activities by Director Ross Leonard.

Leonard and division chiefs of the department then will be available to answer questions at a morning-long panel discussion.

Movies at Banquet

The luncheon speaker today will be J. T. Barnaby of Portland, regional staff biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, who will speak on "The Future of the Salmon and Steelhead Runs."

Wegener said the afternoon will be devoted to committee work.

A banquet will be held tonight at the Owyhee. There will be no speakers, but Jack O'Connor of Lewiston will show movies of game hunting in Africa, Wegener said.

The committees will make their reports Sunday. Resolutions will be adopted and recommendations made to the Idaho Fish and Game commission which will open its first meeting of the year Monday.

While the discussion on the Clearwater dams will highlight the convention, the sportsmen also will discuss proposals to change the law to provide that members of the commission can be removed for cause instead of at will as at present, to authorize the state land board to control dredging instead of the mines inspector, to extend the duck season and to decrease the creel limit on trout.