

JORDAN "APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE" PLANS OUTLINED FOR THREE DAMS

BOISE (AP)—Gov. Len Jordan said Monday he "approves in principle" of plans outlined at Orofino for two dams on the Clearwater River and one on the Middle Snake.

The state will actively support efforts to have Congress authorize them, he told reporters, if further study bears out claims made for the proposals at the public hearing last Friday.

"I think they are pointed in the right direction—looking for storage sites where the floods originate," he said.

He noted that the benefit-to-cost ratios for the proposed Army Engineers dams at Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs—the principal ones discussed at Orofino—were "good." The ratios, he added, are better than those for some proposed and authorized mainstem dams. These include Hells Canyon, he said in answer to a question.

"They seemed to have pretty much unified support except for the Indians and wildlife interests outside the area," he said. Jordan noted that wildlife clubs in the area concerned favored them.

Some Questions Unanswered

He said he and State Reclamation Engineer Mark Kulp probably would have questions for the Army Engineers on some of the flood control and navigation benefits claimed by the Engineers.

Jordan said he liked the idea of the Mountain Sheep Dam plans outlined by the Bureau of Reclamation because it would provide for storage of some Salmon River water by tunneling it to the Snake, and thus not interfere with salmon spawning. He indicated, however, he doubted that the proposed tunnels could handle enough of the Salmon's runoff in bad flood years to afford much flood protection.

He said it would be "ridiculous" to think the dams could get a priority over dams already under construction which will cost another billion dollars.