

Chamber Gives Qualified Support To Clearwater Storage Projects

The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce program of support of comprehensive and integrated development of Pacific Northwest river resources should include endorsement of water storage projects on the Clearwater River system, provided the latter are recommended by the Corps of Army Engineers in its current review of portions of the 308 Report.

This recommendation was embodied in a "statement of policy" and a proposed resolution adopted yesterday by the chamber Waterways Committee. The statement and resolution will be submitted to the chamber board of directors for endorsement as an expression of the organization's general policy on water resource development. The resolution would be presented at a Corps of Army Engineers hearing at Orofino on Nov. 20 to ascertain area sentiment on water reservoir proposals for the mid-Snake River sub-basin and its tributaries, including the Clearwater and Salmon river systems.

The policy statement recommended by the Waterways Committee, largely reaffirming the organization's previously-expressed stands on river development projects, says, in part:

Support 308 Report

"We reaffirm our support of the comprehensive plan for Columbia Basin development recommended in the 308 Report, as reviewed in 1948, of the Corps of Army Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and participating Federal and State agencies.

"We favor the authorization of any additional water storage projects on the Clearwater River system not included in the 308 Report, and which may be recommended by the Corps of Army Engineers in its current review of this portion of the report as being necessary and feasible in the comprehensive development plan, and which have the support of the residents of the Clearwater River area. Among proposed projects on the Clearwater, we recommend in particular authorization of developments at the Bruce's Eddy or White Pine sites on the North Fork and the Penny Cliffs site on the Middle Fork, providing the latter project would not delay or impair in any manner the prompt completion of the Lewis & Clark Highway.

"We favor the development of the Middle Snake River sub-basin and its tributaries according to the plans endorsed by the Corps of Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation in the 308 Report, unless it shall be shown conclusively in the future that alternative projects which may be recommended in that area are superior to those endorsed in the 308 Report.