

ADVOCATE 3

DAMS AND

RESERVOIRS

OROFINO, Idaho (AP)—Proposals for three big power dams and storage reservoirs in North Central Idaho were revealed Friday as the Army Engineers opened a hearing on proposed projects for the Clearwater drainage area.

The three proposed projects, to cost about \$663,000,000, would produce more than 1,600,000 kilowatts of power, and store more than 6,000,000 acre feet of water.

The program would involve diverting most of the Salmon river downstream from Riggins through a tunnel to the Snake river near Pittsburgh Landing.

The dams proposed were:

Bruce's Eddy on the north fork of the Clearwater to cost \$125,000,000, produce 244,000 kilowatts and store 1,430,000 acre feet of water.

Penny Cliffs on the middle fork of the Clearwater, \$180,000,000, 292,000 kilowatts and 2,300,000 acre feet. Mountain Sheep on the Snake above the mouth of the Imnaha river, \$358,000,000, 1,035,000 kilowatts and 2,450,000 acre feet.

The Clearwater projects would be built by Army Engineers while Mountain Sheep would be constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Harmony Exists, Says

"There has been complete coordination between Army Engineer and the Bureau of Reclamation in the studies leading up to the reports being presented here today," said Col. F. S. Tandy, Walla Walla district engineer.

Colonel Tandy said the Clearwater river contributes to the annual flood problem in the Portland area. If the two dams had been built by 1948, the Vanport flood crest would have been reduced by two feet, he said.

"There is no fish problem at any one of the three dams," Tandy said. "There are no salmon in the Clearwater, but there are some steelhead which may require some assistance."

Governor Len Jordan and representatives of Boise, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls organizations are in Orofino to participate in the hearing.

The State Fish and Game Department declared Friday that dams proposed by the Army Engineers for the Clearwater River drainage would seriously deplete

"In fact, it might well be that the salmon and steelhead will be almost completely annihilated from the entire Clearwater River drainage since there is only a very small portion of the river below the proposed damsites that is available for spawning purposes," the statement added.

As for big game, the department said that reservoirs formed by the dams would flood winter rangeland, "resulting in a decrease in the elk and deer numbers which can be maintained."

The department pointed out that the Clearwater drainage contains the largest elk population in the state—about 20,00 to 25,000 head. It said the population of beaver, mink, otter and muskrat also would be greatly reduced.

If the proposed dams go through, the department added, "the recreational aspects of the area will be severely damaged" because of the inroads on the fish and wildlife population.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation has expressed opposition to the dams, but the Orofino and Kamiah-Kooskia chapters of the Idaho Outdoors Assn. claim that wildlife would not be seriously harmed.

The proposed sites are:

The Kooskia and Forks sites on the Clearwater above Orofino; Penny Cliffs and Selway Falls and