

WILDLIFE FEDERATION JOINING IN PROTEST TO SAVE CLEARWATER AND SALMON FOR ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

A new S. O. S. is going to be broadcast throughout the state of Idaho by the Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation, other sportsmen's groups and by other organizations fearful of the effect of dams on fish runs and the loss of wintering areas of Idaho's big game herds, states Frank Cullen of Coeur d'Alene.

Mr. Cullen, past president and director of the Coeur d'Alene Federation, interpreted S. O. S. today as meaning "Save Our Salmon" and says it also could mean "Save Our Steelhead".

Reason for the S. O. S. is the hearing to be held at Orofino, set by the Corps of Army Engineers on next Nov. 20 at 10 p. m. in regards to water storage sites on the Salmon and Clearwater rivers.

"Construction of these dams with possible sites at Bruce's Eddy, White Pine, Rock Creek, Kooskia, The Forks, Penny Cliffs, Three Devils, Selway Falls, Mose Creek, Nez Perce, Freedom, Travis and Mountain Sheep, we contend would block the rivers to Salmon and steelhead runs," Mr. Cullen said in a statement of the Federation.

"Located in our primitive area of Idaho, the Salmon and Clearwater rivers with their magnificent scenery and variety of fish and big game animals rank among the top unspoiled wilderness areas of the nation," the spokesman for the Federation continued.

"By damming our rivers such as Bonneville, McNary, Grand Coulee, Albeni Falls, Clark Fork, Hungry Horse etc. we have increased productivity of our industries by furnishing electric power. However, with all the benefits we enjoy through the providence of Nature we have not always acted in the interest of good economy. In our gains made by industry we have had to sacrifice other wealth which was trampled in our rush for progress. In some ways we have made attempts with various success to correct some of our past wasteful and destructive practices. Remarkable gains have been made in reforesting our timber areas. New farming technique have helped to stabilize our soil fertility and reasonable progress has been made in restoring wildlife in our wilder sections.

Club Deeply Concerned

"Our club members, who have felt a deep interest in the natural wildlife affected by industrial advancement such as the damming of our rivers for power and other water uses, have sought for protective laws that might save our salmon and trout from the almost complete destruction that in most cases results when a stream is blocked to their migration. We admit that today we have a shortage of power and cannot meet the present demands to say nothing of

future power needs. But we also are well known as a state of many fishermen, some quarter of a million strong, who have our eyes on these proposed damsites because it is admitted by fisheries experts that no artificial means known will supplant nature's losses if these dams are built.

"Although our Fisheries Conservation agencies are well known and recognized in their attempt to restore fish life to barren and depleted streams, here and in other states they have continually been pushed aside by power advocates, who with their promises to take care of the fish have been allowed to continue their building of dams uninterrupted, except for funds, as their work progresses. It is quite clear to us that to destroy forever a major natural resource in order to obtain a small stopgap supply of power which can be obtained elsewhere would constitute poor regional economy. Our scientists are continually working on harnessing the atom, and atomic power might not be too far away.

Would Affect Thousands

"Thousands of people in the hunting season, many thousands in the fishing season from all over these United States and Canada, come to our primitive area each year to enjoy our greatest resource--the great outdoors. This area--the Salmon and Clearwater drainages--comprise the winter range for the largest elk herds in our state and construction of these proposed storage dams would mean extinction of the deer herds now using this range. Also goodbye to our primitive area!

"Rep. Albert E. Jones (D-Ala), chairman of the subcommittee to study civil works of the 82nd (last) Congress report revealed that there is a backlog of dam building projects authorized by the Army Engineers dating back to 1920 on which no construction work has been done but anyone of which could be brought back to life.

"Secy. of Interior Douglas MacKay, former governor of Oregon, states conservation was a major part of his job. Conservation is not only a sound financial investment but it provides wholesome recreation for millions of Americans which in his opinion is an important and necessary part of our lives.

"The present assistant secretary of the interior in charge of water and power development, Fred G. Aandahl, told the Senate interior committee during the hearing on his confirmation that he felt maximum responsibility for power development should be left in local hands.

"The Namekagon river in Wisconsin has been saved by the F. P. C. showing conservation action by denying a permit for a power dam

after listening to testimony of sportsmen, recreationists and the Wisconsin Conservation Commission who set a policy to save such streams as the Namekagon for recreational purposes. The Wisconsin supreme court ruled in this case that the public has as much right and interest to recreation interest as power and dollars.

"The world's finest experts in their line are the Army Engineers but they are ruining our rivers for wildlife. They not only are tops in their profession but are the largest group of engineers any country can boast of. There are many thousands of them and in peacetime all they have to do is tamper with the rivers of America."