

Dworshak Dam Impact Viewed 'Tremendous'

By BILL HALL
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BOEHL'S CABIN — Col. Frank D. McElwee, district engineer of the Walla Walla district of the Army Corps of Engineers, urged northern Idaho leaders not to underestimate the impact of Dworshak dam.

"We cannot be too optimistic," McElwee told members of the Idaho Land Board tour during a series of lectures here Friday morning. He was discussing the potential of the dam at Ahsahka that those on the tour would see later in the day before completing the four-day trip with a dinner Saturday night at Lewiston.

"This project will have tremendous benefit over the years on northern Idaho," McElwee said. "We estimate 110,000 visitors a year to the area — 50,000 of them tourists, but our estimate is conservative because we have to justify it, but you gentlemen should not be too conservative in figuring the effect the project will have on this state," McElwee said.

Demand Changing

Also speaking Friday morning was Robert M. Mangan, Wash., D. C. deputy undersecretary of the interior. He said heightened public interest in the public lands is based in part on the number of substitutes that have replaced raw materials. He noted, for instance, that atomic energy is replacing conventional fuels and plastics have replaced wood in some uses.

Two speakers praised the new Idaho forest land and timber tax law. George Rauch, Lewiston, vice president for lands & forestry for Potlatch Forests, Inc., said it used to be that timber was taxed along with the land, but the new law provides that the land be taxed as property, and the timber taxed at the time it is cut.

"Idaho was the first state to implement that idea and has scooped the nation on this," Rauch said.

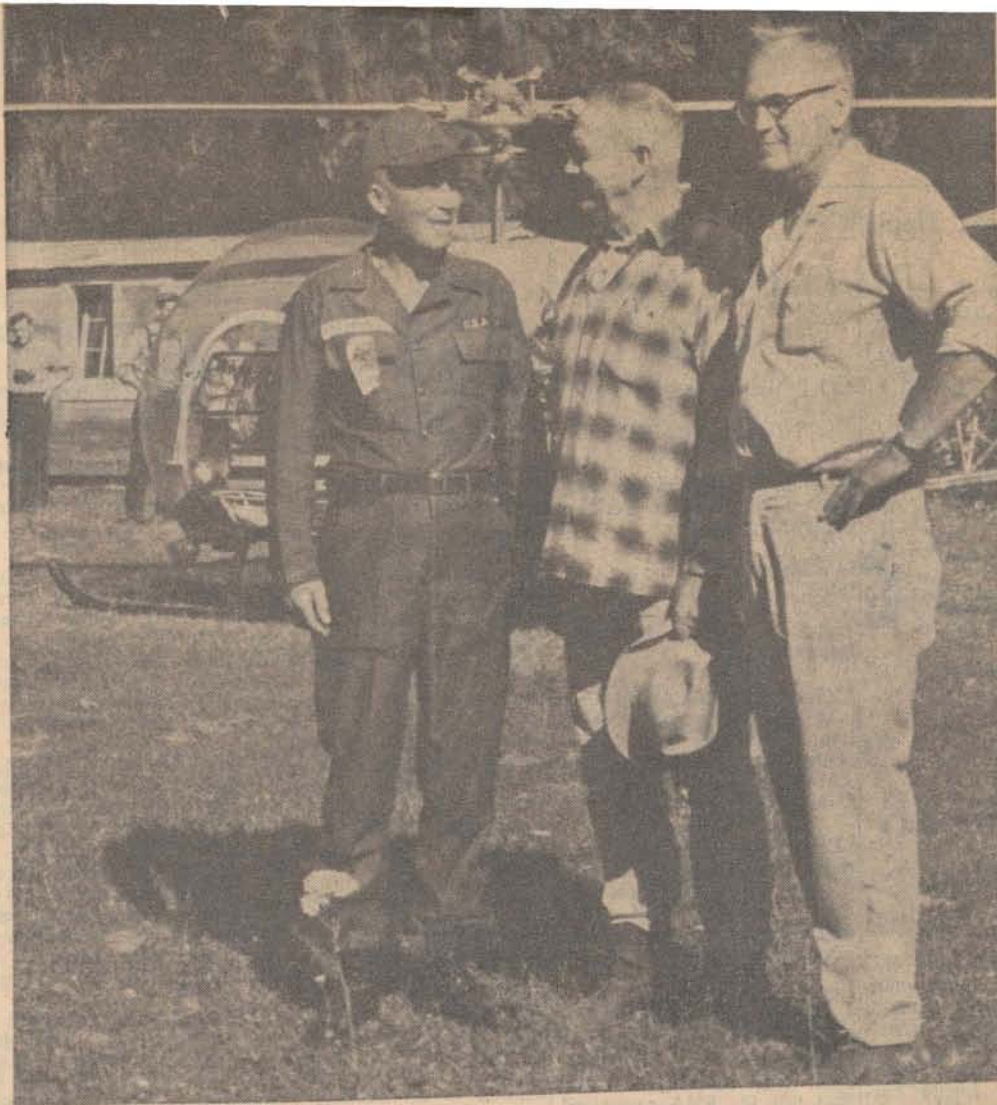
State Forester Roger Guernsey, Boise, called it "the most progressive and sensible tax law in the nation. . . It will encourage private tree farming," he said.

Forest Losses Recounted

Royce Cox, Lewiston, chief forester for PFI, said American forests lost 2.8 billion board feet of timber last year to fire, pests, weather and animals — "enough to build 280,000 five-room houses."

He said disease and insects account for a greater portion of the loss than fires. Cox explained attempts to wipe out the bark beetle by sterilizing the males. When they breed with the females, the females go ahead and lay their unfertilized eggs, he said.

Dr. Kenneth Hungerford, professor of wildlife management at the University of Idaho, said forests can have multiple use. He said the ruffed grouse is more plentiful in northern Idaho than any other region of the nation. One reason, he said, is that the timber has been harvested



IN THE WILDS — Gen. Peter Hyzer, left, Sen. Len B. Jordan, center, and A. B. (Bert) Curtis confer at Boehl's Cabin in the far reaches of the north fork of the Clearwater River. The general is from the Portland office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The three were participants in Friday's portion of the State Land Board tour.

Fishing May Decline

Leon Murphy, Boise, fish biologist with the Fish & Game department, said he visualizes Dworshak Dam as "a typical fluctuating reservoir. We will do our best to provide you with the best fishing, but we don't look for anything outstanding."

He said the reservoir will be stocked with kokanee and cutthroat. They have recommended, he said, that no steelhead be passed over the dam, except experimentally, but there will be an attempt to maintain the steelhead run downstream with a hatchery.

Also speaking briefly was Gen. Peter Hyzer, Portland, division engineer for the Pacific Northwest division of the Army Corps of Engineers.

He said the corps is a public servant, and "we have no vested interest in any project."

Curtis Praised For Efforts In Promoting Dworshak Dam

BOEHL'S CABIN — Sen. Len B. Jordan, R-Idaho, and Rep. Compton I. White, D-Idaho, praised A. B. Curtis, Orofino, Friday for his part in promoting construction of Dworshak Dam at Ahsahka.

Jordan and White joined the Idaho Land Board tour here Friday in the third day of the four-day trip. They made their remarks during lunch at Land Board State Park.

Tracing the history of the dam, Jordan said it "would not have been a reality without the untiring efforts of Bert Curtis."

White also praised Curtis, then reported on the meeting Thursday of the U. S. Public Land Law Review Commission.

Noting that Rep. Wayne Aspinall, D-Colo., had been elected chairman, White said Aspinall is "one of the most eminently fair men in the Congress. I'm not worried about how well he will chair the commission."

Both White and Jordan are members of the commission.

On another subject, Jordan said it will be "very difficult to write a general bill" on wild rivers. White added that "I don't think Chairman Aspinall will knock himself out bringing it up."

Jordan said he would favor the bill "with some protective amendments." Jordan said there are too many needed amendments to single out one.

White predicted "the next big thrust will be in massive recreation at nearby campgrounds," rather than wilderness areas.