

Backer Hails Bruces Eddy Realization

OROFINO — The building of Bruces Eddy dam, virtually assured of congressional authorization, "will be a giant step forward in the development of Idaho's great water resources," a leading backer of the project said Friday night.

Ray McNichols, Orofino attorney, said residents of the Clearwater valley are elated by news of final success in the long campaign for federal approval of the \$186-million structure on the North Fork of the Clearwater River two miles upstream from Ahsahka.

Sharing McNichols' jubilation was Mayor A. B. Curtis of Orofino, who was en route home by car Friday night from Boise, where he attended a meeting of the Idaho Municipal League.

'Most Important'

Curtis, one of Bruces Eddy's earliest backers, has long described the dam as "one of the most important multi-purpose projects of the nation."

McNichols praised Sen. Frank Church and Rep. Gracie Pfof, Idaho Democrats, for their role in leading the authorization battle against determined opposition in the House of Representatives.

"We are all deeply indebted to Senator Church and to Congresswoman Gracie Pfof for remaining in Washington and steadfastly insisting in the Congress on the approval of the Bruces Eddy project," he said.

McNichols, a Democrat, is co-chairman of a citizens committee seeking Church's re-election Nov. 6. Mrs. Pfof is a candidate for the remaining four years of the term of the late Sen. Henry Dworshak, a pioneer Bruces Eddy supporter, and is opposed by Sen. Len Jordan, R-Idaho, who received an interim appointment to succeed Senator Dworshak.

Recalls General's View

"Bruces Eddy dam will contribute flood control, water storage and low cost power," said McNichols. "I am reminded that Gen. E. C. Itschner, while he was chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, described this dam as the No. 1 project for the West.

"Few people realize that Bruces Eddy will open up vast new areas of state, federal and privately-owned timber lands now located in areas uneconomical for harvesting because of distance from the market.

"Construction of the Bruces Eddy project will be a shot in the arm to the Clearwater valley economy. Senator Church reports we can expect eight years of new payroll and that this will carry us over into a time when a new tourist industry will be established to support the local economy."