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Idaho Game Official Says He Will Not Oppose Dams

GRANGEVILLE, Idaho, Nov. 18.—O. W. McConnell, district 2 member of the Idaho fish and game commission, yesterday indicated that he will not oppose any program for construction of two proposed federal dams in the Clearwater river drainage.

But, he said, he believes any loss of wildlife or its habitat should be evaluated and provisions should be made for its replacement as fully as possible.

McConnell's statement came after indications from Jim Parsons, north Idaho outdoor writer, that the state fish and game commission would fight construction of the dams at Friday's hearings at Orofino.

Army engineers will conduct the hearings on proposed building of a dam at Penny Cliffs on the middle fork and of Bruce's Eddy on the

north fork of the Clearwater river.

McConnell said he would attend the hearings and fulfill duties as a member of the game commission as well as carry out the "wildlife policy of the state—which provides that wildlife shall be protected, perpetuated and managed for the people of the state.

"My personal view on construction of the proposed dams would be favorable," he said, "with the provisions of our policy.

"In offering support or voicing opposition to the construction of dams (within the Clearwater watershed), careful consideration must be given to the possible loss or benefits derived by wildlife in the building of such dams.

"If there is a loss of wildlife or its habitat through the building of any dam, the loss should be replaced by artificial or other methods that would be practical."