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Lewiston Idaho

# Army Engineers Begin Checking Sites For Dams

KAMIAH—Two crews from the Walla Walla District of Army Engineers have started a survey of a damsite about four miles above Kooskia on the Clearwater River, as a potential flood-control dam site.

The parties, headed by G. W. Hadsen and Merlyn E. Hall, will survey several other sites in the area, but Warren B. Gillis, field party supervisor, said he had not received the full list of sites to be covered.

Meanwhile, other survey crews moved into the Poehl's cabin area to make a study of the newly-named White Pine site a mile below the mouth of the Little North Fork.

They will also make new studies at Bruce's Eddy above Ahsahka and at the Penny Cliffs site on the Middle Fork. Five other sites in the Middle Snake River Basin have been authorized, according to Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, chief of Army Engineers, Washington, D.C., including the Kooskia and Forks sites in the Clearwater, the Nezperce and Mountain Sheep sites on the Snake and the Crevice site on the Salmon River.

The engineers indicate that much of the progress on the proposed development of the Clearwater hinges on the attitude of Clearwater valley residents and have said that united support of the projects would mean much toward their early authorization by Congress.

Because of objections voiced at a hearing here in 1948, the Army Engineers modified their original plans for the Kooskia site, a big dam above Greer. Recommendations instead will probably be on some plan which will include two dams on the little-trafficked North Fork and one reservoir on the Middle Fork above Kooskia.

The directive follows an appropriation of \$140,000 which Congress earmarked for new feasibility reports which are to supplement those of former years conducted by the Army on the Snake and its principal tributaries.

Congress has ordered a report on the new survey by next January.

#### Agencies Cooperating

Although three of the proposed projects—Nez Perce, Mountain Sheep and Crevice—were formerly assigned for study and future construction to the Bureau of Reclamation in the agreement of April 11, 1949, with the engineers, both the bureau and the engineers are cooperating in the forthcoming re-evaluation, it was indicated by spokesmen for both agencies.

Some of the sites mentioned have been advocated as alternatives to the controversial federal high Hells Canyon storage dam. Idaho Power Co. has asked permission to build a series of low dams in the Snake River, one at Hells Canyon, which would be flooded by the high federal dam.

A drill rig has been making foundation explorations at the Penny Cliffs, and topographical surveys are being made at the Three Devil site five miles below the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers and at the Forks site below Kooskia.