

# study plan for E. Idaho dam

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J. Vard Chatburn, who served in the House for 30 years and worked on the report, said Monday that the legislation was introduced twice and failed both times.

"It was a viable project and one that would be beneficial," Chatburn said. "Too many fellas (in the Senate) did not think the irrigation and flood control was important enough to instigate the project."

Max Van Den Berg, Bureau of Reclamation Minidoka Project manager, said building a dam at the site would cost many times more than

\$1.4 million dollars. Federal funding for such a project would be unlikely, he said.

The bureau studied the site in the past for its potential as a reservoir.

"The bureau does have some control over some withdrawn land at that site but I haven't heard anything to indicate there is any intent or any action (to build a dam)," said Van Den Berg.

The legislative report discussed building a dam and reservoir below the Palisades Dam on the Snake River to provide irrigation, flood

control and hydroelectric power.

"The power potential would be as great there, practically, as it is in the Palisades," Chatburn said.

The dam could be expected to receive considerable opposition since it would flood the wildlife-rich South Fork Canyon that conservation groups are trying to protect.

Haagenson, chairman of the House Resources and Conservation Committee, said the rest of the committee will be named later this week.

Boyd said the committee will meet at least once in Boise before the Legislature convenes in January.