

NEWS RELEASE

MARCH 28, 1966

FROM: PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY, BOX 849, WENATCHEE, WASH. NO3-5159
FOR RELEASE: 12:00 NOON -- MARCH 29, 1966

A report has been received by the Port Districts of the Upper Columbia River pertaining to the transportation of deciduous fruits (apples and pears) by water originating in the North Central Washington area. The study was prepared by Paul E. Hochelle, Transportation Consultant, Portland, Oregon, and was financially aided through Columbia and Willamette River Ports and coordinated by the Inland Waterways Association, headquarters, Walla Walla, Washington.

The report was undertaken by the Port Districts as part of the study to determine the feasibility of the extension of navigation on the Upper Columbia River from the head of McNary Pool to the Rock Island Pool, which has been under investigation by the Seattle District, Corps of Army Engineers since early 1964.

The report demonstrates (1) production and delivery of apples and winter pears from the North Central Area of the State of Washington and (2) the economical benefits which may be derived by shippers, consumers, and even the general public from a proposed plan for the movement of apples and winter pears from the North Central Area of Washington to points throughout the United States and foreign countries and particularly to California ports. contemplates the use of containers and the movement by barge down the Columbia River and even down the coast to California. For movements to the eastern seaboard or to foreign countries these deciduous fruits in containers could be loaded at the

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lower Columbia River ports on intercoast or international vessels and delivered to destinations with very little handling. The plan, therefore, would take advantage of the low cost of water transportation and the minimum cost of handling.

Harold Paton, President, Port of Chelan County, said, "The report is being furnished to the Corps of Engineers for their study and incorporation in the overall study to determine the feasibility of the extension of navigation. Until such time as the Corps of Engineers has thoroughly analyzed the report, much of it will of necessity remain confidential; however, the Port Districts up and down the river that contributed to this report are pleased with the results," Paton said.

Since March of 1964 the Ports of the Upper and Lower Columbia River, with the cooperation of the Inland Empire Waterways Association, have been in continuous coordination with the Corps of Engineers in this study, and the report of the possible transportation of deciduous fruits is just another indication of the desire of the Ports and the general public to do all that is necessary to work in harmony with all agencies for the extension of navigation on the Upper Columbia River.