



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERIES PROGRAM OFFICE ESTABLISHED AT PORTLAND

Establishment of the Columbia River Fisheries Program office and details of a memorandum of understanding between their two Bureaus in the Pacific Northwest were announced today by Leo L. Laythe, Portland regional director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and Samuel J. Hutchinson, Seattle regional director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

The Columbia River Fisheries Program office, located in the Interior building at Portland, will be an office of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries with Alphonse Kemmerich as acting program director.

The joint announcement said the two Bureaus had reached agreement on the assignment of functions and responsibilities under the fisheries program which covers that portion of the Columbia River Basin from the sea up the Columbia River and its tributaries to Chief Joseph Dam on the main river and to Swan Falls (20 miles south of Nampa) on the Snake River.

Although operation and maintenance of all Federal fish hatcheries and fish facilities under the Columbia River Program is the responsibility of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries their actual operation and maintenance will be carried on by personnel of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Inspection of all fish hatcheries operated by the Federal government or by State agencies under contract with BCF will be handled by BSWF.

BSFW will be responsible for research on hatchery management and fish-cultural techniques including the activities of the Western Fish-Disease laboratory (Seattle), the Salmon Cultural laboratory (Entiat, Wash.) and the Western Fish Nutrition laboratory (Cock, Wash.).

Principal responsibility for River Basin Studies will remain with BSWF but BCF will conduct such studies where anadromous fish are concerned and personnel now engaged primarily in the study of anadromous fish problems will be transferred (in place) from BSWF to BCF.

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Fish facilities design and service becomes the responsibility of BCF. All inspection and engineering services on construction projects under the program will be provided by BSFW but responsibility for construction will be with BCF.

The memorandum agreement transfers six persons of the River Basin Studies office, seven persons of the branch of engineering, and nine persons of the Columbia River Fisheries program from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. In all cases personnel involved will remain where they are now stationed.

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NOTE TO LOCAL EDITORS: The following biologists of BSFW will transfer to the BCF: Clifford E. Soderstrom, Norman D. Johnston, and Jay O. Hoover, all on the River Basin Studies staff at Eugene, Ore.; and Donald R. Orutt, Ben R. Pulliam, and John R. Heaton, all on the RBS staff at Boise, Idaho.

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A second memorandum agreement outlines details for implementing the Fishery Enforcement functions of the two Bureaus and provides for BSFW to assign its game management agents to work during the summer on the Sockeye Salmon and other high seas patrol activities during fiscal years 1958-59. The Fisheries Management Agent located at Seattle, Bruce A. Yeager, will be transferred from BSFW to BCF. His office will remain in Seattle.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

STATEMENT BY THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AT A PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN LEWISTON, IDAHO BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY, ON NOV. 13, 1957 (READ BY JOSEPH T. BARNABY, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, PORTLAND, ORE.)

This statement is presented for and on behalf of Commissioner Arnie J. Suomela of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who has directed its presentation at this hearing.

The notice of Public Hearing on the Columbia River and Tributaries, issued by the Division Engineer on September 28, 1957, includes a discussion of Nez Perce dam on the Snake river, Lower Canyon and Crevise dams on the Salmon river, and the Wenaha dam on the Grande Ronde river. These are all high dams, with heights ranging from 580 to 700 feet. They would all block important runs of anadromous fish.

The fish runs in that part of the Snake river basin which would be blocked by these dams are vital to the Columbia river fishery.

The Snake river is estimated to produce some 33 per cent (9,344,000 pounds) of all the Columbia river salmon and steelhead. All of the blueback of the Snake river spawn in the Redfish lakes area of the Salmon river.

The heart and core of the Snake river fishery production is contained in the areas which would be blocked by these dams. Loss of the fishery production of these streams would be disastrous to the Columbia river commercial and sport fishery and to the very important segment of the regional and national economy dependent on that fishery.

The material incorporated with the Division Engineer's notice describes facilities for the passage of upstream migratory fish at Nez Perce dam, with considerable specifics. Also, there is included a description of the facilities which would be used to handle fish migrating downstream. By reference, similar material is incorporated in the discussions on the Lower Canyon, Crevise and Wenaha projects.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not supply, nor does it approve, these descriptions of fish passage facilities.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the lack of a proven method of successfully passing anadromous fish over dams of this height, must oppose these dams at this time. It is true that our agency, in cooperation with the State Fish and Game agencies, is attempting to find means

of successfully passing fish over high dams. However, the great importance of the fish runs which depend on uninterrupted access to the salmon and Grande Ronde rivers rules out, for the present, pending trial elsewhere on streams where the run of fish is much less important and pending much more research, any proposals by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fish passage at these dams. The state of our knowledge of fish passage over high dams is much too meager at this time to risk the survival of these runs at high dams incorporating plans for untried fish passage facilities.

I repeat that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is opposed to Nez Perce, Lower Canyon, Crevise, or Wenaha dams at this time.

It is noted that there are no information sheets for the Bruces Eddy and Penny Cliffs projects in the material furnished by the Division Engineer. Both of these dams will have a very significant effect on fish and wildlife resources. We note with concern that both of these projects are listed on the map circulated by the Division Engineer as recommended projects or applications made for license.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release August 24, 1958

SURPLUS ANIMALS OFFERED FOR SALE AT NATIONAL BISON RANGE

Surplus animals from the herd on the National Bison Range in Montana near Moiese, Montana, are now being offered for sale, the Department of the Interior announced today.

In order to safeguard range conditions and prevent overgrazing, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the refuge, annually disposes of the normal herd increases. The Bureau also maintains fenced refuges in Nebraska and Oklahoma for buffalo and elk where the animals run at large and are maintained as nearly as possible under natural conditions.

The 1958 surplus disposal program at the four refuges includes 272 buffaloes, 68 elk, and 198 longhorn cattle. The National Bison Range has 85 of the buffaloes, but no elk or longhorn cattle. Buffalo and elk may be purchased alive or butchered. Surplus longhorns are sold at local public auctions, usually held during September.

In selling the animals, the Bureau will give preference to applicants who wish to purchase them alive for propagation or exhibition. Surplus live animals not sold may be obtained by state, county, or municipal zoos, parks, or game preserves desiring such animals for propagation or exhibition at the cost of capturing, crating, and transporting. The sale or donation of live buffaloes, however, will be limited to 20.

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The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has no authority to donate animals to private individuals or to private institutions for commercial purposes. Applicants for live animals must show that an adequately fenced enclosure is available for holding the animals.

Persons desiring to purchase the animals alive may obtain them at the following prices which include the cost of corralling and delivering to the purchaser's truck or crate at the capturing corral on the preserve: Buffalo, mature animals, not less than two years of age, \$150; yearling animals, \$125; live elk, approximately \$100. Yearling animals will be sold alive, only.

Sportsmen who would like big-game roasts and steaks for club dinners and banquets can buy the butchered carcass of a buffalo, weighing about 450 pounds, for \$140 to \$180, depending on where purchased. These are mature animals not less than two years of age. A half carcass sells for \$70 to \$90. A whole elk, weighing from 250 to 300 pounds, sells for \$90 to \$120; one half can be bought for \$45 to \$60. All prices are f.o.b. at the refuge.

Butchered animals will be dressed, quartered, and wrapped in muslin, heavy cloth, or burlap to meet the requirements of transportation companies, except at the Wichita Refuge in Oklahoma where meat will be processed and packed with dry ice in no-return containers. Refrigerating facilities are available only at the Wichita Refuge.

Inquiries on the National Bison Range buffalo may be addressed to C. J. Henry, Refuge Manager, National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

For Release After 1 p.m. MST, Sept. 27, 1958

REMARKS BY LEO L. LAYTHE, PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE, MOIESE, MONT., SEPTEMBER 27, 1958.

It is always a pleasure for me to visit Montana but this occasion is especially pleasurable because of the opportunity to join this large group in paying tribute to those who conceived and carried out the plan to establish this National Bison Range.

In connection with the various activities of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service it has been my privilege to have been associated with members of the State Fish and Game Commission, its personnel and with many of the sportsmen of this state for a period longer than I like to admit. Some of you will recall our meeting during the early and mid-thirties which led to the establishment of the Ninepipe and Pablo refuges in this valley, the Bowdoin refuge on the High-Line, the Red Rock Lakes Refuge near Monida, the Medicine Lake refuge in the extreme northeastern part of the state, the Fort Peck game range and the several easement areas that were set up to preserve important wetland areas for waterfowl.

In those days there were some misgivings about the need or value of waterfowl refuges because of the relatively sparse human population in the state and the extent of the native marsh habitat. The program was given endorsement by the sportsmen and I am sure now that the value of refuges has been amply demonstrated.

Because of inadequate funds to "round out" the Federal refuge system in this or any of the states for that matter, it has not been possible to do other than to establish a nucleus or base from which to expand throughout the flyway if we hope to have habitat commensurate with the waterfowl needs.

Your Game Department made a distinct contribution to the Ninepipe refuge in acquiring the periphery lands which add much to Ninepipe's value for waterfowl use and for the hunters. A problem has developed with respect to water supplies for both Ninepipe and Pablo. We are endeavoring to correct that but at the present time it appears that anything that can be done will be costly and we are presently without funds to undertake any of the several alternatives. We do want you to know that we are cognizant of the situation and will continue in our efforts to work something out.

The work of the Polson group in leasing adjacent lands to the Pablo refuge has enhanced the value of that area for waterfowl use and for hunters. Under the amended Duck Stamp Act it is expected that funds will become available for Federal land acquisition to supplement your state programs to acquire and preserve lands for waterfowl use.

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Montana is rich in natural resources, particularly fish and game. By and large that resource has withstood the inroads made upon it since the white man started his migration westward. Certain wildlife species were exterminated, such as the Audubon Bighorn, and other species decimated; but for the most part recovery or replacement by substitute species has been made or is within reach.

Here there are still wide expanses of virgin lands, unplowed and unfenced that provide for the native species. Here there are still many streams unspoiled by pollution or diversion and which carry the original species of fish--grayling, cut-throat, whitefish and Dolly Varden. Here, perhaps to a greater degree than in any other state, exist opportunities to preserve the pristine conditions that make up the prime requisites for fish and game.

An example of what has and is being done along that line is the preservation of the elk habitat in the Sun River country, which was accomplished by the combined efforts of your Game Department, Forest Service and sportsmen's organizations.

Another example of what has been done to protect and perpetuate an endangered species is the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in the Centennial Valley. That area, acquired by the predecessor agency of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in 1935, preserves the valuable water and marsh lands long used by the swans, and complements the habitat in Yellowstone Park, Hebgen and Meadow Lakes, Lima Reservoir and the waters of the Upper Snake River, Idaho. Attesting to the success of that project is the fact that the trumpeters have increased from 73 to approximately 600. With natural conditions preserved and management of the species continued, there appears no reason why this noble bird cannot be brought back to a point where it is numbered among permanent wildlife species and its distribution enlarged over the nation. We already have encouraging evidence of reestablishing the trumpeter on Malheur refuge in Oregon.

The Fort Peck Game Range is another example of what has and is being done to preserve for all time natural habitat for native species and migratory birds. That general area which Lewis and Clark found so rich in wildlife is being restored to what will approximate its original value. The game range was established during the mid-thirties for joint management with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The livestock program is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the wildlife by our Bureau in cooperation with your Game Department. Bighorns, to take the place of the Audubon bighorns which were exterminated, are being introduced. One plant was made several years ago by your Game Department with animals received from Colorado and another is being made with animals taken from Wildhorse Island in Flathead Lake and from the Bison Range as foundation stock.

Grayling were indigenous to many waters of this state as they were to waters of several other western and midwestern states. For various reasons stream pollution, diversion, log-drives and encroachment by predator and rough fish--they have been lost in all their habitat except Montana, which

now boasts it is the only state where the restoration and perpetuation of that valued species appears possible. We are working closely with your Game Department on that project.

The National Bison Range which is being rededicated today stands as an example of what can and must be done to provide for wildlife species which, through lack of management or loss of habitat, have been placed in a critical condition. Were it not for the action taken fifty years ago in establishing this and the other few areas for the benefit of the bison, there is little reason to believe that the species would not have suffered the same fate as the passenger pigeon. Future generations will know the bison because of the foresight and interest taken in its welfare by the conservationists, the American Bison Society, the Indians, and by that great conservationist, ex-President Theodore Roosevelt.

With the interest in wildlife as shown by your attendance here today, coupled with the characteristic forward-looking attitude of your Game Department and the sportsmen and the fact that Montana is favored by its extent of virgin areas and clean waters upon which to rebuild and maintain its wildlife resource, I feel the future here is bright.

In closing, I wish to express appreciation to the Montana Wildlife Federation and the other organizations and individuals who arranged this program as a tribute to those who were responsible for this Bison Range, for the invitation to join with you today.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

October 9, 1958

For Immediate Release

HUNTING MAP FOR COLUMBIA REFUGE ISSUED

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service today issued a map of the Columbia National Wildlife refuge in Grant and Adams counties in central Washington showing the lands which would be open to hunting during the upcoming hunting season.

Regional Director Leo L. Laythe said the public hunting areas are clearly defined in the refuge by red metal signs and that all hunters must possess a valid Washington State hunting license and all hunters who have attained the age of 16 years must possess a sign (validated) Migratory Waterfowl Stamp to Hunt Waterfowl. No other permit is required on the refuge. All hunting is to be conducted in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations.

Special refuge regulations permit the use of not more than two dogs per hunter for the purpose of retrieving dead or wounded birds, but the dogs may not be permitted to run at large. Temporary blinds only may be erected and the digging of a pit for use as a hunting blind, or any other purpose, is prohibited. Car travel is restricted to established roads and parking is permitted only in parking areas. No overnight camping of any kind, or parking of trailers, is permitted. No warming or cooking fires are allowed.

Further information is available at Refuge Headquarters in Othello, which is located behind the Bureau of Reclamation Building on 8th Street.

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Note to Editors: Copy of a map is attached.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

March 16, 1959

For Immediate Release

FEDERAL FISHERIES AGENCIES PLAN HUGE SALMON PLANTING IN COLUMBIA TRIBUTARIES

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials at Portland announced today that 14,500,000 small salmon would be planted in nine tributaries of the Columbia river during the last week of March.

The fish, grown to feeding size at the Willard Fish Cultural Station on the Little White Salmon river in Washington State, will be planted in the following streams: John Day (1,000,000), Warm Springs (2,500,000), Grays (2,000,000), Coweeman (1,000,000), Cowlitz (2,000,000), Washougal (2,000,000), Klickitat (1,000,000), and Kalama (2,000,000) rivers and Abernathy creek (1,000,000).

It will be necessary to plant these fish within a one-week period and since about seven tons of fish are involved it will take many trips of the trucks to deliver the fish from Willard to the various planting sites in the two states. These plantings will be the last distribution of unfed fall chinook fry this year.

The five Federal hatcheries of the Columbia River Fisheries Development program (Eagle Creek, Spring Creek, Willard, Carson and Little White) will retain about 40,000,000 fish and feed them until May before releasing them.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

June 8, 1959

For Immediate Release

CASTILE FALLS FISHWAY ON KLICKITAT RIVER TO HAVE LONGEST TUNNEL

A fishway to be built around Castile Falls on the Klickitat river in southern Washington will have the longest (3300 feet) fishway tunnel in the world, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The fishway will be located on the Yakima Indian reservation in the foothills of Mt. Adams about 22 miles north of Glenwood, Wash. The Yakima Indian Tribal Council, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and the Washington State Department of Fisheries are parties to an agreement approved in 1957 to permit construction of the project on Indian land and to provide for policing of fishing regulations to be handled by the Yakima Indians.

Washington State Department of Fisheries will contract for the construction and operate the fishway under the Columbia River Fishery Development program of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Program funds are provided by the Federal government through Congressional appropriation.

Castile Falls is actually a series of 11 falls which present an insurmountable barrier to upstream migrating salmon. When the fishway is completed the upper reaches of the Klickitat river will be open as spawning grounds and a fish run will be established by planting young fish in the streams and permitting the returning salmon to spawn naturally.

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The fishway will be located on the west side of the river at an elevation of about 2700 feet above sea level and will give the fish an easy rise of 118 feet in its 3300-foot length. The six by eight-foot tunnel will be drilled through solid rock and will have 118 overflow weir controls with a one-foot elevation at each successive weir. The pools between weirs will vary in length and will average about 28 feet.

(Usually fishways have pools of the same length as at Bonneville dam where the fish ladders have one foot of elevation for every 16 feet of length.)

At the upstream end of the fishway there will be a 150-foot long reinforced concrete intake structure with trash racks, gravel sluice, vertical slot water flow control unit, all covered with precast concrete slabs.

Alphonse Kemmerich, coordinator of the Columbia River Fishery Development program for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, emphasized that the fish ladder-tunnel is in no way experimental.

There are several man-made tunnel fishways on the Pacific coast streams, Kemmerich pointed out. One was completed just last fall through Elkhorn falls on the Little North Fork of the Santiam east of Salem, Ore. This fishway is 311 feet long with 221 feet of its length in a tunnel. At Upper Deer creek in Tehama county, Calif., there is a 70-foot tunnel section dug through rock. The Washington Department of Fisheries already has one fishway on the Deschutes river near Olympia with a 200-foot tunnel section, but this one was built in the conventional manner and then covered over.

"The real clincher, however, is in Alaska," Kemmerich said. "There is a natural tunnel 1500 to 1800 feet long through which flows Baskey Bay creek. A regular run of salmon uses the tunnel to reach the spawning grounds."

The Washington State Department of Fisheries has called for bids which will be opened at Seattle June 16.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

August 25, 1959

FAMOUS ALBINO BUFFALO OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE IN MONTANA DIES

Big Medicine is dead.

The men of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior and conservationists everywhere were saddened a bit today by the news that one of the most famous of all albinos, an American Bison known as Big Medicine, had died on the National Bison Range in Montana. Big Medicine was 26.

A bit grey in latter years, Big Medicine in his youth was pure white except for the wooly knob between his horns, which was the normal buffalo dark brown. He was the only white buffalo on the National Bison Range, officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife said.

There appears to be an albino strain in the range's herd, however, since albino calves have been born in a herd at Big Delta, Alaska, formed from stock shipped from the Montana range in the 'twenties. A second albino born on the Montana range was sent to the Washington, D. C., zoo in 1937 but this one died several years ago.

Since the National Bison Range was founded near Moiese, Mont., 51 years ago the buffalo herd has been built up to a normal 350 to 400. It is thinned each October to keep it from overgrazing the range.

Arrangements are being made to mount Big Medicine for display in the museum of the Montana Historical Society at Helena, Mont.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

March 16, 1959

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The attached press release was made late Monday March 16 in Portland after the letter it concerns had been delivered to the Division Engineer. The full text of the release and the letter is being furnished you because of the keen interest being shown in the Northwest in the fisheries problems of the Middle Snake. We hope that the wire services furnished you early coverage of the content of the letter.

John R. Ulrich
Regional Information Representative



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Division of Information Northwest Regional Office
PORTLAND, OREGON

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

March 16, 1959

For Release to AM's March 17, 1959

FISH AND WILDLIFE REGIONAL DIRECTORS COMMENT ON REVIEW OF 308 REPORT

Regional Directors of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pacific Northwest Monday forwarded joint comments to the Division Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, on his recent report on "Water Resources Development, Columbia River Basin" (308 Review Report).

The joint letter of Leo L. Laythe, Portland, regional director of BSWF, and Samuel J. Hutchinson, Seattle, regional director BCF, criticized Volume I of the Review for including "statements or implications regarding fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin that are not wholly in agreement with opinions and policies of the Department of the Interior and of this Service."

The letter also deplored the Review report suggestion "that only for projects that provide enhancement opportunities for fish and wildlife values should the basic authority include fish and wildlife preservation and propagation as a project purpose." It points out that the Congress in passing the amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act last year declared that fish and wildlife conservation... "shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resource development programs."

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The regional directors reiterated the Secretary of the Interior's request to the Secretary of the Army (October 27, 1958) that "planning of high dams in the Middle Snake River below the Imnaha River be deferred until such time as competent fishery authorities agree that problems of upstream and downstream passage of anadromous fish at such dams have been successfully and practically solved.

"Your report recommends authorization of Bruces Eddy, Wenaha, Penny Cliffs, and High Mountain Sheep, although fishery technicians of this Service and the States who are best informed on fish passage at such projects agree that the problems of satisfactory fish passage at high dams are far from solved," the letter says.

"Much more research is needed to assure fully successful passage of upstream and downstream migrants at such projects.

"Furthermore the effect of these projects, except for High Mountain Sheep, is likely to be very serious on wildlife populations, especially big game... we are particularly concerned that Penny Cliffs Reservoir may be very seriously destructive to the magnificent elk herds of the Clearwater River Basin."

The letter concluded with the suggestion that recommendations for "authorization of the High Mountain Sheep, the Wenaha, the Asotin, the Penny Cliffs, and the Bruces Eddy projects be deleted from the projects recommended for authorization... pending further consideration of their effects on fish and wildlife resources."

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C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Portland, Oregon

Colonel Allen F. Clark, Jr.
Division Engineer
Corps of Engineers
210 Custom House
Portland 9, Oregon

March 16, 1959

Dear Colonel Clark:

Representatives of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have reviewed your report entitled "Water Resource Development, Columbia River Basin" provided us with your letter of December 19, 1958.

The two Bureaus of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are pleased to note that the fish and wildlife discussion prepared by this Service in cooperation with the State game and fish agencies is included in full in Volume IV of your report. We are also pleased that considerable discussion is given to fish and wildlife resources in Volume I. We feel, however, that Volume I includes statements or implications regarding fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin that are not fully in agreement with opinions and policies of the Department of the Interior and of this Service. The following comments will point up some of the contents of the report in which we cannot concur.

Recommendations presented in the section of the report prepared by this Service in cooperation with the State fish and game agencies pertaining to required streamflows in streams below proposed projects were not mentioned in the consideration of the specific projects in Volume I. Needless to say, the continuance of a fishery in the Columbia River Basin is dependent on adequate streamflows.

The Secretary of the Interior in a letter dated October 27, 1958 recommended to the Secretary of the Army that planning high dams in the Middle Snake River below the Imnaha River be deferred until such time as competent fishery authorities agree that problems of upstream and downstream passage of anadromous fish at such dams have been successfully and practically solved. Your report recommends authorization of Bruces Eddy, Wenaha, Penny Cliffs, and High Mountain Sheep, although fishery technicians of this Service and the States who are best informed on fish passage at such projects agree that the problems of satisfactory fish passage at high dams are far from solved. Much more research is needed to assure fully successful passage of upstream and downstream migrants at such projects.

Furthermore the effect of these projects, except for High Mountain Sheep, is likely to be very serious on wildlife populations, especially big game. Pending the results of further studies, we are particularly concerned that Penny Cliffs Reservoir may be very seriously destructive to the magnificent elk herds of the Clearwater River Basin.

Discussions included in your report describe means of fish passage which are disturbing to us. We believe that statements in your report on such projects as Nez Perce, Bruces Eddy, Penny Cliffs, Wenaha, High Mountain Sheep, Lower Canyon, Freedom, and Crevice pertaining to fish passage imply a degree of efficiency not substantiated by present experience and knowledge.

Funds required to finance research on fish and wildlife aspects of water-development projects in the Columbia Basin should be borne by the planning agency, both for individual projects and for problems of broad concern. It is our opinion that monies included in your report for this purpose are inadequate to meet anticipated needs.

It has long been the stand of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife should be included as an authorized purpose of water-development projects. Furthermore, Article 6 of the Agreement of August 20, 1954 between the Chief of Engineers, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Secretaries of the Interior and the Army, provides that where the effects of a project on fish and wildlife resources are significant, the report of the Corps of Engineers on that project shall include fish and wildlife conservation as one of the project purposes. The Agreement is not conditioned on having the projects provide for enhancement of these resources nor on having an evaluation of these effects. Also the Congress in passing the amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of August 12, 1958, declared that fish and wildlife conservation "...shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resource development programs..."

It is noted, however, that your report suggests that only for projects that provide enhancement opportunities for fish and wildlife values should the basic authority include fish and wildlife preservation and propagation as a project purpose. We feel that these resources would not be given warranted consideration at projects where enhancement opportunities did not appear to exist in the early planning unless authority is provided. Certainly such language would not detract from project feasibility and would insure a basis for appropriations which is otherwise lacking. We also feel that more support for projects would be received from conservation interests if fish and wildlife preservation and propagation were included in the authorized project purposes.

The first of our general recommendations, appearing as paragraph 72 (1) on page 21 of Appendix D, Part 3, Volume IV, of your report has not been specifically dealt with in your recommendations, as requested. Accordingly, we propose that there be added to your recommendations appearing on page 396, Volume I of your report the following language:

"It is further recommended that additional detailed studies of fish and wildlife resources be conducted, as necessary, after projects mentioned in this report are authorized, in accordance with Section 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.); and such reasonable modifications be made in authorized project facilities as may be agreed upon by the Commissioner of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Director of the responsible State conservation agency, and the Chief of Engineers, for the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife resources."

In view of the above comments, it is also suggested that recommendations for the present authorization of the High Mountain Sheep, the Wenaha, the Asotin, the Penny Cliffs, and the Bruces Eddy Projects be deleted from the projects recommended for authorization on page 396 of Volume I, pending further consideration of their effects on fish and wildlife resources.

We regret that these suggestions for changes could not have been furnished you while your report was in draft stage. However, we did not have the usual opportunity to review and comment on this report in accordance with standard procedure. Consequently, we have no alternative but to make these suggestions despite the fact that the report has been put in final form.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on your report.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Leo L. Laythe
Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

/s/ Samuel J. Hutchinson
Regional Director
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries