



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE BUREAUS RELEASE REPORT ON PROPOSED BRUCES EDDY DAM AND RESERVOIR IN IDAHO

A report evaluating the probable effects of construction of the proposed Bruce's Eddy Dam and Reservoir project in Idaho on fish and wildlife resources and recommending conservation measures in event the dam is authorized by Congress was released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

The report, issued after a four-year study, was signed by D. L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and by A. V. Tunison, Acting Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The document was addressed to Arnie J. Suomela, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior. The study was made with the cooperation of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The effect of the project on big-game herds in the North Fork drainage would be highly adverse, according to the report. The Clearwater elk herd is one of the largest in the United States.

The report states the project also would damage both resident and migratory fishes. The most damaging effects would be to the steelhead trout, 60 percent of which spawn above the Bruce's Eddy Dam site. If the project were to be constructed there is no assurance that the runs of migratory fish could be maintained at even present low levels.

If the project is authorized, the two Bureaus recommend that conservation and development of fish and wildlife resources should be included as an authorized project purpose and that the following measures be taken:

Fish passage facilities at Bruce's Eddy Dam be undertaken at an estimated cost of \$15 million;

Facilities for artificial propagation of anadromous fish be included at an estimated cost of \$2 million for construction and \$200,000 a year for operation;

Facilities be provided for the annual production of 500,000 catchable-sized trout for stocking the reservoir and its tributaries at an estimated construction cost of \$600,000 with an annual operating cost of \$90,000;

A flow of not less than 2,000 second-feet of water in the North Fork of the Clearwater be made below the dam at all times and the temperature of the water is to be maintained between 45 degrees and 65 degrees Fahrenheit;

Stream improvement work above the reservoir at a cost of \$1 million to be carried out with outlet structures in the dam so designed and located that downstream migrating fish will not be drawn into them; and

Lands additional to project needs be acquired and made available for management and habitat improvement for big-game, especially elk, at an estimated cost of \$1,900,000 for acquisition of the necessary land and initial development.

There were also recommendations which would assure the public the fullest possible use of the area, provide for consultation and cooperation in minimizing the adverse effect of transporting logs downstream, and assure cooperation between the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the management of the acquired lands.

Copies of the report are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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