

Monetary Fishery Loss Foreseen With Dams

By Rogue River Basin Committee

The loss of fish that would be caused by the contemplated Bureau of Reclamation dams would create serious damages to the economy of the Rogue River basin. High dams in the main channel of Rogue River (and some of the tributary projects) would destroy Oregon's most valuable runs of steelhead and salmon. The Oregon State Game Commission has completed six years of research and study on these runs that would be affected. Their reports show the runs of spring salmon and summer run steelhead contribute the most, if not entirely, to the economic benefits derived from the fishery. Nearly all of the money spent in the valley for sports angling is for these spring and summer runs.

Economic surveys have shown that sports fishermen spent \$2,053,000 in pursuit of Rogue River steelhead and salmon. In 1946, 597,000 pounds of sports-caught fish were taken from the Rogue waters. Sportsmen spent \$3.50 per pound in catching these fish. Commercial fishermen in the off-shore troll fishery realized an additional \$100,000 return from fish of Rogue River origin. Therefore, the 1946 value of both commercial and sport fishery was \$2,155,000. Capitalized at 4 per cent, this resource is valued at \$53,875,000.

A 1940 economic survey determined that there is a total capital investment in the basin of at least \$2,000,000 for sports fishing and related recreational use. This represented the actual investment in property such as fishing resorts, boats, tackle shops, sportsmen's canneries, fish hatcheries and fish ladders.

The Gold Beach and lower river communities would be the most seriously affected in the event these dams were built. Nearly everyone in

those communities is now largely dependent upon the sports fishery for income and marginal support. The Grants Pass and Medford areas would suffer the greatest in total monetary losses. However, per capita losses would be much less in these areas than in the lower river; but everyone would be affected directly or indirectly.

There is reason to expect that the value of the Rogue River fishery will increase materially as time goes on. The fish runs concerned can be increased under the controlled management program now in progress. With the advent of peace, angling pressure has increased many fold. This in turn has brought increasing amounts of money into the basin by persons seeking good fishing, rest and recreation, therefore, the damages to the fishery as presented above, in terms of cost, may be considered the minimum.

Lottie Cingcade has sold her place in Eagle Point and moved her furniture to Mary Moore's place for the present. She is looking for a house. Mrs. Cingcade is Mrs. Moore's sister.

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