

SENATE COLUMBIA RIVER RESOURCE TASK FORCE Civic Center April 2,
1991 Hermiston Oregon 5:30 p.m. Tap" 1 - 4 MEMBERS

PRESENT: Sen. Joan Dukes, Chair Sen. Scott Duff, Vice-Chair Sen. Dick Springer Sen. Eugene Timms MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Larry Hill VISITING MEMBER: Rep. Chuck Norris STAFF PRESENT: Ruth Larson, Committee Administrator Shannon Gossack, Committee Assistant WITNESSES: Dave Riley, Oregon's Salmon Summit Andy Brunelle, Staff, Governor Cecil Andrus Fred Ziari, IRZ Consulting Glenn Vanselow, Pacific NW Waterway Assoc. Johnathan Sleeter, Pacific NW Grain & Feed Bruce Lovelin, NW Irrigation Utilities Frank Lamb, Eastern Oregon Farming Co. Clifford Simmons, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Mike Passmore, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers F.K. Starrett, Port of Umatilla Susan Daggett, Port of Umatilla Gary Neal, Port of Portland Ralph Hodge, Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Ron Baker, C & B Livestock Richard Earnhart, Citizen Gary Reed, Oregon State University Don Beets, Citizen Joyce Hart, Oregon Wheat Growers League

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TAPE 1, SIDE A

008 CHAIR DUKES: Calls hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. Explains intent of task force. Senate Committee on Transportation April 2, 1991 - Page 2

Committee members introduce themselves and explain why they are on the task force.

108 DAVE RILEY, ADMINISTRATOR, OREGON SALMON SUMMIT: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT A) -Outlines four categories of possible solutions. -Discusses possible 1991 actions. -Explains potential impacts to Oregonians.

223 REP. NORRIS: Does it look like there will be any federal assistance for the proposed fish screens on the take-outs?

228 RILEY: Discusses the Mitchell Act money which is \$500,000.00 per year to be spent toward fish screening on the Columbia River. I don't think there won't be additional federal money but it probably won't meet the demand. 240 SEN. DUFF: What river levels are you talking about behind the pools? 243 RILEY: Explains the problem in determining at or near minimum levels. -Presently we are in the 262-263 foot level and it appears this may not be a great impact on a person. -Minimum pool is about 257 feet. 268 SEN. TIMMS: Who will be the group to lead the discussion in trying to solve this problem? 274 RILEY: Speaking for the Salmon Summit; the Power Planning Council would probably be the one to decide. 300 ANDY BRUNELLE, STAFF, GOVERNOR CECIL ANDRUS: Submits and reviews Governor Andrus's Salmon Summit Proposals. (EXHIBIT B) -Explains how the Salmon Summit brought all of the interested parties together.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

029 BRUNELLE: Continues with written testimony. (EXHIBIT B) -Explains Idaho's goals and strategies. -Discusses flooding of the dams. -The state of Idaho feels that the reconfiguration of the dams needs to be looked at. -Discusses draw down of John Day pool and how that might affect Oregon agriculture.

354 SEN. DUFF: It is refreshing that the state of Idaho would recommend that the region mitigate the cost of navigation and irrigation rather than have the owners of those facilities bear those costs themselves.

359 BRUNELLE: Expresses concerns about all of the money that has been put into hatcheries, habitat restoration and research.

375 REP. NORRIS: Was the return of the sockeye salmon this last year zero?

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377 BRUNELLE: That is correct.

378 REP. NORRIS: Is the sockeye considered extinct?

380 BRUNELLE: There are still sockeye somewhere in the system. Discusses the overlapping years in regard to the fish runs.

408 SEN. TIMMS: Aren't head waters the most important part of breeding salmon?

421 BRUNELLE: Discusses the salmon basin below Hell's Canyon. -Discusses salmon and their spawning process. 433 SEN. TIMMS: What bothers me are the dams in Washington State and Idaho, which are also a big part of the problem. 440 BRUNELLE: The dams on the Snake river constructed in the early 1970's are the ones that appear to us to have changed the river environment to where the fish started to decline. -Discusses Brownlee Reservoir

TAPE 2, SIDE A

006 BRUNELLE: Discusses fish runs and the problems with them.

014 SEN. TIMMS: Explains how the fish were scooped upstream at Hell's Canyon.

026 BRUNELLE: Discusses Sunbeam dam.

035 SEN. TIMMS: There are dams everywhere on the headwaters. It seems that the dams down river are being blamed.

044 BRUNELLE: Discusses the dams upstream and how they wiped out the salmon.

053 SEN. SPRINGER: Is the Army Corp. of Engineers refusing to do anything by this spring to get the water down river faster?

056 BRUNELLE: The Army Corp. of Engineers will lower the reservoirs to near minimum operating pool below what the average pool is.

071 SEN. SPRINGER: Is there anything we can do to get the Army Corp of Engineers to reconsider that decision? 075 BRUNELLE: At this time I think the opportunity has been lost. 080 REP. NORRIS: Did they define the species in the proclamation of extinction, and if so, did

they include the Redfish Lake Kokanee? 083

BRUNELLE: I don't know.

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085 REP. NORRIS: Asks about the Governor of Idaho's comments regarding the general economy of our region.

088 BRUNELLE: Explains that the state of Idaho will be analyzing the set of proposals that came out of the Salmon Summit in regard to rebuilding the runs. 106 RUTH LARSON, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Submits written testimony of GENE ALLEN, CITY OF BOARDMAN (EXHIBIT C) 120 FRED ZIARI, IRZ CONSULTING: Salmon runs are depressed but not extinct. -The dams have not caused all of the damage; the Coho Salmon have been depressed by 67 percent without going through a single dam. -There are other factors involved that are influencing the salmon runs. -Discusses the flow proposal issue. -Explains what the irrigators of Eastern Oregon have done on their own to help in the issue of the decline of the salmon. -We ask that what ever proposals are adopted that they be based on factual and scientific information. -The total irrigation on around a million acres is about 6.7 percent of the Columbia River water and we put back 50 percent. -We would support a 263 foot level, but we would need at least two years to adjust to it. -At the 261 foot level we think that about 50,000 acres would be affected negatively. -Discusses the pre-engineer study that his group is currently working on. -Discusses the issue of storage. -Outlines four areas of irrigation that will be affected if the level is lowered; power costs, pump modification costs, availability of water and transportation.

TAPE 2, SIDE B 034 ZIARI: Scientists don't even agree on this issue.

057 SEN. DUFF: What will the pre-engineering study cost? 058 ZIARI: Costs are taken on locally. We would like to look at this on a bigger scope but the cost is high. We have so many requests from different groups wanting to know how this might affect them.

075 SEN. DUFF: It doesn't seem like the fishery biologists have tried to understand this salmon issue like the farmers and irrigators have.

088 SEN. SPRINGER: Are you or the people you work with looking at any answers to try to restore the stream flow in the Umatilla so we can get natural habitat back? 093 ZIARI: Discusses the cooperation between the irrigators and the Indian tribes.

115 GLENN VANSELOW, PACIFIC NW WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT D) -Discusses the Schultz bar on the Snake River.

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-We want a complete feasibility study done before any action is taken on a draw down.

211 SEN. SPRINGER: What about the timing involved? There are two months that are critical, when is the key irrigation use and how does that coincide with the barging?

221 VANSELOW: Continues with written testimony. (EXHIBIT D) -Explains how a drawdown would dramatically affect barging. -Discusses the proposal that would maintain the reservoirs at the John Day and Snake at minimum pool. -Discusses the dredging issue. -We would like your assistance to insure all interested parties are represented fairly. -Cautions that lengthy mitigation could lead to the demise of transportation in regard to navigation. 398 JOHNATHAN SLEETER, PACIFIC NW GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION: Explains the grain crop in regard to shipping. -Explains that trucking and rail are not viable options for shipping their crop. -Discusses draw downs and how that impacts shipping in regard to cost.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

007 SLEETER: If we face a two month outage we simply won't ship. -Explains storage capacity of the lower Columbia destinations. -It is extremely important that the plan offered to save the salmon on the Columbia River have a sound basis in fact before we take action. 036 CHAIR DUKES: Asks about barge traffic in regard to seasons. 040 SLEETER: We work around a two week outage right now. Everything is calculated around that two weeks. 047VANSELOW: On average, for the last 6 years, the months of April, May and June have accounted for 23 percent of the annual total. 051 BRUCE LOVELIN, NW IRRIGATION UTILITIES: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT E) -Without water for two weeks in the middle of our growing season is the same as all year without water. 101 SEN. SPRINGER: What relationship exists between ground water sources and river sources? 105 LOVELIN: Explains that water pumped out of the Walla Walla area is from the Ice Harbor pool. -Discusses the John Day and McNary pool draw down proposals. -Supports protection screens on irrigation diversions. -We view the recovery of the salmon as a public responsibility and the cost should be covered by the public.

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155 SEN. SPRINGER: Do you support Senator Hatfield's remarks regarding the Army Corp of Engineering?

175 LOVELIN: I would agree. The Army Corp of Engineers has started a process in the tri-city areas to scope out the draw down proposal.

191 FRANK LAMB, EASTERN OREGON FARMING COMPANY: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT F)

320 REP. NORRIS: The Eastern Oregon Farming Company is extremely well managed.

340 CHAIR DUKES: What is the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers doing right now?

351 CLIFFORD SIMMONS, U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS: Our role has been one of providing technical support. -We are going to try to facilitate a regional discussion on the criteria for test protocol on the lower Snake river. -Discusses the difficulty in determining test criteria.

408 CHAIR DUKES: How long will it take you to frame the questions?

411 SIMMONS: We are starting with a meeting April 5 and have several meetings scheduled for the rest of the month. -Discusses all the issues that will need to be considered before action is taken. 429 CHAIR DUKES: Once you have all of that figured out when would you begin the test? 431 SIMMONS: Explains the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's process for beginning testing. 442 CHAIR DUKES: By the summer of 1992 you could be actually doing a test?

449 SIMMONS: To do that we would need to have everything in order by the end of next Spring.

TAPE 3, SIDE B

023 MIKE PASSMORE, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: I would like to stress the importance of determining what the test shall be. This is an extremely short frame of time to set this in motion.

035 SEN. DUFF: Do you have the staff to look at the question of dredging, pumping stations, wetlands and modifying of the dams?

042 SIMMONS: We have the technical support to do a test, but we don't have the capacity to identify those areas that would have to be constructed prior to the 1992 test.

050 PASSMORE: We have developed a summary of potential impacts. -Discusses the test drawdown issue.

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068 SEN. TIMMS: We need to figure out what is causing the endangered species before we go with a drawdown. 075 SIMMONS: I agree with you on that. We are willing to work with the region if they will support a test draw down and we will determine the positive and negative impacts. 083 CHAIR DUKES: Do you think that the dams are the major cause of the reduction of runs on the Columbia River? 088 PASSMORE: The dams have had an impact on the runs. -Discusses the money that has been spent to off set this problem. 106 SEN. DUFF: Does the law require you to put together an environmental impact regarding the draw down and do you have the information available for public hearings? 111 PASSMORE: We don't have a clear test to offer to the public. 121 REP. NORRIS: Asks about main stem flow upstream. 123 SIMMONS: I'm not sure. 125 REP. NORRIS: Are you familiar with Systems Operation Review on the Columbia River? 130 SIMMONS: Yes we are familiar with the board and they will need to consider this issue. 140 SEN. SPRINGER: Do you have biologists on your own staff? 143 SIMMONS: Explains the staff they have to deal with this issue. 152 SEN. SPRINGER: Do your biologists all agree on the issue of getting small fish downstream faster? 156 SIMMONS: Discusses the issue of moving Fish downstream efficiently. -Explains the issue of increased nitrogen super saturation. -We are prepared to work with anyone on this issue. 185 SEN. SPRINGER: If you consider reducing the pool level do you have the means to determine the economic impact? 197 PASSMORE: We are trying to determine those impacts. 220 F.K. STARRETT, PORT OF UMATILLA: When we looked at the 257 foot level we realized this could be a disastrous situation. What about the habitat along the river if there were an 11 foot draw down. No one has talked about the at all. There are so many other things that might be affected. 267 SUSAN DAGGETT, PORT OF

UMATILLA: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT G)

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351 CHAIR DUKES: I don't think I have heard a concrete proposal to lower the levels of the dams which are mentioned in your testimony. (EXHIBIT G) 377 RUTH LARSON, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Explains Dave Riley's summary of the Salmon Summit proposals. (EXHIBIT A) 388 VANSELOW: Angus Duncan has proposed to the Salmon Summit to bring John Day pool down to minimum operating pool which is the 257 foot level. There have been thousands of various combinations proposed. 412 DAGGETT: Discusses the Port of Umatilla. 435 GARY NEAL, PORT OF MORROW: Submits and reviews written testimony. (EXHIBIT H) TAPE 4, SIDE A

018 NEAL: Continues with written testimony. (EXHIBIT H)

040 SEN. SPRINGER: Do either of your ports have a contract with the longshoreman union?

041 DAGGETT: No we do not.

042 SEN. SPRINGER: Are the ports of the Great Lakes free to navigation year round?

043 NEAL: No they are not and other modes are utilized.

050 SEN. DUFF: Don't the people of that region receive a Great Lakes subsidy so they can keep their facilities open?

056 RALPH HODGE, OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKER'S UNION: Discusses the people he represents and how a drawdown would affect them. There needs to be a balance of needs between the users of the river.

098 RON BAKER, C & B LIVESTOCK: Discusses the economic impact a drawdown would have on his industry.

283 SEN. DUFF: Asks about C & B Livestock in regard to international trade.

285 BAKER: Explains the Japanese market and other countries he has been working with. -We have a tremendous opportunity because we are closer than the Midwest.

320 SEN. DUFF: One of the things our country is searching for is to be more competitive overseas.

322 BAKER: Gives example of where crumbled cookies from Portland bakeries end up.

353 SEN. SPRINGER: How much water do you use every year?

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355 BAKER: Approximately 30 to 36 inches per acre. -Explains how much
water different crops use. 384 SEN. SPRINGER: How much do you pay per
acre foot for that water? 389 BAKER: Explains what it costs to use
the water. 418 RICHARD EARNHART, CITIZEN: Expresses concern about
draw downs.

TAPE 4, SIDE A

039 EARNHART: Discusses the dams and their limitations. -Expresses
concern about lower levels in regard to fish ladders.

090 GARY REED, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY: Discusses the issue of
irrigation costs.

123 SEN. DUFF: The City of Portland doesn't pay a fee when it uses the
Columbia River to dump sewage. 128 SEN. SPRINGER: What if Congress
decides not to subsidize the construction of the dams on the Columbia
River anymore? 137 REED: In California they paid for the dams and the
systems to deliver it. -We are making choices for our children and our
grandchildren. 148 DON BEETS, CITIZEN: One thing that no one has
mentioned is the gillnetters. There are an overabundance of them. I
don't care how many hatcheries you build or how much water you push them
down with, if they are stopped from coming back up then its over. You've
stopped the cycle. Someone needs to address the issue of fishing on this
river. Open gillnetting on the Columbia is devastating. 170 JOYCE
HART, OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE: Submits and reviews written
testimony. (EXHIBIT I) 315 CHAIR DUKES: Adjourns hearing at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by, Reviewed by, Shannon Gossack Ruth Larson
Assistant Administrator

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EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Dave Riley, 3pgs. B - Andy Brunelle, 45 pas. C - Gene Allen, 7 pas.
D - Glenn Vanselow, 3 pas. E - Bruce Lovelin, 3 pas. F - Frank Lamb, 3
pas. G - Susan Daggett, 2 pas. H - Gary Neal, 4 pas. I - Joyce Hart, 5
pas. J - Ed Balsiger, 2 pas.

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