



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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Fish Conservation at Grand Coulee

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today announced the award of two contracts covering the construction of 16 residences with attached garages for the Leavenworth, Entiat and Winthrop stations, all features of the permanent program for the conservation of migratory fish in the Columbia River, made necessary by the construction of Grand Coulee Dam, Columbia Basin project, Washington.

On a bid of \$55,859, W. J. Park and Son of Yakima, Washington, was awarded a contract for building 7 residences with attached garages for the Leavenworth station and 4 residences with attached garages for the Entiat station.

The West Coast Construction Company of Seattle, Washington on its bid of \$29,381 was awarded the other contract for constructing 5 residences with attached garages for the Winthrop station. These two bids were lowest for the respective items of seven bids received and opened by the Bureau of Reclamation at its Coulee Dam office on August 12, 1940.

The residences will be of 6 types, varying from 4 to 6 rooms and will be adapted to the lots on which they are to be constructed. All the residences and garages will be built of similar materials and will be of similar construction. The foundations and footings will be of concrete and the residences and garages will be of wood-frame construction. A warm-air heating system will be installed in each residence. These residences will be used by those persons engaged in the

operation of the stations. The contractors are required to begin work within 30 days after receiving notice to proceed and complete all work within 160 days.

Blocked by the 553-foot Grand Coulee Dam, now nearing completion, the runs of salmon and steelhead trout, amounting to a small percentage of the migratory fish which enter the Columbia River at its mouth, are unable to go upstream to spawn. The fish are being trapped at Rock Island Dam, about 150 miles below Grand Coulee Dam, and transported in specially designed tank trucks to the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow and Oganogan Rivers, all tributaries entering the Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam. It is believed that these streams will furnish sufficient spawning areas and support the young of more salmon than now migrate to the Upper Columbia River above Rock Island Dam. Hatcheries and rearing ponds at stations on these four tributary streams are features of the permanent program for conservation of the runs.

When the permanent program is in operation the fish will be transported to the holding ponds on Icicle Creek, where they will be held from 1 to 6 months until they are ripe for spawning. They will then be caught and spawned artificially, and the eggs will be placed in troughs in the Leavenworth hatchery, which is near the holding ponds. The eggs will be held at this hatchery for a time, and then their respective quotas will be transferred to the other hatcheries. The eggs and "fry" will be in the hatchery from 3 to 5 months, depending on water temperatures, and when the fry are ready to feed they will be transferred to the rearing ponds. From the rearing ponds, the fish, after being fed for periods of 3 months to 1 year, will be hauled in the tank trucks and distributed to the various tributaries, where they will remain until they move downstream to the ocean.

The Leavenworth station on the Wenatchee River, the principal feature called for in the permanent program, is practically completed. Work is progressing at the Entiat station on the Entiat River, north of the Wenatchee, and at the Winthrop station on the Methow River, north of the Entiat.

The Bureau of Reclamation, in charge of building Grand Coulee Dam, is doing the construction work required under the permanent fish control program. The operation of the works, with the exception of a game fish hatchery above Grand Coulee Dam to augment the supply of fish for the waters of the reservoir to be created by the dam and for streams above the reservoir, will be under the supervision of the Fish and Wildlife Service for a period of six years.