

Oregon Dam Project

WILLIAM L. FINLEY, noted naturalist of Oregon, has asked that the proposed project for seven dams on the headwaters of the Willamette River in that State, to be built with government funds, be studied before approval. He recommends that a complete investigation be made by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries and the Oregon Game and Fish Commission, to determine what will be the effect of the dams on the salmon runs.

"Salmon runs on the Sacramento River in California have been utterly destroyed by such dams, and the use of the water for irrigation without screening the ditches," Finley states. "Baker River in Washington was a very valuable salmon stream until a 200-ft. dam was built and the run completely destroyed. Experts who have studied the matter claim the dam brings in \$40,000 a year in power, and the loss on salmon is \$50,000 a year . . . The early, or first run of Chinook salmon, which is the most important, comes in the Columbia and works up the Willamette to the headwaters to spawn. All the fish experts who have studied the Willamette project have stated that these dams will prove a definite detriment to the salmon runs."

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at the Old Heathman hotel Friday.
Oregonian June 2, 1938
Finley to Speak—William L. Finley, widely known naturalist, will address the City club at the Benson hotel Friday noon on "Recreational vs. Industrial Use of Oregon Rivers."

Hillsboro (Or) Argus **Finley to Speak At Chamber Meet** *June 2, 1938*

William L. Finley of Portland, noted naturalist, will address the chamber of commerce at noon Monday on the subject "Public Uses of Rivers and Effects of Irrigation and Power Dams." His talk is expected to deal with game and fish life as affected by the various projects.

Finley is recognized as one of the national authorities on conservation, and speaks with full knowledge on subjects pertaining to wild life and nature topics. The chamber of commerce is urging all those interested in conservation, wild life and the purification of streams to attend the meeting and hear Finley's message.

TOURIST CALLED *Oregonian* **BOON TO OREGON**

June 4, 1938

The tourist crop is Oregon's greatest industry, said William L. Finley, local author and naturalist, in an address before the City club yesterday at the Benson hotel. He stated that tourists coming into the state spend from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually in Oregon.

But he declared the rich salmon industry, which has been bringing \$10,000,000 to the state, is rapidly being ruined.

"The spring run of salmon will be exterminated unless something is done," he said. "It has been going down for 40 years, the irrigation dams being the things that have cut down this salmon run."

Coulee Held Barrier

"And now, there are no fishways in the Grand Coulee dam, so the salmon that used to go to the headwaters of the Columbia to spawn are cut off. The Bonneville dam is all right from the fish standpoint, the ladders are good, but when more dams are built in the Columbia river, there will be great danger to the fish.

"I am surprised to see no opposition to the proposed high dams on the upper Willamette river."

Mr. Finley's subject was "Recreational vs. Industrial Use of Oregon Rivers." He said that inland waterways are not much needed now, presenting figures to show that the canals now in use are very costly.

He said the government has been spending millions upon millions of dollars to make the Missouri river navigable between St. Louis and Kansas City, so "that freight moved on this river between those two cities cost the taxpayers of the United States \$5000 a ton."

Oregon Journal **Finley Places Salmon Loss Blame** *June 4, 1938*

The only thought given to the Willamette valley project has been flood control and no consideration has been given to the damage to the recreational life of the state when the high dams proposed in that project are completed, William L. Finley, naturalist, said in a speech at the City club Friday noon luncheon in the Benson hotel.

Finley said the loss of the spring salmon run is not to be blamed on Bonneville dam. The decline in the run has been approaching for many decades and it took the Bonneville project to prove it.

He said the fishways at Bonneville are adequate but scored the fact that no fishways are at Grand Coulee and other dams and that irrigation ditches have not been screened. On the latter he laid much of the blame for loss of the salmon run.