

## Objections Voiced To Oregon Dams

*Boston, Mass., May 26, 1939*  
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

SALEM, Ore. — Announcement that work will begin on the Willamette Valley Project this fall has brought out objections to parts of the work included in the project. Chief objection raised thus far is to the construction of the seven proposed dams on the Willamette River and its tributaries.

Dr. William L. Finley of Portland, nationally known naturalist, author and lecturer, has declared that construction of the dams will back up the water in the McKenzie and two Santiam rivers, prevent the free movement of salmon and create "a biological desert of the two most beautiful parts of the State."

"Either high or low dams need greater study," Dr. Finley said, "and caution should be taken before more of the taxpayers' money is expended for this purpose. Power production and irrigation have legitimate purposes, but should not be developed to the detriment of natural fish life, which is of inestimable value as an industry and recreation.

"The increased spending of Federal funds has opened up the wild-est campaign through this nation, which is captained by local pressure groups. The more the Government spends on local problems the greater is the gain for shrewd exploiters. They reap the harvest, while the taxpayers take the loss."

Several other persons have voiced objections to the dams that are included in the project, but no steps have been taken, as yet, to have any or all of them removed from the program.

*Linn County*  
**NOTED NATURALIST  
TO SPEAK AT LIONS  
MEET HERE JUNE 8**

*Lincoln Express 6-1-39*  
William L. Finley, nationally known naturalist, will be the speaker at the Lions club meeting Thursday noon, June 8. Finley's writings and works are well known to the people of this state where he makes his home and has conducted so much of his research and explorations. The subject of his talk before the Lions will be "Woods, Water and Wildlife," and there is perhaps no one more qualified to present interesting and entertaining discussion on such topic. Finley is vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation, of the Issac Walton League and of the American Forestry Association. He has been honored with a degree of doctor of science.

*Albany, Oregon*  
**Finley Questions  
Advisability of  
Sweet Home Dam**

*Democrat-Herald June 10, 1939 884*  
Sweet Home, June 10. (Special) —William L. Finley, noted naturalist, addressed an audience of several hundred interested persons at the regular Community Forum meeting held here Thursday evening. The subject of Mr. Finley's address was "The Effect of the Proposed Dam at Sweet Home on the Surrounding Area."

Finley prefaced the subject of his talk by citing examples of so called conservation that had been misused instead of used. He stated that conservation was use, not misuse. Cases which bore out this statement were the drying up of lakes, ponds and swamps in the north central states which ultimately resulted in the dust bowl. This project was carried on to make available more agricultural lands, but as the years passed the undertaking defeated its purpose. Another example given was the cutting of timber in order that more agricultural lands could be put to use—this too resulted in a disadvantage rather than an advantage.

In speaking of other government projects being carried on, Mr. Finley stated that irrigation was not to be criticized, but in damming the headwaters of rivers and diverting the courses of them, it not only decreased the fishing industry, but the government was paying from \$150 to \$200 per acre to water the lands it was to benefit as a result of the work done. When the Grand Coulee Dam is completed at a cost of \$400,000,000 the irrigation of each acre will cost from \$200 to \$300, asserted Finley. The question then is "Has this project done what it should in comparison with the amount expended," he stated.

In speaking of the Willamette Valley Project for which \$62,000,000 is asked, the speaker questioned the advisability of the proposed dam built at Sweet Home. According to plans now made the dam would be constructed at the west entrance of the city and would flood the entire town of Sweet Home, Foster and all the outlying territory. This would mean the diverting of the railroad and the highway to say nothing of the complete destruction of the fast growing and enterprising businesses, which are now progressing so rapidly. He asked if there was proof that project would warrant so much destruction and could not there be other ways for helping flood control.

The building of the dam at Sweet Home is a problem that must be dealt with from every angle before people should be willing to see their homes, businesses and the natural beauty of the surrounding area destroyed, he declared. It all reverts back to the old adage "Should one rob Peter to pay Paul?"

George Ellis, president of the forum, presided at the meeting which was in charge of the Rebekah lodge. Preceding the address of the evening musical numbers were given by Mrs. Bernice Duncan, Mrs. Melvin Morgan, Mrs. Ralph Russell and Orville Nunn.

Asa Smith, president of the fair board, announced that the list of committees to assist with the fair was being made and would be announced shortly. The question of purchasing a loud speaker for in the gymnasium was discussed.

*Oregonian June 12, 1939*  
**Naturalist Speaks**

SWEET HOME, June 11 (Special)—W. L. Finley, naturalist, addressed the Sweet Home community forum at its regular meeting Thursday.

Mr. Finley discussed the effect of the proposed dam at Sweet Home for the Willamette valley project on the surrounding area.

The site of the proposed dam to be built at Sweet Home would be located at the west entrance of the city and the waters from the South Santiam would completely flood the towns of Sweet Home and Foster and the valley for several miles.