

C1.07:3

3 of 3

67/14  
c

C1107

185481

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Ephrata, Washington

April 18, 1942.

Joint Investigations  
Columbia Basin Joint Investigations

MARCH, 1942, MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

General Section

Professor Barrows to Devote More Time to the Joint Investigations

Professor H. H. Barrows will devote more time to the Joint Investigations beginning about the middle of the year, following his retirement from active service in the University of Chicago, where he is Chairman of the Department of Geography. It is expected that the studies will have been completed by that time, or at least will have been brought sufficiently close to completion so that the preparation of a unified report embodying salient findings and recommendations from all investigations may be launched.

W. E. Warne on Loan to War Production Board

During the absence of Mr. Warne on loan by the Bureau of Reclamation to the War Production Board, G. W. Lineweaver, Acting Chief, Information Division, will substitute for him as co-director of the studies with Professor Barrows.

Hearings on The Columbia Basin Project Bill

Hearings on a bill to amend the Anti-Speculation Act (H. R. 6522) were held during March by the House Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. Among those who took part in the hearings were Commissioner John C. Page, W. E. Warne, H. R. Stinson, and Professor Barrows of the Bureau of Reclamation; J. H. Smart, Farm Security Administration; Ed Davis, Director of the Washington State Department of Conservation and Development; and Rufus Woods and Kirby Billingsley of the Wenatchee Daily World. The bill remained with the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation at the close of the month, with indications that a number of amendments were under consideration. It is hoped that the bill will be reported during April.

Dr. Carl C. Taylor Goes to South America

Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has left Washington for a year in Argentina on an assignment for the State Department.

During his absence, Dr. Taylor's work as head of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, and as leader of problems 10 and 27 and participant in many of the other investigations will be carried on by Dr. John Provinse.

School District Reorganization in the Columbia Basin  
Irrigation Project Area and Contiguous Territory

To assist local school officials and boards in current school district reorganizations, a statement with the above title has been prepared and distributed by Mr. Elmer L. Breckner, Director, State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts Under Chapter 248, Laws of 1941.

The statement provides answers for two questions:

1. What provision, if any, has been made for coordinating the efforts of (a) the state and county committees now operating in the Columbia Basin counties under the 1941 state School District Reorganization Act, and (b) the Federal, state, regional, and local agencies now engaged in the Joint Investigations in the same area under the sponsorship of the Bureau of Reclamation?
2. What policies, principles, and procedures should guide those concerned with planning for this Columbia Basin area a school district organization that will serve to provide school facilities and services for the present sparse population, but will not operate in future years to impede such organizational changes as may be necessary to meet the educational demands of an expanding population?

In connection with the first question the statement discusses the cooperative agreement between the State Committee and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics under which the latter provides the part-time services of a research worker, and the studies made by Mr. T. S. Bunsu acting both as representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the cooperative work in Columbia Basin counties and also as investigator of that agency on Problem 28 of the Joint Investigations. In answer to the second question specific guides are presented to assist in the reorganization of existing districts in such manner as to provide improved and equalized services and a more equitable distribution of school support for the present population, and also to provide a suitable base for greatly expanded needs when irrigation development takes place. Among the proposals, it is suggested that larger districts be created by a reduction in the number of existing ones, and that county boundaries be not accepted as district boundaries where efficiency can be promoted by the inclusion of portions of two or more counties in a single district. In proposing new district boundaries careful consideration was urged of the irrigable and non-irrigable areas and other materials indicating the prospective distribution of population.

### Market Studies

Mr. Calhoun reports from Washington, D. C., that most of the sections of the Market Studies report have been completed, and that it is hoped to have the full report ready for review during May.

### Combined Publication Planned for Reports on Problems 4 and 5

The publication of the report on Problem 5 in printed form as one of the series planned for the Joint Investigations will be combined with that for Problem 4. These problems involve closely related phases of a common subject. Problem 4 is concerned with normal water requirements and Problem 5 with means to prevent excessive use of water. The report on Problem 5 was submitted on December 9, 1940. As noted in recent monthly progress reports, and work on Problem 4 is being advanced rapidly.

### Description of Project Area and Its Geographic Subdivisions

To provide a background of information for investigators who have been added recently to some committees there has been prepared an eleven page description of the project area and its geographic subdivisions. A number of maps and graphs used in various reports and releases which have been distributed to participants in the Joint Investigations accompany the description. Copies of these materials may be obtained from the Field Coordinator.

### Third Season of Temperature Survey Started

The third year of the temperature survey being conducted during the spring, summer, and fall at 26 stations in the project area was started during March. Thermographs and thermometers were serviced and installed during the early part of the month, and readings were made regularly on and after the fifteenth. At the three key stations, evaporation pans and anemometers were installed in preparation for readings to start on April 1.

Problem Investigation Section

Problem No. 1. On other northwestern irrigation projects where basic conditions are similar to those which will be encountered on the earlier units of the Columbia Basin Project, what types of farm economy (including crops and crop programs) have been successful? Most successful? Unsuccessful, if any?

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted March 11, 1941

Problem No. 2. What types of farm economy are best suited to the project area (particularly its northernmost and southernmost parts)...?

Investigation Leader: B. H. Pubols, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station

Report due: July 1, 1941

A report on Problem No. 2 entitled "A Prospectus for Agriculture on the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, Washington," was mimeographed. This constitutes Part I of a final report on Problem No. 2 entitled "Types of Farming for the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, Washington." Part I of this report will be distributed to investigators as soon as an additional chart is reproduced and included in the report.

Further progress was made in the preparation of farm plans and budgets.

A revised report covering recommended land uses in relation to physical conditions for submission to Subcommittee B was prepared by Soil Conservation Service following the meeting of the Technical Subcommittee reported upon in the FEBRUARY, 1942, MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT. Copies were distributed to members of the Technical Subcommittee for comment before final presentation.

Problem No. 3. What practicable and equitable means, if any, may be used to insure proper land use, as determined?

Investigation Leader: P. Hetheron, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: March 1, 1941

The report was completely rewritten during the month. Suggestions received from reviewers of the first draft have been embodied, and the scope of the report has been enlarged to include a fuller treatment of urban land use. Typed copies of the report, it is expected, will be ready to distribute for final review by April 10.

Problem No. 4. What are the normal water requirements for the crop and land-use programs recommended by the investigators of Problem No. 2 for different parts of the project area?

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: March 1, 1941

During March, work was completed on those items indicated as necessary, and for which responsibility was assumed at the Pasco meeting of February 27, 1942. Data indicating yields of beets and alfalfa in relation to amounts of water applied, and other relevant materials were prepared and submitted to committee members by Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Johnston and Mr. Tillery prepared and distributed a 110 page report presenting the materials for which the Bureau of Reclamation had assumed responsibility. This report included material on water use and crop production by projects and by selected farms, moisture equivalent and wilting point data for project soils, and climatic data for project stations.

A meeting of the committee, and an advance meeting of a sub-committee composed of Messrs. Johnston, Lewis, and Dean to analyze the data and prepare conclusions for consideration by the full committee, are scheduled for April.

Problem No. 5. What is the most practicable way of preventing excessive use of water?

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted December 9, 1940

Problem No. 6. What is the optimum size of farm units for the type or types of farm economy recommended by the investigators of Problem No. 2?

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: October 1, 1941

No advance on the investigation proved possible during the month.

Problem No. 7. Is there need for provision of special "labor units" of small size (permissible to a lower limit of ten acres under existing law) to accommodate seasonal laborers on areas to be settled relatively soon?

Investigation Leader: B. H. Kizer, Washington State Planning Council  
William E. Warne, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 1941

A draft of the final report on this problem was completed during the month by Mr. Throop in the Office of the Field Coordinator. Typed copies of the report will be distributed during April for the comment of committee members.

Problem No. 8. To delimit the sections within which it is desirable that farms be laid out in adjustment to topography and topographically-controlled features.

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted January 28, 1941

Problem No. 9. What feasible means could be adopted or created (a) to help insure an adequate standard of living, and (b) to minimize the financial commitments of needy settlers in providing suitable and essential improvements?

Investigation Leader: P. Hetherton, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: Separate reports as soon as practicable; and the full report on June 30, 1941

Substantial progress was made on a number of the subproblems established under this investigation. The final report on Fencing was completed in the Office of the State Planning Council and distributed for review by subcommittee members. Some comments were received during March, and it is expected that the final report will be completed during April. A tentative, final report on Domestic Water Supply was completed in the Office of the State Planning Council. The report, it is expected, will be ready for the review of subcommittee members by mid-April. The experimental work with the use of project area soils for adobe brick by Mr. Wesley Pierce under the direction of Prof. L. C. Smith, continues at Pullman.

Although further work on Clearing, Levelling and Ditching proved impossible during the month, Mr. Parker anticipates completion of his report on this subject in the near future. Preliminary work on the phase of the problem concerned with Livestock has been done by Prof. E. V. Ellington, Prof. Ensminger, and others. Completion of their report during April is expected.

Problem No. 10. What advantages, economic and social, and what disadvantages, if any, in farm layout and farm work might result from the concentration of settlers in small communities or nuclear hamlets? Should experiments be made on some of the earlier project units with such farm community centers?

Investigation Leader: Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Report due: October 1, 1941

Progress made and analysis of data advanced.

Problem No. 11. What modifications, if any, should be made in present plans for the allocation of the cost of Grand Coulee Dam and of the primary irrigation works? Should power projects downstream, Columbia River navigation, flood control, general social benefits, and the like be assigned an equitable share of the cost of the dam?

Investigation Leader: E. B. Debler, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: April 1, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 12. How may equitable payments toward the cost of the primary irrigation works best be secured, directly or indirectly, from non-rural settlers (villagers, etc.) in the project area?

Investigation Leader: Paul Lemargie, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: April 1, 1941

Discussions with committee members were held on the preliminary draft of a report earlier submitted to them by the investigation leader.

Problem No. 13. Is it desirable and practicable to assign different re-payment charges against lands of classes 1, 2, and 3 (as these terms are used in the land classification survey of the project area)? If so, what is the best method?

Investigation Leader: W. W. Johnston, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: July 1, 1941

Completion of the study awaits the further advance of farm budget studies going forward under Problem No. 2. Studies of loan experience of the Farm Credit Administration on farms in southern Idaho being completed in Dr. Maughan's office will also contribute to the solution of Problem 13.

Problem No. 14. How may financial aid best be extended in conservatively adequate amounts to needy settlers beyond that which may accrue to them along the lines involved in problems numbered 10, 11, 12, and 13?

Investigation Leader: H. H. Johnson, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: July 1, 1941

Additional duties imposed upon investigators by war activities prevented the committee meeting which it had been hoped to arrange for consideration of data obtained since the meeting of September 1941. Dr. Provinse, BAE, and Messrs. Arnold and Smart, FSA, plan a

meeting in Washington, D. C. during April for discussion of material obtained by them for use in Problem 14. It is expected that some assistance for the investigation leader may be obtained in the near future from the Office of the Field Coordinator.

Problem No. 15. What methods exist or could be developed for establishing the requisite control of privately owned lands? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method? What method, all relevant factors considered, would be best? What policy or policies should be adopted with respect to the administration or disposal of lands brought under effective control?

Investigation Leader: B. E. Stoutemyer, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Preliminary report submitted April 24, 1941.

Problem No. 16. How may the requisite control of State lands, County lands, and railroad lands best be secured?

Investigation Leader: Edward Davis, Washington State Department of Conservation and Development

Report due: March 15, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 17. To estimate, in the light of all relevant factors, the annual rate at which lands should be brought in during the first few years (say six) after water becomes available.

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: August 1, 1941

Further progress on the study was not possible during the month.

Problem No. 18. To assist appropriate local officials and agencies in formulating plans for the orderly and effective development of existing cities and villages within the project area. To determine the optimum number of new villages for the project area and their most advantageous placement; to design for them an appropriate number of suitable types of expansible patterns, with due regard to various land uses (commercial, industrial, recreational, institutional, etc.) to reasonable minimum requirements for buildings, to building lines, the arrangement and width of streets and the like; and to plan, insofar as practicable, essential public facilities, such as lighting systems, waterworks, and sewerage systems.

Acting Investigation Leader: Edward N. Torbert, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941

A report summarizing investigative work bearing on the selection of sites for new towns in the project area and the proceedings of the subcommittee concerned with that problem was prepared in the Office of the Field Coordinator and distributed to committee members.

Arrangements were made for cooperation in city planning activities at Pasco with Mr. Harry Aumack. As consultant for the National Resources Planning Board, Mr. Aumack is devoting a part of his time to aiding the solution of problems arising from the establishment of military activities and war industries in Pasco. To assist in preparation of land use plans and regulations designed both to meet current needs and to permit ready adjustment to differing needs which will arise when irrigation development is launched in the area just north of Pasco, arrangements have been made for the preparation by the Bureau of Reclamation of an accurate base map of the city.

Problem No. 19. To plan desirable additions to and modifications of the road net in adjustment to the irrigation system, village sites and patterns, farm hamlets (farmstead clusters), and other features, and to prospective transportational needs.

Investigation Leader: C. E. Fritts, Washington State Department of Highways.

Report due: Primary network, March 1, 1941; secondary and tertiary systems as soon as practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 20. To plan desirable additions to the railroad facilities of the project area, particularly in the form of branch lines and new shipping points, in mutual adjustment with such related items as new villages, prospective industries, and the probable transportational needs of the future farm population and the road net to be planned.

Investigation Leader: Railroad Representatives; E. B. Crane, Chairman

Report due: As soon as the related investigations and the nature of this problem permit; but not later than December 31, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 21. What is the significance to the project area of the Columbia River as a commercial route, if improved for navigation as proposed?

Investigation Leader: Lt. Col. C. R. Moore, Corps of Engineers

Report due: Report submitted January 2, 1942

Problem No. 22. What are the essential facts with respect to the occurrence, movements, quantities, and qualities of underground waters throughout the project area?

Investigation Leader: Arthur M. Piper, Geological Survey

Report due: For areas of relatively early development and settlement May 1, 1941; for the remainder of the areas as soon as practicable.

No Report

Problem No. 23. To plan the facilities (transmission lines, distribution systems, etc.) needed to bring electric energy most advantageously to the various parts of the project areas progressively opened and settled.

Investigation Leader: George A. Fleming, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 1941

The status of this investigation remained unchanged during March. Material for the final report has been received from all participants, but drafting of the report is being delayed pending receipt of data offered for use in this problem by investigators of Problem No. 28.

Problem No. 24. What processing plants and other marketing facilities (number, type, size, and location) will be needed for efficient handling of the agricultural products of the area? How could such facilities be fitted to requirements during the early years of irrigation, and also to the mature development of the project? What other industries might be located advantageously in the parts of the project area likely to be settled relatively soon? What steps should be taken to promote or guide the development of such facilities and industries?

Investigation Leader: W. T. Calhoun, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

A conference on the report for the Committee on Problem 24 was held on March 13 and 14 at Storrs, Connecticut, by Marion Clawson, R. G. Bressler, and W. T. Calhoun. The preliminary report issued in September 1941, was reviewed and revisions were discussed. After these revisions are completed, the report will be sent to members of the committee for review.

Mr. Calhoun will be in the West during the next few months, and expects to arrange further meetings of the committee after the revised report has been received.

Problem No. 25. To locate and plan the layout and improvement of rural parks and recreational grounds within the project area.

Investigation Leader: F. A. Banks, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: June 1, 1941

The preparation of a final report has been launched. Some additional field work, found desirable to round out the report has been undertaken and will be continued as necessary.

The interest of the State Parks Committee in the problem and in the development of adequate recreational facilities for the population to settle on project lands was reaffirmed in a discussion between Mr. E. A. Carroll, Director of State Parks and the Field Coordinator. A meeting will be arranged during April for presentation by the Field Coordinator to the State Parks Committee of the findings of the investigators.

Problem No. 26. To formulate plans to promote the recreational use of the reservoir area above Grand Coulee Dam and its shore lands, not in isolation but in effective interrelationship with the other diversified recreational assets of the Inland Empire and of contiguous areas, from all significant local, regional, and national points of view.

Investigation Leader: C. E. Greider, National Park Service

Report due: When practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941

The report on proposed land use in the Grand Coulee Dam reservoir area, prepared by the National Park Service at the request of the committee, has been reviewed by officials of the Park Service and returned, with their approval, to the investigation leader. Preparation of a final report was launched and it is planned to call shortly a final committee meeting for review of the report.

Problem No. 27. To plan the location (first for the northern and southern-most parts of the area) and insofar as practicable, the improvements of sites for rural schools, churches, community halls, market centers, athletic fields and the like.

Investigation Leader: Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Report due: September 1, 1941

Progress made and analysis of data advanced.

Problem No. 28. To develop, in the light of all relevant factors, the most advantageous pattern of local governmental units to meet prospective public needs.

Investigation Leader: P. Hetheron, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: September 1, 1941

Tentative final reports have been completed on four of the eleven subproblems of this investigation, and progress has been made on others. The draft of a report on Power and Light was completed by Mr. Lloyd Schram and will be available for review in typed form shortly. A completed report on Conservation was distributed by Dr. T. O. King for review on March 17; the final report, it is expected, will be ready during April. A report by Mr. Parker on Irrigation was submitted for review on March 28 and its completion in final form is anticipated during April. The rough draft of a report on schools and school district organization, under preparation by Mr. Bunsä, has been completed. A tentative final report on Domestic Water Supply is nearing completion, and work has been advanced by the subcommittees concerned with the Recreation, General Government, and Health aspects of the problem investigation.

Mr. Thomas A. Bunsä, BAE, who has been engaged in the study of Problem 28 since March 1941, was transferred from Spokane at the end of the month to work in Washington, D. C.

(Sgd) Edward N. Torbert

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Ephrata, Washington

Joint Investigations  
Columbia Basin Joint Investigations

APRIL, 1942, MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

General Section

Interest in Settlement of Evacuated Japanese on Project Lands

Proposals have been received from several quarters involving the establishment on project lands of Japanese families evacuated, or to be evacuated, from the coastal portion of the State. The impracticability of such settlement on lands to be irrigated by project works has been pointed out in all instances. The vast construction program which necessarily must precede water delivery, absence of authority, lack of funds, and lack of materials for construction work prevent serious consideration of Japanese settlement on project lands.

During the period when voluntary evacuation was permitted by Army authorities, two small groups of Japanese settled in the northern part of the project area. Citizens of Moses Lake and vicinity voted in favor of the settlement of Japanese in that locality, and a few families occupied an abandoned ranch in the Moses Lake Irrigation District. A few families also were settled on the Cedargreen farms near Quincy, to assist in the production of truck crops on lands irrigated from wells. Subsequently, Seattle real estate operators interested in the settlement of Japanese farmers on an abandoned, formerly irrigated orchard tract near Stratford were referred by Army authorities to the Grant County Commissioners for permission to effect the settlement. The Board of Commissioners did not support the proposal and settlement on these lands, which lie close to the Grand Coulee-Bonneville transmission lines, has not been made.

Joint Action of the Irrigation District Boards on H. R. 6522.

The boards of the three irrigation districts held a joint meeting in Lind on April 13 for the purpose of considering means to forward congressional action on the amendment to the Anti-Speculation Act, H. R. 6522. The boards expressed their entire satisfaction with the bill as amended by relatively minor changes suggested on behalf of the districts by Mr. Cunningham. A letter conveying this approval of the bill, and urging the necessity for its passage, even if it proved necessary to omit provisions found controversial by the Congress, was forwarded to Commissioner Page.

A second joint meeting of the three boards was held in Ephrata on April 21 with Mr. Edward Davis, Director of the State Department of Conservation and Development, to discuss the same subject and also the possibility of urging appropriations for those portions of the main canals which do not require

priority materials so that the delivery of water to project lands might be speeded at the conclusion of the war, when heavy demands for settlement opportunities are anticipated. To present effectively the interest and approval of the State and districts in H. R. 6522, plans were discussed for sending a representative to Washington, D. C.

#### Participation in Washington State Conference of Social Work

At the request of the Washington State Conference of Social Work, a brief program on the Joint Investigations was presented at the annual meeting, held in Seattle April 15-18. On April 17, Mr. Torbert spoke on Potential Contributions of the Columbia Basin Project to Post-War Adjustments, and Mr. Lloyd Fisher spoke on Levels of Living. Discussion of the material by members of the conference followed the talks.

#### Personnel Changes

Dr. John Provinse, Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, BAE, Washington, D. C., has transferred to the War Relocation Authority. It is hoped that he may be available for occasional consultation on Joint Investigation problems.

Mr. Lloyd Fisher, Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, BAE, Berkeley, California, has gone to the Washington, D. C. office of his division to prepare reports on problems 10 and 27, and other materials contributing to the Joint Investigations.

Mr. Carl E. Fritts, Washington State Department of Highways, and investigation leader of Problem 19, is on indefinite leave in Washington, D. C., to assist in the solution of war transportation problems.

Mr. James T. McBroom, a member of the staff in the Office of the Field Coordinator, was called to active duty as Ensign in the Navy on April 6.

Mr. Wendell T. Calhoun, leader of the Marketing Studies and of Problem 24 has been assigned to a study in California where his address will be Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 222 Mercantile Building, Berkeley, California.

#### Report on Market Studies Completed

A draft of the final report on Market Studies was completed at the close of the month and copies were distributed by Mr. Calhoun for review and comment.

#### Questionnaire on Settlement Attitudes

Suggestions for revision of the questionnaire reproduced in the February, 1942, MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT have been prepared by the Department of Rural Sociology at Washington State College and in the Office of the Field Coordinator. Suggestions are being prepared also by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, BAE. An offer to circulate a revised questionnaire among members of the Farm Bureau has been received from the State Headquarters of that agency.

Problem Investigation Section

Problem No. 1. On other northwestern irrigation projects where basic conditions are similar to those which will be encountered on the earlier units of the Columbia Basin Project, what types of farm economy (including crops and crop programs) have been successful? Most successful? Unsuccessful, if any?

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted March 11, 1941

Problem No. 2. What types of farm economy are best suited to the project area (particularly its northernmost and southernmost parts) . . . ?

Investigation Leader: B. H. Fubols, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station

Report due: July 1, 1941

A revised physiographic diagram of the project area was completed in the Office of the Field Coordinator and copies provided for inclusion in Part I of the report entitled "A Prospectus for Agriculture on the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, Washington."

During the month further progress was made on other parts of the problem by preparation of farm plans and budgets depicting the mature stage of development on the project.

A report covering recommended land uses in relation to physical conditions under consideration by Subcommittee B was further revised during the month.

Problem No. 3. What practicable and equitable means, if any, may be used to insure proper land use, as determined?

Investigation Leader: P. Hetheron, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: March 1, 1941

A tentative draft of a final report entitled "Means to Insure Proper Land Use" was completed during April. Mimeographed copies were distributed for review by official investigators and others. Returns from only three of twelve requests for comments had been received by May 1.

The report presents existing means by which proper land uses may be obtained and outlines new legislation appropriate for enactment by the State to insure proper land use.

Problem No. 4. What are the normal water requirements for the crop and land-use programs recommended by the investigators of Problem No. 2 for different parts of the project area?

Problem No. 4. (Cont.)

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: March 1, 1941

Substantial progress was made on the problem during the month. Water requirements, the major concern of the investigation, were established; and arrangements were made for the early completion of related phases of the study and for the preparation of a final report.

A meeting of the committee, attended by Messrs. Newell, Parker, Johnston, Sanford, Tillery, Lewis, Dean, Singleton, Nelson, Ade, and Torbert, was held in Spokane on April 23. Preliminary discussions had been held on the previous day by Messrs. Lewis, Dean, Newell, Parker, Sanford, and Tillery.

Utilizing the various materials prepared and distributed earlier, water requirements had been estimated by three procedures. These were considered at the Spokane meetings. One procedure had been developed by Mr. Lewis, a second by Mr. Johnston, and the third involved the application by Mr. Johnston of formulae for consumptive use developed by Lowery and Johnson. The results obtained from the three procedures were very similar, and, hence, conclusions concerning water requirements were readily reached. Utilizing the land classification materials, six water duty classes were adopted, each with a different annual water requirement. These annual water requirements range from 3.00 acre feet per acre for lands of the water duty class composed of Land Class 1 soil with fine textured substrata to 5.00 acre feet per acre for the water duty class composed of Land Class 3S soils with gravel or sand substrata.

Two additional subjects, closely related to water requirements and comprising important parts of the investigation, were considered. These are: (1) prospective peak requirements during the irrigation season, needed for canal design; and (2) irrigation practices, and methods of delivery to individual farms.

Available materials bearing on seasonal, peak requirements were studied at the meeting, but it was concluded that additional information was required before a conclusion could be reached on that point. Arrangements were made for securing the requisite information. Mr. M. R. Lewis will bring Prosser station material to bear on the problem through use of the Blaney and Morin formula for determination of evaporation and consumptive use of water. Mr. H. K. Dean will utilize tank evaporation data available at Hermiston to the same end. Mr. Parker will obtain data concerning monthly water deliveries from other irrigation projects (a) where adequate water is available throughout the irrigation season, and (b) where climatic conditions are generally comparable to those in the Columbia Basin.

To prepare recommendations involving irrigation practices for consideration by the full committee at its next meeting, the chairman

Problem No. 4. (Cont.)

appointed a subcommittee composed of Messrs. Johnston, Williams and Sanford.

It was concluded that the preparation of that part of the committee's report involving the determination of water requirements could be started immediately. As a first step, the chairman requested Mr. Lewis to draft a presentation outline for the report. This will be circulated for comment and used as the basis for writing assignments.

Problem No. 5. What is the most practicable way of preventing excessive use of water?

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted December 9, 1940

Problem No. 6. What is the optimum size of farm units for the type or types of farm economy recommended by the investigators of Problem No. 2?

Investigation Leader: R. J. Newell, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: October 1, 1941

Further work was not possible during the month, but it is expected that the availability of additional personnel, being obtained through the office of the Field Coordinator, will permit the rapid advance of investigative work in the near future.

Problem No. 7. Is there need for provision of special "labor units" of small size (permissible to a lower limit of ten acres under existing law) to accommodate seasonal laborers on areas to be settled relatively soon?

Investigation Leader: B. H. Kizer, Washington State Planning Council  
William E. Warne, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 1941

The summary report, completed in the office of the Field Coordinator, was prepared for distribution to committee members.

Problem No. 8. To delimit the sections within which it is desirable that farms be laid out in adjustment to topography and topographically-controlled features.

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Report submitted January 28, 1941

Problem No. 9. What feasible means could be adopted or created (a) to help insure an adequate standard of living, and (b) to minimize the financial commitments of needy settlers in providing suitable and essential improvements?

Investigation Leader: P. Hetherton, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: Separate reports as soon as practicable; and the full report on June 30, 1941

Considerable progress was made during April on eight of the twelve subproblems established under the investigation.

Mr. Lloyd Fisher's report on Standards and Levels of Living is receiving final review and editorial scrutiny in the Washington, D. C., office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

A report on Clearing, Leveling, and Ditching has been drafted by Mr. H. A. Parker and completion is expected at an early date.

On April 24 the Planning Council distributed mimeographed copies of a tentative draft of a final report on Fencing for review by official investigators and others. A final draft probably will be completed by May 15.

In connection with the preparation of a report on Livestock, Professor E. V. Ellington indicated that completion awaited further conferences with federal agencies concerning the possibilities of finances.

Due to demands of war work, Professor O. J. Trenary resigned from leadership of the subcommittee investigating Farm Machinery. Mr. P. Hetherton conferred with Mr. W. U. Fuhrman in an effort to select a new leader. The Planning Council has assumed responsibility for writing the report and has made assignments to subcommittee members. Probable completion dates: preliminary draft, June 5; tentative draft, June 25; final draft, July 10.

Mr. H. P. Singleton reported that conferences with five Seed and Plant Material specialists were held during the month and that arrangements were being made for three additional conferences. A report is scheduled for completion by June 1.

The preliminary draft of a final report on Domestic Water Supply was reworked in the Council office during the month. Probable completion dates are: Preliminary draft, May 10; tentative draft, May 30; final draft, June 15.

A preliminary draft of a report titled "Program for Rural Housing Design" was written in the Council office. Mr. L. J. Smith reported that farmstead plans had been "roughed out". A set of plans for an acceptable farmhouse was prepared in the office of the Field Coordinator

Problem No. 9. (Cont.)

as a Basis for preparing comparable estimates of cost when different construction materials are used. An estimate of porous concrete is being developed by Mr. O. G. Patch at Coulee Dam. Estimates for frame, brick, adobe, hollow tile, concrete blocks and other types of construction will be sought from qualified persons.

Problem No. 10. What advantages, economic and social, and what disadvantages, if any, in farm layout and farm work might result from the concentration of settlers in small communities or nuclear hamlets? Should experiments be made on some of the earlier project units with such farm community centers?

Investigation Leader: Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Report due: October 1, 1941

Most of the material for the report has been compiled, and a final draft is being prepared by Messrs. Clawson, Provinse, and Fisher. Mr. Clawson reported that it may be completed by June 30.

Problem No. 11. What modifications, if any, should be made in present plans for the allocation of the cost of Grand Coulee Dam and of the primary irrigation works? Should power projects downstream, Columbia River navigation, flood control, general social benefits, and the like be assigned an equitable share of the cost of the dam?

Investigation Leader: E. B. Debler, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: April 1, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 12. How may equitable payments toward the cost of the primary irrigation works best be secured, directly or indirectly, from non-rural settlers (villagers, etc.) in the project area?

Investigation Leader: Paul Lemargie, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: April 1, 1941

Discussions of a preliminary draft of a tentative report for this problem were held in Olympia during the month. As a result, further work was undertaken to obtain additional data concerning the experience of other irrigation districts in which non-rural settlers have contributed to the cost of primary irrigation works.

Problem No. 13. Is it desirable and practicable to assign different re-payment charges against lands of classes 1, 2, and 3 (as these terms are used in the land classification survey of the project area)? If so, what is the best method?

Investigation Leader: W. W. Johnston, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: July 1, 1941

Completion of the investigation awaits the availability of farm budget studies (Problem 2) and completion of the analysis of loan experience by the Farm Security Administration in southern Idaho.

Problem No. 14. How may financial aid best be extended in conservatively adequate amounts to needy settlers beyond that which may accrue to them along the lines involved in problems numbered 10, 11, 12, and 13?

Investigation Leader: H. H. Johnson, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: July 1, 1941

A conference was held by the investigation leader and the Field Coordinator, and it was concluded that assistance in work looking to the preparation of a final report would be provided by the office of the latter. Previous commitments for the month, however, prevented substantial progress on the report.

Problem No. 15. What methods exist or could be developed for establishing the requisite control of privately owned lands? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method? What method, all relevant factors considered, would be best? What policy or policies should be adopted with respect to the administration or disposal of lands brought under effective control?

Investigation Leader: B. E. Stoutemyer, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: Preliminary report submitted April 24, 1941

In view of the fact that the present Anti-Speculation Act may be amended by the bill now before Congress (HR 6522), a revision of the preliminary report was suggested. It was concluded, however, to await action on the pending bill before preparing a revised, final report.

Problem No. 16. How may the requisite control of State lands, County lands, and railroad lands best be secured?

Investigation Leader: Edward Davis, Washington State Department of Conservation and Development.

Report due: March 15, 1941

No Report

Problem No. 17. To estimate, in the light of all relevant factors, the annual rate at which lands should be brought in during the first few years (say six) after water becomes available.

Investigation Leader: H. A. Parker, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: August 1, 1941

Further progress on the study was not possible during the month.

Problem No. 18. To assist appropriate local officials and agencies in formulating plans for the orderly and effective development of existing cities and villages within the project area. To determine the optimum number of new villages for the project area and their most advantageous placement; to design for them an appropriate number of suitable types of expansible patterns, with due regard to various land uses (commercial, industrial, recreational, institutional, etc.), to reasonable minimum requirements for buildings, to building lines, the arrangement and width of streets and the like; and to plan, insofar as practicable, essential public facilities, such as lighting systems, waterworks, and sewerage systems.

Acting Investigation Leader: E. N. Torbert, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941.

Principal progress during the month was in the formulation, by Mr. Williams, of criteria to guide the planning of internal land use in existing project towns. As settlement is extended under irrigation development, some of the existing towns in the eastern, northern, and southern parts of the project will have an early opportunity to apply standards of the kind being developed. A preliminary outline of the basic criteria will be submitted by Mr. Williams to committee members during May.

On April 7, J. M. Berkey; on April 9, P. Hetherton; and on April 22-23, H. F. Aumack visited Pasco and Franklin County for discussions of planning matters with local officials. Under Mr. Aumack's leadership, a county interim zoning ordinance and a city trailer ordinance have been passed. Creation of a regional planning commission for Franklin, Benton, and Walla Walla counties has been proposed to the respective county commissioners.

Progress on the base map of the city of Pasco, which it was volunteered to prepare in the Ephrata Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, has not been possible, because local officials in Pasco have been unable to provide the plat maps required.

Problem No. 19. To plan desirable additions to and modifications of the road net in adjustment to the irrigation system, village sites and patterns, farm hemlets (farmstead clusters), and other features, and to prospective transportational needs.

Investigation Leader: C. E. Fritts, Washington State Department of Highways.

Report due: Primary network, March 1, 1941; secondary and tertiary systems as soon as practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941.

No Report

Problem No. 20. To plan desirable additions to the railroad facilities of the project area, particularly in the form of branch lines and new shipping points, in mutual adjustment with such related items as new villages, prospective industries, and the probable transportational needs of the future farm population and the road net to be planned.

Investigation Leader: Railroad Representatives; E. B. Crane, Chairman

Report due: As soon as the related investigations and the nature of this problem permit; but not later than December 31, 1941.

No Report

Problem No. 21. What is the significance to the project area of the Columbia River as a commercial route, if improved for navigation as proposed?

Investigation Leader: Lt. Col. C. R. Moore, Corps of Engineers

Report due: Report submitted January 2, 1942.

Problem No. 22. What are the essential facts with respect to the occurrence, movements, quantities, and qualities of underground waters throughout the project area?

Investigation Leader: Arthur M. Piper, Geological Survey

Report due: For areas of relatively early development and settlement May 1, 1941; for the remainder of the areas as soon as practicable.

With the advent of favorable weather, field work on the ground water surveys was resumed by Mr. George C. Taylor of the United States Geological Survey. As a part of the work of the month on the ground water supply in areas scheduled for earlier development, twelve water samples from representative locations were taken for chemical analysis.

Problem No. 23. To plan the facilities (transmission lines, distribution systems, etc.) needed to bring electric energy most advantageously to the various parts of the project areas progressively opened and settled.

Investigation Leader: George A. Fleming, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: As soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 1941

Copies of a draft of final report on the problem were mailed in April to all participants for their review and comment.

Problem No. 24. What processing plants and other marketing facilities (number, type, size, and location) will be needed for efficient handling of the agricultural products of the area? How could such facilities be fitted to requirements during the early years of irrigation, and also to the mature development of the project? What other industries might be located advantageously in the parts of the project area likely to be settled relatively soon? What steps should be taken to promote or guide the development of such facilities and industries?

Investigation Leader: W. T. Calhoun, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Report due: October 1, 1941

Work continued on revisions of the initial draft of the report considered in a conference on the subject by Messrs. Calhoun, Clawson, and Bressler during March.

On April 14 Governor Langlie authorized the expenditure of \$1200 from the Washington State Planning Council's Industrial Research Fund for the development of a processing method for recovery of soda ash, particularly the deposits in the Columbia Basin a short distance west of Warden. If successful methods are developed, a new industrial enterprise will be created and the economic base of the locality will be broadened.

Problem No. 25. To locate and plan the layout and improvement of rural parks and recreational grounds within the project area.

Investigation Leader: F. A. Banks, Bureau of Reclamation

Report due: June 1, 1941

On April 18 the Field Coordinator discussed with the State Park Board and with Mr. E. A. Carrol, Director, the work done on the problem and the plans for a report upon it. The Board members were greatly interested in the proposals and concurred heartily with the committee's conclusion that the State should take an active part in the development and administration of recreational areas within the project area.

Additional field work was done and the preparation of a report advanced in the office of the Field Coordinator.

Problem No. 26. To formulate plans to promote the recreational use of the reservoir area above Grand Coulee Dam and its shore lands, not in isolation but in effective interrelationship with the other diversified recreational assets of the Inland Empire and of contiguous areas, from all significant local, regional, and national points of view.

Investigation Leader: C. E. Greider, National Park Service

Report due: When practicable; but not later than December 31, 1941

The final report on proposed land use in the Grand Coulee Dam reservoir area, prepared by the National Park Service at the request of the committee, was submitted to committee members for review. A final committee meeting will be held in May.

Problem No. 27. To plan the location (first for the northern and southernmost parts of the area) and insofar as practicable, the improvements of sites for rural schools, churches, community halls, market centers, athletic fields and the like.

Investigation Leader: Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Report due: September 1, 1941

Messrs. Clawson and Fisher expect to devote considerable time to this problem during the next two months. They believe the report may be completed early this summer.

Problem No. 28. To develop, in the light of all relevant factors, the most advantageous pattern of local governmental units to meet prospective public needs.

Investigation Leader: P. Hetherington, Washington State Planning Council

Report due: September 1, 1941

During the month a map of the Basin area was mimeographed and distributed to sub-problem leaders. This will enable all reports to the coordinating committee to show territorial areas of proposed local governmental units at a common scale and in easily comparable form.

The report on Power and Light, although completed, was not available in typed form at the end of the month.

Progress on the communication sub-problem awaits completion of Mr. Schram's report on power organizations.

Reviews of a preliminary draft on the conservation sub-problem have been received by Mr. T. O. King, who indicated that a final draft probably could be prepared at an early date.

Problem No. 28. (Cont.)

A completed draft of the report on school district organization facilities and services in the Columbia Basin and surrounding territory is being reviewed in the Washington Office of the BAE before submission by Mr. T. S. Bunsu to members of the committee.

The preliminary draft of a report on Domestic Water Supply organization is now being prepared in the Planning Council's office. Probable completion dates are: Tentative draft, May 30; final report to coordinating committee, June 15.

Requested comments on the draft of a subcommittee report on Irrigation submitted by Mr. Parker had not been received by the end of April.

The Planning Council has assumed responsibility for preparing sub-problem reports on Police and Fire Protection. Outlines of study have been prepared and research begun. Probable completion dates: Preliminary drafts, May 15; tentative drafts, June 5.

(Signed) Edward N. Torbert  
Field Coordinator

C O P Y

D. S. Thomas  
April 9, 1942

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Ephrata, Washington  
April 6, 1942

AIR MAIL

Dr. David Weeks  
Division of Agricultural Economics  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. Weeks:

I have your letter of March 31, 1942 concerning the inquiry of Mr. Hi Korematsu about the possibilities for settlement on the Columbia Basin of Japanese to be evacuated from coastal California, and have read with great interest the statement of the plan for the group which he represents. Although the plan obviously has merit, and the group seems deserving, there is no prospect for carrying the scheme into effect on the project area.

The enclosed copies of correspondence between Mr. Charles E. Putman and the Office of the Commissioner of January 19 and February 2, respectively, convey the general policy of the Bureau on this subject. With respect to the Pasco area, you can readily understand further the local opposition which would develop to the occupation of irrigable land by Japanese in view particularly of the fact that the lands under the independent pumping lifts constitute the only blocks which can be developed in the South District until the East Main Canal and long laterals from it are well extended down the project - many years after development is started in the northern part.

Moreover, development even of the pump lands near Pasco could not be quickly achieved. Negotiation of the repayment contract with the irrigation districts, which must be completed before funds can be expended on irrigation works, awaits the outcome of Congressional action on the proposed amendment to the Anti-Speculation Act. We have no indication that action will be promptly taken by Congress. Even were the contracts now negotiated no funds are available, or in immediate prospect, for the construction work which would be needed.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)  
Edward N. Torbert  
Field Coordinator  
Columbia Basin Joint Investigations

C O P Y

COLONIAL CEDAR COMPANY  
2501 Northlake  
Seattle, Washington

January 19, 1942

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: American-born Japanese in  
Washington state.

Dear Sir:

We, here in Seattle, believe that the American-born Japanese were patriotic American citizens until last December. Seattle housewives are now afraid to buy fresh vegetables from the Japs, and there is a rather general boycott on these people. It is to be expected that the treatment given these people will soon alienate any patriotism they may have had, and sabotage may follow.

The irrigation part of the Grand Coulee project is far removed from the dam itself. There are many miles of canals and ditches to be developed, and I suggest that the Government consider the advisability of establishing a camp or camps on the land to be improved, providing employment to Japanese during the period of the war. These people live in cheap quarters, they work for small pay, and I believe that they would prefer to live in isolation until the emergency is over.

I believe that such a camp, voluntary to some, compulsory to others, would serve to remove a large part of the problem before it becomes acute to the point of rioting. The tenants would be self-supporting within a year or so, and we might come out of the war with the Coulee irrigation project well on its way.

I am not favorable to letting these people get title to any of the land, but the Government might find this advisable under some circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

(sgd.) Charles E. Putman

CEP:EG

C O P Y

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Washington

Office of the Commissioner

Feb 2 1942

Mr. Charles E. Putman,  
Colonial Cedar Company,  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Putman:

Your letter of January 19 to the Secretary of the Interior regarding settlement of Japanese-Americans on the Columbia Basin project has been referred to this office for reply. The Bureau of Reclamation is vitally concerned with Japanese-American social problems in so far as they relate to its projects.

I am not informed concerning any plans for detention or labor camps for enemy aliens, such as you believe could be set up on Columbia Basin lands. However, I would oppose such camps being established on any areas developed or under development by the Bureau.

The Columbia Basin project represents the joint planning effort of the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and War, and of the Washington State Planning Council and a number of other state and national interests. The social and economic implications of irrigating 1,200,000 acres of raw land are being explored in detail, and with particular reference to the function of the land in the post-war adjustment period. To place an undeterminate number of Japanese there, whether alien or native born, would disrupt the carefully planned pattern of settlement and jeopardize the investment of the Government.

When Columbia Basin lands are supplied with water and the first settlement begins there will be no prejudice shown against any American citizen. I do not, however, want to encourage hasty, unplanned settlement, particularly by pro-Axis saboteur suspects

For the Commissioner.

Very truly yours,

H. W. Bashore,  
Assistant Commissioner