p.c. U. S. Army Engineers District,
Portland.
Lost Creek Lake Project
Rogue River, Oregon.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

8 MAY 1972

INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTS 1 AND 2

LOST CREEK LAKE PROJECT

ROGUE RIVER, OREGON

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

PORTLAND, OREGON

summer months in the lower reaches of the Rogue are highly detrimental to sustenance of anadromous runs. Increased flows also would benefit operation of drift boats. That impact is significant since the Rogue provides one of the principal drift-boat fisheries in the State of Oregon.

It is estimated that the stretch of river from the dam upstream provides spawning area for 13,020 spring chinook and 500 summer steelhead. Production at Cole M. Rivers Hatchery will be sufficient to cover those losses. Annual production will be about 425,000 pounds which is equivalent to about 3,500,000 fingerlings. The 11-mile length of free-flowing stream to be inundated, considered to be of excellent quality for spawning, also will be lost as natural habitat for resident rainbow and cutthroat trout. Stream fishing for the resident and anadromous species along the inundated stream will be lost and replaced by a reservoir fishery and an improved downstream fishery. While the total harvest of the resources is expected, by the fishery agencies, to increase, the type of the fishing experience in the 11-mile reach will change to a lake-type fishery. The natural run of anadromous fish which utilizes the river above the dam will be blocked.

Lost Creek Lake will be stocked with rainbow trout and Kokanee salmon produced at the Cole M. Rivers Hatchery. The resident fishery supported by that program is expected to provide 120,000 angler-days of use during the first year, increasing in a straight line to 300,000 angler-days in 50 years where it is expected to remain for the final 50 years of the project economic life and indefinitely thereafter.

The 3,438 acres to be inundated is used as winter range by big game especially black tailed deer. The deer that use this area during the winter time will be lost because the surrounding habitat is already being used to capacity. Similarly populations of small furbearers, reptiles and birds will be reduced. The lentic type habitat created by the lake will favor some species. It is likely that some populations of birds, amphibians and insects will benefit. Changes in animal densities and population structure can also be expected in surrounding areas that are