

June 16-17 1950

Joint Statement - Governors of
The Columbia Basin States
President's Water Resource

JOINT STATEMENT Policy Committee

The Governors of the Columbia Basin States agree that there are some fundamental principles common to all the States of the Columbia Basin and to Western States generally where the appropriate doctrine of water rights had to be adopted for the democratic development and control of the water resources.

The water right concept that the water belongs to the people with beneficial use as the measure and priority in time of appropriation as the superiority was developed by the early day placer miners of the West and worked so successfully that it is generally accepted and written in some form or other in the organic acts, Constitutions and Statutes of most of the Western States and applies to all forms of beneficial use, especially to consumptive uses.

Water Control.

We, the Governor of the several States of the Columbia Basin believe in maintaining State control of waters within State boundaries and control of interstate streams through agreements among the States involved; such State and interstate control being subject only to Federal jurisdiction of navigation and international obligations.

Planning and Development.

We consider it a fundamental principle that river development be carried on cooperatively with local interests and in agreement with existing conditions.

That no Federal project should be forced on any local area.

That river development policies cannot be fixed rigidly but must develop and grow with the progress of the region.

We reaffirm our approval of the coordinated comprehensive plan for the development of the Columbia River (Coordinated 308 and Bureau of Reclamation) and suggest that it be used as a basis for the continued planning of river development.

Ultimate Ownership.

Ownership, management and control of all federally built projects shall revert to local and State organizations as soon as the government is fully reimbursed for its reimbursable expenditures.

Columbia Basin Governors (6-17-50) Part II

Joint statement of six Northwest Governors of Columbia Basin States
President's Water Resources Policy Commission at Spokane, Washington
June 16-17, 1950

Preferential Uses.

In Western States where the doctrine of appropriation is recognized, preferential uses should be domestic, municipal and agricultural in that order as against any other uses.