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United States v. Anderson (Spokane Tribe)

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9-30-1987

Tribe's List of Witnesses

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Plaintiff,

v.

SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS,

Plaintiff/Intervenor,

BARBARA J. ANDERSON, et al.,

Defendants.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

No. Civil 3643

TRIBE'S LIST OF WITNESSES



There follows the list of witnesses the Tribe intends to call in the trial of its Second Cause of Action. This list is in accordance with the Court's STATUS CONFERENCE ORDER of June 15, 1987.

DR. ALLAN SCHOLZ, Fish Biologist, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington.

The following is an outline of his testimony. BACKGROUND

Dr. Scholz was employed approximately 3 years ago by UCUT (Upper Columbia United Tribes) constituted of the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes, Upper Columbia tribes that were the aboriginal beneficiaries of the anadromous (salmon) and resident fishery on the Columbia and its tributaries prior to their destruction by the building of dams. The N.W. Power Act (16 U.S.C. 839) contains provisions for the establishment and funding of fish development, enhancement and replacement projects and programs to stand in lieu of the lost Columbia fishery. Tribes, which suffered the greatest loss, are included in the coverage of these statutory provisions.

16 U.S.C. 839, subsection (h) is specifically applicable to this case and states in part at subsection (B), "This subsection shall be applicable solely to fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, located on the Columbia River and its tributaries."

Dr. Scholz was employed by UCUT as a fish biologist and advocate to investigate the fishery losses of the four tribes and to propose fish enhancement, replacement projects and programs for each tribe.

He will testify to his findings with regards to the aboriginal "pre dam" fishery of the Spokane Tribe and the projects he has proposed for the Tribe to be developed and funded under the provisions of the N.W. Power Act. These are as reflected in the balance of his testimony heavily keyed to Chamokane Creek and the Chamokane aquifer.

HISTORICAL BASIS OF TESTIMONY

Included in the aboriginally owned land or territory of the Spokane Tribe was a segment of the Columbia River, its confluence with the Spokane River, all of the Spokane River up to Spokane Falls and all of its tributaries below Spokane Falls (princiaplly the Little Spokane, Latah Creek and Chamokane Creek.)

This combination of the rivers and tributaries constituted one of the finest salmon and resident fisheries in the world. Scattered along the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers were historic fishing and village sites. The Spokanes also fished the length of the Columbia from the Dalles to Kettle Falls. Little Falls and Spokane Falls were principal fisheries on the Spokane. Principal spawning areas were the Little Spokane, Latah Creek, portions of the Spokane itself and Chamokane Creek.

Chamokane Creek, fed by major springs five to six miles above its confluence with the Spokane, provided the Spokanes with year around pure water and resident and anadromous fish. One of

the Spokane's principal year around villages was on the plain adjoining the creek just before its confluence with the Spokane River.

The building of Little Falls Dam by the Washington Water
Power Company at Little Falls forever blocked the salmon and
other anadromous fish from ascending the river beyond that point.
This eliminated the Chamokane as a salmon fishery but it continued
as a resident fishery. In more recent years however, because of
the effect of other dams on the Spokane (Long Lake, Nine Mile)
and the sewage from Spokane, the resident fishery of the Spokane
practically disappeared. All that was left of this historic
fishery was the Chamokane, now unreplenished from the Spokane River.

The building of Grand Coulee and other major dams on the Columbia completed the destruction of the salmon fishery. Much of the resident fishery was also destroyed with it coming back slowly with the multiplication of wall-eyed pike and the artificial planting of rainbrow trout in Roosevelt Lake. The resultant resident fishery was miniscule, almost non existent in comparison to the former, now destroyed salmon fishery.

PROJECTS FOR THE SPOKANE TRIBE

The proposals by Dr. Scholz in behalf of the Spokane Tribe by reason of the N.W. Power Act include two major items. The first is the establishment in the area of the major springs as described below of a major fish hatchery. Its purpose will be the production of kokanee and trout to seed into Roosevelt Lake, into the Chamokane and into other lakes and streams on or near the Spokane Reservation.

The second project is the enhancement of the resident fishery in the Chamokane itself below the major springs.

FISH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ON THE CHAMOKANE

As explained above, with it now cut off by the polluted Spokane River, the Chamokane exists as a scenic year around

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creek which during the summer is almost totally fed by the major springs. Historically, prior to the State of Washington issuing pump irrigation permits for the removal of water from the Chamokane aquifer and before various local farmers cut off or limited the various recharge areas, the base flow of the creek during the summer time lows was in excess of 30 cfs. As this case has established, that flow gradually decreased so that that base figure dropped to a low of about 22 cfs. This drop in flow had two principal causes. The primary one was the removal of water from the Chamokane aquifer by pump irrigators operating under state issued water permits.

A secondary cause has been the elimination by local farmers of recharge areas over the Chamokane aquifer. The year round base flow of the major springs (particularly during the summer) is dependent on the degree and extent of the annual recharge of the Chamokane aquifer, particularly during the spring runoffs. In the early years the Chamokane itself contained flat, slow flow areas which encouraged this recharge. Additionally high flows would spread out over some of the fields and sink into the In recent years farmers have channeled the creek, ground. eliminating some of the slow flow areas and, more importantly, have banked or diked it to prevent it from flowing over their These activities have reduced the annual recharge, contributing to the drop in the base flow of the major springs and therefore of the summer time flow of the creek itself.

A study of the Chamokane Creek channel below the springs discloses that its historical low flow of about 30 cfs is the optimum flow for the maintenance of the resident fish population. Dr. Scholz's testimony will show that with an increased base flow up to at least 27.5 cfs the fish habitat will be vastly improved. The present low flows expose spawning beds and limit the feeding riffles and other areas so that the potential

fish population is reduced. This reduction is a product of the loss of spawning beds, loss of feeding areas and the periodic rise in temperatures above the optimum of below 68 degrees fahrenheit. Of these three factors the loss of spawning beds and feeding areas are the most important. The increase of the base flow to a minimum of 27.5 will protect the spawning and feeding areas and, at the same time, protect the stream from unhealthy rises in temperature.

TESTIMONY REGARDING PROSPECTIVE FISH HATCHERY

The proposed fish hatchery would be located on Indian lands now owned by tribal member Glen Galbraith a short distance west of the channel of Chamokane Creek and south of the Ford-Wellpinit Highway. At said site is a part of the complex of what is referred to in captioned case as the "major springs." These are the principal springs that feed Chamokane Creek and that, along with other large springs to the North and East produce all or most of the summer time flow of the creek.

These springs have a present firm flow of about 6 cfs and a temperature of 47 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The water is pure and well oxygenated and is suitable in quantity and quality for the prospective fish hatchery. If the average flow were to drop below the 6 cfs it will have to be augmented, presumably by wells located above the springs tapping what is described as the "lower aquifer". With the establishment and operation of this fish hatchery it is expected that it will be expanded and its production of fish increased, requiring more water from the Chamokane aquifer (the only available source).

The prospective improvement and enhancement of the Chamokane will not only be of great cultural, esthetic and fishery value to the Tribe itself but the improved Chamokane as a game fishery will be an important recreational, economic resource of the Tribe.

DR. JOHN BUCHANA, Hydrologist, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington.

Dr. John Buchanan, a hydrologist-engineer and a professor at EWU has conducted hydrological stdies of the Chamokane basin to establish its potential for the irrigation of tribal lands and what may be done to increase the base flow of the creek below the major springs. His testimony is summarized as follows:

He will professionally corroborate the testimony of Dr. Scholz as to the drop in the base flow of the creek and its causes.

He will largely corroborate the evidence and testimony already in the record, particularly the findings and testimony of Walter and Ira Woodward, consulting engineers, as to the extent, nature and general geology and hydrology of the Chamokane aquifer. It will differ in one major respect.

The Woodward brothers, principal hydrological witnesses for the United States and the Tribe in the trial of this case prior to the Judge's decision of July, 1979, testified to seismic studies of the basin from which they concluded that the Chamokane aquifer was generally composed of a top, gravelly aquifer about 50' to 75' thick which was underlayed by a deep relatively impermeable layer of clay and silt extending down to bed rock in some cases as deep as 490'.

Dr. Buchanan's studies included the drilling of a test well through the impervious layer to bed rock. This disclosed that the impervious layer did not extend to bed rock but was itself underlayed by gravel, rock and soil similar to that in the top aquifer. Dr. Buchanan's testimony will show that this additional knowledge as to the geology of the lower aquifer will change the conclusions of the Woodwards somewhat as follows:

1. Under the Woodward findings shallow wells such as the Newhouse well into the upper aquifer could produce large quantities of irrigation water (in that case 2,000 cfs). Wells

into the lower aquifer would, because of the low permeability of the denser clay and silt, produce relatively small flows, perhaps sufficient only for domestic uses.

Under the Buchanan findings the lower aquifer could, with deeper wells through the impermeable layer, produce as much water as the upper aquifer.

- 2. Because of the effect of the impermeable layer on top of the lower aquifer, there could be an increased artesian effect in the lower (south) end of the aquifer so that a well into the lower aquifer might have a short range artesian effect, adding to the flow of the major springs.
- 3. The waters in the lower aquifer would be less subject to agricultural pollution than those in the upper aquifer.
- 4. The Woodward brothers testified to a total recharge capacity of the aquifer of about 23,000 acre feet. Additionally they indicated that the movement of water in the lower aquifer was exceedingly slow, slow to recharge, slow to move upward into the upper aquifer and especially slow in linear migration toward the major springs.

The new evidence adduced by Dr. Buchanan will somewhat increase the estimate of the recharge capacity of the combined aquifers and will indicate that the lower acquifer will recharge and move more quickly than the estimate of the Woodwards.

5. Because of the greater receptivity of the lower aquifer to recharge, it becomes more practical to require recharge activities by the diversion of the waters into recharge areas by the local farmers.

Dr. Buchanan will testify further to methods to be followed in maintaining the optimum flows and temperatures of the lower stream. He will indicate that the flow may be stabalized into a firmer base flow in excess of 27.5 cfs by the combination of the management of the amount and time of the pump diversions

from the aquifer and the requiring of recharge efforts by the pump irrigators.

IRA WOODWARD, consulting engineer, S. 3707 Latawah, Spokane, Washington 99203.

Mr. Woodward is the court appointed water master. His testimony will update and summarize his testimony and reports as a principal hydrologist witness and as water master as they relate to the issues in the second cause of action.

He will corroborate the findings of Dr. Buchanan and the significance of Buchanan's findings as to the nature of the lower aquifer. He will corroborate the testimony of Dr. Scholz as to the effect of a base summer time flow of 27.5 cfs in the lower creek as to temperature and fish habitat.

Additional testimony is summarized as follows:

The observations of Mr. Woodward of the Chamokane basin extend back to 1972 with annual stream and temperature readings. Every summer, with the exception of one or two, the temperature of the lower stream has risen above the 68 degree maximum during the hot weather weeks in July and August. An increase in the base flow to above 27.5 cfs will largely prevent this annual breach of the temperature maximum. It will not eliminate it entirely. A better management of the stream especially in providing shade will help somewhat.

He will testify that the Smithpeter and some other permits have been abandoned and are now relinquished and that other permittees have not been pumping as much as authorized. As a result the firm dry weather flow of the lower creek has seldom dipped below 24 cfs. Despite that fact the 68 degree maximum has been breached every summer, thereby showing that the 20 cfs minimum to assure the 68 degree maximum is not realistic.

The 68 degree temperature maximum is often breached in

hot weather in late May and June when the stream flows, fed by surface waters, may be as much as 40 cfs. This is caused by the flow of warmed surface waters from the northern portions of the basin.

These early warmed waters flowing across the agricultural areas north of the Ford-Chamokane bridge could be pumped or diverted into recharge areas, adding to the aquifer recharge, firming up the later spring flow and at the same time preventing their causing breaches of the 68 degree maximum.

Mr. Woodward is considering requiring water users, including the Tribe, to follow recharge practices. Hypothetically an individual permittee would be granted a conditional permit. It would require him to utilize these warmed early surface waters for irrigation during May and June and also to provide diversions of these same excess waters into recharge areas. These practices will, by increasing the recharge, also increase the base flow of the major springs.

DENNIS OLSON, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wellpinit, Washington 99040.

Dennis Olson is an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Spokane Agency at Wellpinit. As such he monitors, supervises and directs land use and realty operations of the Spokane Tribe and of its members. He is familiar with the approximately 8,000 acres of tribal land which the court in 1979 found to be irrigable from Chamokane Creek and the Chamokane aquifer.

Mr. Olson will testify that whereas it is not economically feasible at this time for the Tribe to irrigate all or any large portion of said 8,000 acres it is economically feasible for it to irrigate approximately 1,000 acres in intensive agriculture. Said potential 1,000 acre irrigated tribal farm

is on the irrigable plane just west of the creek and over the aquifer. While it is predominantly tribal land with an irrigation priority date of 1877 there will be a portion, perhaps as much as 200 acres, of reacquired land which, under the orders of the court herein, have recent priority dates.

He will show that any agricultural projects such as this proposed one must be administered and utilized as a unit. It will require an expensive irrigation system covering land of recent priority dates irrigated along with the land with the 1877 priority date. It would be impractical and uneconomical to irrigate one class of land without the other.

He will testify that it is therefore important that the Tribe be allowed to transfer a small portion of its early priority rights to the later priority land. Such would be done without increasing the total early priority irrigation water rights of the Tribe as found by the court.

JOE FLETT, Chairman Spokane Tribe, Wellpinit, Washington 99040.

Joe Flett, a long time member and chairman of the Business Council, the governing body of the Spokane Tribe, has been active for many years in tribal plans for Chamokane Creek and the tribal agricultural and recreational areas to the west of the creek.

He will testify to these plans and programs and will show that they include the irrigation of about 1,000 acres of irrigable agricultural land from aquifer waters and the enhancement of the fishery by increasing the base flow of the Chamokane and the improving of the fish habitat.

His general testimony will be corroborative of that of the foregoing witnesses.

He will testify that the Tribe has, under the 1979 decree

of Judge Neill, irrigation rights for 8,600 acres with a duty of 3 acre feet per acre or a total water duty of more than 24,000 acre feet. He will show that whereas such irrigation would "dry up the creek" utilizing all of the recharge storage potential of the aquifer, the Tribe has no intent to use so much water. It will limit its irrigation at least in the forseeable future to not more than 1,000 acres with the use of not more than 3,000 acre feet of water.

The major hope of the Tribe is that by increasing the base-minimum flow of the lower creek, it will be improved and enhanced as a recreational resource and fishery as testified to by the other witnesses. In this regard he will point out that the Business Council wishes to transfer a portion of its 24,000 acre feet irrigation water right to the creek below the springs in an amount necessary to achieve a minimum-base flow of 27.5 cfs. He hopes however that by better upstream and aquifer management and the diversion of late spring water surface waters into recharge areas the lower spring flow will be augmented so that it will not be necessary to transfer a portion of the tribal irrigation water right or to reduce or shut down any of the state permittees.

In addition to the foregoing the Tribe may call two other witnesses whose identities are not known at this time. One may be the land services officer of the Portland Area Office of the BIA and another a fish biologist. The testimony of these prospective witnesses will be similar to and corroborative of Allan Scholz and Dennis Olson.

DATED this 30 day of Junt, 1987.

DELLWO, RUDOLF & SCHROEDER, P.S.

GARY T. FARRELL ROBERT D. D. Attorneys for the Spokane Tribe

TRIBE'S LIST OF WITNESSES - 11

(509) 624-4291

UNITED STATES DSITRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS,

Plaintiff/Intervenor,

BARBARA J. ANDERSON, et al.,

Defendants.

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

(County of Spokane)

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KATHY JENSEN, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says: That I am a citizen of the United States and of the State of Washington, living and residing in Spokane County in the State of Washington; that I am over the age of twenty-one (21) years, not a party to the above-entitled action and am competent to be a witness herein; that on the 30th day of 1987, affiant deposited in the United States mail, properly stamped and addressed envelopes directed to:

Mr. Ira Woodward Water Master W. 905 Riverside Ave. Spokane, WA 99201

Mr. Ron Olson 3197 Frontera Way Burlingame, CA 94010

Paul Schaffner Ford, WA 99013

Mr. R.J. Seagle Box 34 Ford, WA 99013 Mr. Robert Sweeney Asst. U.S. Attorney P.O. Box 1494 Spokane, WA 99210

No. Civil 3643

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

Mr. Robert Victorino 1021 University Ave. Salinas, CA 93901

Mr. James R. Newhouse Ford, WA 99013

Spokane Tribe of Indians Box 100 Wellpinit, WA 99040

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING - 1

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-0913 (509) 624-4291

Robert Fenton
Portland Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 3785
Portland, OR 97208

Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs Wellpinit, WA 99040

Steven Carroll
Land & Natural Resources Div.
Indian Resources Section
P.O. Box 44378
Washington, D.C. 20026-4378

said envelopes containing:

1) Tribe's List of Witnesses.

KATHY JENSEN

Larry Cox

Regional Solicitor's Office

Suite 607, Lloyd 500 Bldg.

Assistant Attorney General

98504

500 Northeast Multanoma

Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Charles Roe

Temple of Justice

Olympia, WA

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 30 day of

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Spokane My Appointment Expires: 1/5/10

(509) 624-4291