“In brief, it would be easier for the fish to go over a [fish] ladder in the dam than to fight their way over Celilo Falls. The dam would eliminate the historic Indian fishery, but more fish would reach the spawning grounds in better condition.”

– Samuel J. Hutchinson, Acting Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1951


The government reasoned that fish ladders at the dam would provide an easier route for adult fish than the falls themselves.