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“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

John Harrison, “Celilo Falls,” Center for Columbia River History, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, 2008, <https://www.nwcouncil.org/history/CeliloFalls>

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