A 1940s proposal to dam the Smoky Hill River and irrigate farmland polarized residents of Ellis and Trego Counties, Kansas and pitted the Bureau of Reclamation, Cedar Bluff irrigators and anti-irrigation forces against one another. Completion of the dam in 1949 did not, however, lead to the most extreme outcomes predicted by any of these groups. This controversy may hold lessons for the people of Siskiyou County as various interests lobby for or against the removal of a series of dams on the Klamath River.

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