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BAKER HATCHERY BUILDING TO GO ON AUCTION BLOCK

The old bunkhouse of the Baker Lake Fish Hatchery will be up for sale next week when the forest service puts the building on the auction block to remove it from the site to make way for waters of the new Baker Lake.

The sale of the building will just about mark the end of the pioneer hatchery site. The building is the last of several that served the crew that operated the hatchery that was first started in 1896 and reached its heyday in 1924. Then the construction of the lower Baker dam so diminished the salmon run that by 1933 the hatchery was out of business.

Most of its time in operation the hatchery could only be reached by trail and the buildings were constructed from timber on the site, sawed in a saw mill that had been packed over the trail from Concrete.

The building up for sale is a nine-room structure that served as bunkhouse for the crew. It was of later vintage as the hatchery had been burned out twice during its history. The bunkhouse was built about 1912 and escaped the big fire in 1919.

As moving the building from the site in one piece is impractical, the house will most likely be bid in for the lumber which is still sound and well preserved after all those years.