

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Skagit Flood Control Work Is Unfinished

Up River Projects Need Additional Funds for Completion

Need for continuing the river bank erosion protection work now being carried on by PWA on the upper river under the direction of Iner Nelson, was emphasized here this week by Capt. A. G. Trudeau, assistant to Colonel Wild, district engineer of the U. S. army in Seattle. Capt. Trudeau went down the river in a motor boat and estimated some ten miles badly in need of protection work.

Those in charge of the \$216,000 project estimate that to complete the original plans will take at least \$100,000 more. As explained previously, the shortage in funds is not due to unit costs being greater than the original estimates, but that changing conditions of the river, made each job of the project cover a longer stretch of river bank than the original plans called for.

Immediate action on obtaining the additional funds is most desirable at this time as the present appropriation will be used up by February with a large part of the originally planned work unfinished. Engineers recommend trying to get a supplemental WPA project, which can be approved in a few weeks. Contribution of some funds by the county is necessary.

Of the original project some 50,000 square yards of the brush mat revetment work remains to be done between Mount Vernon and Hamilton. It is estimated that \$100,000 with funds still unspent would complete this, but including part of the river above Rockport, there is need of protection for some 150,000 square yards of river bank, to really finish the job. This would require approximately \$250,000 additional funds, but would save millions of dollars in land from being washed away, it is estimated.

Next to the Columbia river, the Skagit is the largest river system in the state, and as Congressman Wallgren told a recent meeting, the project for dredging the lower part of the river is not of much benefit until the banks of the upper river are completely protected from erosion to keep the land from washing down and filling the lower portion of the river, which would have to be dredged again every year or two. Engineers urge the seriousness of the present situation and the need for immediate action to obtain additional funds to complete the work.