Need More WPA Funds In Skagit River Erosion Work

The work of protecting the Skagit river banks from erosion will stop before it is much more than half completed, unless additional WPA funds are obtained, Iner Nelson, U. S. engineer in charge of this huge project for the past two years, told Congressman Mon Wallgren and some eighty Sedro-Woolley men at the Wallgren dinner here Tuesday evening. He reviewed the work that had been done and explained that because of each of the six separate jobs on which the revetments have been constructed was longer than planned, there will be four jobs untouched when the available funds are used up about March 1.

Ten jobs were included in the original project. The lengthening of the first six jobs, Nelson said, completes in linear footage the original setup of 21,400 feet, or four miles, leaving four jobs still unfinished, with no funds available for the work out the original $216,000 appropriation.

With the county as sponsor, contributing $11,400 or 5 per cent, a total of $228,000 will be spent. The county, as sponsor, furnishes the equipment with the exception of two ton-trucks, Nelson said. Up to the present time $190,000 has been expended, leaving a balance of $38,000 which, at the present rate of expenditure, will be used up by March 1.

"Three and one half miles of river bank have been protected by brush mat revetment from Burlington to Utopia," Nelson stated. "To complete this project, only one more job remains, the one we are starting now at Lyman."