

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Soil Experts To Rush Work On River Here

U.S. Army Cooperating to Speed Erosion Prevention

Fred Martin, chairman of the soil conservation district supervisors, announced yesterday that the U. S. army engineers were cooperating in the erosion-siltation control project now being set up by the the Soil Conservation District. Mr. Martin received data sheets and maps from previous surveys by the engineers in Hamilton-Sedro-Woolley sector of the Skagit river.

In their letter the army engineers made it clear that before any construction work is done on the river, the Soil Conservation District must file with the army engineers complete engineering plans for channel changes or any bank re-ventment work. The army is concerned with impediments that might be a hazard to up stream navigation.

With the arrival of the engineering data the Soil Conservation District engineers can now proceed. Paul Dickey stated that Roy Tuttle, soil conservation service engineer, in charge of the project will complete his office study of the army data within the next few days. He will then be on the ground with a field crew from the county engineers office to complete the engineering work on the river. The construction in the three critical points, Utopia school, Wiseman creek and the head of Skiyou slough, will then go forward as county financing of the project is cleared up and army engineers approval is secured on the proposals.

Skagit River and Probable New Hatcheries, Considered

With the Skagit river listed as the second most valuable stream in the State of Washington, from the fisheries standpoint, representing as it does a total value of some \$1,600,000 from takes for commercial and sport fishing, the state department of fisheries is scheduling a post-war fisheries program headed by the creation of a Skagit river fish hatchery and three large stations on the main Skagit river for the study of fishing, greater spawning areas and general protection of river assets now available in Skagit county.

Members of the Skagit County Planning Council were one of two groups who made a study of this program last week when they held their August meeting in the Mount Vernon courthouse Monday evening, August 9.

J. C. Clausen, assistant chief engineer; J. A. Craig, chief biologist; Dr. Lauren Donaldson, consulting biologist on hatcheries, and Earl Bailey of the geological survey in charge of cooperative small stream measurement programs were present and led a spirited fisheries discussion.

Paul Dickey, district conservationist of the federal soil conservation service, and John Nordmark of the State Planning Council were also present at the meeting to discuss the erosion control program planned to relieve the critical situation in the Lyman-Sedro-Woolley area.

Later in the week Chief Biologist Craig and Assistant Engineer Clausen of the department of fisheries, joined a second group composed of members of the Washington interim committee, who, at the request of State Representative Violet P. Boede, were making a survey and inspection tour of the Skagit basin, that they might be better informed regarding this part of the state and its needs before making their recommendations for hatchery sites in their post-war planning program. The fisheries department, by the way, is making a small stream survey of all small streams in the main Skagit basin in preparation for detailed reports to the planning program committee.

Those in Representative Boede's party included the following members of the interim committee and department of fisheries staff: Representative Hugh J. Rosellini of Tacoma; Representative J. K. Van Buskirk of Kelso; Senator H. N. Jackson of Tacoma; Fred J. Foster, director of fisheries, Seattle; Joe A. Craig, chief biologist; Milo C. Bell, chief engineer; C. H. Ellis, superintendent of hatcheries; John M. Hurley, assistant superintendent of hatcheries, and J. C. Clausen, assistant engineer, and Mrs. Boede.