

THE COURIER-TIMES

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BRIDGE IS KEY TO TIMBER

The southern half of Skagit county above Sedro-Woolley contains untold wealth in timber. For many years logs have been rolling into Skagit county mills from this area by truck and rail, but a point has now been reached when it is no longer practical to bring logs to the river or try to run a railroad up the south side of the river as has been done in the past. The logging of today is by motor truck.

One of the largest remaining stands of virgin timber in the nation today lies on the slopes of Phinney Creek, just south of the Skagit river at Concrete. This timber is within Skagit county yet a great portion of this wealth will be taken out through Snohomish county, to Snohomish county mills if no access is provided by a bridge to the railroad lines on the north side of the river. All present logging roads provide access to the Darrington highway and future roads will tend in that direction unless a bridge forestalls them.

According to the U. S. forestry department all the timber in the Phinney creek, Mill creek, Pressentin and Quartz creek areas would logically move down the Skagit valley with a crossing at Concrete. Timber also could move in a downhill route from the Suiattle river district.

The timber of these above mentioned areas is just now being tapped and the greater portion of the logging has yet to be done. It is a matter of time and any great delay will mean that roads will be built and transportation routes selected that will **not be changed** after they have been put into use. The Phinney creek timber has not yet been placed on sale by the forestry department, but will be highly sought by timber operators when bids are called in the next few years.