

WITTEPW  
Hopkins

20 March 1963

NPSEN-PR-R

MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Field Inspection - Grandy Creek, Skagit County, Washington

1. In response to letter from Congressman Westland, I made an inspection on 18 March 1963 of flooding and land erosion along Grandy Creek in Skagit County, Washington. Mr. Harvey L. Morgan, a landowner along the creek, accompanied me on the inspection and introduced me to the following residents along Grandy Creek who pointed out their problems: Ted R. Pritchard, Carl W. ~~Bailey~~<sup>Bailey</sup>, Carl ~~Nieshe~~<sup>Nieshe</sup>, Truman Sparks, and Glenn L. Moore.

2. Grandy Creek is a steep abraided channel that carries large quantities of floating debris and gravel-to-boulder-size bed load during flood periods, similar to that of Jackson Creek. Debris jams form, break and reform during floods, and location of the main channel thalweg changes during each high water period. Formation of debris jams at the Great Northern Bridge and Highway Bridge and at river bends cause channel overflow as well as bank erosion.

3. Major bank erosion damage has occurred to the property of Messrs. Morgan and Pritchard with minor bank erosion and flooding to other property owners. Mr. Pritchard's <sup>whole</sup> property is located on the right bank immediately above the confluence with Skagit River, has endeavored to protect his property from bank erosion by pouring and anchoring concrete slabs and anchoring large cedar logs along the bank with cables. He has attempted to remove debris jams from the river, but has had considerable opposition from State Fishery agencies. The most serious bank erosion has occurred to property owned by Mr. Morgan, located along both banks of Grandy Creek about 1/2 mile below the highway bridge crossing. The creek has widened to several times its normal width in the lower reach. Extensive erosion of cleared land has occurred along both banks.

4. I informed Mr. Morgan that the Corps cannot under its continuing authorities provide bank protection to protect farmland against bank erosion, and explained that dredging to deepen the stream channel would do very little good and appeared to be economically infeasible. I stated that we would investigate possibilities of storing flood water in Grandy Lake as part of our basin studies; also made suggestions on cutting of large trees along the bank and of bank protective measures he might undertake himself.

R. A. Skrinde  
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cc: Skrinde

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