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COUNTY MAY TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT BAKER RIVER BANKS

COUNTY ENGINEER TO MAKE SURVEY FOR WING DAM WITHIN THE COMING WEEK - WORK NEEDED BEFORE WINTER

At the regular meeting of the board of county commissioners held in Mount Vernon this week a petition was presented signed by a large number of residents of this city and vicinity, asking that the county take steps to protect the banks of the Baker river adjacent to this city to prevent the washing away of valuable land. It was shown to the commissioners that large areas of land had been washed away on both banks of the river within the past few years, and that along the west bank the loss has already been extremely heavy, and that there is danger of another heavy cut whenever a freshet occurs. All the commissioners spoke favorably of extending county aid for the protection of the river banks, provided a survey by the county engineer proved that the project was feasible, Engineer Gilkey stated that his office would take the matter up at once, and it is expected that a surveying crew will be here to tackle the job some time during the coming week.

The plan generally proposed for the protection of the west bank calls for the construction of a wing dam just below the shingle bold pocket of the Baker River Lumber company, of sufficient length to turn the current of the river back into the old channel. The river now makes a sharp turn to the west just below the pocket and it is believed that a wing dam of sufficient power to turn the stream back can be built at comparatively small cost. The opening of the

old channel of the river will also relieve the east bank of the stream and it is believed that the wing dam on the west bank will also stop all cutting along the east side.

Arrangements were made at the council meeting Tuesday night for a committee from the council to meet with Engineer Gilkey on his arrival here and take him over the ground, so as to acquaint him with the location of the old bed of the stream washed away within the past three years. It is hoped that Mr. Gilkey's report will be favorable to the project and that the work can be completed before the rainy season starts.