

U. S. Skagit Flood Aid Unjustified, Army Says

The U.S. Army's Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, following a review study in Washington, D.C., this week, again has found that federal participation in flood control projects along the Skagit River would not be justified.

The decision was in accordance with the recommendation of the district engineer's office in Seattle.

Under study was a Skagit River flood control program authorized by Congress in 1936, but never implemented because of the unfavorable reports of engineers who held that the work could not be justified from the standpoint of the ratio of costs to benefits.

This week the engineers told the board that a \$29,000,000 Upper Baker Reservoir might possibly be justified if built both for flood control and power production purposes, but that such a project would face heavy opposition from fishery and recreation groups operating in the area.

The board of engineers recommendation that the Skagit River flood control program be killed will be taken to Congress by the chief engineer.

The flood control program is not to be confused with the movement for the improvement of the Skagit River for navigation purposes which will be discussed at the noon meeting tomorrow of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce in the President Hotel.

Congressman Jack Westland and Col. Norman A. Matthias and George Kurttila of the Army Engineers are slated to attend the meeting.

Shippers, industrialists, representatives of sportsmen's groups, and other interested parties have been invited by the chamber to be present.

"Anyone who is interested in the improvement of the Skagit River for navigation should feel free to attend tomorrow's meeting," Manager Harvey Davis of the chamber said today.

Davis added that tomorrow's entire meeting will be devoted to that subject.