

Skagit river seen threat

Rains, which fell almost continuously this weekend, sent creeks and other small streams over their banks and posed a possible flood threat along the Skagit River if there are any dike breaks or deluges of rain.

The Skagit County Engineer's office expected the rain-swollen debris-laden Skagit to reach a crest of 24 feet at Mount Vernon about 7 or 8 p.m. tonight.

A SPOKESMAN at the office said an additional three or four feet of water could be taken care of without any serious effects if there are no dike breaks along the river.

The river at 10:48 a.m. today was 22.6 feet, a rise of 4.7 feet since 6 p.m. Sunday night. The levels during the past hours have been 17.9 at 6 p.m. Sunday; 18.6 at 10 p.m.; 19.5 feet at 12:30 a.m.; 21.1 at 5 a.m.; 21.5 at 6 a.m.; 21.6 at 7 a.m. and 21.9 at 8:15 a.m.

The rains, which actually started seven days ago, dumped a near record 6.22 inches of water on the Concrete area and 2.66 inches in the Mount Vernon area over the weekend.

AT CONCRETE, the river, at 31.8 feet, was some five feet over the flood stage level of 26 feet, but it was falling rapidly and there was no great danger from flooding.

In the Nookachamps Creek area most of the roads are under water and only slightly passable and farmers are cautioned to keep livestock up.

State Highway 17-A was blocked just east of Lyman today by

about three feet of water flowing across it where a dike on Cochran Island and across Muddy Creek broke during the night and sent the creek over its bank.

JUST WEST of Muddy Creek,

Jones Creek jumped its banks but did not cause any damage nor hamper traffic along Highway 17-A.

The rains were accompanied with strong gusts of wind both Saturday and Sunday, with the winds hitting a peak Sunday morning.

At Big Lake, whipping wind and rain damaged docks, boathouses and bulkheads along the lake Saturday night and early yesterday morning.

A BOATHOUSE owned by Herbert Drummond disintegrated under the pounding of the weather. Following the storm, Drummond found a few floating planks and a pulverized life jacket.

Many docks were knocked awry by the wind and wave action and a bulkhead on the west side of the lake washed away. Dozens of boats and docks which were jarred from their moorings by the storm have been recovered by lower lake residents and tied along the shore to prevent them from piling up at the end of the lake. A mass of limbs, planks and other debris has piled on huge trees that have jammed at the end of the lake. As a result the level of the lake has risen about four feet in the last several days.

RISING WATERS have crept into many yards and flooded septic tanks and drain lines, especially on the west side.

The west side of the lake was without electricity from 3:30 a.m. Sunday until 10 a.m.

A pile of furnace ducts piled outside a new church along the lakeshore was caught up by the winds and blown down onto the highway.

At LaConner winds knocked out power early Sunday morning both telephones and lights south of Oak Harber on Whidbey Island were out for several hours Sunday.

Two power poles were downed by Coupeville.

At Concrete, a slide covered the back yard of the John Stadlman home in Crowfoot Addition. Also the Shannon Lake Road on east side of the lake was blocked by a slide as well as several other roads in the area. Several small creeks in the Baker Lake area were up over their banks.