ED-PL Br file

file - Skagit R. F.C. Study

NPSEN-PL-PS

21 June 1967

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River, Field Observations

1. On 22 June 1967, I made a field visit to become familiar with the Skagit River Basin. High flows were being experienced because of snow melt. Runoff at Concrete was estimated to be 70,000 cfs. (Zero damage and major damage flows at Concrete are estimated to be 60,000 cfs and 92,000 cfs respectively) Flows at Mount Vernon were estimated to be 77,000 cfs. (Zero damage and major damage flows are estimated to be 65,000 cfs and 81,000 cfs respectively)

2. I visited Mr. Lloyd Johnson, County Engineer to advise him of my visit. He indicated during our general discussion that people in Sedro Wooley were interested in construction of the Lower Sauk Dam (or any other project) that would provide for increased protection from Sedro Wooley to Hamilton.

3. I observed the right bank of the Skagit at the end of Sterling Road, river mile 21.9 about 2 miles downstream from Sedro Wooley. Strawberry harvesting was in full progress on land and the river water surface was within 18 inches of overtopping the banks and flooding the crop land.

4. Along Francis Road, vicinity left bank river mile 22, the Nookachamp Creek area was inundated by backwater from the main river. At 1:30 p.m. when I observed this area, significant back flow was still in progress and contributing to inundation of pasture lands. The water was at the edge or partly over Francis Road in many places.

5. At Sedro Wooley, the NP Ry bridge and track embankment will act as an obstruction during major flows. (This was verified later when flood profiles plotted on Drwg E-6-6-219 were studied)

6. River water was approximately 6 inches deep across Hwy 17a, near Marblemount. This is the only road access to City of Seattle dams on the upper Skagit. Data on flow in the river was not obtained.

7. The Skagit River between Diobsud Creek and Bacon Creek was closely observed for a possible flood control dam. The City of Seattle has made studies on the Lower Copper Creek site ¼ mile upstream from the mouth of Bacon Creek. However, I understand they have abandoned

further consideration of this site. Bacon Creek, I estimated, had a flow of 900 cfs during my visit. The valley upstream of river mile 81.6, 1 mile upstream from mouth of the Diobsud and 3/4 mile downstream from Bacon Creek appears to be brush land although one abandoned homestead was visible. A dam at this site would need to be approximately 2000 feet long, but because of storage that could be developed, I estimate the height of a dam would average only about 100 feet to develop 50,000 acre feet of storage. Relocation of the highway and high voltage transmission line would be required. Rock outcropping was generally visible at both abutments. I hope to investigate the control a dam at this site could provide in conjunction with storage effects from Lower Sauk dam, Cascade River Dam and purchase of storage from the Baker Dams.

8. In general, my observations are that development of farm lands and existing residential homes that have been constructed in the flood plains from Sedro Wooley to Marblemount should have added consideration for flood control.

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