

27 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

THRU: Asst Chief, NPDPL
Chief, NPDPL

TO: NPDPL Files

SUBJECT: "Dry Dam" on Sauk River

1. In response to the questions contained in the attached letter from Rep Meeds dated July 18, 1977, I provided Steve Russell the following responses. Except as noted, information was obtained from Ray Skrinde, NPS.

a. Question 1. The project(s) will provide protection from these average reoccurrence intervals, at a minimum:

Present condition	3-10 years
Skagit River Levee & Channel Impr.	8 years
Levees & Avon Bypass	35 years
Levees & Upper Baker Storage	11 years
Levees, Bypass & Upper Baker	40-50 years
Levees, Bypass, Upper Baker & Dry Dam on Sauk	about 100 years

b. Question 2. A "dry dam" for FC only would be "engineeringly sound." The economic justification has not been determined in any studies and would not be available until after recon level survey studies. We do not understand the term "environmentally safe" but do believe an "environmentally acceptable" project could be formulated.

c. Question 3. A detailed study of the Sauk could be completed in 4 years at the cost of \$400,000. Checkpoint 1 could be reached in 1-1/2 years at a cost of \$150,000. The cost of construction of a dry dam on the Sauk (or any other dam on the Sauk) has not been estimated in any previous studies. An estimate, at this time, without benefit of recon level study would not be prudent. However, previous study indicates that with Upper Baker Storage something less than 250,000 acre feet of storage (Source: Avon Bypass Report) would be needed on the Sauk to provide 100-year protection.

2. NPS has indicated a capability of \$50,000 for FY 81 in the 5 year program to initiate study on the Sauk River under the Skagit River Authority.

3. Steve said he would consult with Col. Rathburn and determine if additional data is required for the Col's meeting with Rep Meeds.

4. Observation. Rep Meeds is receiving some pressure to act in support of additional FC in the Skagit Basin. Ray Skrinde advised that the above questions have been asked before and the answers concerning cost and economic feasibility are not available, at this time. It appears that the Rep would like to have the answers before committing himself politically. Since the Sauk project is highly sensitive it appears prudent for the Corps to provide judgements on costs and economic justification only after some study has been made.

JACK MOWREADER
NPDPL-PF

CF: NPSEN-PL

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Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, WATER AND
POWER RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

July 18, 1977

Colonel Vin Rathburn
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Col. Rathburn:

President Carter recently recommended in his message on the environment that a portion of the Skagit River and three of its tributaries (Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers) are worthy of inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The President's recommendation allows for authorizing legislation to be introduced.

As you may know, I've been concerned about flood control for the Skagit River Valley and have previously met with Colonel Poteat, Mr. Auburg, and Mr. Huffman to discuss this issue in detail.

Accordingly, I would like to have another meeting with the Corps focusing on the economic feasibility of a dry dam on the Sauk River. I should like to request the following information be provided me during this meeting:

- 1) How much flood protection will the following projects provide: Avon Bypass, Upper Baker River Flood Control Project, Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvements, and a dry dam on the Sauk River?
- 2) Will a dry dam on the Sauk be engineeringly sound, economically justified and environmentally safe?
- 3) What type of a time frame is needed to complete a detailed study on the Sauk, cost of a Sauk River Study, and cost of construction of a dry dam on the Sauk?

I'm aware that much of the information that is being requested can't be given in specific, absolute terms without a comprehensive study done on the Sauk River. However, based on the Corps expertise, rough 'ball park' estimates on the foregoing will be greatly appreciated during the meeting.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Meeds
Lloyd Meeds, M.C.

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