

THE COURIER-TIMES

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River Gouging More Land East of City

Farmer Reports Acres
Of Woodland, Soil
Eroded by Skagit

The Skagit river again is acting up east of Sedro-Woolley. Less than three miles from the city limits and only a short distance from the eastern outskirts of town, the river has turned abruptly north and is now gouging away at more land, a farmer there reported to the local U. S. Soil Conservation office this week.

W. H. Merchant, who owns 117 acres along the river, said the river is eroding his property at a rapid rate. He lost about 50 acres during the last year, the farmer declared. At present the river's erosion has slowed down, he said, but that the sudden change in the course of the river has produced a condition similar to that near Burlington Bend.

Trying to find aid in protecting his property against further erosion, Merchant came first to the soil conservation office and said he plans to contact later county, and state officials and possibly the U. S. Engineers who are responsible for keeping the river navigable.

Merchant related that the river now turns northward opposite a log dump on the south side of the river. The river is cutting its way toward Skiyou slough and eventually could reach Hansen Creek, which is too small to handle the river. The farmer said that the logging firm which owns land adjacent to his has lost many acres of timberland by the river's sudden change of course. He surmised that the river is being forced to take an unnatural channel. Merchant has not yet contacted the transportation tugboat firm operating at the log dump opposite the turn in the river.

The local soil conservation office have not surveyed the area as yet and did not wish to comment on the situation there until they have studied the river's action at that point.

Although there is rock revetment along the river near Merchant's property, the river is now behind the revetment and the revetment makes it impossible for the river to return to its regular channel. The W. P. A. laid the present quarter of a mile revetment. From his observations, Merchant said it appears that a quarter mile more of revetment built now probably could correct the situation, but in another year it may take one and a half miles of revetment to do the same job. In the meantime more valuable farm and timber land would be lost.