

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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WILL TRY TO KEEP HATCHERY AT BIRDSVIEW

GRANGE BEGINS CAMPAIGN TO KEEP FISH HATCHERY IN OPERATION

It took a little time for the news that the upper valley was about to lose the Birdsvie hatchery to sink in – but when it did people began to do a little thinking about the matter. The result was a resolution by the Birdsvie Grange that an effort be made to have the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue the hatchery in operation.

Immediately petitions were started through the valley, pointing out the value of the hatchery to this district and urging that the bureau reconsider the decision. It was pointed out that the only real reason for closing the hatchery is the silt in Grandy Creek from which the water supply is derived. This condition is caused by erosion on the upper reaches of the stream and in turn comes from logging operations which have cut the heavy cover from the watershed.

This land is now growing up with brush and will soon hold back the water enough to allow the creek to run normally most of the year. As time goes on the situation will disappear entirely.

Another solution besides waiting a few years for clear water is to pipe a new supply in from Presentine Creek, south of the river – an ideal source for the pure, cold water needed in hatchery work.

Grandy Creek, the hatchery has paid big dividends to the upper valley, maintaining a continuous study of the sockeye run on the Baker River and the various salmon runs in the Skagit. In addition trout from the hatchery have been placed in almost every lake in the district.

The resulting fine fishing sport has brought hundreds of fishermen to the upper valley and continuation of the stocking program is necessary to hold and improve this growing recreation business.

Valley residents are urged to supplement the petitions with personal letters to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Chicago. Enough interest shown by people of the valley might provide the necessary argument for changing their decision.

Hatchery Is Valuable

During its many years operation on