

Skagit River Flood Damage Is Estimated At \$306,965

Flood damages totaling \$306,965, excluding crop losses which might, with other reported damages bring the total to over one million dollars, were reported this week in a survey of the recent skagit river inundation by the soil conservation service.

The SCS Sedro-Woolley office compiled the statistics after a thorough survey of the flooded areas in the county, with the emphasis on farm damage.

Seventy farm buildings were either washed out or severely damaged in the flood, according to the SCS report, and 14,765 acres of land were inundated. Fortunately, according to the survey, damage to the rich top soil in the flooded areas was very minor and stream, bank and gully erosion was also surprisingly small.

The flood washed out 2,700 feet of dikes, destroyed five bridges and made it necessary to rebuild three and a half miles of road, the report states.

The peak flow of the Skagit reached 132,000 cubic feet per second, the highest since the flood of 1921.

Of the 14,765 acres flooded, the greater part, totaling 10,537, was cultivated land, some of it among the richest in the county.

Repairs to farm buildings will cost an estimated \$160,000, the largest single item of replacement, according to the report. Pasture re-seeding is expected to cost \$5,474.50 and replacement of washed-out fences, \$550. Three thousand dollars in road repair work and \$7,500 for bridge replacement is included in the survey total.

Heavy losses from seeded crops in the Conway area, particularly, as well as livestock loses are not included in the total, nor are damages to non-farm homes and buildings.

The report was prepared in the Sedro-Woolley office soil conservation service, under the direction of Paul C. Dickey and is the most comprehensive so far released on flood damage. A Red Cross survey concerned itself with losses in cases where families were in need of assistance. The U. S. army engineers have made a survey from the engineering standpoint, but copies of their report are not yet available.