

1 May 1975

Honorable Warren G. Magnuson
Chairman, Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further response to your recent letter inclosing a copy of a letter from the Board of Skagit County Commissioners, Washington, regarding a flood control dam on the Sauk River.

A multiple-purpose storage project, including flood control, on the Sauk River was previously considered during the course of the interagency Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Comprehensive Water and Related Land Resources Study, completed in 1971 by the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission and submitted to Congress in July 1974 by the U. S. Water Resources Council. This storage project is included in one of the two alternative plans formulated by the Commission for the Skagit River basin. The other alternative plan calls for the Sauk River to remain undeveloped and be designated as a recreational river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542.

The U. S. Forest Service is in the process of completing its report on the Skagit River and its tributaries, including the Sauk. Their preliminary field draft report, published in March 1973, tentatively recommended that the Sauk River be included within the national wild and scenic system and classified scenic, which, upon Congressional approval would preclude construction of a multiple-purpose storage project. We understand that a final public meeting remains to be held and comments received from interested parties before the field report is forwarded to the Forest Service at the Washington, D. C., level.

A flood control dam on the Sauk River could substantially reduce the potential for major flood damages in the lower Skagit River basin and, together with other elements of Skagit County's comprehensive flood damage

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reduction plan, provide the level of protection desired by the county. The Corps of Engineers has not conducted feasibility studies of such a project. If Congress should desire a feasibility study be undertaken by the Corps, an investigation could be accomplished under the authority provided in the 1962 Flood Control Act for the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Comprehensive Study. However, because the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission did not recommend a plan for the Skagit basin, a new resolution may be appropriate. A draft of such a resolution is included as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

- 2 Incl
1. Cy ltr Board of Skagit
County Commissioners
1 Apr 75
2. Draft Resolution

ADOLPH A. HIGHT
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Assistant Director of Civil Works
Pacific

CF:
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