

(3) Gorge Dam which is 300 feet high with a lake four miles long.

The proposed Copper Creek development is located on the Skagit River about nine miles downstream from the Gorge plant which is located at the town of Newhalem. The area through which the Skagit River flows at this point consists of land covered in the most part by second growth timber and bushy alder. The land shown in white bordering the river in this stretch is non-federal land much of which is owned by City Light. The plant would serve a dual purpose in that it will provide storage capacity necessary for the re-regulation of the discharge from the upstream plants resulting in a very uniform flow plus give us the output of the proposed Copper Creek plant which would have an installed capacity of approximately 80,000 kilowatts.

Re-regulation of the Skagit River will become necessary as the demands on hydro generation for peaking purposes increase in order that the variations in the river stages be held to a minimum downstream. On the plus side for non-power purposes, re-regulating the river will form a lake much more desirable for recreational uses such as boating, fishing, etc., than the river in its original form. Re-regulation also should be a benefit to downstream navigation.

Senate Bill 119, through its inclusion of the Skagit River from the town of Mount Vernon upstream to Gorge powerhouse near the town of Newhalem, would embrace the Copper Creek site and include it among the rivers to be studied over a five-year period immediately following the passage of the bill. Section 6 of the bill prohibits any action by the Federal Power Commission during the period of that study. In addition, pending House Bills include this reach of the Skagit, although treating the river somewhat differently. For example, H.R. 90 would also include this reach of the Skagit River as part of the National Scenic River System (Sec. 3(a)(11)) which precludes FPC jurisdiction (Sec. 6(a)). Another House Bill 8416 also includes the Skagit and the Copper Creek site although only for study (Sec. 5(a)(17)), as in S. 119.

In contrast, the possible development of Copper Creek was recognized and provided for by the Senate in its action on S. 1321, to provide for the North Cascades National Park, the Ross Lake National Recreation Areas, and other purposes. This region embraces the upper Skagit and all of the City's present power developments in that area. The Senate included the Copper Creek dam and reservoir site within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, the Senate Committee having observed:

"As the boundaries were previously drawn, half of the reservoir site would be within the national recreation area and half within the national forest. The superintendent of Seattle City Light asked that the recreation area boundary be extended to place the entire site within one administrative unit." (See S. Rept. No. 700, 90th Cong., 1st Sess. (1967), p. 30).

Section 505 of S. 1321 specifically recognizes continued FPC jurisdiction within the recreation areas. Thus, this treatment of the reach of the Skagit which covers the Copper Creek site is at variance with inclusion of this reach in any of the wild rivers categories.

The problem above described can be cured very readily through amending the definition for the Skagit in the pending wild rivers bills to exclude the reach from Bacon Creek to the Gorge powerhouse. With particular reference to S. 119, this change could be accomplished through an amendment as follows:

In S. 119, at page 7, lines 1 and 2, delete the words "to Gorge powerhouse near the town of Newhalem;" and insert the words "to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek".

In full text, the change in S. 119 (pp. 6, 7) with reference to the Skagit would be as follows (delete part in black brackets; insert material italicized):

(7) Skagit, Washington—the Skagit from the town of Mount Vernon upstream [to Gorge powerhouse near the town of Newhalem] *to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek*; the Cascade River from its mouth to the confluence of the North and South Forks; the Sauk from its mouth to Elliott Creek; and the Suiattle from its mouth to Milk Creek.

The same could be accomplished in H.R. 8416 by changing Lines 7-9, on page 10, to read as follows:

"(17) Skagit, Washington: The Skagit from the town of Mount Vernon upstream to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek;"

I appreciate very much this opportunity of appearing before your Honorable Committee and hope that this clarifies our position in connection with the development of this stretch of the Skagit River.