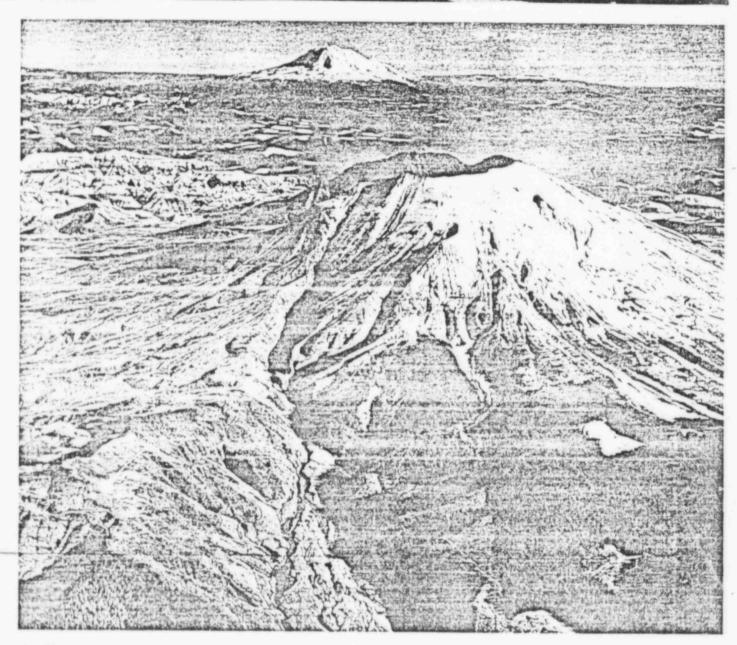


US Army Corps of Engineers

Portland District



Mount St. Helens Eruption The Challenge to Restore and Protect

October 1981

8508080315 850618 PDR FDIA BELL85-353 PDR This publication generally summarizes the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the Mount St. Helens eruption recovery effort. The Corps was just one member of a team consisting of federal, state, local agencies, private firms, and individuals that worked to re-establish and provide lasting security for the impacted areas. We are truly grateful for the extra effort by our staff, and for the positive and outstanding participation by our private contractors in contributing to the overall success of this massive program.

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District Engineer

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THE CHALLENGE TO RESTORE AND PROTECT

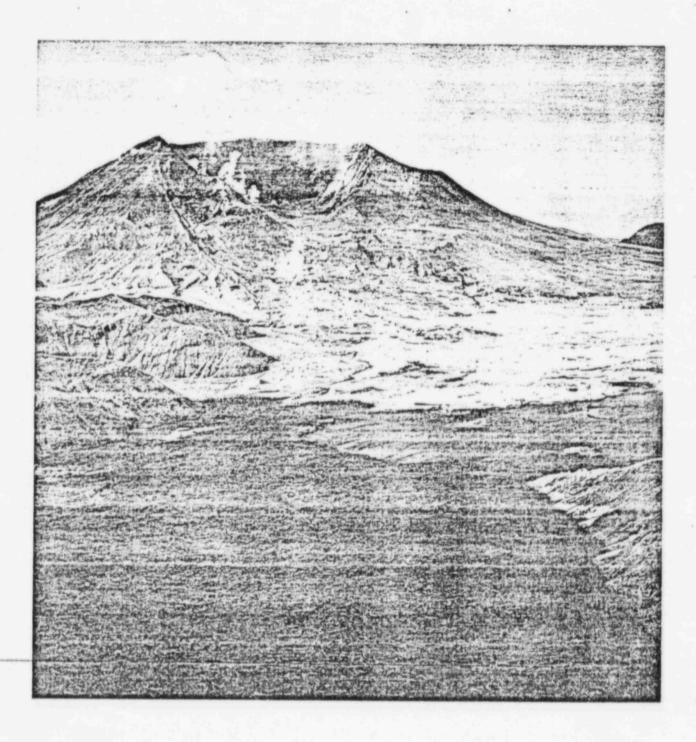
MOUNT ST. HELENS ERUPTION

1. GENERAL In late March 1980, Mount St. Helens in southwest Washington State began exhibiting earthquakes and minor steam and ash ejections, signaling a new era of activity for the 123-year dormant volcano. Minor eruptions continued, becoming larger and larger as the weeks passed, resulting in a massive and explosive eruption on Sunday morning, May 18, 1980. On that morning two magnitude 5 Richter scale earthquakes occurred at 8:32 and 8:34 Pacific Daylight Time. The upper north flank of the mountain, which for a few days previously had bulged outward as much as five f at per day, gave way in an immense landslide, instantaneously releasing the pressure of a plug of gas-charged magma that had risen within the crust below the volcano.

The eruption and blast disgorged an estimated four billion cubic yards of material from the top and center of the mountain, lowering its height by more than 1,200 feet and forming a huge crater more than a mile in diameter. It is estimated that approximately one quarter of the four billion cubic yards of material emerging from the mountain was dispersed into the atmosphere in the form of volcanic ash, which settled in varying thicknesses over hundreds of square miles to the northeast of the volcano. As much as two inches were recorded in some communities in eastern Washington, with thicknesses of 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch recorded in communities in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.



Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake before May 18, 1980 eruption. View is to the south.



Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake after the eruption.

As shown on Figure 1, the blast and resultant mud and pyroclastic flows from the mountain's north side impacted the river basins of the Toutle, Cowlitz and Columbia rivers. It is estimated that approximately three billion cubic yards of material settled in the upper 14 miles of the north fork of the Toutle River, with a much smaller but still staggering 60 million cubic yards settling in the upper reaches of the south fork of the Toutle River. Mudflows in the following 24 hours, buoyed by melting mountain ice and waters displaced from upper Toutle River channels, carried more than 50 million cubic yards of material into 21 miles of the Cowlitz River from the mouth of the Toutle downstream, and deposited an additional 45 million cubic yards in the Columbia River, upstream and downstream of the mouth of the Cowlitz River near Longview. Those flows and volumes occurred in less than a 24-hour period after the eruption. The Toutle and Cowlitz rivers experienced two successive flood crests, the second crest occurring early on May 19. At Castle Rock, it equaled a 250-year frequency flood. This flow came from less than one-fourth of the river basin's drainage area. Columbia River infill took place between the hours of midnight and 5:00 a.m. on May 19.

It is difficult to conceive of the tremendous volumes of material moving in the river channels in so short a period of time. Flood profiles did not exceed previous record flood levels in the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers, although they did approach major flood levels in the Cowlitz River above Longview and Kelso. Mudflows in the lower river did not build up at any one location, but resulted in uniform layers of sand and gravel and other debris deposits throughout the floodplain of the lower Toutle and lower Cowlitz River valleys. Instead of the normally stained high-water

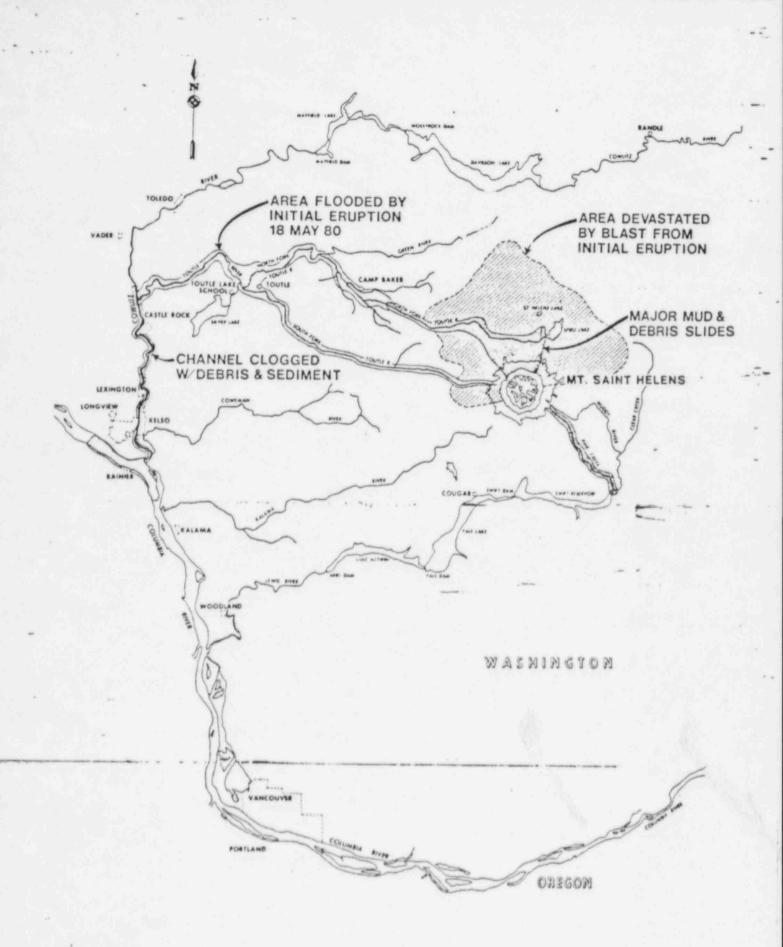
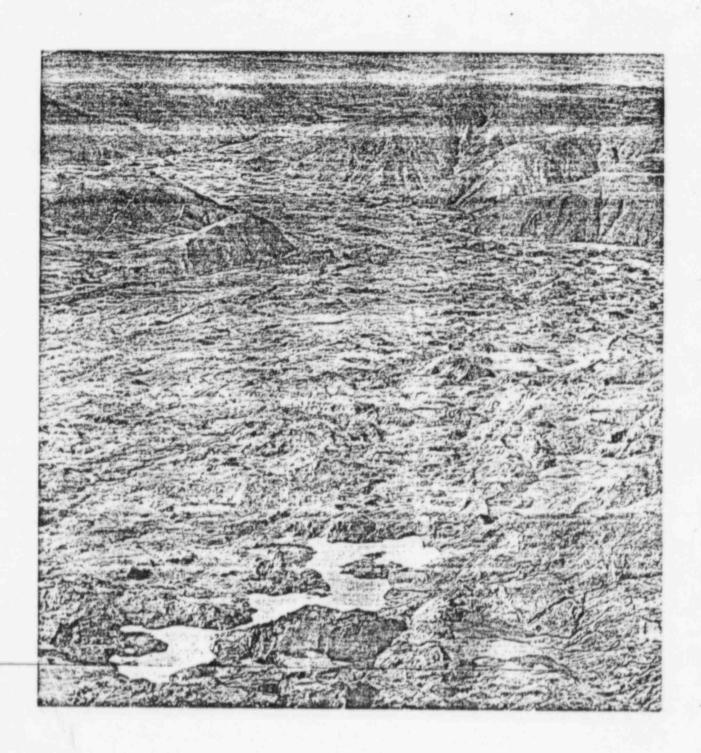


FIGURE 1

marks as experienced in rainfall floods, almost everywhere the water flowed in the lower Cowlitz and Toutle rivers a dense layer of ash, sand and gravel was left. What occurred could be likened to a large volume of material, with the consistency of "pancake batter," flowing at a high rate of speed along river valley floors and simply leveling out and settling as the flows continued downstream. Trees were caked with the material along their trunks. Tests on May 19 after the peak flows had passed still indicated 50 percent solids. Jackson Turbidity Unit levels of upwards of 55,000 (nearly immeasureable) were observed in the Cowlitz on May 19 (Schuster, USGS, 1981). Normal levels are 3 to 10 JTU's. Densities inplace ranged from 1801 grams/liter to 2086 grams/liter. Normal Columbia River sand densities are about 1850 to 1900 grams/liter. The volcanic infill material was very angular and clung together, resulting later in considerably less than normal daily dredging capacities and distances. Wear of dredge components would increase significantly. Gradation curves are shown on Figures 2 and 3.



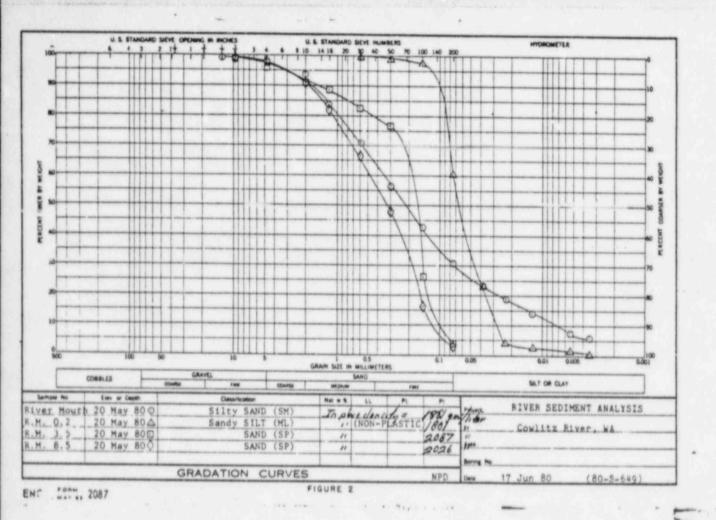
The resulting mudfill on the North Fork Toutle River. View is to the west.

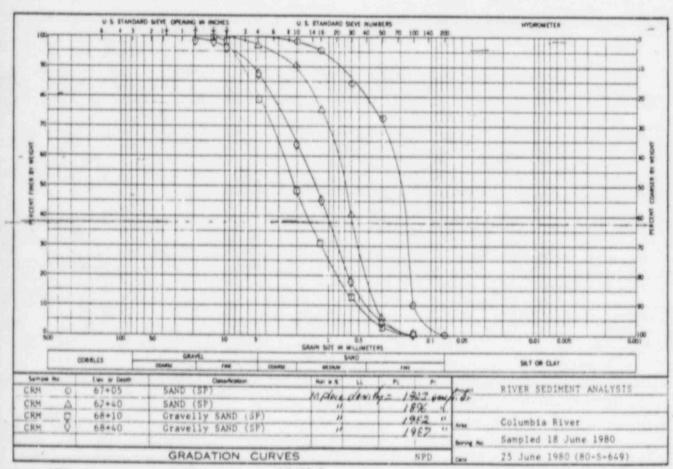


Upper South Fork Toutle River, Mount Adams to the east in the background.



Toutle River showing impact of mudflows, their course and height evidenced by mud lines on trees.







Mudflows on the upper Cowlitz River. The dense material floated mobile homes and inundated fixed structures.



Debris on the lower Cowlitz River being carried to the Columbia River the day after the eruption.

2. FLOOD CONTROL IMPACT Twenty-one miles of the Cowlitz River from the mouth of the Toutle River downstream to the Columbia River were impacted with virtual elimination of natural channel capacities. Figure 5 illustrates profiles of the lower Cowlitz River before and after the mudflows. At the time of the eruption, lower Cowlitz River flows were about 6,100 cubic feet per second with a gage height of 30 feet. Those river flows after the mudflows on May 18 and 19 were essentially at bank-full capacity with a gage of 42.5 feet (12.5 foot rise). In addition, because mudflow materials remained in essentially all areas inundated, valley storage capacities for normal floods were severely reduced. The communities of Lexington and Castle Rock as well as the larger communities of Kelso and Longview (total population of about 45,000) were left virtually without flood protection. It was estimated that the 45 million cubic yards of Columbia infill material raised flood levels on that river, upstream of the Longview area, no more than a foot for several miles. There were no extensively developed areas in this reach.

The Cowlitz River channel, from about 1.5 miles immediately above the mouth of the Toutle River downstream to the Columbia River, infilled with depths of material varying from 5 to 15 feet. In addition, the mudflow material flowed into—and settled into adjacent wetland areas along the Cowlitz River valley. This essentially eliminated valley storage areas normally able to absorb some of the high flows during flood periods. The lower reaches of tributary streams of the Cowlitz River were also infilled and blocked off by mudflow material. Drainage ditch outlets, storm sewer outlets, headwall structures, etc., were not only plugged but covered up

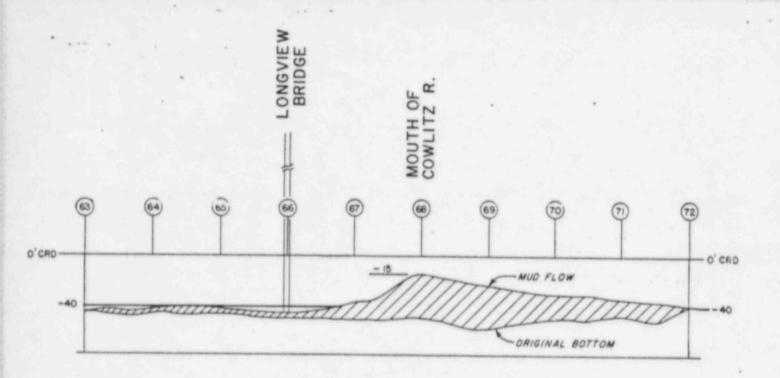
with several feet of material. An immediate and unusual flood impact caused by the mudflow material was local flooding in many of the tributary stream drainage areas during the summer low flow periods. As result of their entrances being dammed, residual flows from creeks and streams backed up and flooded buildings, roads and other developed areas.

3. NAVIGATION IMPACT The Columbia River navigation channel from the mouth to Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., is maintained at a 40 foot depth, 600 foot width. The Cowlitz River enters the Columbia at River Mile 68, and the Williamette River, which serves the Portland Harbor area, enters the Columbia at Mile 101. There was also a routinely maintained navigation—channel in the lower four miles of the Cowlitz River with dimensions of 8 by 150 feet. The Columbia River serves primarily tug and barge and deep draft vessel traffic with commerce in excess of 30 million tons per year in those reaches.

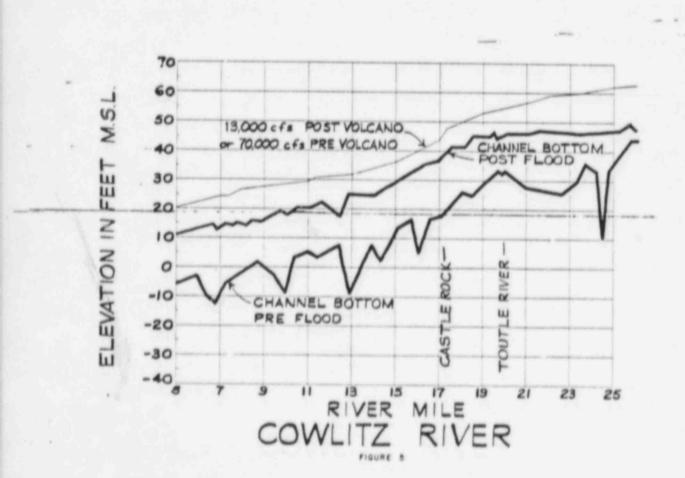
Maintenance of the 40 foot channel requires annual dredging of about five million cubic yards of primarily clean sand materials. In-place density of Columbia River sands is an average of 1,900 to 1,950 grams per liter. This yardage is normally removed from shoal areas existing throughout the 104 mile reach to the Portland area. Normal maintenance of the Cowlitz River channel was accomplished on a periodic basis about once every three years. Shoaling conditions usually required removal of only 150,000 to 250,000 cubic yards of gravely sand materials.

As reported by the Columbia River Pilots Association, a deep draft vessel traversed the Columbia River channel in the vicinity of River Mile 68 in an upstream direction without incident about 3:30 a.m. on May 19. However, at 5:30 a.m. on May 19 another vessel progressing upstream ran hard aground adjacent to the mouth of the Cowlitz River and had to be assisted off by tugs later in the day. Hydrographic surveys were taken late that day after turbidity levels subsided enough to allow penetration of sonic Fathometer signals. They revealed that navigation depths in the Columbia River had been reduced to 15 feet CRD (Low Water Datum) and navigation depths in the Cowlitz River were virtually nonexistent. Those depths essentially closed the Columbia River channel upstream of Longview to deep draft vessel traffic. Thirty-one deep draft vessels were trapped upstream in the Portland-Vancouver and Kalama harbors. An estimated 20 ships enroute to the area were forced to stand off or were diverted to other ports. The cost to ports, the communities and industry mounted to millions of dollars per day from the disruption of deep draft vessel traffic in the Columbia River.

The major portion of the infill material in the Columbia River extended from River Mile 63 upstream to River Mile 72. Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of the material in comparision with normal channel depths. Based on surveys, approximately 14 million of the 45 million cubic yards deposited in the river infilled the 40 by 600 foot navigation channel in this reach.



COLUMBIA RIVER LONGITUDINAL PROFILE RM 63-RM 72_



- 4. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS On May 19, as the magnitude of the impact of the eruption became known, the Corps of Engineers and other federal, state, and local agencies established a communications system to coordinate the recovery effort. The impacts to general populations, public utilities and other public and private facilities had to be realized in order to formulate plans of action from an immediate standpoint and for the longer range period. As a result of this intercommunication and initial onsite observations by field personnel, the Corps of Engineers' Portland District participated in emergency raising and strengthening of levees at Castle Rock and Lexington, and restoration of traffic flows around several blocked Cowlitz tributaries. The Corps also immediately ordered all federal dredge plant to the Columbia River to begin efforts to reopen the navigation channel.
- personnel from many separate branches of the Portland District began assessing the full impact of the eruption to determine where and how the Corps could help. By statute (Public Law 84-99), the Corps would be responsible for protective activities to preclude further flood damages and disruptions to navigation systems. As more information became available on the scope of damages from a flood control and navigation standpoint, restoration plans were formulated through coordination with higher authority, local interests, and other federal and state agencies. The planning process in the immediate period after the eruption was the most crucial and intense, resulting in consideration of many alternatives, some of which were shelved after more facts were known in later weeks.

The alternatives considered were aimed at two general purposes: restoration and protection. Regarding restoration, the areas requiring action included: the navigation channel of the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers; the flood control carrying capacity of the Cowlitz River; drainage channels and structures; water supply systems; and transportation routes. The major restoration measures would entail massive dredging operations in the Columbia River to restore navigation, and in the Cowlitz River to restore its flood carrying capacity. In addition, certain protective measures were formulated for the long-term future that would minimize continued impacts to the navigation channel and flood carrying capacities of the streams. Because the mudflow impacted the Cowlitz Valley storage capacity to a significant degree, and not all the mudflow materials could be removed, levees protecting populated areas were raised, lengthened and improved to completely restore the ability of the Cowlitz River to carry at least a 500-year frequency flood. A short-term protective measure included the purchase of hydropower storage space in upstream reservoirs on the Cowlitz River for additional flood contr 1 storage. Other short-term measures included stabilization of large reaches of the Toutle River to minimize erosion and the transport of further mudflow materials into the Cowlitz River prior to the 1980-1981 flood season. To some extent those stabilization measures will also provide long-term protection for the downstream areas. Other major protective measures included construction of debris retaining structures, or debris barriers, at the foot of mud slides in both the north and south fork valleys of the Toutle River, and emergency outlet channels at several small lakes that were formed from blocked tributaries on the north fork of the Toutle River.

Plans for major features of the recovery work were coordinated in detail with the Corps' North Pacific Division office in Portland, and with the Chief of Engineers' office in Washington, D.C. Congressmen from the impacted areas of the states of Oregon and Washington were also involved. In the ensuing weeks after the eruption, a coordinated plan of action evolved with assistance from other federal, state and local agencies. Public support by affected communities was vital, and the Portland District held more than a dozen public meetings to explain the recovery operations and gather comments and information. In September 1980 the Corps published a final Environmental Impact Statement addressing its Mount St. Helens involvement.

6. FUNDING Funds for navigation recovery of the Columbia River channel were initially available from operation and maintenance funds within the Portland District. Additional OaM funds were provided by nigher authority to supplement District funds for fiscal years 1980 and 1981. In excess of \$45 million was requested and provided in the early weeks after the eruption to extend over both fiscal years. This funding will be supplemented in future years as required depending on the stability of the situation and the success of measures accomplished to date.

Funding for flood control restoration and long-term protective measures were provided through Public Law 84-99. Under this statute, the Corps of Engineers, at the direction of the Chief of Engineers in Washington, D.O. has authority and funds to respond to floods or threats of floods to protect life and property. The cost of actions taken immediately following the eruption amounted to about \$200,000. As more data became available and alternatives were selected for the restoration and recovery work, an initial funding program totaling more than \$173 million was established. Additional funds required for future fiscal years were also estimated.

FUNDING PROGRAM (April 1981)

(\$ Millions) .

PL-84-99 - Cowlitz - Toutle Rivers

Item	1980	1981
Cowlitz River Channel Excavation	117.9	19.0
Toutle River Sediment Stabilization	2.9	5.0
Basins		
Debris Retaining Structures	15.2	18.0
Toutle River Channel Constrictions	0	0
Seeding Disposal Areas	1.0	0
Green River Fish Hatchery Protection	0.3	0
Mossyrock Storage Agreement	8.0	0
Lake Outlets	0	1.0
Assistance to Resource Agencies	0.2	2.0
Flood Protection		
a. Levees	15.5	2.0
b. Bank Protection	4.0	5.0
c. Land Acquisition/Right-of-Way	4.3	0
d. Pump Stations	0	0
Engineering and Design	4.0	2.0
Miscellaneous/Studies	0	

TOTAL	173.3		56.0
Operations & Maintenance - Columbia River			
Columbia River Channel	20.2	24.9	

FIGURE 6

7. IMPLEMENTATION As a plan of action was initiated for both flood control and navigation, the Portland District established field offices to administer the large amount of work that would be required in the local area. Navigation Division set up a field office at Rainier, Ore., in early June. Construction Division field offices were established later in June at Castle Rock and Toutle. These offices served as residencies through which contract work was administered for the emergency operations and more prolonged recovery actions. Each of the offices had 20 to 30 field personnel supervised by an Area Engineer and several assistants. Key personnel in those field offices were reassigned from their normal duties at the Portland District and North Pacific Division offices. As much as possible, clerical personnel, construction inspectors and engineering technicians were recruited from the local area to provide the full staff required to administer the work. The three temporary offices were eventually closed, with the Toutle Field OffTce being phased out in November 1980 and the Castle Rock Field Office in April 1981. A permanent resident office has taken the place of the two offices for the Cowlitz and Toutle rivers, and is located at the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 504 in Cowlitz County. This office, staffed with permanently assigned Corps of Engineers personnel, will operate for the next several years to oversee ongoing projects on the two rivers. Future navigation work in the Columbia River and lower Cowlitz River will be administered as part of normal workload by the District's Navigation Division. A small office for navigation hydrographic survey work will be retained at Kainier.

8. NAVIGATION RESTORATION

A. Dredging

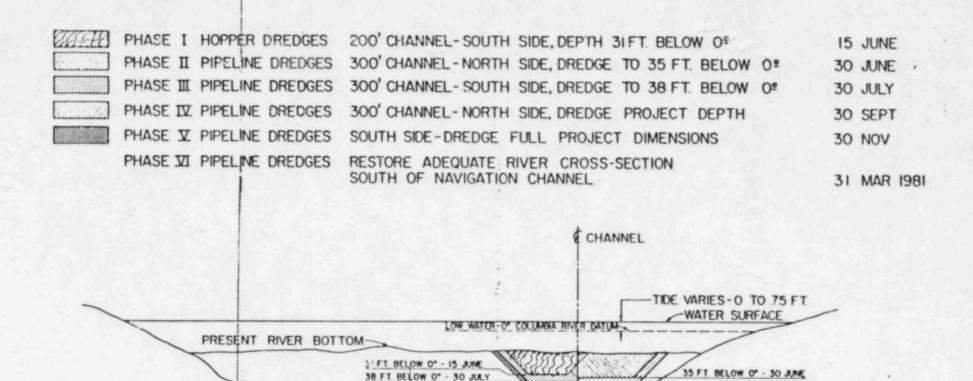
With preliminary data available early on May 19 after the grounding of the HEOGH MASCOT, the U.S. Coast Guard closed the Columbia River to navigation at Longview. This information was transmitted to the Portland District that day and the hopper dredge BIDDLE, working at the mouth of the Columbia River, was immediately ordered to proceed to the area to begin emergency dredging. The following day, the District's other two hopper dredges, HARDING and PACIFIC, were recalled from Eureka, Calif., and Coos Bay, Ore., respectively, to also begin work on the Columbia channel. The Port of Portland's pipeline dredge OREGON, working under contract for the Corps in the vicinity of Astoria, Ore., was ordered that day to mobilize at the site as soon as possible.

Representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Columbia River Pilots

Association and the Corps of Engineers met on May 19 to develop plans for restoration of the channel and resumption of river traffic. On May 20 the plan for dredging was established as indicated in Figure 7. The hopper dredge BIDDLE started work on the Columbia River channel on May 20. The BIDDLE started work on a 200-foot-wide emergency channel on the south edge of the 600-foot-wide authorized channel.

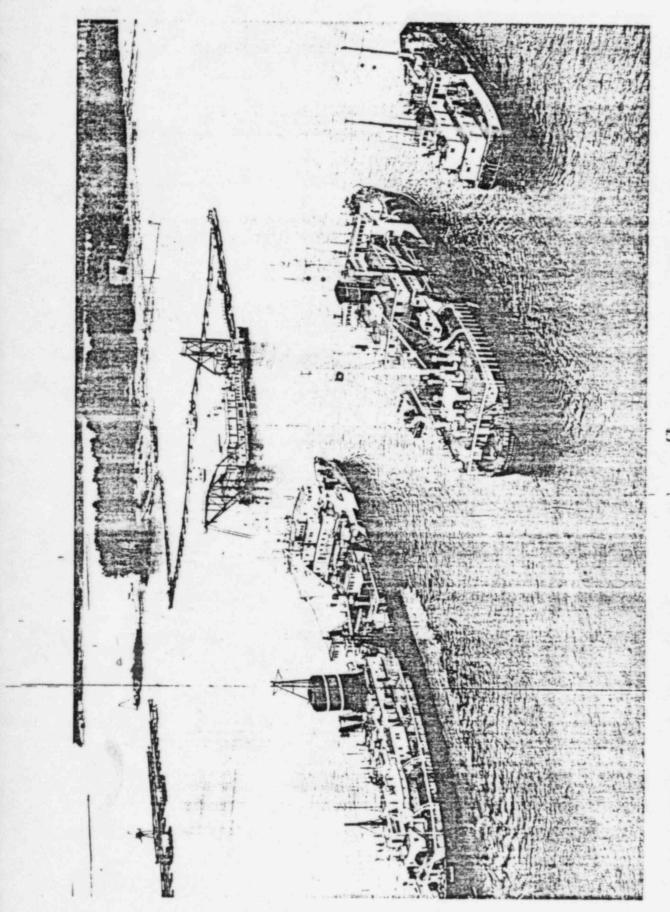
The U.S. Coast Guard established a safety zone through the blockade area. Deep draft vessels were restricted to passing through the area during a two hour "window" on the daylight high tide. This procedure provided the maximum depth available for deep draft vessels and minimized the interruption of dredging operations in the channel. Tug and barge traffic was ordered to use that portion of the river south of the emergency channel.

Marine contractors on the West Coast and throughout the nation were canvassed by telephone to determine the availability of large pipeline
dredging plant. The first result of this solicitation was that the two
largest West Coast dredging companies, General Construction Company of
Seattle and Riedel International of Portland, agreed to the latter firm
entering into a contract to furnish and operate equipment of both companies. Submission of preliminary cost and pricing data led to signing of
the contract May 23. Five large pipeline dredges and two boosters would
be furnished.



TYPICAL SECTION COLUMBIA RIVER AT LONGVIEW

ORIGINAL RIVER BOTTOM



Hopper dredges BIDDLE, HARDING and PACIFIC and pipeline dredge OREGDN on the Columbia River near the mouth of the Cowlitz River.



Pipeline dredges OREGON, MCCURDY, and LOFGREN working in the Columbia River at the Cowlitz River confluence (smaller dredge barely visible between the bridges on the Cowlitz).

Notice to proceed was immediately issued for mobilizing the dredges

MCCURDY and WASHINGTON from Puget Sound to the Longview area. Negotiations continued to permit a definitized contract establishing rates for rental of the fully operated dredge plant on an hourly rental basis, plus a fixed price for mobilization and demobilization. Terms included in the contract provided the Government the option to determine which and how equipment would be used on the project. Figure 8 lists the dredges ultimately utilized for Columbia River dredging.

Providing disposal areas required full cooperation between contractors, local authorities, environmental interests, and various federal, state and local agencies.

Because of the urgent nature of the emergency restoration, environmental requirements were relaxed as necessary by federal and state natural resource agencies, as long as all reasonable efforts to minimize impacts were pursued.

The 14 million cubic yards of infill in the channel project limits were removed generally on schedule and an unrestricted navigation channel was open to traffic by November 30, 1980.

DREDGES USED TO RESTORE THE COLUMBIA RIVER NAVIGATION CHANNEL

			Pump							Approximate
Name	Size	Type	Horsepower	Owner	4	Da	te S	started	Original Location	CY Removed
Hopper Dredge	es									
BIDDLE	3060 CY	Steam-Elec	_	A		20	May	80	Mouth of Columbia R	2 000 000
HARDING	2700 CY	Diesel		A			May		Eureka, CA	2,000,000
PACIFIC	500 CY	Diesel		A			May		Coos Bay, OR	1,150,000
Pipeline Dred	lges									
		1			- 2					
OREGON	30"	Diesel	4985	В	1	22	May	80	Astoria, OR	6,300,000
MCCURDY	24"	Diesel-Elec	3000	C			Jun		Puget Sound, WA	
*WASHINGTON	24"	Diesel-Elec	2900	D		7	Jun		Puget Sound, WA	2,650,000
OLLIE REIDEL	27"	Diesel	4200	C		7	Jun		Long Beach, CA	2,700,000
TILLAMOOK	12"	Diesel	600	Е		15	May		Old Mouth of Col. R	4,500,000
* Purchased by	y Western Pa	acific - rename	d LOFGREN							
Booster Pumps										
SUPER BOOSTER	24"	Electric	3500	С	ı.	23	Sep	80		
OREGON BOOSTE	R 30"	Diesel	3000	В			Jul			Portland, OR
SUPER SNOOSE	27"	Diesel	3600	C		30	Jul	00		Portland, OR

Owners

A - Porland District, Corps of Engineers

B - The Port of Portland, Portland, OR

C - Western Pacific Dredging Corp., Portland, OR

D - General Construction Co., Seattle, WA

E - Newport Dredging Co., Porland, OR

B. Rainier Fill

The Columbia River channel in the vicinity of Longview immediately downstream of the mouth of the Cowlitz River is naturally wider than required for hydraulic passage of river flows. This condition, when coupled with extensive dredging normally conducted in the area to provide both the federal navigation channel and the mooring basins for the Port of Longview industrial facilities, created an area where shoaling was accelerated because of the artificially deepened nature of the wide channel. The deepening of the navigation channel from 35 to 40 feet in the late 1960's and early 1970's along this location included a plan for possible artificial narrowing by pile dikes or fill. However, because of the concern of many local interests in the area, the narrowing program was never accomplished. This fact, together with the new condition of millions of cubic yards of mudflow infill immediately upstream, raised the question of future ability to keep adequate navigation depths consistent in the Fort o' Longview reach. Compounding the problem was the probable large volumes of material to be transported into the area from natural erosion of mudflow deposits in the Toutle River system.

The services of a consultant familiar with marine channel design were secured to assist Portland District personnel in the review of previous plans for artificial works in the Columbia River channel area. A primary concern was placement of dredged mudflow material in such a manner as to provide long-term stability of the channel area. The plan proposed by the consultant is illustrated as the Rainier Fill on Page 33. Federal and state agencies were apprised of the plan, and the landowner and the state



Aerial view of the lower Cowlitz and Columbia rivers showing disposal sites. Rainier Fill eliminated overwidth river section across from the Port of Longview.

of Oregon reached an agreement on transfer of ownership. The latter was made possible by timely action on the part of the State in establishing a fair value for covered river bottom and by the riparian owner in agreeing to make payment to the State and to replace his waterfront structures that would be covered by the fill.

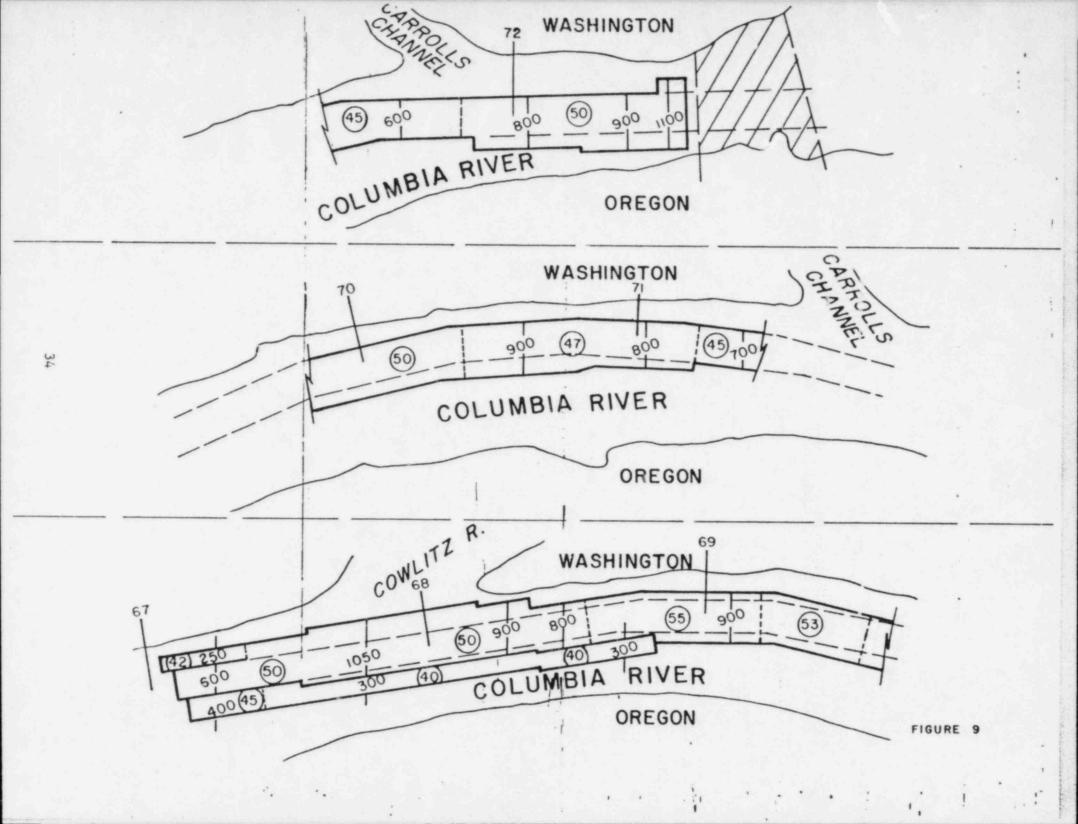
In addition to providing an area to dispose of approximately six million cubic yards of mudflow material, it is anticipated that the engineering of the plan will save millions of dollars in dredging costs in future years by retarding the settling of eroding mudflow materials in the channel and Port of Longview mooring berths. It is expected the eroded mudflow materials will tend to continue on through the narrowed river area and deposit in areas less critical downstream. Dredging can then be scheduled on a more efficient basis and where disposal areas are more readily available.

C. BEEMAN PLAN

Initial dredging efforts were directed toward restoration of the 40 by 600 foot navigation channel. In late June 1980, however, as sensitive hydrographic surveys fully outlined the magnitude and location of the total 45 million cubic yards of infill, it was realized that excavation of the channel project would not be enough to provide long-term stability. The remaining mudflow materials in the river would continue to erode until the river re-established its hydraulic section during high flow periods.

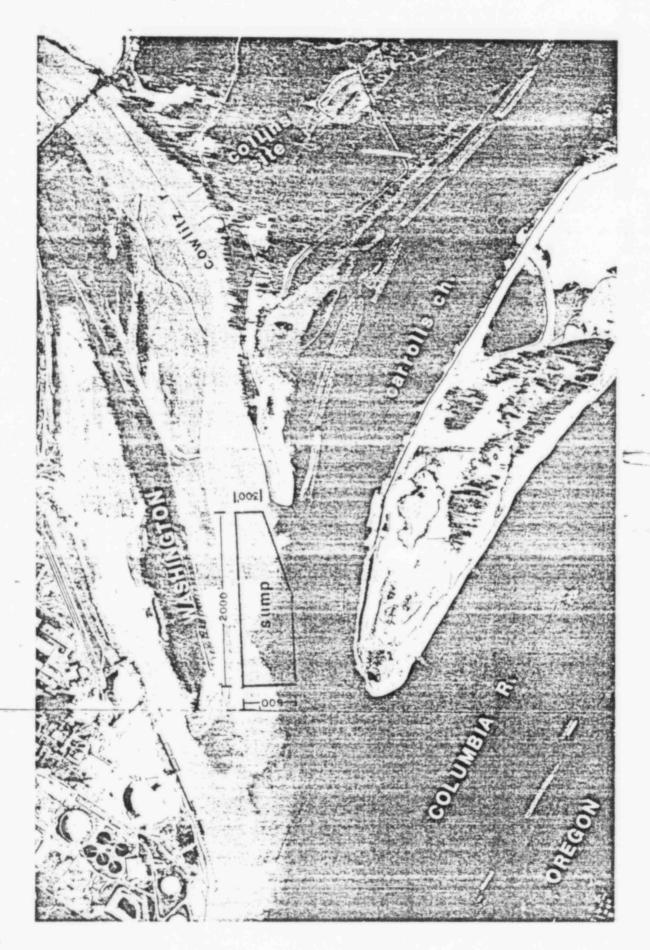
This eroded material would result in intermittent and unpredictable infill of the navigation channel downstream in future years. An engineering study was initiated to determine the extent of additional dredging required to provide a nearly stable hydraulic channel as soon as possible. A consultant was utilized to study these problems and recommend solutions to District personnel. Figure 10 illustrates the plan purposed by the consultant and adopted by the Portland District.

It was anticipated that a total of nine million cubic yards in addition to the 14 million already excavated from the channel would have to be removed to provide a 90 percent re-establishment of the hydraulic section. The "90 percent" effort is all that was practical and recommended because restoration of the remaining 10 percent would not be cost effective. Removal volume to improve the hydraulic capacity would involve increasingly greater volumes for each added percent of improvement. A contract for \$10,386,000 was awarded in January 1981 for dredging of an additional six million yards. This would supplement continued excavation by the Port of Portland's dredge OREGON to provide the stable hydraulic section. This project will be complete by June 1982.



D. SUMP

In addition to the Rainier Fill and the additional hydraulic channel excavation as described above, measures were also considered to minimize future impacts of erosion of materials from the Toutle and Cowlitz River valleys and their transport into the Columbia River, resulting in possible disruption of navigation traffic. As part of the dredging operation accomplished in the first year, a sump was excavated at the mouth of the Cowlitz River to intercept material being transported down the Cowlitz. The purpose of the sump is to provide a location for a large dredge to remove the materials prior to their reaching the Columbia River channel. The sump currently being utilized is shown on Figure 10. Removal of up to two million cubic yards of additional material from the sump area was, also provided as part of the contract discussed in paragraph C. The material removed from the sump is being placed in a disposal area known as the-Collins Estate. The Collins Estate consists of a privately owned large acreage of land that includes considerable wetland areas. The Portland District has diked off a portion of the site and will expand it only as necessary in future years to minimize impacts to the surrounding wildlife habitat and wetland area.



Cowlitz Sump Figure 10

d. FLOOD CONTROL RESTORATION

A. Lower Cowlitz

Approximately 11 million cubic yards of infill were removed by pipeline dredges from the lower Cowlitz River (R.M. 0 to 9) by November 1980. Work in the lower Cowlitz River by dredges was phased out over the months of February, March and April. Twenty million cubic yards total were removed from the lower Cowlitz. Figure 11 lists contractors and equipment utilized in this area.

With 85 percent of the flood carrying capacity eliminated by mudflow deposits as shown in Figure 5, it was clear that channel excavation was required at an early date. The lower nine miles of the Cowlitz River passes through an urban area where the majority of the communities are protected by flood control levees. A lack of adequate disposal areas, or the extensive work required to prepare them, led to a decision that all work in the lower nine miles would be accomplished by pipeline dredges which could pump dredged materials some distances, contracted on an hourly rental basis. Dredging was started in this reach of the river with (letter) contracts to the two firms owning the only three 20" pipeline dredges available on the West Coast. Subsequent contracts for dredges used along this reach were on the basis of competitive bids for specified minimum size dredges.

Disposal areas were sparse and frequently several hundred to several thousand feet from the river channel. Recognizing the threat of flooding from the flood season beginning in November, landowners were extremely cooperative in providing the use of their lands for disposal of material at no cost to the Government.

Early dredging activities in the lower two miles of the Cowlitz River indicated that sediment transport and deposition was continuing at a very high rate and that progress at moving upriver would be extremely time consuming. The major threat from flooding was in the reach of the river above Mile 5. Consequently, two 20" dredges, the ART RIEDEL and HERB ANDERSEN, were taken overland from River Mile 1.5 to Mile 6 in order to accelerate arrival of dredging capacity in the needed area. Disassembly and reassembly methods for portable dredges, if normally followed, would require at least six weeks to accomplish. The owner, however, after extensive coordination with local police, utility companies and officials, suggested moving the dredges in essentially one piece. The moves were accomplished in one day with virtually hundreds of workmen, both public and private, involved. This spirit of cooperation and assistance by the communities and contractors was evident throughout the recovery effort and contributed significantly to its overall success.

The ART REIDEL was out of service a total of seven days, the HERB ANDERSON for fifteen days. The heavy hauling equipment used to move the 350 and 500 ton loads required 58 wheels and 72 wheels, respectively.

DREDGES USED TO RESTORE FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL IN LOWER COWLITZ RIVER - RM 0 to 9

Name .	Size	Туре	Pump	Owner	Date Started	Date Completed	Original Location	Approximate C.Y. Removed
Pipeline Dr	edges							
MISSOURI HUSKY ART RIEDEL H. ANDERSON CORNELIA B. MR. GUS HOWARD	20" 20" 20" 20" 16"	Diesel-Elec Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel Diesel	2500 2800 1850 1850 1900 900 2700	A B C C D C	23 Jun 80 18 Jun 80 9 Jun 80 19 Jun 80 13 Sep 80 20 Aug 80 7 Sep 80	31 Jan 81 19 Jan 81 3 Apr 81 11 Mar 81 4 Apr 81 3 Apr 81	Puget Sound, WA Puget Sound, WA San Francisco, CA Portland, OR Northern Alberta, Can. Corvallis, OR Minnesota	4,900,000 3,595,596 4,000,000 2,600,000 1,800,000 4,500,000 2,000,000
Boosters								
#1 #2 #3 Owners	20"	Electric Electric Electric	1000 1500 2500	C C C	17 Aug 80 10 Oct 80 19 Oct 80			

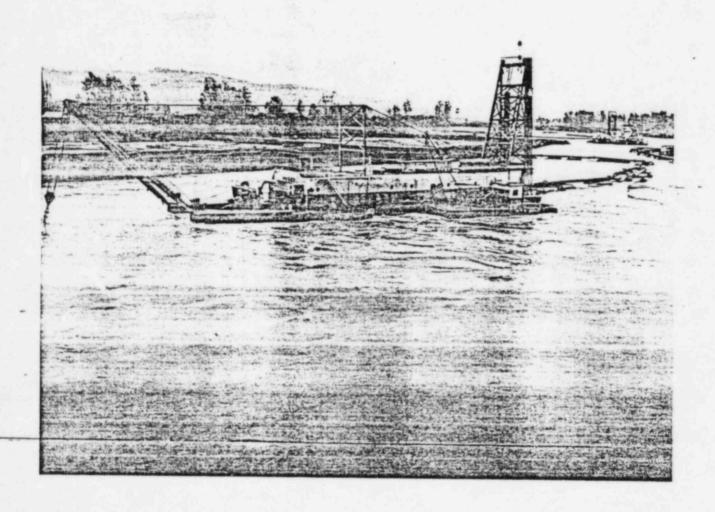
A - General Construction Co., Seattle, WA

B - Manson-Osberg Construction Co., Seattle, WA

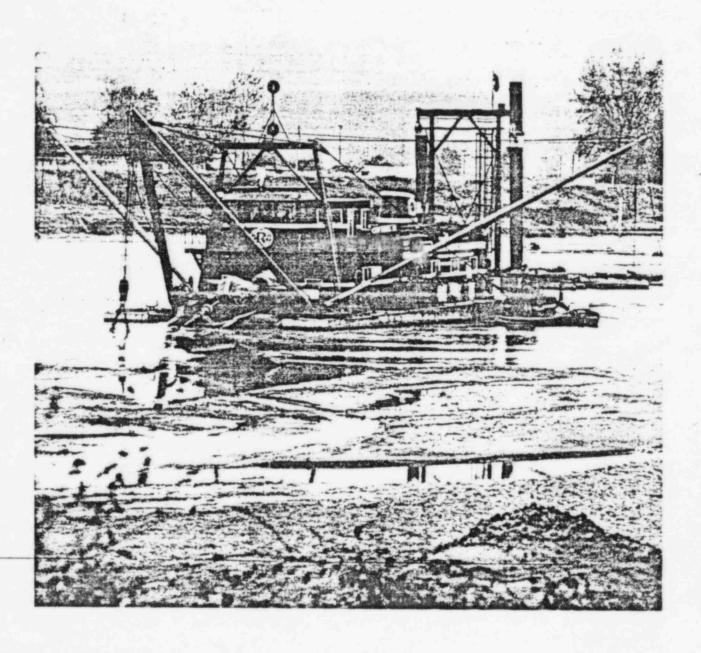
C - Western Pacific Dredging Corp., Portland, OR

D - Coast Marine Construction Co, Portland, OR

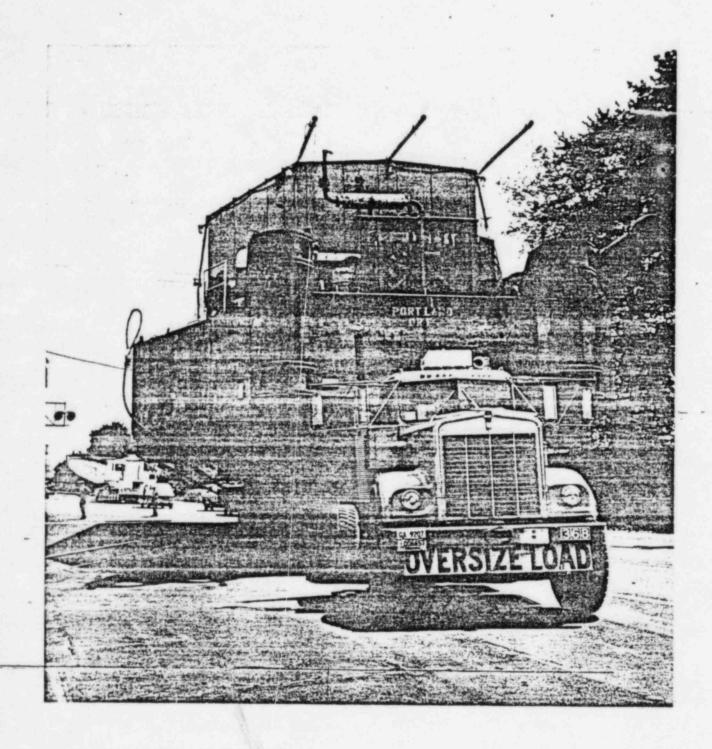
E - Robers Dredge, Inc., La Crosse, WI



Pipeline dredges HUSKY and MISSOURI (background) in the Cowlitz River.



Pipeline dredge ART REIDEL, SR., working in the Cowlitz River.



Overland move of 350-ton ART REIDEL, SR.

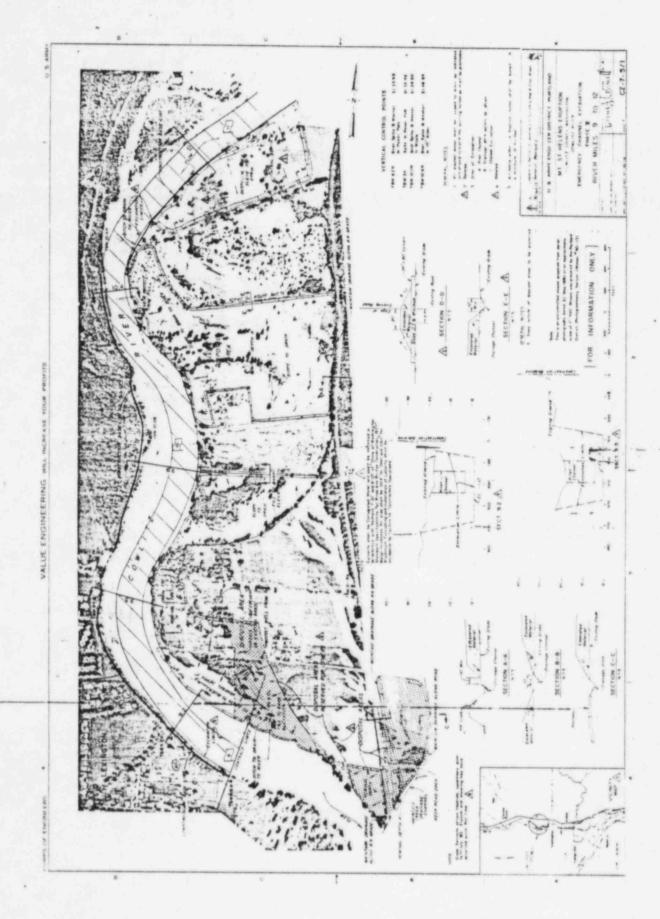


Pipeline dredges at launching site in the Cowlitz River. Islands in the shoaled riverbed and the mudfill outside the riverbank show impact of eruption mudflows.

B. Upper Cowlitz

on the reach of the Cowlitz from Mile 9 to 22.5, the mudflow had deposited material over the majority of the valley floor for a width or about one mile. Landowners in this reach were willing to receive fill material on their lands to raise the area above flood level. It was determined that contracts for excavating the channel in this reach be on a fixed price basis by measurement of material in the disposal area. An option for establishing settlement markers removed one of the concerns to bidders. The river was broken into contract sections of one to three miles so that multiple contractors and maximum resources could be devoted to the work, providing the best likelihood of completion by late 1980. Specifications for the work in restoring the river channel were written for the opportunity of not only dredging contractors, but also contractors more accustomed to road building. Competion was keen with as many as 16 bids submitted on some jobs. Figure 12 shows a typical contract drawing used for the upper Cowlitz work.

By November, approximately 16 million cubic yards of material were removed from the Cowlitz River between miles 9 and 21. By the time work was phased out in the summer of 1981, a total of nearly 56 million cubic yards had been removed from the Cowlitz River. A 50,000 cfs channel capacity was achieved earlier in December. Figure 13 lists contractors and equipment utilized on the Cowlitz.



Upper Cowlitz River Figure 12

COWLITZ RIVER DREDGING AND EXCAVATION

Origina	
OFTETHO	-

Contractor	Contract Amount
LaDuke Construction & Krumdieck Inc., Portland, OR	\$ 67,702
Harry Claterbos Co., Astoria, OR	14,764,000
M. A. Segali, Inc., Tukwila, WA	7,440,000
Canonie Construction Co., South Haven, MI	15,711,000
Capitol Development Co,. Lacy, WA	7,958,000
Blickle Co., Portland, OR	396,356
Ross Island Sand & Gravel, Portland, OR	1,445,890
Robers Dredge Inc., LaCrosse, WI	1,197,133
Coast Marine Construction, Portland, OR	1,146,250
Canonie Bultema Pacific Corp., South Haven, MI	3,377,000
Marine Leasing Co. of North West, Vancouver, WA	122,440
_ LaDuke Construction, Eugene, OR	188,994
Coast Marine Construction, Portland, OR	121,640
Pepiot Forest Construction, Sutherline, Ok	91,145
Oregon Paiute Construction, Burns, OR	86,020
Manson=Osberg, Seattle, WA	3,562,676
Western Pacific Dredging-Riedel Int'l., Portland, OR	6,127,644
General Construction Co., Portland, OR	2,234,966
Pepiot Forest Construction, Sutherlin, OR	170,508
Jim Winston & Sons, Battleground, WA	1,317,948
White Buffalo Construction, Aumsville, OR	79,674
FIGURE 13	

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Contractor	Contract Amount
White Buffalo Construction, Aumsville, OR	\$ 79,674
Martinez General Construction, Oregon City,	Or 77,455
C. Mourer Construction, Puyallup, WA	493,500
Jim Winston & Sons, Battleground, WA	99,925
Pacific Pump, Portland, OR	230,000
Jim Winston & Sons, Battleground, WA	360,514
Jerry Carter Company, Carson, WA	431,562
Ross Island Sand & Gravel, Portland, OR	1,449,890
Jim Winston & Sons, Battleground, WA	286,730
Grady Construction, Kelso, WA	288,150
Robert Robles and Associates, Tigard, OR	650,107
Ostrander Rock and Construction Co. Kelso, W	NA 444.600

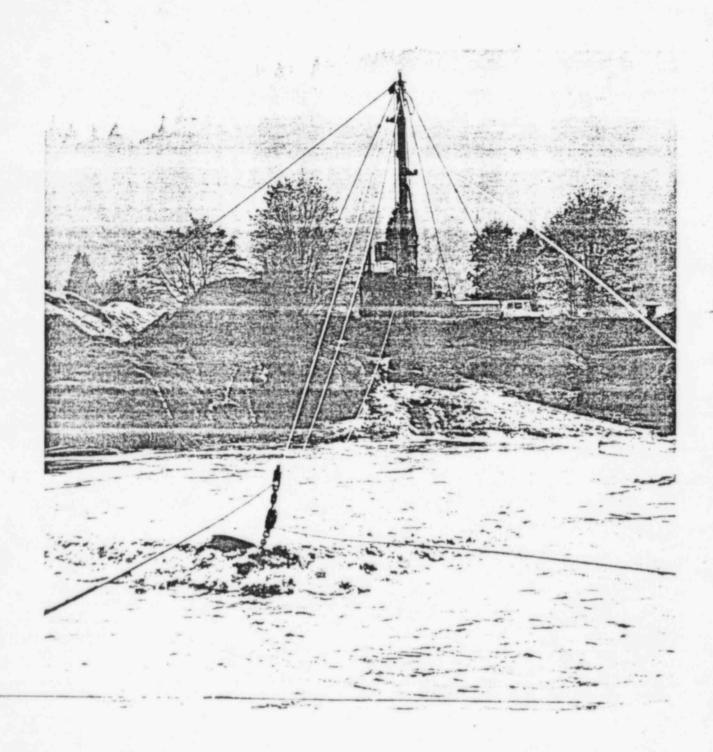
TOUTLE RIVER DREDGING

Original

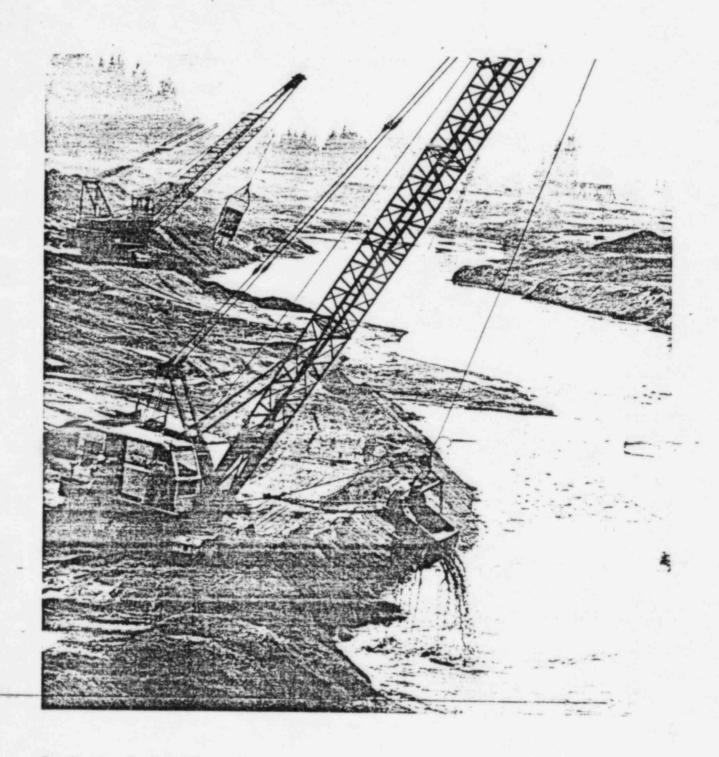
Contractor	Contract Amount
Brusco Booming and Dredging, Longview, WA	\$ 984,000
Canonie Bultema Pacific Corp., South Haven, MI	1,577,000
Wilber Peterson and Sons, Inc., Pleasant Hill, OR	837,850
C. Mourer Construction, Puyallup, WA	2,645,000
Mountain Engineering and Construction, Bozewan, MT	803,000
Elting, Inc., Clackamas, OR	968,800 -
Chris Hale Construction, Onalaska, WA	143,000
* Nestaval Corp., Kelso, WA	1,493,000
* Robert Robles and Associates, Tigard, OR	30,990
* Claterbos Co. & Wayne Construction, Astoria, OR	37,842,000

^{*} Contracts for maintenance of debris retaining structures, not including contracts for construction.

FIGURE 13



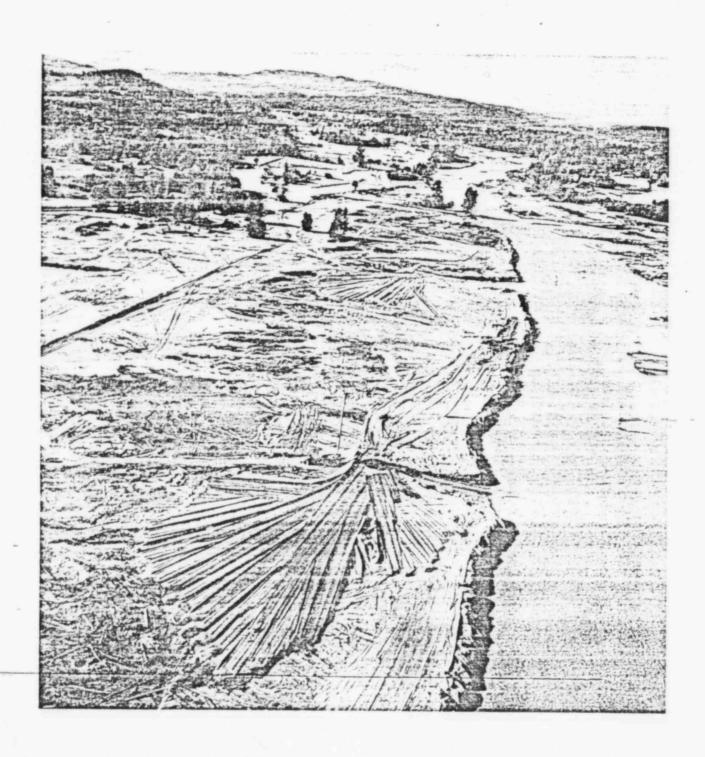
Highlines on the upper Cowlitz River.



Draglines on the lower Toutle River.



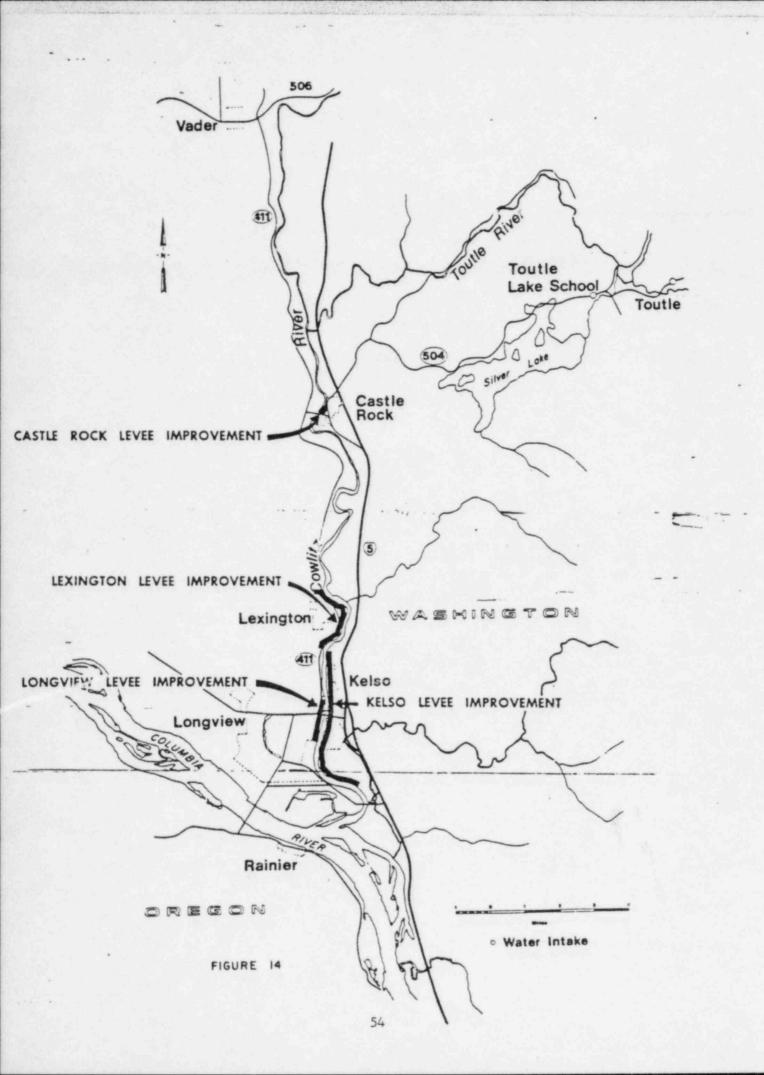
Disposal sites (open-space areas) available along sections of the lower Cowlitz River.



Lexington disposal sites after dredging.

C. Levees

After determining that the target to be accomplished by the fall of 1980 was restoration of a 50,000 cfs flood control channel, it was recognized that larger floods could occur and a long-range plan was needed for additional flood protection for the urbanized areas. A system of levee improvements was designed to provide 500-year protection for all urbanized areas along the Cowlitz downstream of the Toutle River. Figure 14 shows the levee rebuilding plan. Approximately seven miles of levee were raised and extended during the winter and spring of 1980-1981.



CONTRACTORS FOR COWLITZ LEVEE PROJECTS

Location	Contractor	Amount	Award Date	Completion Date
Castle Rock	Kerco, Inc Lakeview, OR	\$ 659,700	19 Sep 1980	Dec 1980
Lexington	Peter Kiewit & Sons Co. Vancouver, WA	5,730,000	15 Sep 1980	May 1981
Longview	Grady Constr. Co. Longview, WA	582,000	8 Oct 1980	Dec 1980
Kelso	Eldridge Constr. Co.	4,245,000	27 Oct 1980	May 1981



Levee improvements at Lexington.

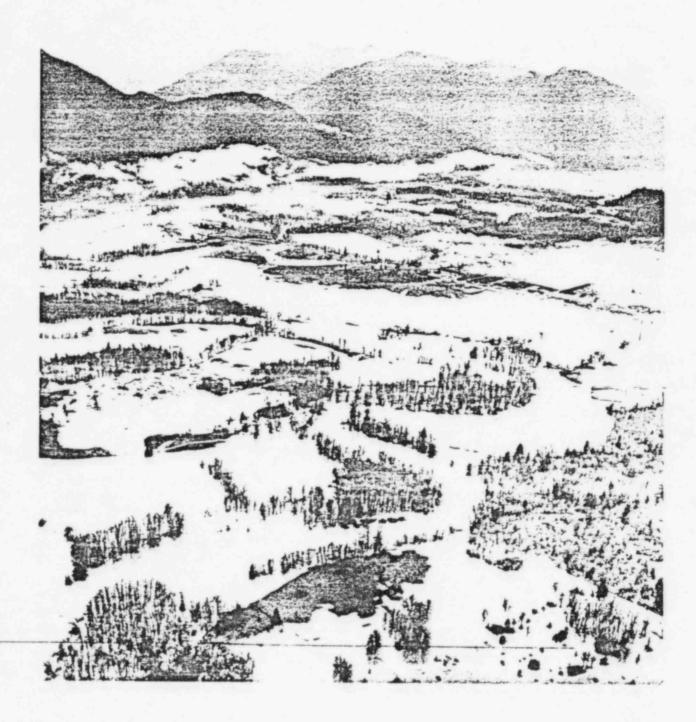


Levees under construction at Kelso.

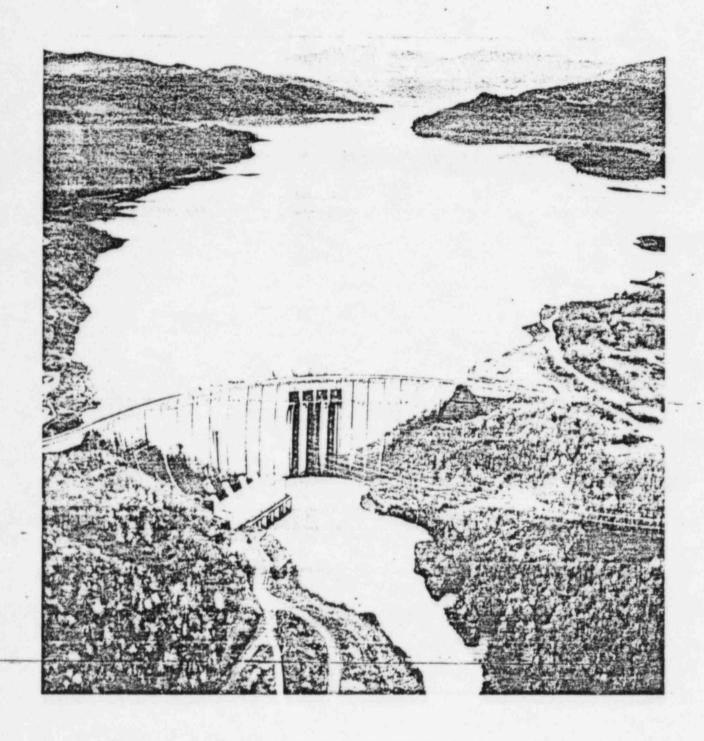
10. PROTECTIVE PROGRAM

A. Storage

Besides excavation of the Cowlitz channel to attain a 50,000 cfs capacity and the improvements to existing levees, an additional degree of flood protection was provided by buying flood control storage from hydro-power reservoirs on the upper Cowlitz River. This was made possible through a cooperative agreement with Tacoma City Light. The target capacity to be available at the Mossyrock Dam reservoir by October was about 620,000 acre feet. It was anticipated that the cost for this storage could amount to \$8 million for the 1980-1981 season. The final cost, however, was \$467,000. The large savings were realized through a complex system of power trading worked out through cooperation with other utilities of the region. Extra power generated by early releases to make room for floodcontrol storage was given to those utilities in return for power from their surplus flows in different months. The photo on page 59 shows the importance of this storage in controlling a major flood in late December 1980. It shows the Randle area, at the headwaters of the Cowlitz River. inundated by heavy flows. The photo on page 60 shows Mossyrock Dam at the same time, Illustrating zero outflow at full reservoir. The storage greatly assisted the lower Cowlitz River area in reducing high flows and minimizing damages from several such flood periods during the winter of 1980-1981.



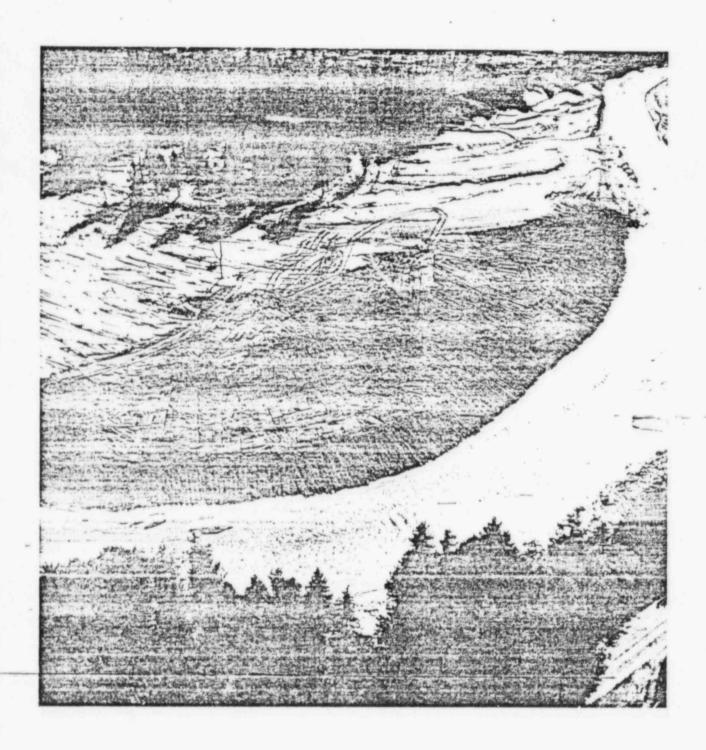
Headwaters of the Cowlitz River near Randle, Wash., during December 1980 flood.



Mossyrock Dam on the Cowlitz River during December 1980 flood with zero outflow to protect lower river areas.

B. Stabilization

Much of the mudflow material deposited in the main Toutle River valley below the north and south forks was left in heavy layers along the narrow valley. Because the Toutle River falls rapidly, future flows would erode this material at an accelerated rate with subsequent deposition in areas excavated downstream in the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers. Therefore, a plan was undertaken for stabilizing several reaches of the Toutle River by channelizing the river through the mudflow material to minimize erosion. Although this program was only partially effective in some areas, observations have concluded that it did reduce significantly the impacts of erosion of mudflow sediments downstream during the winter of 1980-1981. Continued channelization in the spring of 1981 was directed toward minimizing the impact of river flows until natural vegetation and other measures could stabilize the shoreline material.



Typical bank stabilization work on the Toutle River.

C. Debris Retaining Structures

As described earlier, a major amount of the mudflow material remains in the upper reaches of the north and south forks of the Toutle River. An estimated three billion cubic yards fill the 14 mile reach of the north fork of the Toutle River immediately northwest of the mountain. Continued infill from this material, especially during heavy runoff periods, could reclog the restored downstream channels. Control of this material for the long-term future involves measures to stabilize the sediment in place to minimize erosion transport downstream. Of the various alternatives considered, it was decided that construction of rock, weir-like debris retaining structures, or debris dams, would provide a sound solution to quickly hold the mudfill upstream. The plan selected resulted in construction of a 1.5-mile-long dam immediately downstream of the main mudflow deposit on the north fork, and a smaller dam at the lower end of deposits on the south fork. The north fork structure, constructed with rock from a nearby quarry, is approximately 43 feet high and 6,100 feet long. The south fork structure was constructed similarly to a 20 foot height and 500 foot length. Spillways were provided in both dams by using gabion wire baskets filled with rock and covered with several inches of concrete mortar. The structures would restrain and impound the material eroded from the mudfills upstream, allowing removal by excavation equipment to nearby spoils areas. Both debris dams were completed by October 1980 in time for the fall rainy season. Their expeditious completion was accomplished by rapid planning and design, followed by quick advertisement for bids and award of contract. Bids were advertised for the north fork structure on July 1 and a contract was let on July 8. Fourteen companies

submitted bids for the project, with proposals ranging from \$10.5 million to \$22.7 million. The Government estimate was \$16,303,530. The contract was awarded to Washington Construction Co., Missoula, Montana.

Both debris dams withstood several high flows during the fall and winter of 1980. In December 1980, however, a large freshet destroyed one of two spillways on the north fork structure. It was restored by a separate contract for \$2,118,500 to Mountain Engineering and Construction, Bozeman, Mont., in January and February 1981. The new spillway was constructed of roller compacted concrete adjacent to the damaged spillway, and the entire structure was raised five feet. In addition, a contract was awarded in January 1981 to Claterbos Construction, Astoria, Ore., for \$37.8 million for excavation of sediments deposited behind the north fork dam. This—contract provides for removal of 15,000 to 80,000 yards per day. A total of about eight million cubic yards had been excavated by August 1981. It is anticipated that both debris dams will be valuable tools in controlling future sediment transport downstream to the Toutle and Cowlitz River channels. They will also ultimately provide benefits by reducing sediment deposition in the Columbia River navigation channel.

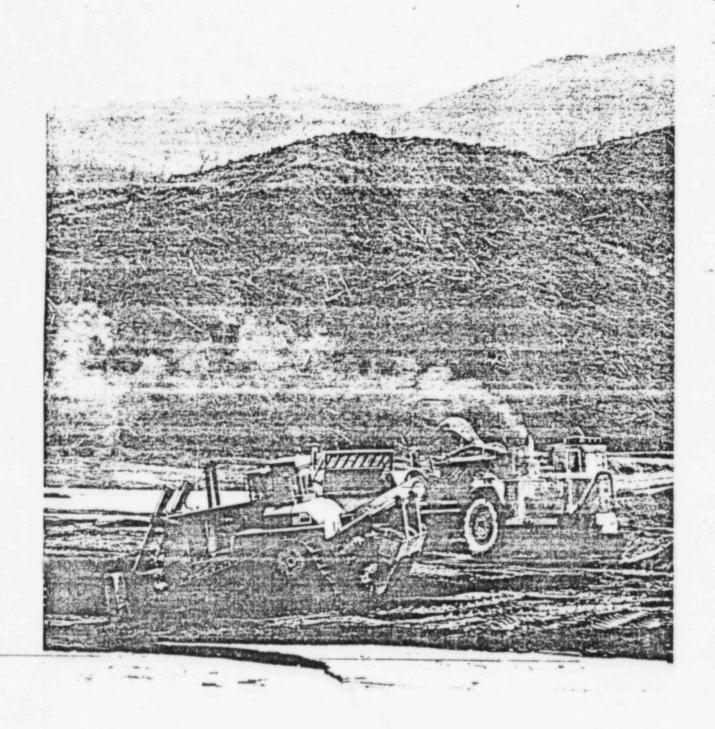
The south fork structure bids were also advertised on July 1 and a contract was awarded on July 9 for \$1,656,000 to Mountain Engineering and Construction. Another contract was awarded for \$1,493,000 early in 1981 to Nestavel Corp., Kelso, Wash., for excavation of materials deposited behind the south fork structure. Excavation is underway at a rate of 6,000 to 12,000 yards per day. A total of about 1.7 million cubic yards were removed by August 1981.



North Fork Tourle River mudfill with debris retaining structure in lower foreground. Sectioned disposal sites shown on the toe of the mudfill. View is to the east.



North Fork Toutle River debris retaining structure showing breached spillway caused by flood waters. New spillway under construction in foreground.



Heavy equipment removing impounded sediment from settlement area behind North Fork Toutle River debris retaining structure.

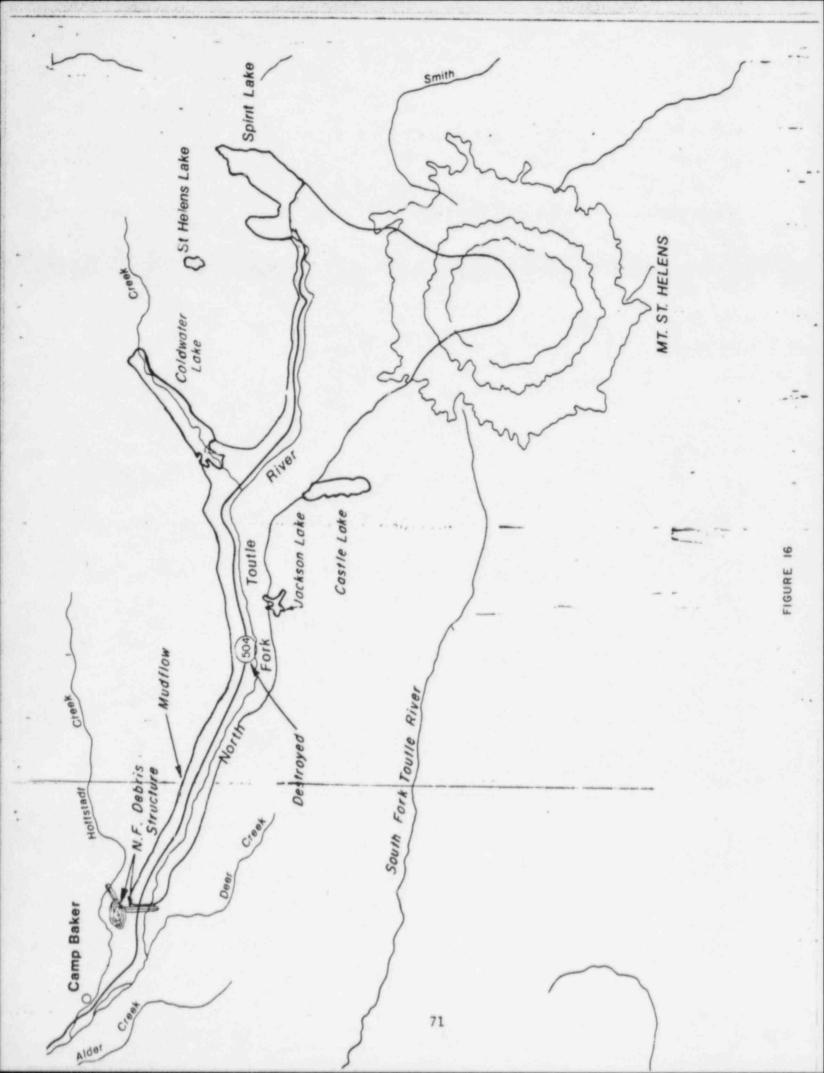


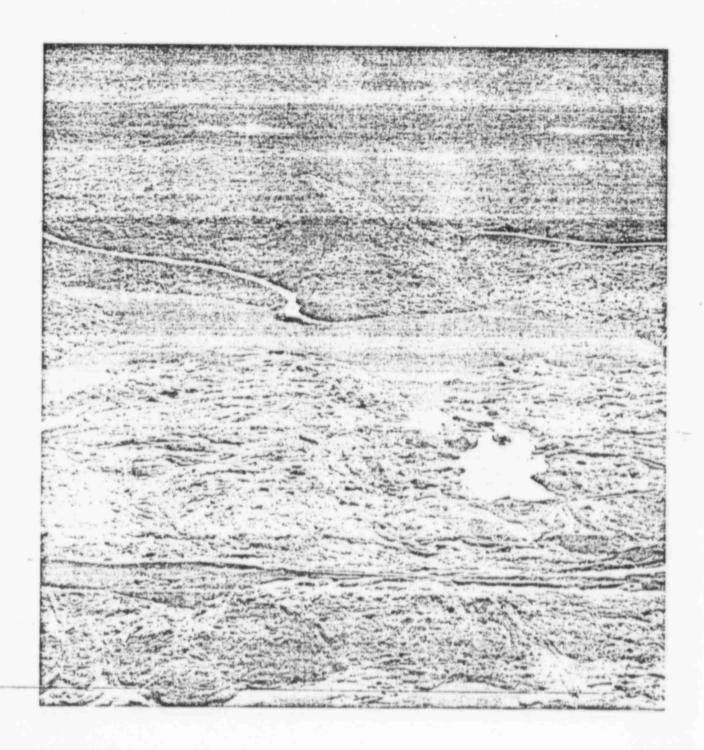
South Fork debris retaining structure showing sediment excavation upstream and fish trap construction in right foreground.

D. Lake Outlets

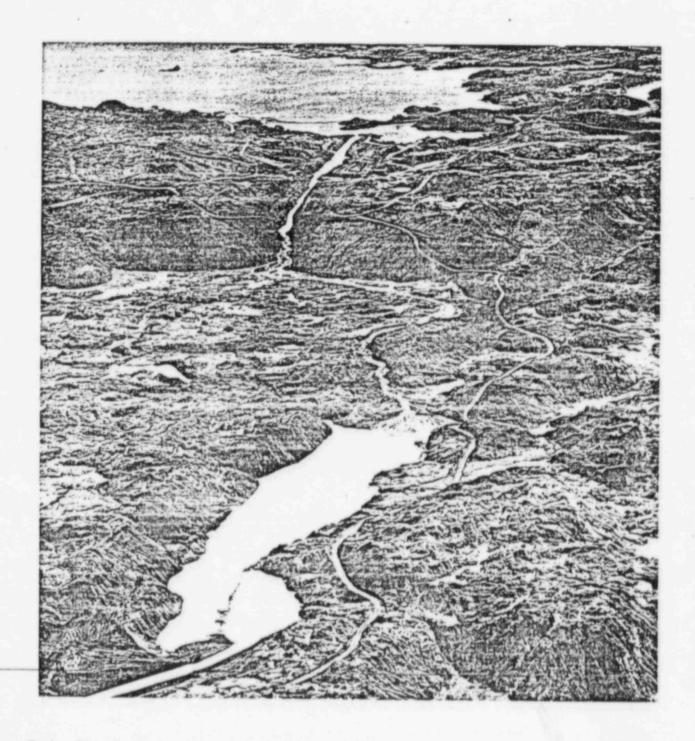
The 14-mile-long mudfill and debris avalanche covering the upper north fork of the Toutle River just below the base of Mount St. Helens consisted of nearly three billion cubic yards of material. This mass of disgorged material filled the valley from wall to wall and reached depths varying from 200 to 600 feet. In areas of the mudfill close to the mountain, where thickness was greatest, the openings of many side valleys were blocked. Where these natural drainage paths were dammed, ponds or small lakes began to form. Several ponds at the mouths of smaller valleys filled rapidly in late summer of 1980, two of which eventually overtopped, sending a surge of water downstream in September and October. Those events caused minor flooding and rapid erosion of the mudfill. It was evident that more serious floods could occur later if any of the larger lakes overtopped. It was anticipated that the next lake to overtop would be Jackson Lake on the south side of the mudfill at the mouth of Jackson Creek. Equipment was mobilized to the site and an artificial channel was cut through the blockage to control total lake size and discharge. Meanwhile, similar planning was underway to address lakes developing at Coldwater Canyon and Castle Creek Canyon to ensure control and prevention of more severe instantaneous flooding. Observations of these larger lakes indicated that, under normal rainfall conditions, Coldwater and Castle Creek lakes would probably overtop during the winter of 1981-1982.

After foundation explorations and design were accomplished in the spring of 1981, a \$2,222,000 contract was awarded for construction of an outlet channel to Coldwater Lake. This outlet constructed during the summer months of 1981. Foundation explorations and design of a similar outlet to Castle Creek Lake were also undertaken, and construction was planned for early fall 1981. Spirit Lake will be monitored and necessary work planned as required in future years. Figure 16 shows approximate lake locations and sizes as they existed in the spring of 1981.

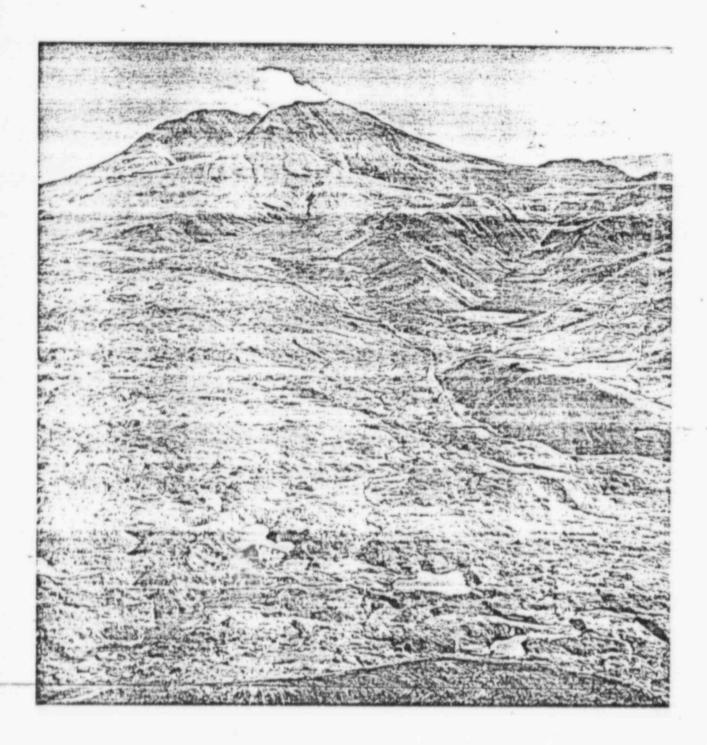




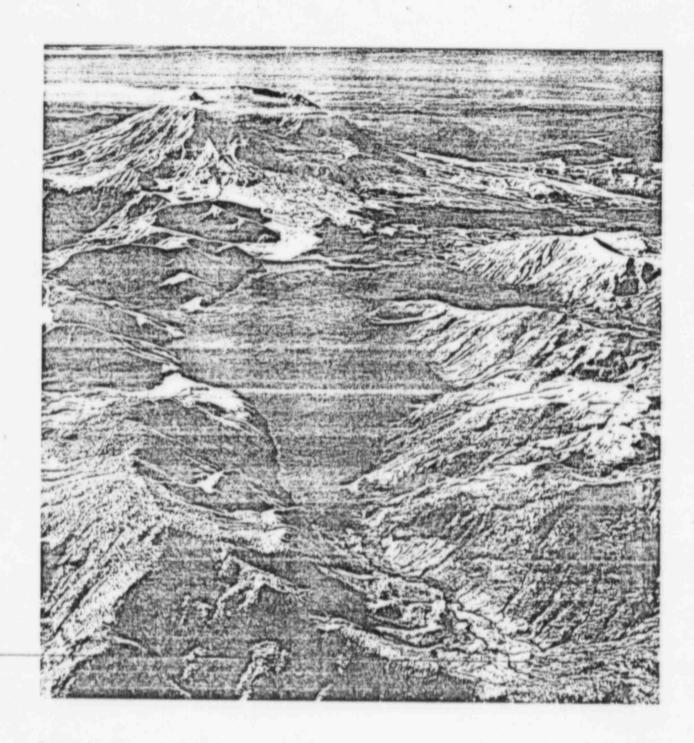
Outlet channel work at Jackson Lake (bulldozer in front of ponding area).



Outlet channel releasing water from Coldwater Lake. Released water collects in lower ponding before draining downstream.



Upper mudfill in North Fork Toutle River. Castle Lake forming in center right canyon.



Spirit Lake showing mudfill across former outlet to North Fork Toutle River. View is to the south.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Seeding

Seeding of mudflow materials and disposal areas was accomplished at varying intervals during the recovery effort. A small seeding contract was awarded in the summer of 1980 to Marmolejo - Hewson Co., Estacada, Ore., to seed approximately 1,400 acres at the toe of the mudfill on the north fork of the Toutle River. The purpose was to stabilize the mudfill immediately upstream of the north fork debris retaining structure. Seeding was accomplished by helicopter dropping grass seed incased in an adhesive-like mixture of fertilizer, which allowed the seed to germinate and grow a certain amount until it could find root in the surrounding material. This seeding program was highly successful and in the fall of 1980 grass several inches high existed in most of the areas seeded. An _ _ additional fertilizer application was applied in the spring of 1981. The _ Cowlitz River excavation contracts between River Mile 9 and 21 included provisions for final cleanup and seeding of disposal sites upon completion of the work. This seeding was accomplished in the spring of 1981. Another seeding contract was issued for Cowlitz disposal areas between River Mile O and 9 and for other sites not included in the work mentioned above. The contract was awarded to Jim Winston and Sons, Battleground, Wash., for approximately \$300,000. It included substantial site preparation and grading prior to actual seeding. This work was accomplished in May 1981.

B. Fish Trap

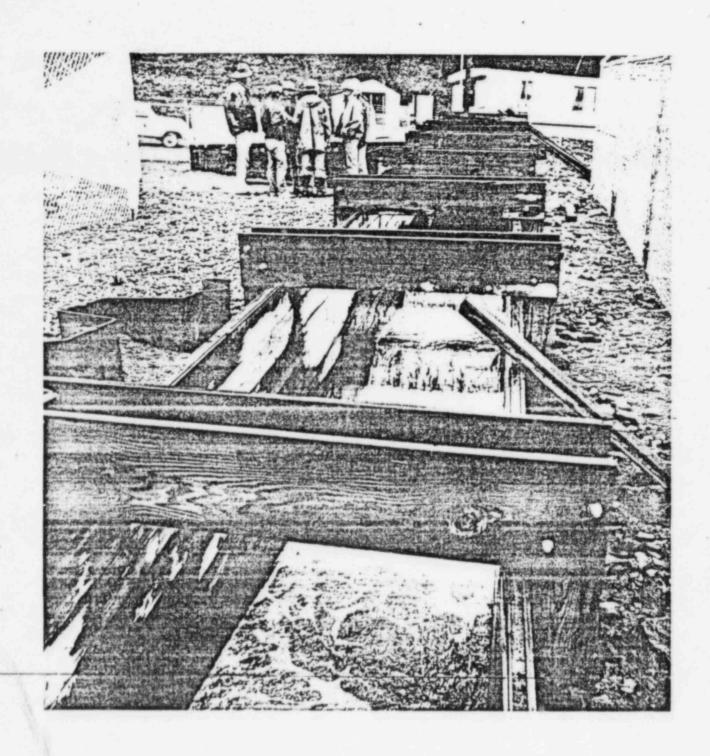
A separate contract for \$363,000 was awarded to Rerco, Inc., Lakeview, Ore., in December 1980 for construction of a fish trap facility at the south fork debris retaining structure. The facility, completed in May 1981, is being operated by the Washington State Game Department. It is designed primarily to trap steelhead trout for transfer to upriver tributaries or other more suitable undamaged streams. The facility includes a wooden fish ladder, attraction pond, approach channel, and collecting pond.

C. Riprap

Several areas on the Cowlitz River developed serious erosion problems as the river channel adjusted from the impact of massive infill. Bank protection work was undertaken where erosion problems threatened to cause substantial losses to developed property. Two small projects at River Mile 13 and 13.5 were accomplished in the months of April and May 1981. Overall cost of the work was about \$700,000. Other areas of erosion are developing and are under observation. Pending availabilty of funds and the severity of those erosion problems, additional corrective measures may be taken.



Bank stabilization on the Cowlitz River.



Fish ladder at South Fork Toutle River debris retaining structure.

D. Consultants

In addition to consultants hired to assist in restoration plans for the Columbia River channel, Corps of Engineers consultants from the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss., visited the Toutle - Cowlitz area to assess and analyze sediment transportation and geologic information compiled by other federal and state agencies.

Professor Vita A. Vanonie of the California Institute of Technology, a world renowned expert on sediment transport, was enlisted to provide further review of sediment transport problems and solutions in the Cowlitz and Toutle River basins. A request by the Federal Emergency Management. Agency resulted in a contract with the consulting firm of Hanner, Ross, and Sporeseen to assess problems related to the water systems for the Longview - Kelso area. Another contract with scientists from Oregon State University and the University of Washington was utilized to study potential water quality hazards of lakes where outlet channels were constructed or planned.

E. Real Estate

Real estate for disposal areas required for dredging of the Cowlitz River was secured at no cost to the Government from public and private property owners. Real estate for sediment stabilization work and the debris structures on the Toutle River were also similarly secured. Primary owners in the upper Toutle River area were the state of Washington and Weyerhaueser Company. Land easements were obtained on a cost-free basis because they

were short-term in nature. Real estate for levee improvement projects, however, required long-term commitments and the property owners were reimbursed for the easements obtained. Official local sponsors for the levee projects were normally required to provide all lands, easements and rights-of-way to the Corps of Engineers. However, the bonding capacity of local sponsers for the Castle Rock, Lexington, Kelso and Longview levee improvements were overtaxed by the costs for the levee projects and the Corps of Engineers provided financial assistance to purchase the rights-of-way easements for the levee work.

F. Small Contracts

In addition to the work described previously, many other small contractors were involved in the restoration and recovery activities. Some were for service contracts to provide rock, pumps or other products, while other contractors were utilized to provide equipment such as draglines, trucks, front-end loaders, etc., to do work on an a rental basis for short-term periods.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT Immediately after the eruption, the Portland District staff began preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mount St. Helens recovery operations. This was to provide the public, federal and state agencies an opportunity to review the alternatives considered and probable impacts to the environment from actions underway or proposed. A preliminary draft EIS was completed on July 25, 1980, and sent to interested federal, state and local agencies for review. The final draft EIS was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 19, 1980. The time frame for production of the initial draft was only 20 days, therefore, many procedural steps were abbreviated. Time did not permit a detailed and in-depth review of each topic discussed. The EIS will be supplemented in the future with updated information clarifying current options or new alternatives as conditions develop.

In addition to the EIS, early plan formulation for the restoration effort included an environmental task force of principal federal, state and local agencies. The task force continues to meet periodically to review current programs and future plans. The Corps of Engineers is attempting to accomplish the recovery work with strong consideration to recommended environmental protective measures proposed by the task force.

13. FUTURE The program for restoration of flood protection successfully protected the communities along the Cowlitz River valley during the 1980-1981 winter season. The shoaling which occurred in the Columbia River was alleviated, though some additional channel maintenance continues. Next year and future years will be a learning process as the result of additional volcanic activity and sediment transport from mudflow deposits become known. Future involvement will be directed toward minimizing damaging impacts and protecting the population and economy of the region.

14. CORPS OF ENGINEERS ORGANIZATION

A. Portland District

The Portland District boundaries include most of the state of Gregon with the exception of the upper Klamath River drainage in southeast Oregon, and that part of Washington which comprises the drainage into the Columbia River below Richland. The District currently consists of a staff of over 1,200 employees, of which about 800 are considered field personnel operating multipurpose water storage projects in the Columbia and Willamette River valleys, supervising construction sites throughout the District and operating and maintaining the District's dredge plant.

B. North Pacific Division

The North Pacific Division office, also located in Portland, provides the next higher authority in the chain-of-command for the Portland, Seattle, Walla Walla and Alaska districts. The Division office reviewed the plans formulated by the Portland District and submitted to higher authority for approval and funding.

C. Office, Chief of Engineers

The headquarters of the Corps of Engineers, under the Department of the Army, is located in Washington, D.C. This office reviewed the plans submitted by the District and Division offices and authorized the expenditure of funds for the restoration program.

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RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

Carry Carlotte Contraction

RECORD OF TELEFRONE CONVENSATION .	
DATE: 15 FEB 1983 PROJECT: Trojan	
RECORDED BY: H. Lefeure, X37732 CLIENT: PARTIANU GENEVAL ET	ec.
TALKED WITH: Tem Corloran OF M. St. Helens Information Con	
ROUTE TO: INFORMATION ACTION	
S. Brown, L. Reiter Jubannill	serball
MAIN SUBJECT OF CALL: STELL TIES MUNIFICEN HOZOND to Trojon	imotion III y
	to to
ITEMS DISCUSSED: At the direction of the brienni of Washington.	of the
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with the postulated flood would exceed by gx that of the	<u>→</u> .
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of the postulated beyond Kelso. I will attempt to acquire	Way K
I can't of the diast report ofter tolling to Reflect at the	According to during the
USIS.	According to

Note: This is an inter-disciplinary issue and may inclose, in uddition to gracoits, hydrologists, soil engineers into perhaps seismologists and meteorologists