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Test For Fishway Dam On Baker

Drilling tests were made on the Baker river between the railroad bridge and the highway bridge last week as part of the advance engineering on a proposed fish trap dam to catch salmon trying to run up the Baker river.

Since building of the Baker dam here the transportation of the fish run over the dam has been done with a trap at the powerhouse and hauling the fish in a tank of water by cable from the trap to the top of the dam.

When the new upper Baker dam is built, the plan is to carry the fish by truck above both dams. To make this possible a permanent fish trap dam would be constructed here somewhere between the two bridges.

The proposed dam would be a roof-like structure that would permit a ten-foot barrier to the fish going upstream. A pool underneath would permit the fish to rest and then enter a trap at the east side of the river from where they could be loaded into tank trucks for the trip to Baker Lake.

Test drilling found no bedrock as far down as 40 feet, but this was not deemed important in the construction of the light structure. All plans are tentative and will depend entirely on construction of the new dam.