

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## RAIN-MAKERS HOPE THEY HAVE ADDED TO SKAGIT

A six-month experiment designed to drench the Skagit Valley and make its river work harder will end this week.

It will be another six months before state officials know how much extra effort they got from the stream.

Stuart Shumway, weather-modification supervisor for the conservation department, has been in the Upper Skagit River basin since October, directing a dozen rain-making machines.

The rain makers are ground-based generators that spray silver iodide solution into passing storm clouds. The silver-iodide particles have the effect of ice crystals, causing water vapor to gather around them and descend as rain.

“We hope we’ve increased the water runoff in the valley by 15 per cent,” Truman Price, conservation’s supervisor of power resources said yesterday. “But we won’t know for certain until the runoff is finished next fall.”