

INTERCOM

US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
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From Where I Sit

Two years at the Corps of Engineers and I cannot lie-I love this job! When I was asked to write this column, it forced me to ponder what makes this such a rewarding job and how do I continue that “new” employee enthusiasm for the rest of my time at the Walla Walla District?

As it turns out, the goal of maintaining an enthusiastic work force is also very important to our leaders and to the success of the Walla Walla District. NWW’s OPLAN lists Action 4, Human Capital Management and Team Building, as crucial in facilitating the success of all other actions in our District. One of Action 4’s goals is to “cultivate life-long learning in a positive, team-oriented culture and nurturing environment.” Put simply, happy, trained and enthused workers make an effective team that, in turn, makes a successful agency.

At NWW, I learned quickly that no individual employee can operate solo. Our personal ingredient to the group recipe makes the cake! As PDT members, decision makers and support staff, we each make unique contributions to NWW’s diverse projects. If we can

embrace the goals that NWW has set for itself, and recognize our distinctive role as a team member, then we have earned the right to take credit for the lasting and meaningful successes of this agency. In short, sharing in this sense of accomplishment through collaboration is the key to maintaining long-term enthusiasm for our work here.



Long after each of us leaves our job, NWW’s accomplishments will endure as works of historic significance to our region and world. Sometimes I imagine future generations (maybe a grandchild?) enjoying the beautiful stretch of Paradise Creek on the University of Idaho campus which was recently restored through a partnership between the Corps and the university. This vision is something that can serve as daily inspiration on the job.

Fifteen years from now, I want to be able to say “working for the Corps was the best job I ever had!” The significance of our years at Walla Walla District, however, will be measured not by what we did, but by what we were a part of. My current motto: I am a citizen of Planet Corps, and I wear my logo proudly!

*Theresa Hampson
Attorney, Office of Counsel*

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On the cover



Workers lift the 220-ton upper bearing assembly in preparation for replacing the copper windings at McNary Lock and Dam’s powerhouse.

photo by Bruce Henrickson

Heavy lifting improves McNary's hydropower reliability

by Bruce Henrickson

McNary Lock and Dam is the Walla Walla District's largest single hydropower facility and provides clean, reliable, renewable, efficient and flexible hydroelectric power to the regional power grid. To maintain that capability, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to replace 10 hydroelectric generator stator windings at McNary Lock and Dam.

The project, scheduled to last five years and cost an estimated \$64 million, will replace two stator windings per year. The investment supports the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) goal of providing reliable, low-cost power to the region. Bonneville Power Administration is funding this project as part of the Capital Program Direct Funding agreement with the Corps.

As part of the hydropower system on the Columbia River, McNary is the "hydraulic bottleneck of that system," said Kathy Spillane, Corps project manager. "Everyone is relying on McNary to maintain its expected power output. We need to keep the units running to help meet the region's demand for electricity. During spring runoff, it is also important to pass all the water we can through the units to avoid excessive dissolved gas limits so we don't impact fish."

The generator stator windings reached their projected lifespan of 50 to 70 years, and four of the 14 generators have failed during the dam's lifetime. Stator windings were previously replaced on two failed generators in 1999 and 2006.

Because many households and businesses rely on McNary's power output, the impact on power generation is being minimized. The stator winding will be replaced during each year's July-through-December low-water flows when the powerhouse isn't normally operating at full capacity.

This isn't like changing the spark plugs on a car. The removal and replacement of stator windings takes significant time, effort, financial investment, and the use of both 350-ton powerhouse bridge cranes.

It usually takes five to six months to disassemble a generator, replace the stator winding, and reassemble it. The project involves massive lifts of generator components out of the way to get to the stationary stator in order to replace its windings. Then those heavy components must be reassembled.

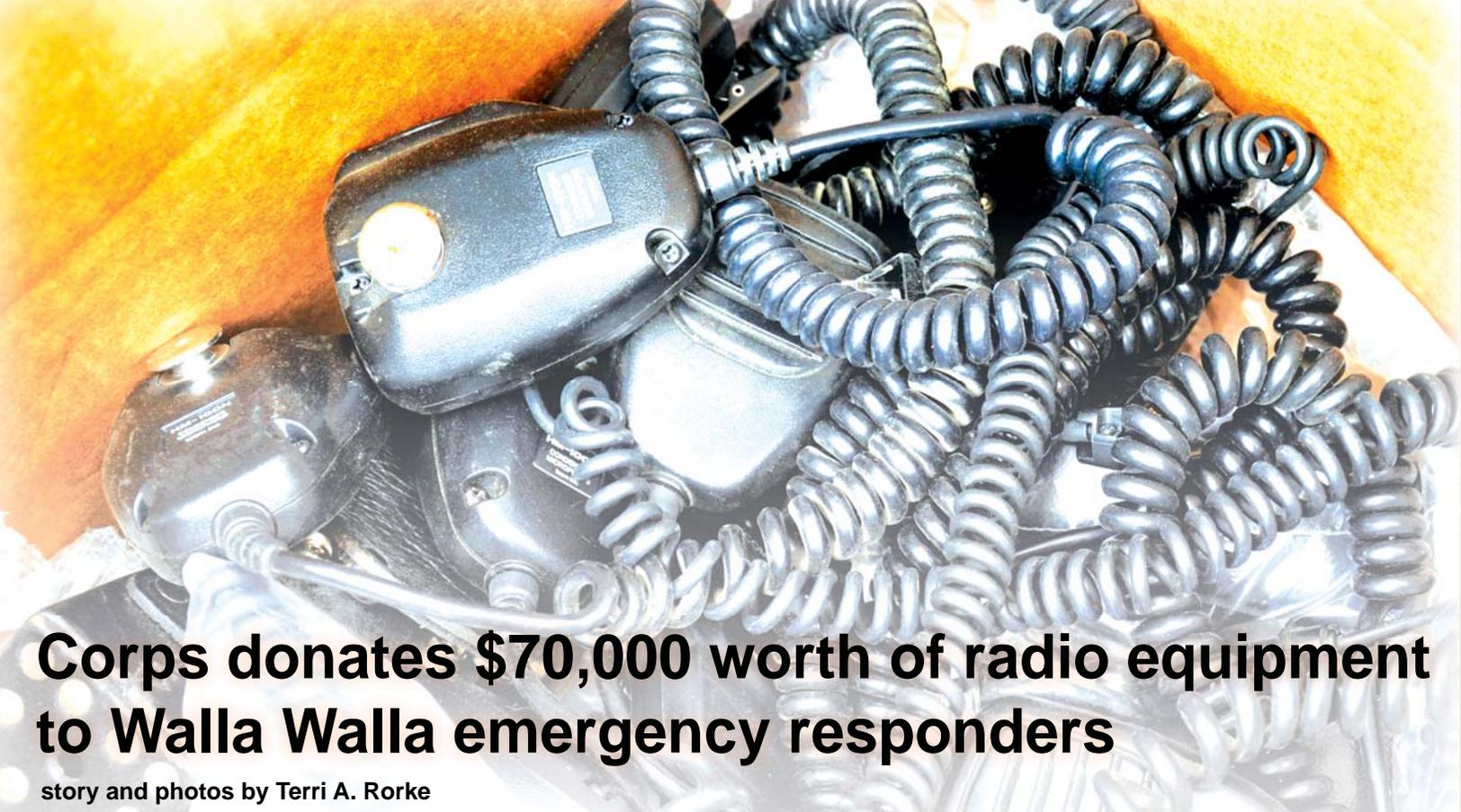
The rotor alone weighs more than 600 tons, spins at 90 revolutions per minute (rpm) in normal operation, and the entire rotating turbine assembly weighs about 1,200 tons. The clearance between the spinning rotor assembly and the stationary stator winding is only about an inch and a half.

McNary's generators were installed and operating in the powerhouse by 1957. They generate up to 980 megawatts of hydropower as part of the regional power grid. A megawatt powers about 700 homes. At full capacity, McNary's powerhouse can supply enough power for about 686,000 homes. During fiscal year 2009, 5.1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity were produced.



(Above) Workers prepare for replacing the stator sitting in the foreground at McNary Lock and Dam's powerhouse. (Below) The 1,200-ton rotor assembly sits removed from the unit to perform the stator winding replacement.





Corps donates \$70,000 worth of radio equipment to Walla Walla emergency responders

story and photos by Terri A. Rorke

Interoperability. For emergency responders, success often relies on this one word. With the Walla Walla District's donation of an estimated \$70,000 worth of communications equipment to the City of Walla Walla in September, local officials will be able to ensure interoperability and comply with an impending Federal Communications Commission mandate.

The mandate requires that all public safety agencies operating in very high frequency band area convert to a narrow band format no later than Dec. 31, 2012. This means that every agency must have mobile and portable radios and system transmitters that can be operated on narrow band.

The District donated the used, but useful communications equipment because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is updating its entire communications system nationwide.

According to Steve Ruley, director of Walla Walla County 911 dispatch center, over the past few years, law enforcement and fire departments have tried to obtain funding for switching to the newer equipment, but were unsuccessful in securing grants.

"This generous donation allows the police department to fill many of the remaining gaps between equipment that we have, and equipment that we still need," Ruley said.

It also enables the police department to share equipment with local agencies that also still have unmet needs, such as the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office and public works agencies.

"The bottom line is that radio communications are literally the lifeline of our first responders, and the primary method we are able to deliver service to our citizens. This donation will pave the way to making our entire county interoperable, so that first responders can communicate effectively with each other and with dispatch. This is so important in these times of financial downturn, and helps to ensure the safety of our citizens," he said.

Orin Thomas, the Corps property disposal technician, said the transfer was a coordinated effort by the Walla Walla District, the city police department, the Defense Re-utilization and Marketing Office at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Wash., and the Washington state Law Enforcement Support Office.

The donation was authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows excess Department of Defense property to be transferred to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The radios will be reprogrammed to work with existing equipment and will help the county meet new federal requirements to have its radios operate on narrower bandwidths by early 2013.

Walla Walla Chief of Police Chuck Fulton said Thomas' "consistent customer service and keen knowledge of the surplus process" allowed the donation to come to fruition.



Walla Walla District Property Disposal Technician Orin Thomas presents boxes of radio equipment to Walla Walla Police Chief Chuck Fulton Sept. 23. This is another example of how the Walla Walla District serves it's local community. According to The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International's website, the FCC created the mandate to "improve spectrum efficiency in the crowded VHF and UHF land mobile radio frequencies below 800 MHz."

What role do you play in the OPLAN?

The Walla Walla District operates and maintains eight multi-purpose projects, and plans and executes engineering and water resource services to safely maximize public and environmental benefits.

To understand how to keep our mission progressing from good to great, the District developed an Operations Plan (OPLAN) in August. There are six goals or “walnuts” by which every Corps employee can help the District progress in its service to the nation.

We’re not changing direction with this new OPLAN, but building on momentum. What can YOU do to help our District team reach its goals?

OPLAN goals

- 1 – Acquisition Strategy and Processes
- 2 – Workload Management and PMBP Mindset
- 3 – Business Line Prioritization
- 4 – Human Capital Management and Team Building
- 5 – Emergency Preparedness
- 6 – Internal Communication and Knowledge Management



(From left to right) District Commander Lt. Col. David A. Caldwell, Division Commander Brig. Gen. John R. McMahon and Division Deputy Commander Col. Robert A. Tipton listen as District leaders brief them on Operations Plan details in August.

Serving our Community, our Nation, the World

CAT 6 to the rescue

story by Terri A. Rorke

Category 6 cable provides the District a new way to travel down the information highway.

After years of 10-megabytes-per-second speed limits and wired traffic jams from the older CAT 3 wiring, the District’s ACE-IT staff installed CAT 6 network cabling wire throughout the headquarters building.

The \$1.2 million upgrade is the building’s largest project completed since it was built 15 years ago. The CAT 6 wire upgrade that every employee in the building depends on for sending electronic data to servers, increased the District’s network speed tenfold, reaching one-gigabyte-per-second.

While not all users, like those using web-based applications such as CEFMS and P2, will see the increased speed in their daily work, many employees who send electronic data from their desktop to a local server will notice the upgraded speed.

Category 6 cable was designed to perform at frequencies of up to 250 MHz and offers higher performance for better transmission of data at speeds up to 1,000 Mbps. Some properly installed Category 6 cable will also support 10-Gigabit speeds with some limitations.

After one and a half years of planning, Corps Information Technology Specialist Robin German oversaw the project that required three months of pulling 350,000 feet of copper wiring to 602 floor modules. She said the project was a challenge for her to not cause an impact on users, as she and the contractors typically worked 13 hour shifts from 4 p.m. until midnight during the upgrade.

After completing the project two weeks ahead of schedule in September, German said she is happy about the results.

“This was a very exciting project for me and one I’d been trying to accomplish for many years so it was gratifying from both a technical and professional perspective,” she said.

The CAT 6 upgrade serves as one of the District’s key goals in its Operations Plan, falling under “Internal Communication and Knowledge Management.” It also serves as an example of the District’s commitment to go from good to great.

A view across the Walla Walla District

The District serves the local community and nation through a multitude of activities every day. Some of the District's latest projects include upgrading electrical motors, inspecting spillways, testing bridge cranes and completing a new lock gate. It's all part of the process of going from good to great.

Maintenance Worker David Parker demonstrates how Mill Creek's new electrical motor system would operate during flood-risk-management operations.

The new 480-volt motor system can open all four gates simultaneously in 15 to 20 minutes. The previous 220-volt Wachs drives could open the gates in 45 minutes.

The upgrade was part of an interim risk reduction measure in response to Mill Creek's Dam Safety Action Classification rating. The upgraded electrical service is part of a project to modernize and improve operational efficiency of the intake canal gates at the Mill Creek Diversion Dam.



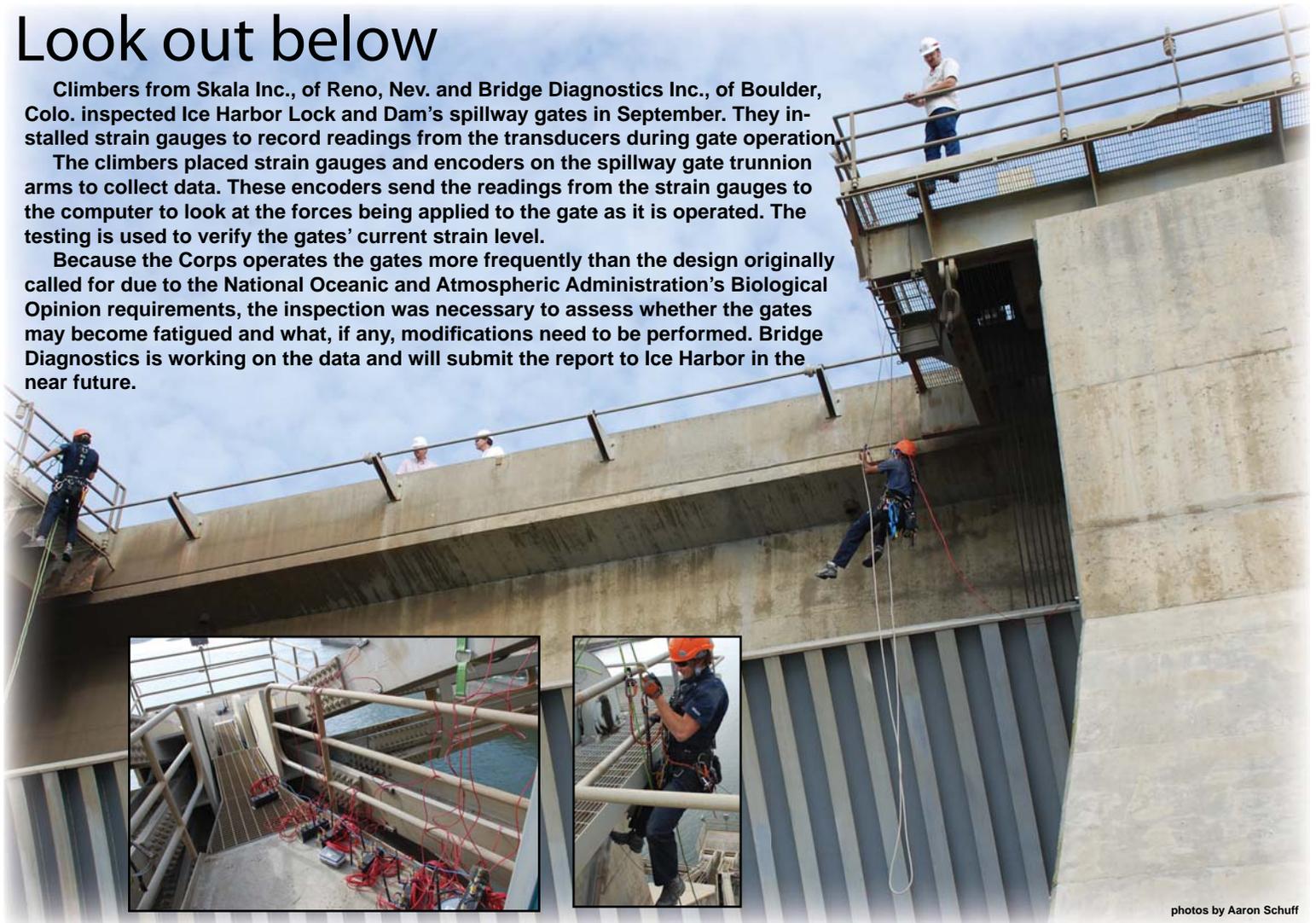
photo by Terri A. Rorke

Look out below

Climbers from Skala Inc., of Reno, Nev. and Bridge Diagnostics Inc., of Boulder, Colo. inspected Ice Harbor Lock and Dam's spillway gates in September. They installed strain gauges to record readings from the transducers during gate operation.

The climbers placed strain gauges and encoders on the spillway gate trunnion arms to collect data. These encoders send the readings from the strain gauges to the computer to look at the forces being applied to the gate as it is operated. The testing is used to verify the gates' current strain level.

Because the Corps operates the gates more frequently than the design originally called for due to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Biological Opinion requirements, the inspection was necessary to assess whether the gates may become fatigued and what, if any, modifications need to be performed. Bridge Diagnostics is working on the data and will submit the report to Ice Harbor in the near future.



photos by Aaron Schuff

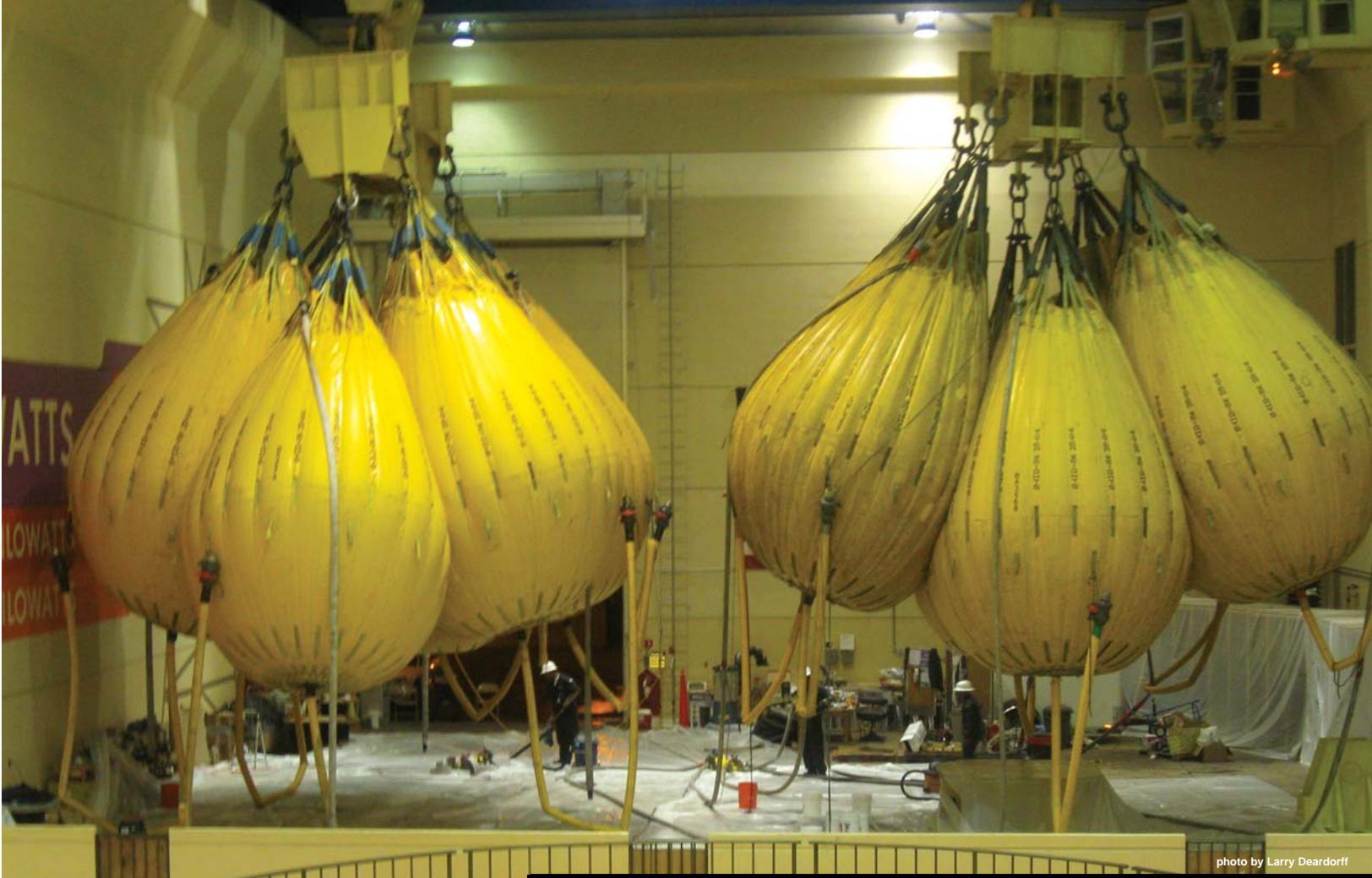


photo by Larry Deardorff

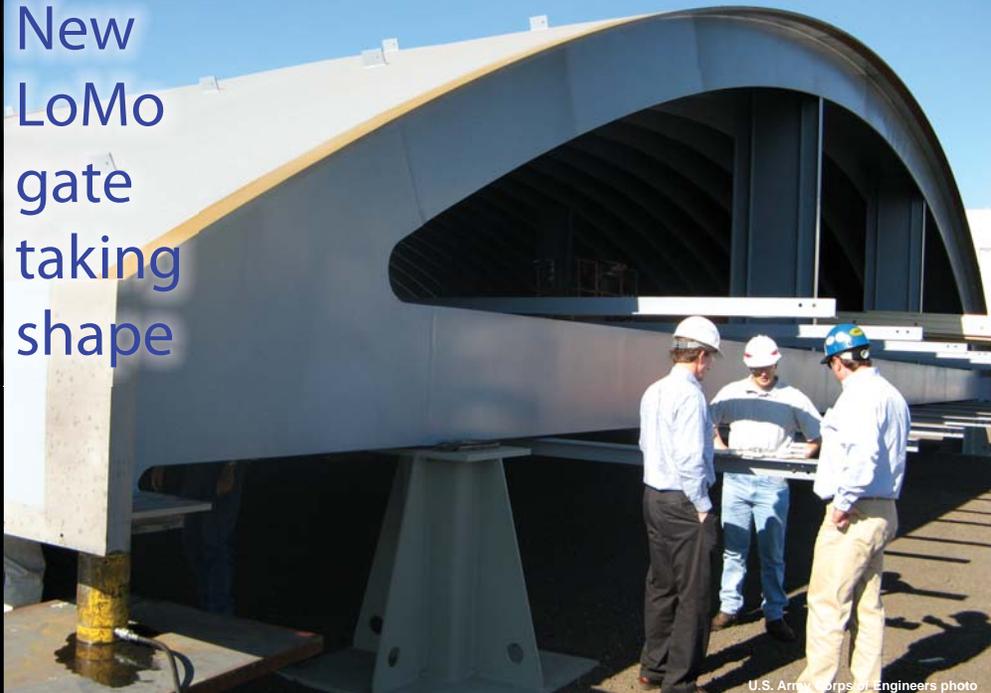
Load testing

Dworshak Dam performed a bridge crane load test using water bags as weights. The 125-percent capacity load test was performed to replace obsolete equipment, address safety concerns and bring the cranes up to current code requirements. This investment will extend the life of the cranes beyond the original 50 years to at least 75 years-another 38 years from their current age.

The two 350-ton Ederer bridge cranes in the Dworshak powerhouse were installed in the early 1970s. The cranes have two 175-ton main hoists and two 25-ton auxiliary hoists on each crane. All hoists are red tagged out-of-service except for one 25-ton auxiliary hoist on the north crane. These cranes are critical auxiliary equipment used to maintain the three Francis turbine-generator sets within the powerhouse. Both bridge cranes are required when disassembling the unit 3 generator. Only the North crane is required to unstack units 1 and 2. The cranes are also used to disassemble and assemble other powerhouse equipment, move parts and supplies and support contractor activities.

Crane Technologies, of Rochester Hills, Mich., completed the rehabilitation of both cranes on Aug. 2 on \$2.9 million. The rehabilitation project took about 16 months to complete.

New LoMo gate taking shape



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction quality assurance representatives meet with contractors at Thompson Metal Fabrication in Vancouver, Wash. in November to inspect the three newly completed gate sections.

Work on Lower Monumental Lock and Dam's new navigation lock lift gate is on schedule. Dix Corporation of Spokane, Wash., is the prime contractor for the fabrication, delivery and installation of the gate. The contract amount, with modifications, is approximately \$13.6 million.

The navigation lock is scheduled to be out of service Dec. 10, 2010 through March 13, 2011, at which time Lower Monumental Lock and Dam will temporarily close to private vehicle crossings.

Camp Creek

Corps serves Nation through ecosystem restoration projects



Home on the Zumwalt Prairie is almost restored thanks to an aquatic ecosystem restoration project conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District and its cost-share partner, The Nature Conservancy.

The \$1.3 million project allowed the cost-share partners to remove small earthen dams in the headwaters of Camp Creek on the 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve to restore that portion of the creek to a more natural, flowing state.

As the Corps' cost-share partner, The Nature Conservancy provided 35 percent of the cost of the project and is currently reestablishing native riparian vegetation with an expected completion date of Nov. 2010.

"The Nature Conservancy has been a wonderful sponsor," said Plan Formulation Section Chief Rebecca Kalamasz. "They were extremely proactive and drove the project to completion. Successes with sponsors like the Conservancy help build a strong foundation for future work."

The Corps participates in ecosystem restoration projects, like Camp Creek, because it is one of the Corps' primary missions.

"It makes sense because we are the agency that has a full spectrum of engineers and scientists that study and truly understand how and why watersheds respond to work we do for our various missions like reduction of flood risk, navigation and other actions like hydropower and water supply," Kalamasz said.

"Adding ecosystem restoration leverages our expertise and gives us the authority to build multiple purpose projects that meet the needs and values of the local communities while addresses issues of national importance," she added.

Funds for this project were appropriated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The project is autho-

rized under Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, which authorizes the Corps to undertake aquatic ecosystem restoration projects in the public interest.

"It's a win-win situation," said Corps Project Manager Richard Turner. "Recovery Act dollars put people to work on a great project to enhance fish passage and create a much healthier, more natural ecosystem."

The project area is within the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Eastern Oregon owned by The Nature Conservancy. The 220-square-mile Zumwalt Prairie parcel contains the largest and highest-quality Palouse bunchgrass prairie remaining in North America. It provides habitat for concentrations of nesting birds of prey and other wildlife. Snake River steelhead trout, one Endangered Species Act-listed plant, several rare plants and numerous terrestrial species of concern also reside in the larger prairie.

"Since we first walked on two legs, people have found grasslands a hospitable place to live and work," said Nature Conservancy Preserve Manager Jeff Fields. "One consequence of this is that grasslands are the most altered and least protected ecosystems on the planet. The Zumwalt Prairie is a fragment of intact grasslands, representative of the Palouse prairie type that historically covered millions of acres in the Inland Pacific Northwest," he said.

The removed ponds contributed to erosion, adversely impacted water quality and were passage barriers to aquatic species. Now important water sources will be safeguarded for ecologically compatible grazing on the Conservancy's preserve.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Paradise Creek

stories by Terri A. Rorke



Recreating natural habitat in an urban setting requires delicate balancing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District partner, the University of Idaho, struck that balance by completing the Paradise Creek restoration project in November.

The \$3.6 million project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, while the Corps' cost-share sponsor, the University of Idaho, supplied 35 percent of the cost. The project was authorized under Section 206 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.

The project is a success story of local and regional parties working together to create 13 acres of habitat, said Corps Project Manager Margie McGill.

"The university is by far one of the best sponsors I have had the privilege to work with," said Project Manager Margie McGill. "They not only partnered with us and the contractor on this project, but found ways to enhance the project outputs and resolve issues as soon as they were identified."

While serving as the District's first design-build restoration project, Paradise Creek was authorized in April 2009 and finished on schedule and within budget in November 2010. A design-build project is when a contractor is responsible for both the design and construction of the project.

The Corps awarded the restoration project contract to McMillen, LLC, of Boise, Idaho.

McGill said McMillen exceeded design and construction



Contract workers prepare the Paradise Creek bank for seedling planting in November.

expectations, while meeting all the project goals.

"This contract was the perfect vehicle because it allowed for us to tap into the expertise of McMillen as well as meet the obligation and expenditure requirements of ARRA," McGill said.

The project included major changes to Paradise Creek, which runs through the UI campus:

- * Paradise Creek was realigned to its original location, adding 1.2 miles of habitat.
- * Flood mitigation characteristics were improved.

* Lost riparian habitat was reestablished along the creek within the campus.

* 1,100 feet of the creek that ran under a street was daylighted.

* Water quality and aesthetics were improved.

The completed project was dedicated during a Nov. 12 ceremony by District Commander Lt. Col. David Caldwell.



photos courtesy of University of Idaho

Bridging Afghanistan

by Terri A. Rorke, photos by Carl Knaak

Ever since the U.S. military set foot on Afghan ground in 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supported our country's mission there.

Our deployees are making lasting impacts by building everything from roads, schools and wells and training natives how to improve their sustainability. We are helping them learn innovative, faster and safer techniques to help the country progress.

Corps Family Support Specialist Bob McCoy is a lead supporter in helping those who are assisting an entire nation. McCoy serves as one side of the bridge between our District's presence here and in Afghanistan. He assists deployees and family members from the time their deployment is first announced to when they return home.

Twice a year, McCoy collects and sends care packages to deployees. The packages often



(Main) Bamyan Province sits in the center of Afghanistan as a strategic location in history for Silk Road traders. (Top left) An Afghan girl shows off a backpack she received from a Singaporean humanitarian aid effort in the outskirts of Bamyan. (Bottom left) An Australian combat medic checks on a girl with an injured foot at a comprehensive clinic. The girl's father carried her about three miles to the closest health care available.

an

include items that are distributed to Afghans.

On the other side of the bridge, you find people like Corps Mechanical Engineer Carl Knaak who have the chance to work face to face, tool in hand.

Afghans tackle challenges ranging from living in a sociologically diverse population and having a lack of natural resources and adequate infrastructure, but they persevere.

As Knaak says, they are survivors.

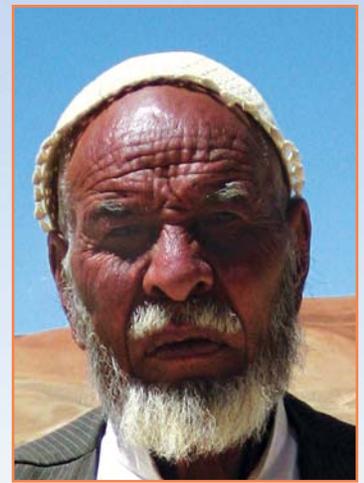
“I worked with rugged people who make things

happen. They are hungry for knowledge,” he said.

Along with Power Plant Operator Stratton, Knaak helped teach Afghans basic skills in various trades such as electrical, engineering and hydropower.

“Afghans boil life down to the essentials. They know what’s important, and they work hard at it.”

Whether working here in the District or side by side Afghans, everyone is doing their part in bridging Afghanistan.

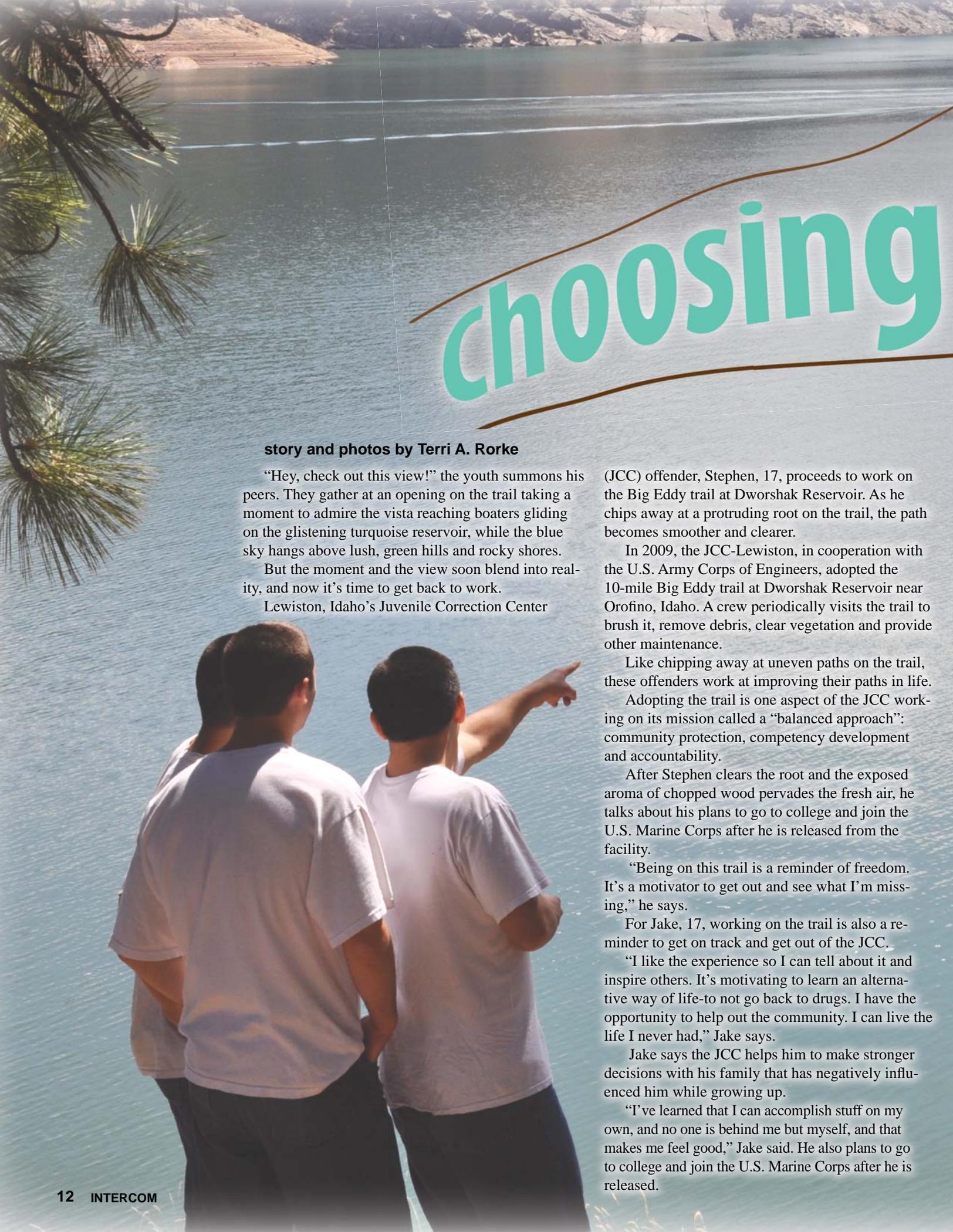


(Right) A master blacksmith works away at melted metal while his young apprentice operates the blower in the background. (Top right) One can find a variety of spices at local markets. Tea, raisins, chickpeas, turmeric and paprika are just a few of the spices found at this market.



(Bottom right) A master blacksmith, left, works on detailed metal work, while his second year apprentice, center, and first year apprentice perform more physically demanding work.





choosing

story and photos by Terri A. Rorke

“Hey, check out this view!” the youth summons his peers. They gather at an opening on the trail taking a moment to admire the vista reaching boaters gliding on the glistening turquoise reservoir, while the blue sky hangs above lush, green hills and rocky shores.

But the moment and the view soon blend into reality, and now it’s time to get back to work.

Lewiston, Idaho’s Juvenile Correction Center

(JCC) offender, Stephen, 17, proceeds to work on the Big Eddy trail at Dworshak Reservoir. As he chips away at a protruding root on the trail, the path becomes smoother and clearer.

In 2009, the JCC-Lewiston, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, adopted the 10-mile Big Eddy trail at Dworshak Reservoir near Orofino, Idaho. A crew periodically visits the trail to brush it, remove debris, clear vegetation and provide other maintenance.

Like chipping away at uneven paths on the trail, these offenders work at improving their paths in life.

Adopting the trail is one aspect of the JCC working on its mission called a “balanced approach”: community protection, competency development and accountability.

After Stephen clears the root and the exposed aroma of chopped wood pervades the fresh air, he talks about his plans to go to college and join the U.S. Marine Corps after he is released from the facility.

“Being on this trail is a reminder of freedom. It’s a motivator to get out and see what I’m missing,” he says.

For Jake, 17, working on the trail is also a reminder to get on track and get out of the JCC.

“I like the experience so I can tell about it and inspire others. It’s motivating to learn an alternative way of life-to not go back to drugs. I have the opportunity to help out the community. I can live the life I never had,” Jake says.

Jake says the JCC helps him to make stronger decisions with his family that has negatively influenced him while growing up.

“I’ve learned that I can accomplish stuff on my own, and no one is behind me but myself, and that makes me feel good,” Jake said. He also plans to go to college and join the U.S. Marine Corps after he is released.

Paths

According to Corps Natural Resource Specialist Deb Norton, who works at Dworshak Dam, the program is important for both the Corps and the JCC.

“It’s a cooperative effort. For us, it is our longest trail and is well-used. It was previously in horrible condition. The trail needed maintenance that the crew didn’t always have time for,” Norton said.

“It’s also important for the kids, because it trains them about the outdoors and provides skills they can use later,” she said.

But like every decision at the JCC, the youth must earn this outdoor opportunity.

The program is built around making the right choices. Part of the JCC’s program’s model is restorative justice. The program aims for juveniles to help restore lost confidence in their communities.

“They need to restore back to not only the victims, but to the community and family. Community service projects are a great way to help give back to the community at large,” said JCC Unit Manager Terry Lewis.

Even though courts required the juveniles to go to the JCC, it is the offenders’ choice of how long they stay in the program.

“They can be here seven months or even longer. It’s their choice,” said JCC-Lewiston’s Stephen Boggie, who supervises the trail work crews.

For now, the day’s work is done, so the youth head back to the trailhead, while taking one last glance at what they completed.

When they leave, they feel refreshed, satisfied and accomplished, all the while knowing that it was their choice.



(Top, right) Stephen chips away at a protruding root on the trail. (Below) Idaho Juvenile Correction Facility’s Dustin Bonner leads the juveniles on the Big Eddy trail at Dworshak Reservoir, near Orofino, Idaho Aug. 11.

Editor’s note: Faces and last names were not used in this article to protect the identity of the juvenile offenders.



Asset management: a juggling act

by Terri A. Rorke

So what does it take to run multi-purpose projects as big as those operated by the Walla Walla District?

Expert juggling.

The District uses the Facility Equipment Maintenance (FEM) system to balance numerous operations to improve its' missions and maximize benefits to the Nation. It serves as a hallmark tool for work control and the repository of equipment maintenance history.

It is one of three principal software systems (along with the Corps' Financial Management System and PROMIS, second Generation software) that the Corps enlists to manage its operations and maintenance mission.

The District's most challenging juggling effort is maintaining efficient, non-interrupted and reliable service with equipment that carries varying lifecycles. Asset management means looking at possible scenarios to understand how to operate into the future.

For example, one piece of equipment may have a 30-year life-cycle, while another may have a 40-year lifecycle. If both pieces normally work in sync, then planners and maintainers must take those life cycles into account.

District Technical Support Branch Chief Jay L'Estrange explained that extending equipment lifecycles is much like extending the life of your car.

"First you do routine maintenance like change the engine oil, then corrective maintenance like replacing a part, and at some point based on increasing maintenance and breakdowns, perform an engine rebuild or replacement," he said.

"We rely on the knowledge, skills and abilities of our craftsmen and maintenance engineers to perform and review the required maintenance and to know when is the right time to replace parts or schedule overhauls of equipment based on operating history and maintenance records," L'Estrange added.

FEM is most effective when understood and utilized at its full potential, according to District Chief of Operations Rick Werner.

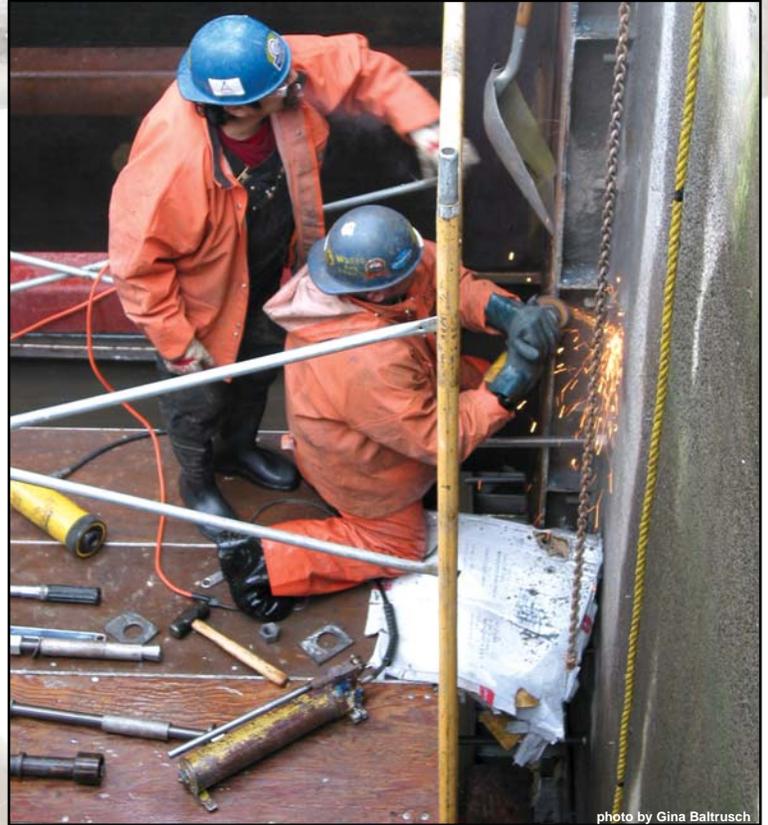
"FEM is for everyone who needs it—from the craftsman turning the wrench to remind himself what he worked on last year, to the manager who analyzes labor requirements, and to myself, who looks at the budget and can request funding," said Werner. The system helps Corps workers foster the most efficient use of time, money and energy expenditure.

Werner said that utilizing FEM also prepares the District to concisely explain why it needs funding for its operations and maintenance. As the costs to maintain a piece of equipment or system rise, records in FEM are used to justify replacement or major overhaul of that equipment. If the Corps is unable to communicate its need for funding to maintain its assets, then balls will be dropped in the juggling act, and equipment reliability and efficiency will suffer because projects won't have the necessary funding.

The system allows users to analyze the big picture of its operations and maintenance: labor and material requirements for properly planning and scheduling work.

"If it is all in place before the work is executed, that allows for efficient use of time and energy. If you don't take time to plan your work, you are wasting time and resources," Werner said.

As one of the first districts to implement FEM in 2001, Walla



Walla District serves as the FEM National Support Center (NSC) headquarters. Managed by Program Manager John Beshears, NSC responsibilities include operating and maintaining software databases, supporting FEM users, and addressing agency mandates.

"Currently, we are going back to basics because we are trying to set everything up the correct way, and then people can follow us from our infancy stages. We want to get on the same page at all District operating projects, first by creating consistency and then by learning from our past mistakes. We plan to get into the mode of constantly improving our processes and procedures," Werner said.

One of the ways the District is improving its operations is by hiring maintenance planners at each of the District's eight projects. Maintenance planners analyze the data in FEM and help improve efficiency in the execution of routine and corrective maintenance. The District's goal is to move the maintenance program from a reactive to proactive mode, using equipment lifecycle and asset management principles.

(Above) Contractors work on lamprey modifications at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. This project is one of approximately 500 active projects occurring at any given time in the District. Asset management allows the Corps to "juggle" the projects and maintain a smooth operation.

Two states, one dam, one race

“How many races allow you to run across a dam?” McNary Lock and Dam’s Park Ranger Pasquale Anolfo asked after winning second place in the 49-55 year old men’s division 8-kilometer race in the Third Annual Columbia River Power Marathon in Umatilla, Ore. Oct. 23.

Anolfo was an advocate in setting up the race three years in a row as a runner who believes in promoting health and wellness.

“This is certainly a destination marathon with the beauty of the Columbia River, a run in two states, the history of the Lewis and Clark Trail and the mighty McNary Dam,” said Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbie Pedro.

“It makes for a one-of-a-kind event. I am so thankful for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pasquale. He offers great input, and as a runner himself, is able to give us great suggestions from a runner’s perspective,” Pedro added.

The marathon serves as Umatilla County’s third-largest event behind the county fair and Pendleton Roundup.

About 315 people ran in the Columbia River Power Marathon held in Umatilla, Ore., racing in the 8-kilometer race and full- and half-marathon. Participants crossed the mile-long McNary Lock and Dam during the race. (Left) McNary Park Ranger Pasquale Anolfo won second place in the 49-55 year old men’s 8-kilometer division race.



Fall in with
ACE



Association of Corps Employees

Since 1995, The Association of Corps Employees has been dedicated to offering you a chance to get to know that person in the next cubicle.

ACE provides support for the morale, welfare and recreational needs of Walla Walla District employees.

As an all-volunteer committee, ACE is a “not-for-profit” organization so 100 percent of all monies raised are given back to the employees through sponsoring activities.

How to get involved? Contact ACE President Al Sutlick at *7136 or Vice President LaRhonda McCauley at *7515

*Corps Day picnic
Thanksgiving lunch
Corps Ball
Christmas tree for FRIENDS
Valentine notes*

*Easter Egg Hunt
Golf Tournament
Corps Day Picnic
Commander’s Holiday Toast
Craft Sale*



Walla Walla District processed or handled 1,000 contracting and purchase actions totaling more than \$103 million in FY 2010, resulting in a 37 percent increase from FY 2009. This is the District’s highest contract obligation rate ever. 65 percent of these contracts were awarded to small businesses. We’re open for business and ready to assist your’s.

Delivering through on promises is what we do.

Let’s do business.

Contracting Division
(509) 527-7200
CENWW-CT@usace.army.mil

Small Business Office
(509) 527-7434
CENWW-SB@usace.army.mil

201 North Third Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362

A County Fair full



story and photos by Terri A. Rorke

The annual Walla Walla County Fair and Frontier Days welcomed more than 111,000 visitors who had a chance to check out the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District's introduction booth. Crowds learned about water safety from Corps natural resource specialists and water safety sea serpent Seamoor during Education Day, while others interacted with a streamtable designed to help understand fluvial systems. Bobber, the Corps'

water safety mascot dog, also made an appearance.

This year, the Corps' booth aimed to educate the public on the Corps' missions, Overseas Contingency Operations involvement, the upcoming extended navigation lock outage details and record fish runs for 2010.

The fair serves as the local community's largest annual event and as the District's largest community relations opportunity to interact with the public.



(Main) Natural Resource Specialist Chris Alford and Corps safety sea serpent Seamoor talk to children during the Education Day at the Walla Walla County Fair Sept. 2. (Left) Tex Walker, 11, creates formations in the booth's streamtable. (Center) Corps water safety mascot, Bobber, says hello to children. (Right) Technical Editor LaRhonda McCauley works on the streamtable with Walker.

of fun



(Left) Alford and Seamoor discuss water safety with children. (Center) Children work away at the streamtable. (Right) Students listen closely to Seamoor as he talks about why it's important to wear your life jacket in the water.

Thank you Ice Harbor volunteers

Ice Harbor Natural Resources has been working hard to grow its volunteer program, and this year was rewarded with nine long-term volunteers. They came from as far away as Oklahoma and as near as Yakima, Wash. Some were old hands at the volunteer way of life while others had the opportunity to test the waters for the first time. When all was said and done, those nine volunteers provided more than 5,800 hours of service. They served as hosts, archivists and photographers.

With a staff of only four full-time park rangers, there is no way they can be everywhere at once. Volunteers serve to fill the gap when a ranger is not present. They shoulder the responsibility of providing outstanding customer service while communicating rules and regulations to visitors, informing rangers of non-compliance issues, maintenance of mechanical problems and, at times, communicating with law enforcement and emergency services. Volunteers become the face of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the absence of a ranger.

Showing appreciation for volunteer service is very important to us. It's always rewarding to give volunteers a certificate of appreciation. But we wanted to find ways to motivate and show appreciation for volunteers while they serve. During summer 2010, Ice Harbor volunteers participated

in several potlucks, the Corps Day Picnic, a couple of lunches in town and more. But the

highlight of the season was taking the volunteers on a fish transportation barge ride in June.

With the cooperation of Walla Walla District dams and Shaver Barge Company, the ride resulted in one unforgettable experience for five volunteers. We boarded the barge at Little Goose Lock and Dam. This was the first navigation lockage experience for everyone. Once through the lock, the barge docked at the Juvenile Fish Facility (JFF) and loaded with migrating juvenile salmon, that would later be transported to below Bonneville Lock and Dam for release. During the loading, Biological Science Technician Suzette Frazier explained the fish transportation program and the day-to-day functions of a barge rider.

Once the barge was loaded, our trip continued on to Lower Monumental Lock and Dam. During the two-hour trip, I acted as a tour guide pointing out interesting features and explaining the history of the area. Upon arrival at Lower Monumental, we disembarked and met Fish Biologist Elizabeth Lindsey at the JFF who gave us a tour and demonstrated how barges are loaded.

Volunteer Park Host Joyce Reynolds said, "This has been the best part of my summer." David Lewis, a volunteer photographer stated, "What an amazing opportunity; this just isn't something anyone off the street gets to do every day." This was exactly our goal—to show our volunteers how much they are appreciated by providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that not just anyone gets to do.

*Joyce McDonald,
Natural Resource Specialist,
Ice Harbor Lock and Dam*



Volunteers David and Mary Lewis, Harold and Maggy Becker, Joyce Reynolds, Natural Resource Specialist Joyce McDonald and Biological Science Technician Suzette Frazier pose for a group photo during their June 20 fish barge trip.

Volunteers Archivist Mary Lewis with help from her photographer husband David Lewis work at organizing 35mm slides into slide pages.



photos by David Lewis

Take swimming lessons, save a mother's worry

As part of an interpretive "living history" program to spread the Corps' water safety message, Dworshak Dam Park Ranger Connie Grant-Howell plays as Meriwether Lewis' mother, Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks, in July in Orofino, Idaho.

Grant-Howell portrays Marks, an herb doctor and mother of Captain Meriwether Lewis, by reliving the story of the Corps of Discovery. The setting is in her Ivy Creek, Va. home during early fall 1807 after the Lewis and Clark expedition. "Lucy" sits in her parlor while reading journal segments by the two captains as they trekked over the rugged Idaho mountains on to what is known today as the Weippe Prairie. Mother Lucy's readings follow the explorers (from Clearwater County) as they paddled their dugout canoes down previously uncharted waters on the Clearwater River to present-day Lewiston and Clarkston.

For 10 years, as "Lucy," Grant-Howell has been on the trail for various agencies and organizations, including the Monticello Visitor Center and the Weippe Lewis and Clark Discovery Center. Grant-Howell reads a portion of Clark's journal where canoes flip over not long after Lewis and Clark leave the canoe camp in Orofino, Idaho.

"Lucy" reminds guests to learn how to swim and chides those who don't saying they "must take lessons, lest you drown and cause your mothers to worry!"

After each performance, Grant-Howell conducts a question and answer session and talks more about water safety and how life jackets save lives.

Lucy Marks lost her first husband to pneumonia in 1779 after he fell from his horse into the cold Rivanna River in Central Virginia.

Dworshak Dam Park Ranger Connie Grant-Howell talks to visitors in July as Meriwether Lewis' mother, Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks, in Orofino, Idaho.



photos courtesy of Connie Grant-Howell

IN MEMORY OF...



photo by Arvind Balaraman



McNary Lock and Dam's Budget Analyst Maria Ellen Nelson 'Tehowash' passed away peacefully in her home in Stanfield, Ore., on Sept. 5, 2010, one day before her 55th birthday. Nelson worked at McNary, near Umatilla, Ore., since 2008.

She was born Sept. 6, 1955, in The Dalles, Ore., to Robert Nelson and Joan Crawford. She graduated from Lyle High School in Lyle, Wash. After graduating high school, she held many different jobs including positions with Sprint Communications and the U.S. Forest Service in Randle, Wash. In 1988 she transferred to the Sierra National Forest in Cali. as a district administrative officer where she met her lifelong husband.

In 1998, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Communications from Concordia University in Portland.

Maria enjoyed traveling with her husband and other family members. She especially enjoyed visiting Hawaii where she went on snorkeling adventures. She also enjoyed racketball, volleyball, windsurfing and golf. She was a diehard Seattle Seahawks fan and annually attended games. In addition to Hawaii, Maria traveled to Alaska, the Southwest, Texas, Boston, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mexico and had many adventures in the Pacific Northwest. Her favorite holiday was Halloween. She also loved to read and spent much of her spare time reading fantasy and science fiction books.

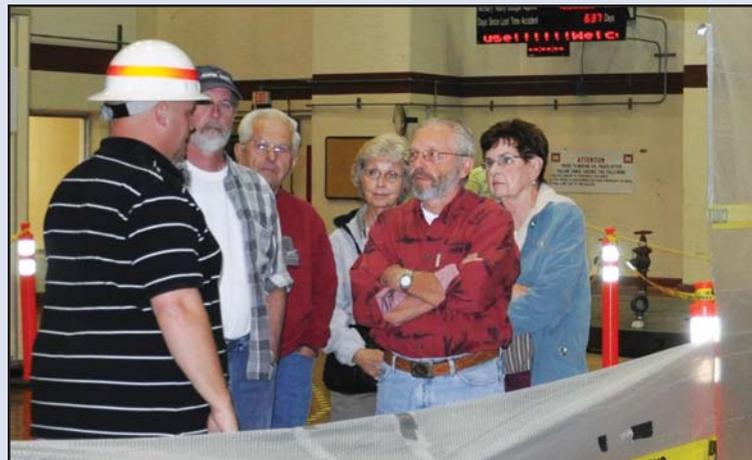
Maria lived a strong, productive life and provided support her family could count on.

A tour through McNary

More than 800 people had a rare chance to visit McNary Lock and Dam on Oct. 9 and learn about a major source of their power during an open house.



photos by Gina Baltrusch



(Top) McNary Lock and Dam's Park Ranger Pasquale Anolfo leads visitors across the mile-long dam. (Center, left) People walk through McNary's powerhouse of 14 units. (Center, right) A Corps employee talks to visitors about the 1,200-ton rotor assembly. (Right) Children watch as a Fall Chinook passes through the fish count window in the Washington shore fish counting room.

