INTERCOM

US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Vol. 37 No. 2 March - May 2010

HAITI:
Operation Unified Response

From Where I Sit

District Team,

As we move into summer operations, your mind should automatically reflect on safety and our role to promote and encourage water safety throughout the region. We just experienced our first recreation fatality of the year, so I want to deliberately remind every member of the District that safety is a part of our jobs. We typically meet or exceed industry safety metrics here in Walla Walla, but we must all remain committed in our daily actions to look out for ourselves, our teammates and the public as we transition into new seasonal activities.

The next thing that comes to mind this time of year in the Northwest is fish – specifically adult returns and juvenile migration. This issue has some great stories on recent accomplishments to continue improving our fish passage performance, and the extremely low water forecasts this year will bring significant challenges to us; effective teamwork and coordination combined with our tremendous technical capabilities will be essential to another successful fish passage season. If you are new and are unfamiliar with fish passage, or our great recreation parks, I urge you to get out and enjoy this fantastic place we have the pleasure of managing.

Our ability to communicate transparently and openly demonstrated significant value to us as an organization, and our Dam Safety and Tribal Relations efforts highlighted in this Intercom have really become hallmark examples within Walla Walla. As BP is learning in the gulf, it is essential for us to continue to develop confidence and trust with the people we serve, and I applaud our progress in this effort. Communication is also a team effort, and the tours, newspaper articles, event participation and public meetings we support often take personal time, weekends, and late evenings to execute – thanks for stepping up and helping move us towards great in our engagement with the public.

As my time serving with you comes to an end, I thank you for what you do for this region and this nation. Pete Summerton's efforts in Haiti (Pg. 10) are a prime example of the dedication, professionalism, and unique talents you bring to bear, and it has been my extreme pleasure to serve with you. Until our paths cross again -
Building Strong!

LTC Mike Farrell

Contents

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On the cover

Merchants preparing to set up shop display resiliency amongst disaster in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in March. (Inset) Pete Summerton discusses security with Naval Facilities Command member in the city of Tourgeau.

EPA photos courtesy of Mike Brescio

Chief of Engineers shares mission and vision

by Bruce Henrickson


photo by Gina Baltrusch

"The times we live in are either historical or hysterical. From where I sit, they are historical," said Lt. Gen. Robert L. "Van" Van Antwerp, chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during a town hall meeting at the Walla Walla District headquarters. Van Antwerp visited the District April 5-6. While here he toured projects in Idaho and Washington and presented USACE commander's coins to seven district employees.

Van Antwerp began his town hall remarks by pointing out that in 1992 the Corps of Engineers did $12 billion in military program projects, and in 2009 that figure was $45 billion in projects under contract or under construction. But he contrasted that with an overall reduction in the USACE workforce from 39,500 in 1992 to 36,000 in 2009. He added that USACE recruited more than 8,000 new employees in 2009 as 4,650 workers retired, and "we see the administration measuring and keeping track of contracts like never before."

"I am amazed," Van Antwerp said as he pointed out that USACE also deployed a new division with three districts to the Gulf Region in recent years. "It takes a team effort to cover home districts when somebody deploys."

He listed other USACE accomplishments for an attentive audience of more than 200. USACE is working on base realignment and closure projects at 104 Army posts and 60 U.S. Air Force bases. These projects involve moving command headquarters and schools, building five hospitals, and moving forward with leadership in energy and environmental design projects that conserve energy and resources.

In civil works, Van Antwerp pointed out that the Corps' 241 locks are an average of 53.8 years old, leading to numerous outages and repairs. USACE dredges 926 ports and harbors, 299 of which are deep water ports that will eventually need additional clearance to accommodate newer ships designed for an expanding Panama Canal.

Van Antwerp called Donna Street, the district's dam safety officer, from the audience and pointed out that dam safety requires capable, experienced dam safety officers. Van Antwerp urged Walla Walla District to "grow those dam safety officers and geo-techs. Teach and coach them. Do it now."

He also put USACE's recreation mission in perspective saying, "The Corps has 372 million visitor days per year at our recreation facilities. The National Park Service has half that number."

> *"So much of what you are is your attitude."*

Van Antwerp also outlined his vision of a sustainable USACE that is "built to last."

"Great organizations have an AURA," he said. AURA stands for "acceptance, understanding, recognition and appreciation." He urged the audience to "learn a lot" and "share the best of breed" solutions as quality management systems are developed.

"Steal ideas shamelessly, share ideas willingly," he added.

"Work together within a framework, and make things better."

"The Corps must be humble, not arrogant" when dealing with partners in today's cost-sharing partnership environment, Van Antwerp said. "We don't have the only solution. Work with partners who have viable solutions. Look at how some partners fund some projects themselves" to attract other funding.

Van Antwerp noted "There are three kinds of people. Those who say I have to go to work, and we don't need those. There are those who say I want to go to work, and they may be okay if you check their motivation. And there are those who say I get to go to work. That's who we want."

"So much of what you are is your attitude," Van Antwerp concluded.


photo by Mark Wright


photo by Gina Baltrusch

(Top) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp complements District Dam Safety Officer Donna Street, left, in front of the District town hall April 6. He urged the District to "grow" more officers like Street through teaching and coaching newer employees. (Above) Lt. Col. Joel Cross examines a steelhead while visiting Lower Granite Dam. (Above, right) The Chief addresses the District's Leadership Development class.

Corps releases Dam Breaching Plan of Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a dam-breaching plan of study Mar. 31.

The plan of study, a requirement of the Adaptive Management Implementation Plan released in September 2009, defines how a lower Snake River fish-passage-improvement and dam-breaching feasibility study would be managed and conducted if such a study were needed.

"Overall, the status of the Snake River species has improved," said Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Michael Farrell. "This plan of study is ready should the [Obama] Administration determine that an examination of the risks and benefits of breaching is needed."

While the Obama Administration views dam breaching as a contingency of last resort, it recognizes that conditions may change and procedures need to be outlined.

The Corps completed a comprehensive feasibility study in 2002. The study evaluated, but did not recommend, the implementation of dam breaching.

The Corps is currently seeing the effects of the 2002 study with a current survival rate of 90 percent of migrating fish through the dams and reservoirs on the lower Snake River.

"Part of the reason we have such a great survival rate is because of the actions taken from the 2002 study. We chose to implement improvements that are working today," said Project Manager Cindy Boen.

Only four of the 13 listed species of salmon and steelhead found in the Columbia River Basin migrate the lower Snake River. The Corps' preferred alternative focused on improving juvenile salmon migration through the lower Snake River using changes in river operations and making major passage system improvements.

The plan of study describes two phases: the completion of technical studies, followed by a review by the Administration, and, if necessary, the development of an Environmental Impact Statement, which includes a comprehensive public involvement process. The new feasibility report and EIS would be used to seek congressional authority to breach one or more of the lower Snake River dams.

"Any decision regarding dam breaching will be guided by the best available science and any biological effects on the species," said Farrell. "The Corps operates its dams to meet expectations assumed in the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] Biological Opinion for adult and juvenile fish passage."

The Corps' Walla Walla District committed to complete the plan of study by March 2010. Boen spearheaded that effort laying out the scope, schedule and nearly $20 million budget to complete technical studies and a decision-making process.

"This was truly a team effort, and I'm very proud of what we accomplished," Boen said.

"It was a huge effort that we had to complete in less than six months, and half of that time was dedicated to regional coordination and review."

Cindy Boen, project manager

"Completing the study demonstrates the Corps' commitment to accomplishing our requirements under the Biological Opinion," said Supervisory Civil Engineer Greg Graham. "The building block for this plan of study was the 2002 LSR Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report, and the plan of study provided critical updates and gaps in the 2002 report," he said.

The targeted study areas included:

- New lifestyle anadromous fish model
- Updates to the economic effects
- Carbon dioxide analysis
- Short-term transitioned effect (sediment, water quality and adult fish passage)
- Engineering studies (embankment stability, rock sources, and risked-based construction cost and schedules)

"Now that the Plan of Study has been completed, it is available if a Snake River spring/summer chinook, steelhead, or fall chinook significant decline trigger is tripped. In this event, an All-H (hydropower, habitat, hatchery, harvest) analysis including life-cycling modeling will be conducted in coordination with NOAA Fisheries, the Regional Implementation Oversight Group, and other regional parties to determine if rapid response actions are likely to be sufficient or if long term contingency actions are needed," Graham said.

"This assessment will include determining if dam breaching is necessary to address and alleviate the biological trigger conditions for the applicable Snake River species. The goal is to have this analysis completed within four to six months of tripping a significant decline trigger," he added.

Photo by Jeanne Newton

New contract seeks safer turbine for fish

by Gina Baltrusch, Michael Milstein, BPA

Engineers are developing the next generation of advanced hydroelectric turbines for the Federal Columbia River Power System to provide safer passage for fish, under a contract awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mar. 11.

The $10.9 million contract awarded to Voith Hydro Inc. of York, Pa., requires the design and manufacture of a new runner for an aging hydroelectric turbine at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam on the Snake River near Burbank, Wash. A runner is the part of a turbine that rotates in water to generate power.

The contract, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, calls for multiple design cycles using state-of-the-art computer modeling and tests with physical models to examine water flow and pressures. Private and government biological and engineering experts will collaborate in the design process, which is unique because it makes fish passage improvements a primary goal, ahead of power and efficiency gains.

"Our mission includes more than just generating power; it includes environmental stewardship of the nation's natural resources," said Witt Anderson, director of programs for the Corps' Northwestern Division. "We want to take advantage of technology that wasn't around when the dams were constructed and design the most advanced runner available to help improve fish passage in the region."

The need to replace the Turbine Unit-2 runner at Ice Harbor presented the opportunity to pursue a new design with fish passage improvement as a priority. The Unit-2 runner has experienced numerous mechanical problems during its 30-plus years of operation. The benefits will extend beyond Ice Harbor, because several dams have turbines also nearing the end of their design life.

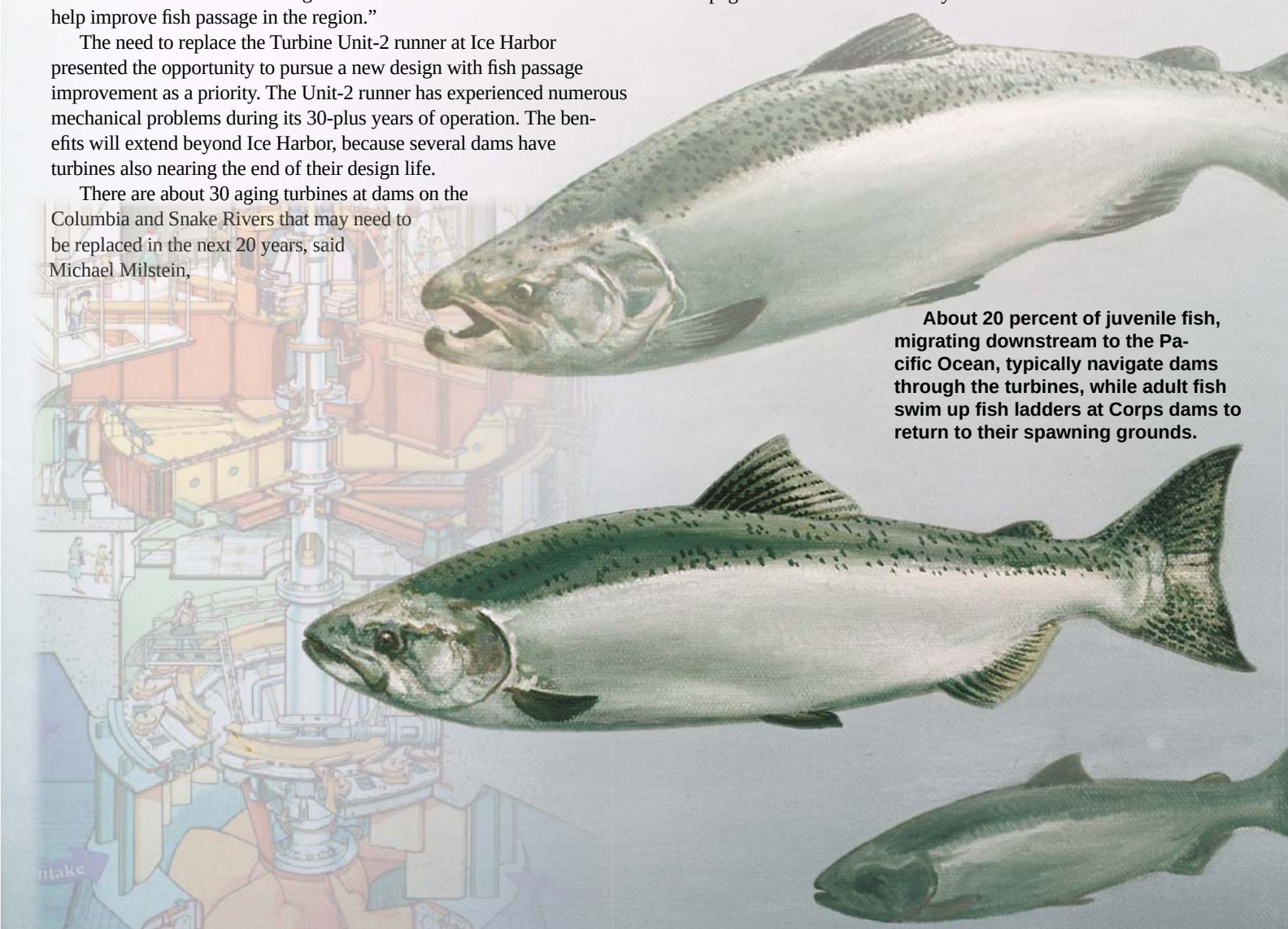
There are about 30 aging turbines at dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers that may need to be replaced in the next 20 years, said Michael Milstein, a spokesman for the Bonneville Power Administration, which is funding the project. Turbines at five dams are at least 45 years old, he said.

The Corps and BPA crafted this contract as a model to demonstrate a science-based runner design and development process that can also guide replacement of other aging turbines. Development and post-installation testing are expected to improve understanding of fish passage through the turbine environment, with potential application to other hydropower sites.

"It will take more work on the front end," said Mark Jones, BPA's manager of Federal Hydro Projects. "But we'll pave the way for upgrades at dams all through the Federal Columbia River Power System that provide the Northwest with renewable power."

The improved turbine components are slated for operation in 2015 and will help meet goals of the 2008 Biological Opinion that protects salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered.

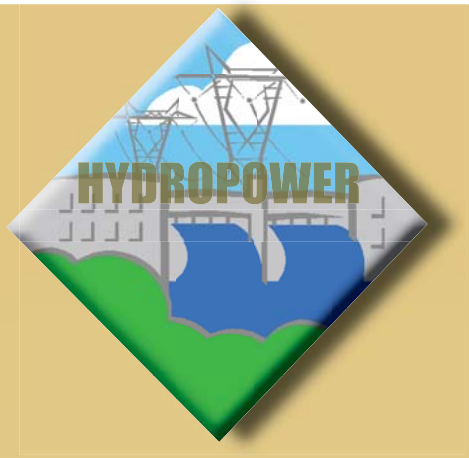
For more information about the Ice Harbor turbine runner design and other programs to benefit anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin, check out the "Fish Programs" links on the Walla Walla District's home page at www.nww.usace.army.mil.



About 20 percent of juvenile fish, migrating downstream to the Pacific Ocean, typically navigate dams through the turbines, while adult fish swim up fish ladders at Corps dams to return to their spawning grounds.

illustration courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Infrastructure maintenance improves environmental quality



Unit # 3 rotor is moved via crane at Lower Granite Lock and Dam powerhouse.

photos by Mike Deccio

All the District's power-generating systems routinely undergo maintenance to ensure they operate at peak efficiency. Tackling a project like a generator Unit #3 rewind, currently under way at Lower Granite Lock and Dam, may seem huge, but it pays environmental dividends.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leads in green energy as the largest hydropower producer in the nation with Walla Walla District serving as the Corps' second-largest power producer.

While operating and maintaining six hydropower dams, Walla Walla District continues to supply the Northwest with a clean, efficient, renewable, reliable and flexible power supply that helps reduce the region's carbon emissions footprint.

The District's power plants emit none of the waste gases that cause acid rain, air pollution or global warming.

The power plants have a simple process for producing electricity. When gravity forces the water to flow downstream through the dam powerhouses, the water turns the blades of the turbine like the wind turns a wind mill. The turning turbine spins coils of wires inside a larger generator rotor mounted above it, converting mechanical energy of falling water into electrical energy.

Transmission lines carry this electricity to Bonneville Power Administration substations. BPA markets the power to utility companies, which supply homes and business consumers. The Corps' 41 turbines at six hydropower facilities generate about 22 percent of the Northwest's electricity.

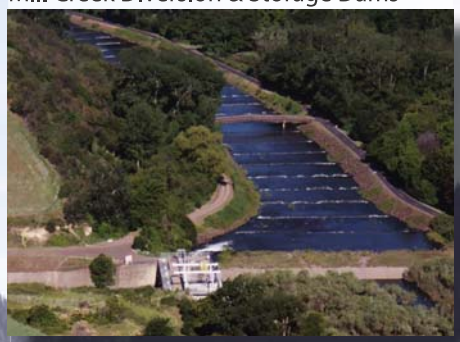
Dam Safety

DSAC

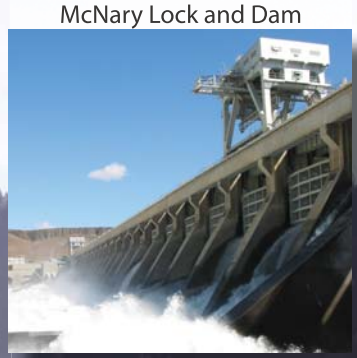
Class 1 Urgent and Compelling | Class 2 Urgent | Class 3 High Priority | Class 4 Priority | Class 5 Normal

Dworshak Dam

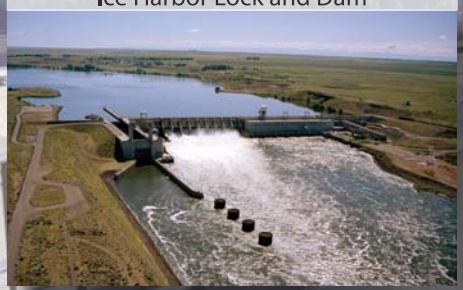
Mill Creek Diversion & Storage Dams



McNary Lock and Dam

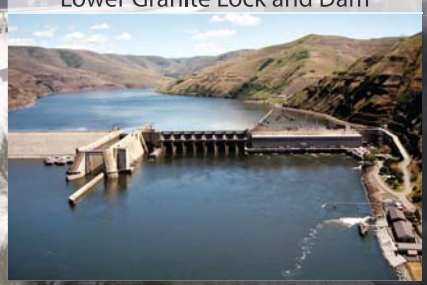


Ice Harbor Lock and Dam

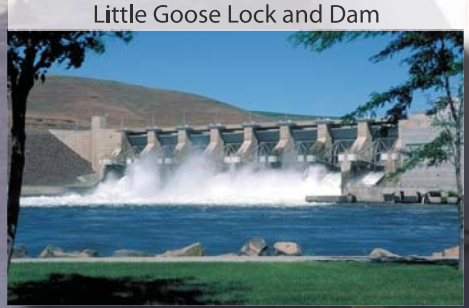


Lower Monumental Lock and Dam

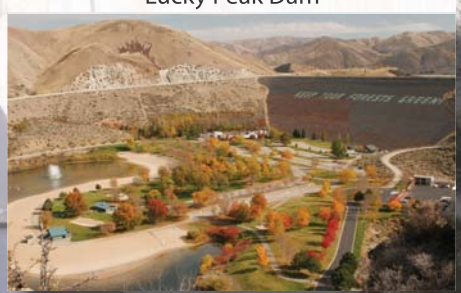
Lower Granite Lock and Dam



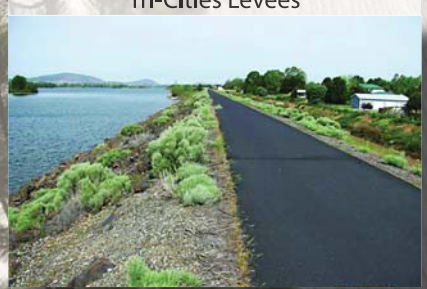
Little Goose Lock and Dam



Lucky Peak Dam



Tri-Cities Levees



by Joe Saxon

The Corps began inspecting its 635 dams in 2007 using a rating system called the Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) rating table. This risk informed process optimizes acceptable public safety by prioritizing dam safety deficiencies nation-wide. Using the DSAC rating system, each dam is classified from I-V, with DSAC-V being the most safe and DSAC-I posing the most risk.

Walla Walla District engineers have inspected all District dams and assessed each for the threat they pose to public safety. Ratings for these dams range from DSAC II to DSAC IV. Engineers have identified interim fixes at all District facilities needed to mitigate the risk to public safety and are now implementing those short-term fixes, which will lead to long-term resolutions.

Although specific measures vary with each dam, interim fixes include updating emergency action plans, conducting comprehensive seepage studies, performing potential failure mode analysis, reviewing dam surveillance plans, stockpiling emergency supplies and equipment, evaluating spillways, navigational locks and gates, and conducting emergency exercises. These and other short term actions allow District officials to operate the dams while meeting public safety objectives. District officials will continue to review the dams and associated locks and levees, and pursue long-term repairs as appropriate.

Meanwhile, District dam safety officials have kept the public informed of their progress throughout this two-year period and have met with local officials and the public on numerous occasions at Tri-Cities, Lewiston, Clarkston, Boise, Walla Walla, Umatilla and Orofino. Public safety is the District's top priority and will continue to be so throughout this process.

Dworshak leading way through innovative efforts

by Terri A. Rorke

Allen Pomraning is challenged to answer a million-dollar question about one of the largest dams in the Western Hemisphere. Is it safe?

Since Dworshak Dam received a Dam Safety Action Classification rating of II in 2007, "the District's scientists and engineers have focused on increasing public safety at Dworshak," said DSAC Program and Project Manager Allen Pomraning.

That focus includes pioneering the use of urethane to study how to repair high-head, leaky waterstops at Dworshak Dam, near Orofino, Idaho.

Utilizing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Pomraning said, "the District awarded approximately $1.3 million in May to begin implementing interim risk reduction measures as part of a two-year effort of short- and long-term fixes." The urethane cylinders are currently being molded.

Urethane was first tested by Corps Geologist William Harrison and Concrete Materials Engineer Steve Tatro.

Tatro initially tested the material in his garage. After reviewing the results, Harrison and Tatro were confident the material was ready for testing on a larger scale and arranged to place urethane in a single 170 feet-deep waterstop at Little Goose Lock and Dam near Starbuck, Wash. After reviewing the results, they say it's ready to be demonstrated at Dworshak in two waterstops with leakage issues.

"When we first started working on this project, we did an industry search to find out what other people were doing for waterstops," Tatro said, "and in every case, no one was doing anything."

"In fact, a number of organizations who have waterstop problems, said, 'We're waiting for you guys to come up with a good solution so we can use that.' I presume that the only people really working at how to repair waterstops has been our District since the late 1970s," Tatro said.

Tatro believes this is the first time urethane is being used to solve waterstop issues at a dam. "We have heard of no other application where this kind of material has been used to rehabilitate waterstops," he added.

The urethane material expands when exposed to water to form a waterstop across the dam's monolith joints.

Currently, the District is working with Jacobs Engineering's Seattle office which field-tested the urethane that the District is planning to place in the dam's waterstops. The laboratory tested urethane in a simulated environment with high pressure and cold water, replicating field-like conditions. The Corps expects to install the material in August when the reservoir level is low when drilling and placement will be possible.

"We're going to make sure the system works before we bet a million dollars of the taxpayers' money on putting it in place. If it works at Dworshak, it will work anywhere. This is the test," said Pomraning.

In fact, there is already international interest brewing about the developments at Dworshak. Dam concrete and materials experts from China, home of the largest dam in the world, the Three Gorges Dam, have already inquired about the District's progress at Dworshak.

The District is also replacing the nearly 40-year-old dam's instrumentation supply with an expected completion date of September.

Dworshak's structural issues can be evaluated by using the new instrumentation to produce accurate water flow measurements.

"We've identified gaps in our information," Pomraning said. There are joints and cracks between and within the monoliths where water flows through, but the current instrumentation does not provide timely information about progressive failures going on, he said.

"The instrumentation is an engineering tool but it's also a public safety tool," Pomraning said. "We can improve public safety when we have better ways to more accurately measure the water flow."

engineering solution

public safety

photo courtesy of Steve Tatro

Pomraning

photo by Terri A. Rorke

The swellable material is a urethane resin manufactured as a very thick and sticky liquid. The liquid material is combined with a catalyzing liquid to form a semi-solid material similar to a stiff rubber. Once solidified and in contact with water, the material then "hydrates" and causes a significant increase in volume -- approximately 200 percent.

photo by Terri A. Rorke

photo by Joe Saxon

Dworshak Dam, a 717-feet-high, straight-axis structure, has 50 waterstops, which are part of the joints on the dam's monoliths. Two waterstops will be drilled out and replaced by the urethane material at Dworshak.

Challenge for Haiti

EPA photo courtesy of Mike Brescio

NORMALCY

by Terri A. Rorke

EPA photo courtesy of Mike Brescio

(Above) A Haitian girl stands in a clean dress amidst the debris-filled streets. (Bottom, left) Summerton verifies debris removal sites with a contractor in Port-au-Prince. (Main) A Port-au-Prince canal filled with earthquake debris.

Pete Summerton is a seasoned emergency team responder who deployed to Iraq and disaster zones such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav. He saw human suffering on a worldwide stage, but nothing prepared him for Haiti.

A spider web full of challenges lay at Summerton's feet while tasked to plan how to clean up 25 million cubic yards of rubble in earthquake-struck Haiti.

While possibly thousands of bodies still lie in the layered ruins created by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake, which struck January killing an estimated 230,000 and leaving 1.3 million homeless, Summerton was tasked to assist the operation as part of a select member group of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers experts in debris management. The subject matter expert team was tasked with estimating debris volume, resource capabilities, haul routes, potential debris processing sites, security concerns, timelines and costs for the Naval Facilities Command.

Summerton worked with Rick Benoit from Portland District and Olen Burdit from Fort Worth District on the second team of Corps SMEs deployed to Haiti. The first team developed a pilot debris management plan and Team two arrived to provide technical assistance to NAVFAC as the execution phase of the plan began. If the plan proved successful, it could be used to clean up all of the country's earthquake damage.

Team two was running against time to accomplish three primary goals before Haiti's rainy season began April 15: to find a suitable debris processing site, determine boundaries of a pilot debris removal area and find and clear a more permanent living site for up to 5,000 of the internally displaced persons currently living in a tent city settled in a flood plain.

As the rainy season drew near, the team learned the complexity of achieving what seemed more and more to be unrealistic goals.

"There are tremendous efforts going on around Port-au-Prince by donor nations, non-governmental organizations and different faith-based groups to assist the people, and it's good work there but it's segmented and disorganized," Summerton said.

~ continued on page 12

~ *continued from page 11*

Not only are the efforts sporadic in Haiti, but the lack of organized governmental response to the quake added to the devastation, Summerton said. The Haitian government lost more than 100 members in the quake, therefore, participation in large scale planning and decision making was difficult and very limited, he said.

While the Haitian government estimates 230,000 people were killed in the earthquake, most are unidentified.

"The lack of government response to the disaster left people doing the best they could to remove the piles and piles of bodies," Summerton said.

"When you see the magnitude of destruction and apparent chaos, you understand how complex this gets and ask, 'So who knows who's dead? Where did they go? Whose relatives are where?' People are burning bodies in the streets and dumping them in unattended mass graves, so you don't know who got out, so there is huge unaccountability."

An additional unforeseen obstacle the team faced was the resistance of people to move to a temporary living site to be set up by the American government. The IDP relocation plan called for clearing four city blocks in Tourgeau for temporary living sites for the target groups.

"One thing that was overlooked was that we brought all Western ideas to a nation that has hundreds of years of its own unique cultures and processes," Summerton said.

"The word on the streets is that the earthquake and the mass loss of life was an intentional act of God. God is mad at Haiti for something and the people transfer that hatred to the Haitian government. God is mad that the government is not taking care of its people," he said.

"If you add in the traditional polytheistic religious and cultural beliefs that are widely accepted, it meant that the people did not want to go back into the buildings at all. No effort from Westerners is going to convince those people to get out of tents and get back into structures."

In addition, property owners of some of the four blocks planned to be occupied for a year did not agree to offer up their property. Therefore, the pilot program went to a standstill, Summerton added. In Haiti, squatters can fight for land they live on even if it is owned by someone else.

Even if this meant that the Americans could not meet their deadline of April 15, Mario Nicolaeu, Haitian U.S. Agency for International Development engineer, said, Haitians understand water more than Westerners believe.

In Haiti, people are more afraid of rain than bullets, Nicolaeu said. Therefore, Haitians would understand to get out of the flood plain if it rained.

"They will work with the water. But they won't work with Westerners telling them where to move," he said.

In fact, Summerton believes one of the reasons why Haiti's buildings collapsed so fast was because they were designed with the idea that hurricanes are their worst possible natural disaster scenario. Because most buildings were built with weakly constructed concrete roofs and few building codes, it created the perfect storm for a disaster of this magnitude, Summerton said.

"The entire problem can only be summed up as heartbreaking, frustrating and preventable," he added.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Currently, all Corps debris SMEs have completed their mission and returned home. The debris plan and pilot program results were turned over to the United Nations and USAID. Remaining U.S. Forces continue to work with the Haitian government, donor nations and parties, and await requests or direction from the Haitian government.

EPA photo courtesy of Mike Brescio

EPA photo courtesy of Mike Brescio

photo by Pete Summerton

(Bottom, left) Summerton talks to Haitian Engineer Cadet Ernst. (Bottom, middle) Typical sight in Port-au-Prince. (Bottom, right) A Haitian woman carries on daily life, while walking by temporary Internally Displaced Persons living site at Petionville Club golf course in Port-au-Prince.

(Top, left) A scavenger carries collected rebar. (Top, right) A collapsed villa surrounded by lush greenery. (Main) Shades of blue and orange tents pepper the IDP living site at Petionville Club Golf Course, Port-au-Prince, managed by Actor Sean Penn.

ARRA UPDATE

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

More than 44 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded contracts have already been awarded in the Walla Walla District in the first year since its inception, reaching a total of $37 million in funds. Thirty-one ARRA contracts are in progress, of which six make up $8.6 million in grants for rural Idaho projects.

Joseph, Ore., contractor selected for Camp Creek restoration project

by Gina Baltrusch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a $219,188 contract to a Joseph, Ore., company to conduct an aquatic ecosystem restoration project on Camp Creek, a tributary of the Imnaha River near Enterprise, Ore.

L D Perry, Inc., a HUBZone small business located in Joseph, Ore., will begin work in July to remove small earthen dams in the headwaters of Camp Creek and restore that portion of the creek to a more natural, flowing state.

Corps Project Manager Richard Turner said this construction contract is the first step in restoring Camp Creek's aquatic environment. The Corps' cost-share partner on this project, The Nature Conservancy, will reestablish native riparian vegetation once the dam-removal and stream realignment work is complete.

Funds for this project were appropriated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The project is authorized 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. As the non-federal partner, The Nature Conservancy provides 35 percent of the cost of this project.

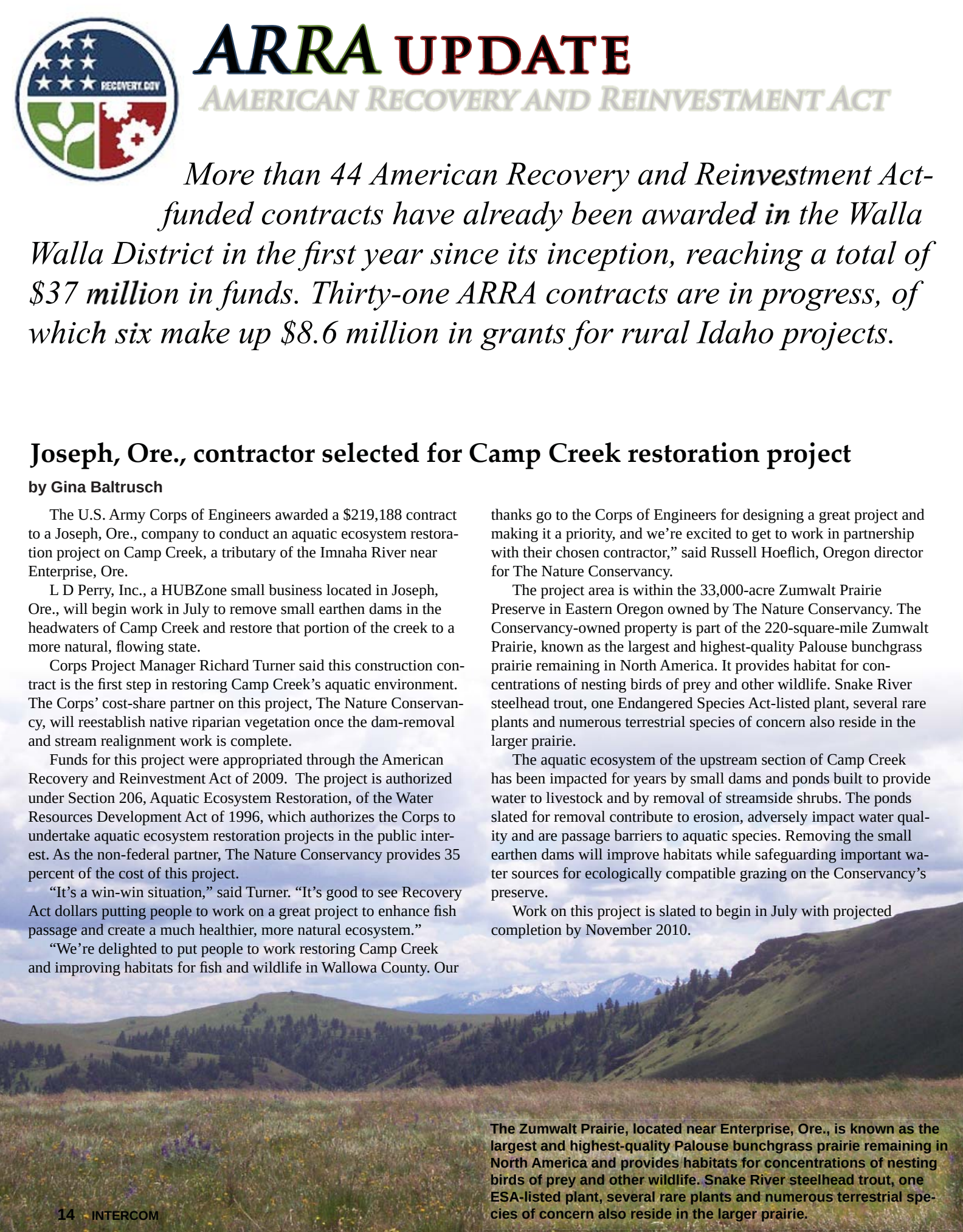
"It's a win-win situation," said Turner. "It's good to see Recovery Act dollars putting people to work on a great project to enhance fish passage and create a much healthier, more natural ecosystem."

"We're delighted to put people to work restoring Camp Creek and improving habitats for fish and wildlife in Wallowa County. Our thanks go to the Corps of Engineers for designing a great project and making it a priority, and we're excited to get to work in partnership with their chosen contractor," said Russell Hoeflich, Oregon director for The Nature Conservancy.

The project area is within the 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Eastern Oregon owned by The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy-owned property is part of the 220-square-mile Zumwalt Prairie, known as 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.

The aquatic ecosystem of the upstream section of Camp Creek has been impacted for years by small dams and ponds built to provide water to livestock and by removal of streamside shrubs. The ponds slated for removal contribute to erosion, adversely impact water quality and are passage barriers to aquatic species. Removing the small earthen dams will improve habitats while safeguarding important water sources for ecologically compatible grazing on the Conservancy's preserve.

Work on this project is slated to begin in July with projected completion by November 2010.



The Zumwalt Prairie, located near Enterprise, Ore., is known as the largest and highest-quality Palouse bunchgrass prairie remaining in North America and provides habitats for concentrations of nesting birds of prey and other wildlife. Snake River steelhead trout, one ESA-listed plant, several rare plants and numerous terrestrial species of concern also reside in the larger prairie.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

The Walla Walla District has already completed more than $900,000 worth of projects since the first ARRA-funded contract was awarded in June 2009:

Creative Outdoor Designs, Inc. of Irmo, S.C. was awarded a $55,110 contract to for the purchase of large and mini picnic shelters for **McNary Lock and Dam**, Umatilla, Ore.

Ojeda Business Ventures, LLC, Richland, Wash., was awarded a $27,928 contract for irrigation system components. This irrigation system will enhance recreation facilities for visitors at **Ice Harbor Dam**, Burbank, Wash.

Rogers Surveying Inc., Richland Wash., was awarded a $24,434 contract to help supplement an existing flood plain study on **Warm Springs Creek**, Challis, Idaho.

Anderson Perry and Associates Inc., La Grande, Ore., was awarded a $12,035 contract to attend a levee inspection workshop that will provide training to conduct periodic levee inspections in accordance with **USACE National Levee Safety Inspection Program** standards.

R.J. Thomas Manufacturing Company Inc., Cherokee, Iowa, was awarded a $26,018 contract for 63 picnic tables that will enhance recreation facilities for visitors at **Hood Park** at Burbank, Wash.

CXT, Inc., of Spokane Wash. was awarded a $200,980 contract for three prefabricated toilet buildings. These facilities will be installed near two boat ramps at Corps parks in Clarkston and Asotin, Wash.; and another at the *south shore visitor* recreation area at **Little Goose Lock and Dam**, near Starbuck, Wash.

Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Bellevue, Wash., was awarded a $24,800 contract for the **Dworshak Dam** instrumentation site visit in Orofino, Idaho.

McMillen Engineering, LLC, Boise, Idaho, was awarded an $111,649 contract for Boise river flood mapping. This will help update the flood maps for the area below **Lucky Peak Dam and Lake**.

CH2M Hill, Inc., Kennewick, Wash., was awarded a $20,084 task order to conduct a pre-scoping site visit. This company will later conduct a predesign and feasibility study under a separate task order, contributing toward the Corps' goal of improving the **Dworshak National Fish Hatchery's** pollutant discharge elimination system in Orofino, Idaho.

Rogers Surveying, Richland, Wash., was awarded a $60,525 contract for **Lower Monumental** navigation gate survey work in Kahlotus, Wash.

WAVES IN SOLID LLC, State College, Pa., was awarded a $20,280 contract for a friction drum weld inspection and repair at **Lower Monumental Lock and Dam** in Kahlotus, Wash.

University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, was award a $7,923 contract for a Bull Trout literature review. This review will help researchers better understand what is impacting **Bull Trout** that are currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Creative Outdoor Design, Irmo, S.C., was a $15,950 contract to work on the park host shelters at **Lower Granite Lock and Dam** in Pomeroy, Wash.

photo by Terri A. Rorke

Construction continues on the ARRA-funded paint and storage building at Lower Granite Jan. 2010. The $810,685 project, contracted to Konnawac, LLC, is expected to be completed July 2010.

Adopt to remember

Corps Adopt-A-Trail program launches to honor local leader

Story and photos by Terri A. Rorke

For the Monahan family, remembering the late Dick Monahan, is a matter of a walk in the park along their newly adopted trail near Mill Creek and Bennington Lake. The family is the first group to adopt a trail at the park while honoring R. F. "Dick" Monahan who died in Dec. 2009 of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and pancreatic cancer.

Immediately following the dedication ceremony in April, friends and family were in spirit with Monahan as they grabbed their pick-up sticks and collected trash on the trail.

Monahan, who devotedly walked Mill Creek trails for four years, was an attorney, civic leader and the American Quarter Horse Association's second vice president.

The Corps provides volunteers with the necessary equipment to maintain the trail once a month between April and October with one patrol in December and February. Volunteers also fill out an inspection sheet after each walk and turn it in to the park office for attention by the staff.

According to Lonnie Mettler, natural resources supervisor, Mill Creek and Bennington Lake is the only Corps park facility in the Northwestern Division that had an increase of public use every month between October 2009 and February 2010. In 2008, the park estimated that 264,461 people visited the park, whereas, in 2009, 279,873 used the park.

As more people use the park and available recreation dollars decrease, the new program can help benefit both the public and the Corps, said Chris Alford, natural resource specialist at Mill Creek. The trail program helps the Corps reduce costs and facilitates public pride of local parks.

"As recreation funds become limited, we need to start thinking outside the box and provide the public a service level the public deserves," Alford said.

Mill Creek Park Ranger Jeremy Nguyen said the program already added its first corporate sponsor, the Walla Walla YMCA, which will maintain the Meadowlark Trail. In addition, three more groups are considering adopting a trail.

Nguyen said anyone who would like to adopt a trail section can contact the Mill Creek Project office at (509) 527-7160.

(Left) Boyer Robinson, 18 months, holds up a Corps volunteer hat at Mill Creek's first Adopt-A-Trail dedication ceremony for Robinson's grandfather, Dick Monahan. (Main) Grandson Griffin Hood, 10, throws his father, Mike Hood, an empty water bottle during the inaugural Adopt-A-Trail walk. (Top) Corps Park Ranger Jeremy Nguyen places the first Adopt-A-Trail sign at Mill Creek.

An ode to

Mother Nature

Earth Day events

Mill Creek - Members of the public and about 20 Whitman College and Walla Walla University students assisted staff to improve the planter bed at the Rooks Park entrance. The group moved about 60 yards of compost, planted 30 plants and rebuilt about 50 feet of damaged retaining wall.

Lower Granite - As part of the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program, Washington State University students assisted staff with planting trees at Granite Point.

Lucky Peak - About 15 Boise State University students, along with staff, removed one-half mile of old barbed wire fence to facilitate wildlife migration.

Ice Harbor - Staff assisted at a childrens' fishing event and explained the rehabilitation of the fishing ponds to the attendees.

Dworshak - Staff explained the Corps' Natural Resource Management goals to visitors and hosted a raptor presentation by Washington State University.

Little Goose - Volunteers helped plant trees near the dam.

McNary - Rangers informed 300 visitors about their wildlife program.

Washington State University raptor presentation at Dworshak.

Mill Creek

Lower Granite

Lucky Peak

Planting for the future

Participants stop to pose at Ice Harbor's childrens' fishing event at a rehabilitated pond in April.

Jackson, left, and Forest Hal show off their catch at Ice Harbor.

Resources abound

by Terri A. Rorke

Nestled between Walla Walla District headquarters' Office of Counsel and Real Estate Division is the District's technical library. Hardly conspicuous, yet frequently used, the District's library can appeal to every employee.

An employee can find books, videos, audio iPods or "play aways," and has access to thousands of online journals and inter-library loans.

Angela Camarillo, the library technician, has seen the District's library evolve from two small rooms to a large facility in the 30 years she has been with the Corps, while mostly working in the library. Since 2002, she has been running the library as a one-woman show.

As the library grew over the years, so has the service it renders. Camarillo said patrons often forget all that is offered here.

"Each library contains a specialized, technical collection of print and electronic resources representing the Corps' past and current civil engineering projects," according to the Northwestern Division's Web site. With a focus on Corps-related topics, the District's library includes topics such as engineering, fish research, professional development, culture and history.

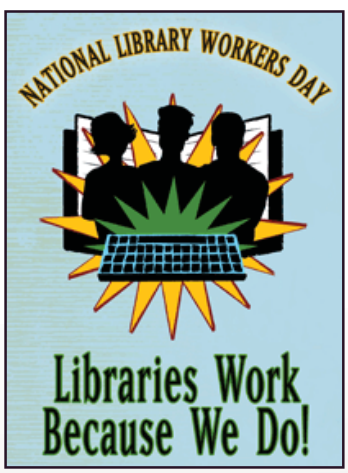
One can also find scientific and engineering publications, reports of research facilities, environmental studies, documents relating to District and Division projects, regional history, and Corps of Engineers history. The combined collection also includes a number of subjects including law, business management, history, professional development, fisheries and more, according to the Division's Web site.

Patrons of the District library have access to more than 4,600 online resources, can request inter-library loans, and can even donate historical publications.

"Don't throw them away," Camarillo said. Despite the ever expanding District library, Camarillo said she will accept labeled donations.

To access electronic journals, visit the District home intranet page and click "Division Electronic Journals" under the "Communication" tab. No password is necessary for journal access.

Camarillo



April 11-17 is National Library Week. As the American Library Association celebrates National Library Workers Day on April 13, it is a time to appreciate our District's technical library. April is a time to honor the contributions of all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library services possible.

Library workers are responsible for a wide variety of services that patrons come to expect from their libraries. They are in charge of more than just checking books in and out of the library. They also catalog and shelve materials; handle requests and send them to other libraries; administer computer networks; select and obtain books, CDs, videos, and databases; and much more.

Tribal Relations

Walla Walla District and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation co-host "Consulting with Tribal Nations" conference

Story and photos by Terri A. Rorke

(From top to bottom) Participants shake hands during friendship dance; Narrator Toby Patrick describes his dance troupe; Traditional dancer Katie Blackwolf Bevis performs for audience; The drums set the tempo of the performance; Grass dancer Jesse Bevis must perform a variety of athletic moves.

Drums set the tempo. Drums pound the beat. Drums communicate.

The beat bounces off walls, guiding the grass dancer's next step.

The drum was the first musical instrument and was used to communicate.

Communication served as the theme of the District-sponsored "Consulting with Tribal Nations" training held April 27 - 29 at the Wild Horse Casino, Pendleton, Ore.

Government employees had the chance to understand Tribal Nations during the training.

The Walla Walla District and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation co-hosted the training for 11 governmental agencies and employees from other Corps districts. Representatives from six Northwest Tribes provided an interactive panel which interfaced with attendees in a question and answer session.

Distinguished speakers included Tribal leaders, District Commander Lt. Col. Michael Farrell, a prior member of the U.S. Congress, DoD's Senior Tribal Liaison and others.

Attendees learned communication skills that promote effective consultation between governmental agencies and Native American Tribes. Other agenda topics included the legal basis for consultation with Domestic Sovereign Nations and information that promotes understanding and appreciation for Tribal core values, priorities and Native American goals for future generations.

"Participants applauded the presentations made by Tribal panelists followed by substantive Q&A interchange. During these segments, Tribes offered suggestions about consultation that promote teamwork when striving to protect natural and cultural resources," said District Tribal Liaison Mary Handlin.