



INTERCOM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

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An abundance of Sockeye Salmon

Region seeing
record fish returns

pg 18

Inside this issue

People

- 4 Corps apprentice program graduates three journeymen
- 6 Change of Command
- 11 Contracting/Small Business Industry Days
- 11 Leadership Development Program
- 24 Corps Day

Engineering

- 5 Walla Walla District repairs flood damaged drop structure

Anniversaries

- 8 McNary celebrates 60th Anniversary
- 10 Maintaining McNary's infrastructure

Hydropower

- 12 Dworshak Unit 3 back in service

Service to the Nation

- 14 Lt.Gen. Bostick letter
- 15 District Overseas Contingency Operations Deployees

Environmental Stewardship

- 16 Public Lands Day
- 18 Record Fish Returns
- 20 Programmatic Sediment Management Plan
- 21 Dworshak Dam one of Bassmasters top fishing places

Around the District

- 26 District activities
- 28 Annual Award Winners



pg. 10

INTERCOM

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Commander
Lt. Col. Timothy Vail

PA Chief
Joe Saxon

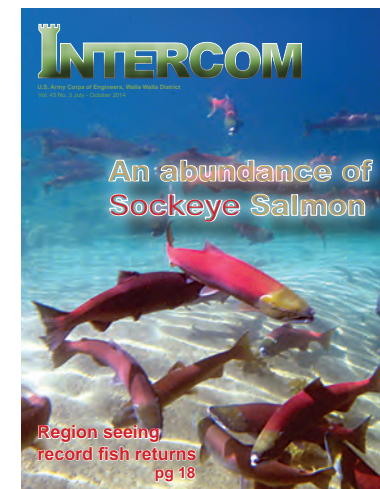
PA Specialist
Bruce Henrickson

PA Specialist
Gina Baltrusch

PA Specialist
Stephen Doherty

PA Specialist
Russell Smith

On the cover



On Oct. 3, Lower Granite Lock and Dam on the lower Snake River recorded 2,778 adult sockeye for the 2014 annual passage, surpassing the previous record of 2,201 set in 2010. This year is the largest sockeye run since 1938 when Bonneville Dam was built. Also on Oct 3, Bonneville Lock and Dam on the lower Columbia River counted 614,179 sockeye migrating. That shatters Bonneville's previous record of 515,673 from 2012 by almost 100,000 sockeye.
Photo by Idaho Fish and Game

From Where I Sit

Ten Things You May Not Know About The District

Well team, it would seem we've crossed a threshold of sorts – the much vaunted fist 90 days in command.

In the rare chance you haven't heard me say it by know, there is no place I'd rather be than here in the Walla Walla District. Rachel, me and all our girls, as we sit outside each night, from our home in the Blue Mountains overlooking the sun setting on the city of Walla Walla, are constantly pinching ourselves that the Army has entrusted us with this opportunity and responsibility in this remarkable place with such remarkable people.

It's been an incredibly busy 90 days, not just for my family and I, but for the District as well. Somehow between having a change of command, and hosting a new commander to almost all the offices and projects, you all stayed focused – professional – committed. Despite seeing massive leadership turnover at almost all operating projects, you all stayed dedicated – patient – proficient. You all contributed and accomplished so much, with record years in contract awards and expenditures despite personnel shortages and political uncertainties. You also contributed to records this year in sockeye and coho crossings, while managing some extremely challenging emergency repairs – from Dworshak Unit #3 to the Little Goose gudgeon arm – it's hard to imagine any other organization or private entity could manage the complexity of our multipurpose facilities as well as you do.

Since I have been travelling extensively and doing my best to visit all of you and see and understand the work you are doing, I wanted to take a chance to point out a few things I've learned about the District that may or may not be common knowledge, but are rather evident to me based on my assignments in a wide range of Army organizations.

Observations from 90 Days in Command

1. You are amongst the best professionals in the Federal Government. Believe it or not, few organizations within the DoD have as many credentialed professionals combined with former and retired warfighters as we do. Engineering aside, we have some of the most proficient accountants, economists, contract specialists, programmers, biologists, lawyers, mechanics, electricians, foresters, carpenters, painters, construction managers, and project managers in the DoD.
2. Our Regulators are a rowdy bunch. Obsession with Zucchini muffins aside. This unique team of District teammates often operate alone and

unafraid, working permit actions across the entire state of Idaho. On the rare occasion when they all gather together, it's a contest to see who has a more wild and crazy story to tell of their experiences.



3. In the event of a major disaster, this District is tasked to become a Super District, taking responsibility for all Dams on the Snake and Lower Columbia rivers.

4. We are part of those we serve. We are part of the broader community of stakeholders. The District is filled with ranchers, farmers, fishermen, hunters, campers, boaters, conservationists, volunteers and other valuable members of our communities. We have influence in our communities and the direction they head. From meeting with Tribes, the Presidents of Universities, Members of Congress and their staffs, we are vital partners professionally as well as stakeholders personally in the region's interests.

5. No one else can accomplish our mission. Fish, Flood, Power, Navigation, Recreation, Stewardship – we are entrusted by Congress to do the right thing for the Nation. We listen to our entire community, but we also make tough decisions daily, all guided by our Values and our commitment to the rule of law, and not pressure from one interest group or another.

6. Third Floor Ops is a nation-wide leader. They are leading the way for the Corps to address and identify long term sustainment and modernization requirements over the next two decades.

7. Kenny Koeberling got Harrison Ford's attention, in the middle of a flood fight no less. True, ask him.

8. We manage almost 7,000 acres of habitat to support almost 1,000 Elk. We are bigger than fish.

9. You aren't afraid to speak your minds. Keep sending me emails and suggestions.

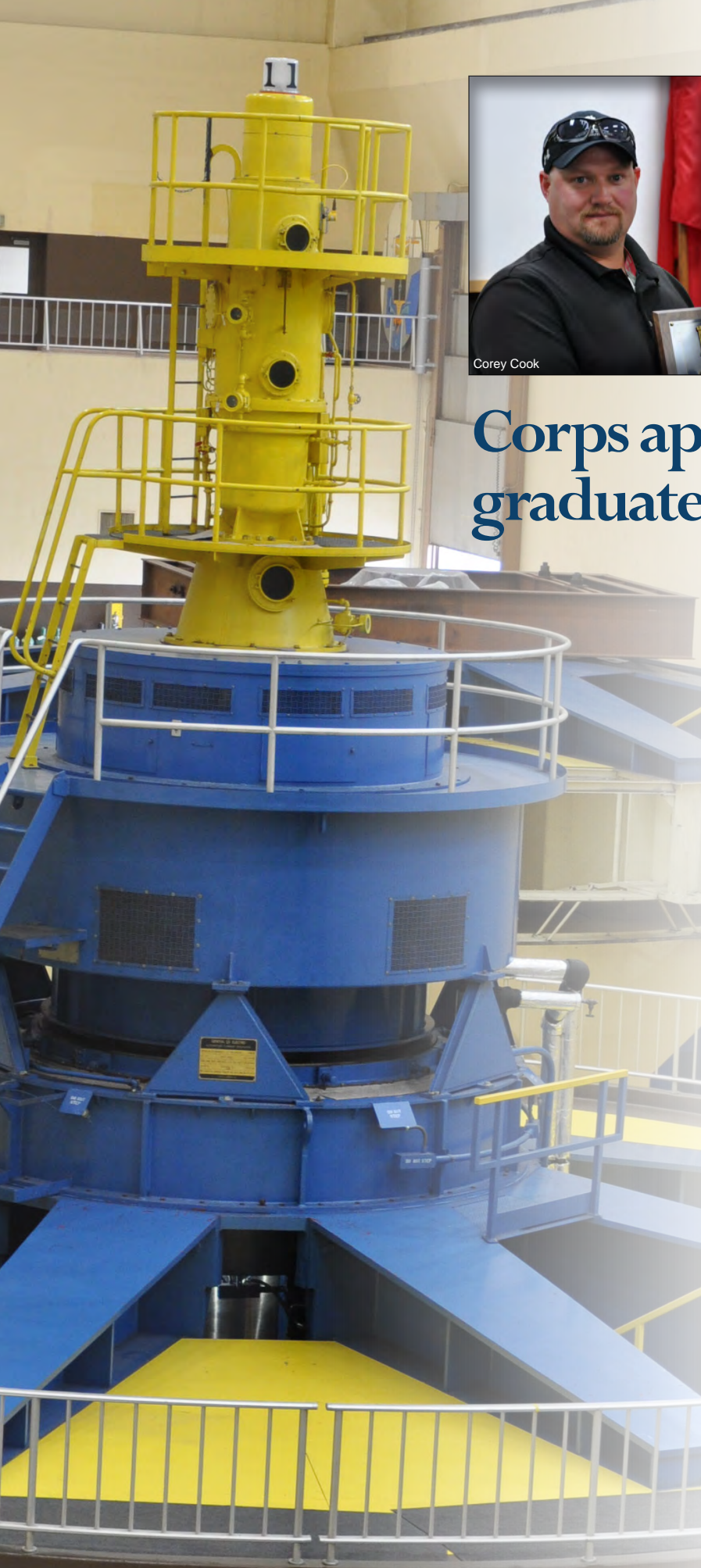
10. Every project and office is the District's best. I love that I hear this across the board. I totally agree.

Tim Vail
Walla Walla District Commander

For more information, contact:
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: 509-527-7020
E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil
website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

The Walla Walla District
**Serving our Community,
the Nation, the World.**





Corey Cook



Neil Custer



David Fesler

Corps apprentice program graduates three journeymen

by Gina Baltrusch

Three students graduated from the Walla Walla District's Power Plant Apprentice Program during a June 26 ceremony at McNary Lock and Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced.

Corey Cook, an Army veteran from Hermiston, Ore., works at McNary Lock and Dam as a power plant mechanic. Neil Custer, an Air Force veteran from Richland, Wash., works at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam as a power plant mechanic. David Fesler, from Milton-Freewater, Ore., works at Little Goose Lock and Dam as a power plant mechanic.

The apprentice program, based at McNary Lock and Dam near Umatilla, Ore., develops trades and crafts journeymen to serve in Walla Walla District hydropower facilities. The program typically graduates three to four apprentices each year. Depending on prior education, or simultaneous enrollment in a related college education program, students can pursue a three- or four-year program to become electrical, mechanical or operations journeymen.

The first year focuses on gaining general hydropower knowledge, after which each student pursues a dedicated craft that signifies the start of a new career. The next two to three years are spent under the guidance of journeymen and a rigid academic curriculum. Academic work includes textbook studies, computer-based training and a strong emphasis of hands-on training.

During their apprenticeship, students gain work experience at hydroelectric facilities in the district before they join the workforce as craftspeople.

"The power plant apprentice program enables the district to better meet its future craftsman needs. It's a critical part of maintaining a sustainable workforce in highly technical career fields. Apprentices learn from the masters, rather than trying to glean that knowledge out of a book at a later time when the experts may not be here to help them," said Robin Floyd, Walla Walla District's training manager for the program.

"We're excited to welcome these graduates into the ranks of journeymen, and to thank the craftsmen who coached them."

For more information about the Walla Walla District's Power Plant Apprentice Program, check out our website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Careers/PowerPlantApprenticeshipProgram.aspx.

Walla Walla District repairs Milton-Freewater's flood-damaged Nursery Street Bridge drop structure

by Gina Baltrusch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District awarded a contract for emergency flood-damage repairs to the Nursery Street Bridge drop structure, a part of the Milton-Freewater levee system on the Walla Walla River in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

The \$619,000 contract was awarded to M.J. Hughes Construction, of Vancouver, Wash., to repair flood-damaged portions of the drop structure, including displaced riprap and eroded concrete at the toe of the spillway. The structure was damaged by high flows in April 2013.

Without repair, the drop structure would likely continue to deteriorate and could eventually fail, leading to the loss of the drop structure, eastside bridge, railroad bridge, both fish ladders and possibly other areas of the levee system. Work was completed Sept. 26.

On May 21, 2013, the Milton-Freewater Water Control District requested assistance from the Corps to repair the damaged drop structure. Under Public Law 84-99 authority was given the Corps to provide emergency response and disaster assistance; including rehabilitation of flood control works threatened or destroyed by flood. To be eligible levees must be part of the Corps Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP) and be in compliance with inspection criteria. The Nursery Bridge drop structure is eligible under this authority for emergency assistance from the Corps. This project is in response to that request.

For more information, visit the project page on the Corps website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/EnvironmentalCompliance/NurseryBridge.aspx.



Photo by Alex Collier

Change of Command



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Rachel Vail, wife of new Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Vail, is welcomed to the Walla Walla District with a traditional bouquet of yellow roses.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Lt. Col. Timothy Vail, Walla Walla District's new commander, greets Armand Minthorn and Woodrow Star from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Members of the 312th U.S. Army Band, headquartered in Wichita, Kan., provide music for the Walla Walla District's change-of-command ceremony.



Photo by Stephen Doherty

Passing of the Colors -- Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. John Kem passes the Corps colors from Lt. Col. Andrew Kelly, the departing commander, to Lt. Col. Timothy Vail, symbolizing the passing of unit command to the new commander.

Lt. Col. Tim Vail assumes command of the Walla Walla District

Lt. Col. Timothy R. Vail assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, during a 10 a.m. ceremony held in Walla Walla on July 11.

Brig. Gen. John S. Kem, commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, officiated as Lt. Col. Andrew D. Kelly transferred command to Vail. Departing Commander Lt. Col. Andrew D. Kelly, who commanded the Walla Walla District for two years, rotated to an assignment in the Office of the Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

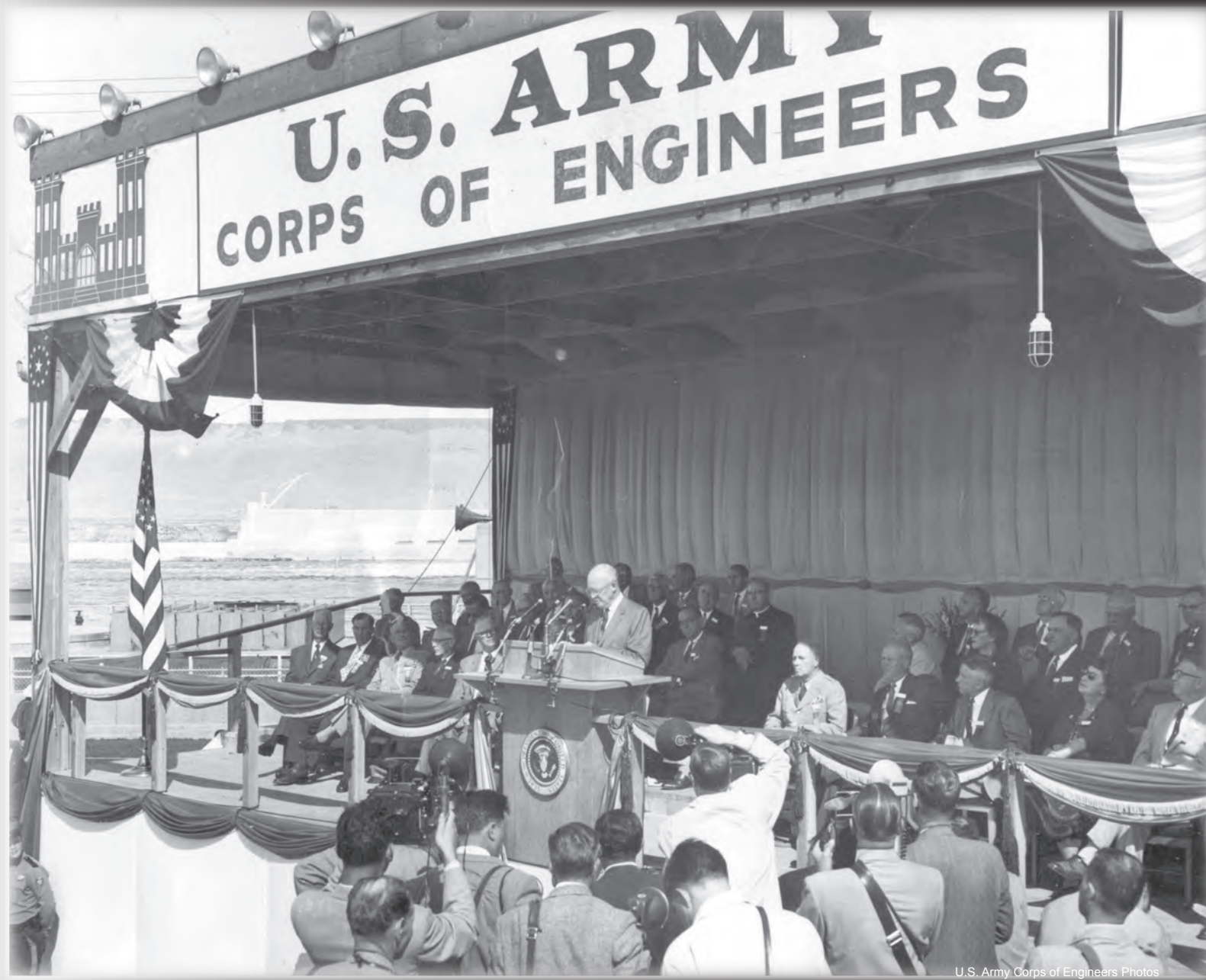
The Walla Walla District, established in 1948, encompasses more than 107,000 square miles in parts of six states – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada and Utah. It is a multi-faceted district responsible for providing hydropower, environmental stewardship, flood risk management and recreation opportunities and maintaining a navigation channel in the Snake and Columbia rivers.

Vail's most recent assignment was in the Pentagon's Office for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, (G-8) in the Force Development Directorate, Full Dimension Protection Division.

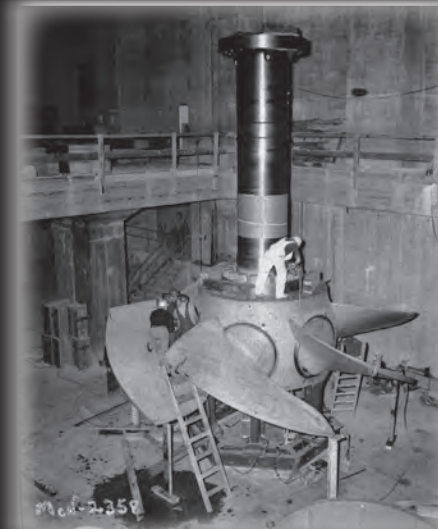


Soldiers from the 864th Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., post the colors during Walla Walla District's change-of-command ceremony, July 11 in Walla Walla, Wash.

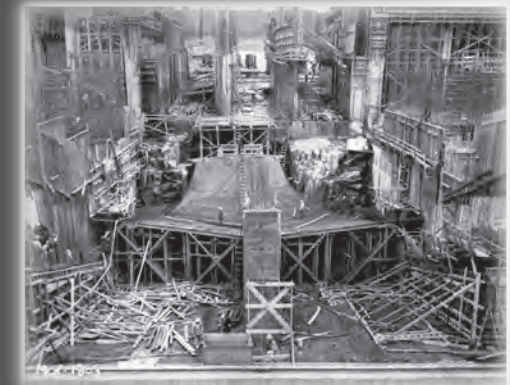
Photo by Gina Baltrusch



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos



Top Left: President Dwight D. Eisenhower speaks at the dedication of McNary Dam on April 15, 1954. Bottom Left: Mrs. Charles L. McNary breaks ground to start construction of McNary Lock and Dam on April 15, 1947. Above: Turbine installation. Right: Construction of McNary Lock and Dam took nearly 10 years.



McNary Dam

60 years of service

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1945. Construction of the McNary project began in May 1947. All power units were in operation in February 1957.

The project includes McNary Dam, Lake Wallula, powerhouse, navigation lock, two fish ladders and a system of levees and pumping plants.

FACTS

The dam is 7,365 feet long, rising approximately 183 feet above the river. It consists of a concrete structure with an earthfill embankment at the Oregon (south) abutment. The spillway is a concrete, gravity-type spillway dam. It is 1,310 feet long, and contains 22 vertical lift gates, each 50 feet by 51 feet. The crest is at elevation 291 feet mean sea level and is designed to pass a flood of 2,200,000 cubic feet per second.

The project provides for slackwater navigation, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, wildlife habitat and incidental irrigation.

The powerhouse has fourteen 70,000-kilowatt hydroelectric generator units – a 980-megawatt total powerhouse capacity.

McNary Dam

by Gina Baltrusch

Maintaining 60 year-old infrastructure isn't easy



McNary Lock and Dam maintenance staff work inside one of the turbine headgate repair pits repairing the gates and associated parts to optimize performance and service life.



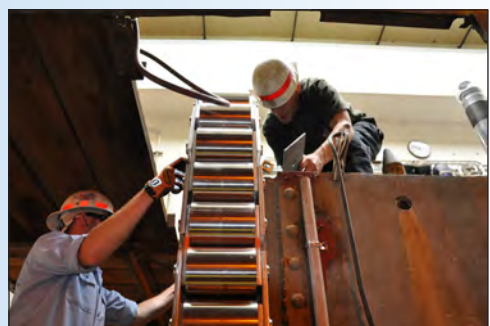
Above: Colbey Soule, a powerplant mechanic at McNary Lock and Dam, works on installing new roller chain onto a turbine headgate. More than 120 Walla Walla District employees work at the McNary Project. They serve as electricians, lock operators, painters, welders, riggers, utility workers, mechanics, biologists, environmental resource specialists, park rangers, heavy equipment operators, administrative staff, engineers and maintenance workers. Together, they support the safe and continuous operation of the project.



Rich Maldonado, McNary Lock and Dam powerplant mechanic worker-in-charge, works on reassembling rehabilitated parts of a turbine headgate.



Above, left: Hardware parts used for attaching a turbine headgate to its pinning beam are cleaned and repainted to prevent rust development when in use. Above, right: Colbey Soule, powerplant mechanic, and Ben Muzzey, utility worker, install new roller chain on a turbine headgate at McNary Lock and Dam.



Walla Walla Industry Day set for Oct. 30

The Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting a free seminar for business owners and representatives on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to present training on how to do business with the Corps.

“Industry Day” activities will be held at Walla Walla Community College Water and Environment Center at 640 Water Center Loop. This Industry Day event features informational briefings presented by district staff, opportunities to take part in roundtable discussions and information about upcoming contracting opportunities.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is required because of limited seating. Registration can be made online at www.eventbrite.com/e/walla-walla-industry-day-october-30-2014-registration-11119347267. Lunch is not provided. Participants may make their lunch arrangements on campus or in the nearby community.

Topics to be covered include: where to find Corps contracting

opportunities, how to respond to a sources-sought announcement, responding to solicitations and what happens to a proposal after it is submitted. A Corps panel discussion focused on “Doing Business with the Corps” is also on the agenda.

The Walla Walla District awards contracts for construction projects, Architect-Engineering studies, and supplies and services needed to operate their facilities. These contracting opportunities total \$90 to \$130 million annually. The district is one of 41 districts within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The district is responsible for managing environmental, hydroelectric, navigation, engineering, construction, emergency management and recreation services within a region covering 107,000 square miles and includes parts of six states. The district operates and maintains six hydroelectric power facilities and \$2.5 billion of infrastructure.

For more information about Walla Walla District, see the district website at www.nww.usace.army.mil.

Leadership Development Program



BRANDON FRAZIER
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIALIST (RANGER)



JERRY GIEDEMAN
POWER PLANT
MECHANICAL PLANNER



NIC IVY
PROJECT MANAGER



TRAVIS JENSEN
ELECTRICAL
ELECTRONIC
CRAFTSWORKER



SERGIO CHAVEZ
SENIOR ACCOUNTANT



KAY BALTZ
SMALL BUSINESS
PROGRAM DEPUTY



KAREN KELLY
PLANNING
STUDY SPECIALIST



JEREMY NGUYEN
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIALIST (RANGER)



TANDY TAYLOR
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT



WES BROWN
MECHANICAL ENGINEER



JOE WALKER
POWER PLANT
ELECTRICIAN



ANNELI COLTER
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCE SPECIALIST



S. HAP ENZI
DISTRICT TRAINING
OFFICER, ACTING



RUTHANN HAIDER
DISTRICT CHIEF
OF CONTRACTING



CAROL J. BOGDANOWITZ
MISSION SUPPORT
OFFICER, ACTING



2015 LDP TEAM OF TWELVE

“BUILDING SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP”



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Walla Walla District
BUILDING STRONG.

REVISED OCTOBER 2014

Dworshak Unit 3 back in service

Dworshak unit is the Corps' largest single hydroelectric power generator

by Bruce Henrickson

The Walla Walla District of the Corps of Engineers placed Dworshak Dam's hydroelectric generator Unit 3 back in service after completing repairs of damage due to a short circuit in the stator winding on Aug. 15.

The unit faulted to ground and had to be taken out of service on Aug. 15 for replacement of a damaged electric coil deep inside the generator.

Repairs required partial disassembly and lifting of Unit 3's large 400-ton rotor assembly, replacement and repair of several components, and reinstallation of the rotor



Photo by Stephen Doherty



assembly in the generator housing. The unit provides 55 percent of Dworshak's powerhouse flow discharge and is the largest single hydroelectric power generator in the Corps of Engineers. Difficult repairs to the massive unit required significant effort, and were accomplished as planned in minimal time considering the generator's size and complexity.

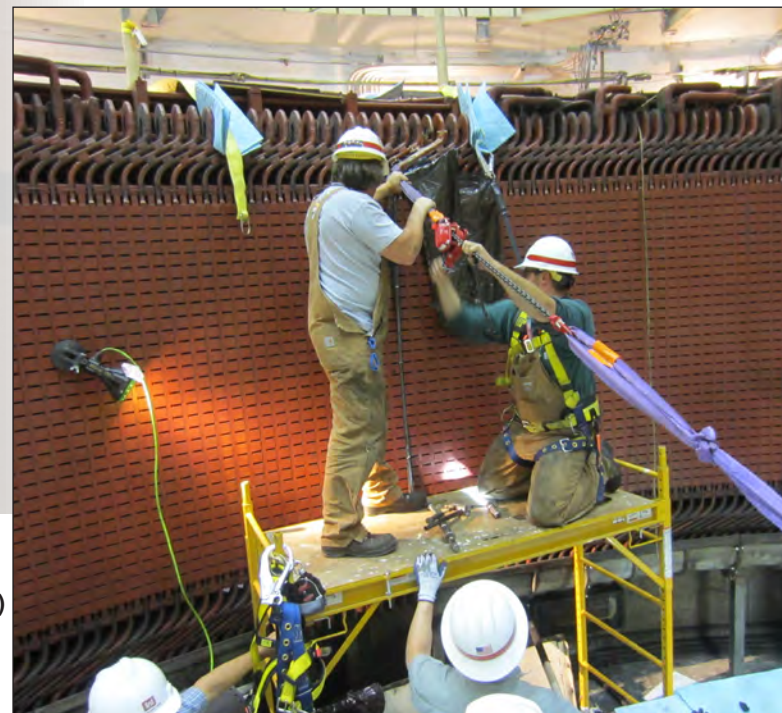
Dworshak's reservoir water is normally used to cool the lower Snake River basin during the summer to support juvenile salmon

as they migrate downstream, plus adults migrating upstream. When the generator went offline on Aug. 15, the Corps reduced water flows through the powerhouse and increased spill through dam regulating outlets outside of the powerhouse.

Though more water was spilled outside the powerhouse when Unit 3 went offline, overall discharge flows had to be reduced to manage total dissolved gas levels in the river, which can be harmful to fish.



Photos by Lucian Stewart



Left: Jesse Pearson cleans core lamination damage on Unit #3's stator winding. Right page clockwise: Dworshak Dam; Dworshak Dam Powerhouse; Workers perform a test braze on spare coils; Jesse Pearson (top) and Aaron Blackwell (bottom) unbrazed connections to the damaged stator winding; Chris Brown (left) and Jesse Pearson (right) pull the damaged coil.

Corps Teammates,

In the past 13 years, the Army has deployed more than 1 million Soldiers to support Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. Additionally, there have been more than 30,000 Civilian deployments.

Some 11,000 of those Civilian deployments have been from the US Army Corps of Engineers --- with many of our Civilians signing up for multiple deployments. This requires a great sacrifice of not only the individual, but their family and their teammates. I am grateful for each and every one of you who have raised your hand and answered the call, and for the supporters that made their deployments possible.

There is always an inherent risk when you accept the opportunity to deploy. Just last month, three of our Engineer soldiers and one USACE Civilian were injured in the attack at the Marshal Fahim National Defense University in Kabul, Afghanistan. I recently had the opportunity to visit with one of these Soldiers at Walter Reed where he is recovering. The other three returned to duty shortly after the incident.

But our work in Afghanistan is not over, and we still have a need for Civilian teammates to help deliver the mission. OCO deployments are not only a way to serve the Army and the Nation, but allow employees to develop valuable new skills and gain professional experience.

Here's what some currently deployed Civilians had to say about their time in theater:

"I have worked for the federal government for more than 35 years and the opportunity to be on the ground in a contingency environment is more challenging and rewarding than any other assignment. The opportunity to directly impact the living conditions of the US Armed Forces and the people of Afghanistan provides a deep sense of accomplishment."

"The deployment experience is worth the sacrifice. It won't always be easy or comfortable, but you'll come away with a positive life experience."

"I've been able to increase my level of competency as a Resident Engineer in vertical construction as my home District is mainly horizontal. This has allowed me the ability to become well rounded and will better serve me in the future. But, none of this would be possible without the love and support of my wife and family. It's been a challenge for them back home but being able to FaceTime/Skype everyday has made it easier, especially for my daughters. They have seen this as an adventure."

If you have previously deployed, I urge you to seek out others who you think may be good candidates and share your experiences with them.

I realize that this is a difficult choice and deploying is not viable for everyone, but you can still make a significant contribution by supporting those who do with calls and visits, cards and care packages, backfilling their position, and providing reach back support. Your support makes an incredible difference to those deployed and their families.

To the many men and women of USACE who have deployed since 9/11, or are serving overseas today, and to those who have enabled your service, I thank you.

Tom Bostick
LTG, US ARMY
53rd Chief of Engineers

Essayons...Building Strong...Army Strong!

Service to the Nation



Above: Deployed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District employees Dani Stephens, (far left), Alden Foote, (left), Randy Chong, (right) and Ezra Abraham, (far right) share a moment at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. Right: The Corps Afghanistan Engineer District South. Left: Barbara and Phil Benge deployed in Afghanistan. Left, below: Dani Stephens with the Corps' Chief of Engineers. Left, bottom: Brad Clarke near Zakhil, Afghanistan. Bottom, left: Bob Killey communicates with local tribesman. Bottom, center: Carl Knaak at Ware Zagh village. Bottom, far left: Simeon Francis inspects the interior of the Sadr City R3 water treatment plant project in Iraq.

Honor Roll

Ezra Abraham* ▪ Nabil Abourialy* ▪ Fernando Aguilar* ▪ Martin Ahman ▪ David Alexander* ▪ James Allen* ▪ Alex Almeida* ▪ Ron Ashley* ▪ Jerel Autrey ▪ Rodney Baker ▪ Barbara Benge ▪ Philip Benge* ▪ John Binford ▪ KalMarie Black* ▪ William Bolte* ▪ Roger Bowen ▪ James Bramell* ▪ Robert Brochu* ▪ Donna Bryant ▪ Kreg Buryta ▪ Michael Butler ▪ David Caldwell ▪ Linda Carter ▪ Kavin Carter* ▪ Humberto Cerrillo* ▪ John Carroll ▪ Cristy Chavez ▪ Randal Chong ▪ Bradley Clarke ▪ Roy Clark* ▪ Bill Clarno* ▪ Bruce Collison ▪ Wayne Condit ▪ Nola Conway* ▪ Harry Cunningham ▪ Shawn Cunningham ▪ Elizabeth Dailey ▪ Jacob Davis ▪ Michael Dilger ▪ Michael Doherty* ▪ Jeremy Draggoo* ▪ Jim Drake* ▪ Daniel Dunkel ▪ Theresa Duvall (Green)* ▪ Eric Engle ▪ James Engle ▪ Colleen Erickson* ▪ Timothy Ernster ▪ Michael Farrell ▪ Tony Fink* ▪ T.J. Fichera ▪ Robin Floyd* ▪ Alden Foote* ▪ Simeon Francis* ▪ Scott Gates* ▪ Onisem Gomez* ▪ Tod Goodall* ▪ Paul Graham* ▪ Mike Greco* ▪ Kraig Gross ▪ Billie Guille* ▪ Cruz Guzman-Rivera ▪ Ruthann Haider ▪ Decker Hains ▪ Rich Halverson ▪ Donna Hansens* ▪ Leslie Harmon ▪ Jeremiah Harris ▪ William Harrison ▪ Jason Hasenochrl ▪ Russ Heaton* ▪ John Heitstuman* ▪ Gregory Hernandez* ▪ David Hill ▪ Tony Hofmann ▪ Gail Hicks ▪ Michael Jaroski* ▪ Donald Johnson* ▪ Brenda Jones ▪ Mark Jones* ▪ Edward Kertis ▪ Craig Kendall ▪ Robert Killey ▪ Carolyn Kloewer ▪ Erick Knotts ▪ Carl Knaak* ▪ Jacob Kreitzer ▪ Stan Layrison* ▪ Ken LePage ▪ Joseph Lapeyre ▪ Nola Leyde* ▪ Bob Martin ▪ Terry McClure* ▪ Peter McGuckin ▪ Jeffery Mears ▪ Julie Melow* ▪ Clarence Miller ▪ Kathy Mooney ▪ Gary Moore ▪ David Morbach ▪ Dan Moyer* ▪ Chad Neidig ▪ Shawn Nelson ▪ Zachary Nelson ▪ Lauren Newsome* ▪ Doug Newton ▪ William Newton ▪ Joseph Noonan* ▪ John Oberhelman ▪ Timothy O'Connell ▪ Marcus Palmer ▪ Cory Parker ▪ Ivan Parramore ▪ Ben Perkins ▪ Donald Pincus ▪ Cliff Prejean ▪ Julie Richardson* ▪ Mike Remington ▪ Randy Reynolds* ▪ Phil Rider ▪ Lisa Rodighiero ▪ Clayton Romain* ▪ Terri Rorke ▪ Scott Ross ▪ Chris Russell* ▪ Vincent Ruzicka* ▪ Randall Ryan ▪ Alan Schlachter ▪ Samuel Schlachter* ▪ Herbert Scheuerlein ▪ Alan Schobblom ▪ Frank Scopa* ▪ Robert Scott* ▪ Jeff Sedgwick* ▪ Jack Sheldon ▪ William Shaw ▪ Jack Sheldon ▪ Scott Shelley ▪ Anthony Sijohn ▪ James Simonsen ▪ Jeffery Simpson ▪ Gary Smit ▪ Glen Smith ▪ Janet Smith ▪ Russell Smith ▪ Thomas Stan ▪ Dani Stephens* ▪ Jeffery Stidham ▪ William Stratton* ▪ Floyd Stredwick* ▪ Donna Street* ▪ Pete Summerton ▪ Steve Tatro ▪ David Thomas* ▪ Gerald Tomren* ▪ Elaine Vandiver ▪ Sam Varnado ▪ Robert Wall ▪ Dale Walters* ▪ Patrick Warren* ▪ James Weaver ▪ David Weeks ▪ Douglas Weldy ▪ Kathleen Wheeler ▪ Richard Weller ▪ David Wells* ▪ Sharon White ▪ Tracy Wickham ▪ Jeannette Wilson ▪ Jason Williams ▪ Robert Williams ▪ Lee Wolf ▪ Ralph Young ▪ Mark Wright ▪ Karen Zelch*

* served more than one tour of duty in support of Overseas Contingency Operations



Public Lands Day

Corps friends and family plant trees at Rooks Park



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

2nd in a two-part series on the Walla Walla District's environmental stewardship activities.

Volunteers joined forces with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park rangers at Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake located in Walla Walla, Wash., on Sept. 27 as they honored National Public Lands Day.

Together they helped plant trees in Rooks Park, a recreation area which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event to benefit public lands. Officially the last Saturday of September, organizers anticipate tens of thousands of Americans of all ages will participate nationwide, volunteering their time and effort to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year, 175,000 volunteers worked in more than 2,237 locations across the nation. Now, seven federal agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations and state, regional and local governments participate in the annual day of caring for public lands.

For more information about National Public Lands Day, visit their website at www.publiclandsday.org.



"Whether you join a formal public lands event or just grab a trash bag to help pick up litter as you walk the trails in a nature area or park, your efforts help preserve the beauty of public lands for everyone to enjoy. Anyone who enjoys fun in the great outdoors is encouraged to lend a helping hand to America's lands."

Chris Alford, Mill Creek Park Ranger



Mackenzie Vail proudly displays the worms she caught while helping plant trees at Rooks Park.



Top left: Lt. Col. Tim Vail, Walla Walla District Commander, takes time with his two daughters, Reagan and Pammie to volunteer at Rooks Park. Vail Family finishes planting a tree near the playground at Rooks Park. Right page: Volunteers hard at work on a labor of love.



2014 - a year of



Record Fish Returns

Department of Energy photo

Sockeye salmon are returning to the Columbia and Snake rivers in record numbers!

On Oct. 3, Lower Granite Lock and Dam on the lower Snake River recorded 2,778 adult sockeye for the 2014 annual passage, surpassing the previous record of 2,201 set in 2010. On the same day, Bonneville Lock and Dam on the lower Columbia River counted 614,179 sockeye migrating. That shatters Bonneville's previous record of 515,673 from 2012 by almost 100,000 sockeye.

This year is the largest sockeye run since 1938 when Bonneville Dam was built. The numbers are even more impressive when compared to 1990 figures when no adult sockeye returned to Lower Granite. Snake River sockeye were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1991.

Credit for the change comes from nearly 25 years of research, testing and implementing fish improvement efforts. "We're pleased to see the adult sockeye upstream returns trending upward" says LTC Tim Vail, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District. "Although fish runs are variable due to a host of factors, including ocean conditions, this year's numbers appear to confirm that our fish improvement efforts are having a positive effect."

Some of those improvements include fish ladders being installed to assist adult salmon migrating upstream in 1953-1975 when McNary,

Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams were constructed. The Corps started counting adult sockeye migrating upstream at Lower Granite in 1975 when 209 were tallied.

"The Corps and its federal, state, and Tribal partners are using the best available science to guide the implementation of fish passage improvements made at our dams," explains Anne Setter, Walla Walla District fish biologist. "As good environmental stewards, the Corps is committed to continuing to improve fish passage systems through the hydrosystem, and making structural improvements to increase overall fish survival as specified in the NOAA Fisheries' 2014 Biological Opinion."

NOAA Fisheries, is the lead federal agency for salmon recovery, works closely action agencies and regional partners on managing bird, fish, and marine mammal predators to improve fish survival..

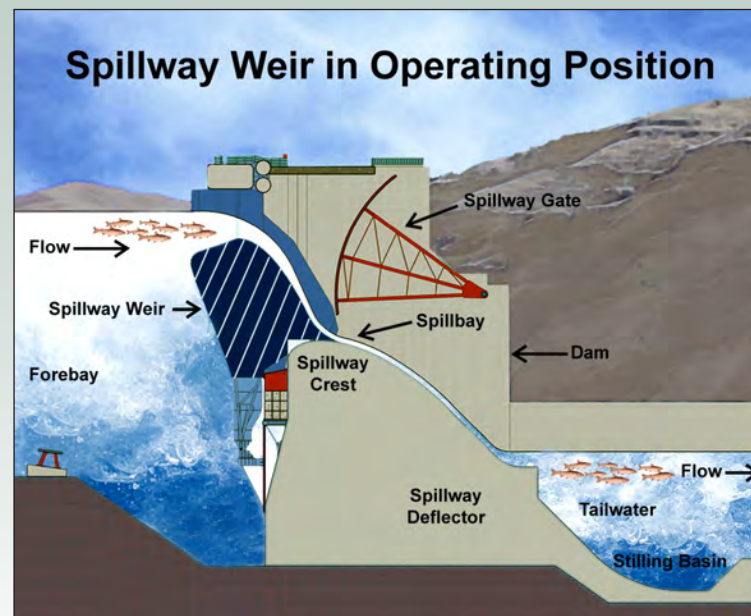
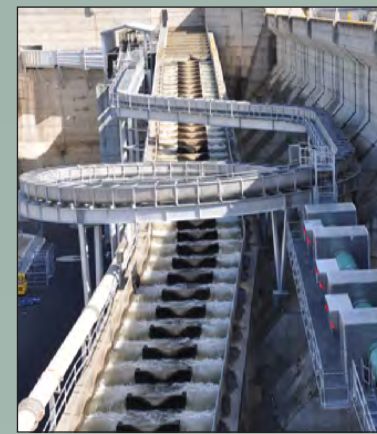
Juvenile salmon migrate downstream to the ocean; spend several years at sea, then return as adults to their upriver spawning grounds

More information about Federal salmon recovery efforts information is available at www.salmonrecovery.gov.

Columbia-Snake rivers fish counts are available at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environment/Fish/Data.aspx>.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos



From 1990 to the present, the Corps and its Federal Partners including NOAA Fisheries, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration continued improving fish passage for downstream-migrating juvenile salmon and upstream-migrating adults by:

- Installing juvenile bypass systems and constructing juvenile fish facilities at all Walla Walla District Snake and Columbia rivers dams from 1991-1996 (Lower Granite's bypass and Juvenile Fish Facilities were completed in 1975).
- Attaching spillway weirs to all five dams to assist juvenile fish migration downstream from 2001 to 2009.
- Installing spillway flow deflectors from 1998 to 2009 to reduce dissolved gasses and speed exit from the turbulent waters in the spillway stilling basin.
- Tailoring spill operations unique to each dam's configuration to optimize downstream passage of juvenile salmon.
- Using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags and other tracking technology to assist research efforts.
- Relocating and improving bypass system outflow pipes, which return juvenile fish to the river, at Lower Monumental and McNary dams in 2012.
- Transporting juvenile fish on barges that bypass eight dams (first used during Operation Fish Run in 1977, barges are still an important part of annual fish operations).
- Developing avian predation deterrence measures.

Top, left: Fish barge at Lower Granite Dam. Top, center: PIT tag that can be inserted into fish for tracking their travels. Top, right: Little Goose Dam's fish ladder. Above, left: McNary Dam outfall pipe routes fish around the dam and puts them back into the river.

Left, and above: Spillway weirs were installed at Lower Granite, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams on the lower Snake River. The spillway weir is attached to the upstream side of the dam and fitted into a spillbay, raising the spillway opening to the salmon's preferred depth. Juvenile salmon and steelhead are safely passed over a raised spillway crest, similar to a waterslide, more efficiently than with conventional spill while reducing migration delays at the dam. The first RSW was installed at Lower Granite Dam in 2001. The Corps installed an RSW at Ice Harbor Dam in 2005 and another at Lower Monumental Dam during 2008. Fish survival rates through spillway weirs is nearly 100 percent.



Photo by David Lewis

Programmatic Sediment Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement nearing completion for lower Snake River

by Bruce Henrickson

The Walla Walla District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invited public review and comments on the Lower Snake River Final Programmatic Sediment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PSMP EIS). The PSMP EIS comment period ran through Sept. 22.

The Corps is proposed to adopt a long-term, programmatic plan for managing sediment accumulation that interferes with existing authorized purposes of the Corps' lower Snake River dam and reservoir projects. Authorized project purposes include navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and flow conveyance.

The Final PSMP EIS identified and evaluated the potential environmental effects of a range of sediment management alternatives. The EIS identified Alternative 7 "Comprehensive (Full System and Sediment Management Measures)" as the preferred alternative, which provides a "toolbox" of measures for addressing problem sediment.

The Corps also proposed a current "immediate need" dredging action, consistent with the Programmatic Sediment Management Plan, to re-establish certain areas of the federal navigation channel to congressionally authorized dimensions of 14 feet deep by 250 feet

wide at minimum operating pool (MOP).

Maintenance dredging in the lower Snake River navigation channel last occurred in the winter of 2005-2006. The Corps proposed to perform the dredging during the first available winter "in-water work window," Dec. 15 to Feb. 28.

The Corps proposed to use the dredged material to create shallow-water habitat for juvenile salmon at Snake River mile 116, just upstream of Knoxway Canyon and 23 miles downstream of Clarkston.

The PSMP EIS also considered potential environmental effects for Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permits for ancillary/related berthing area maintenance dredging by the Ports of Lewiston and Clarkston, adjacent to the federal navigation channel. The Ports will fund the berthing area maintenance and all associated administrative and environmental review costs. The Corps' Regulatory Division will make a final decision on ports' permit applications.

Final PSMP EIS documents and information are available on the District website at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/ProgrammaticSedimentManagementPlan.aspx>

Best places to fish

Dworshak Reservoir on Bassmaster Magazine's list of Top 100 best bass fishing spots

Photo by Donna Bryant

by Gina Baltrusch

For the third year in a row, two water recreation locations managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District made the nationwide Bassmaster Magazine Top-100 list of best places to fish for bass, according to information released April 23 by B.A.S.S. Communications at <http://www.bassmaster.com/news/introducing-100-best-bass-lakes-2014>.

The third annual list ranking the country's best bass lakes found Dworshak Reservoir, located near Ahsahka, Idaho, on the north fork of the Clearwater River, rated as number 47 the 2014 Top-100 chart. It was ranked number 26 in 2013 and number 85 in 2012.

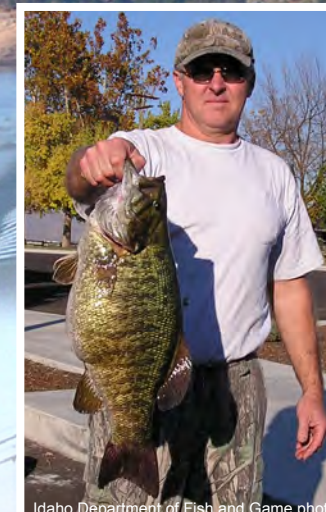
The Columbia River in Oregon and Washington jumped up to number 14 on the Bassmaster Top-100 list from number 21 last year. It was number 20 in the Bassmaster 2012 list. Much of the river's natural resources recreation opportunities are managed by the Corps' Walla Walla, Portland and Seattle districts.

"We're pleased to consistently offer some of the best bass fishing in the nation," said Paul Pence, natural resources manager for Dworshak Dam and Reservoir. "Combined with our campgrounds, marinas and boat launches, it makes for a great outdoors recreation experience."

Bass club and other outdoor recreation groups frequently choose Dworshak for group events and tournaments, according to Corps park rangers at the dam. If your group is interested in scheduling an event at Dworshak, call the visitor center at 208-476-1255 to find out how to apply for a special use permit.

"Recognition of excellent Columbia River bass fishing three years in a row is good to see," said David McDermott, natural resources

Dan Steigers of Juliaetta caught a record 9.72 pound Smallmouth Bass in Idaho's Dworshak Reservoir on Oct. 28, 2006.



Idaho Department of Fish and Game photo

manager for the Walla Walla District's McNary Lock and Dam in Umatilla, Ore. "We invite everyone to enjoy the fishing and recreation facilities here."

Recreation information for McNary is available from the McNary Natural Resources Management Office in Umatilla, Ore., at 541-922-2268; Upper Lake Wallula information upstream of McNary is available from Ice Harbor Natural Resources Management in Burbank, Wash., at 509-547-2048.

Dworshak reservoir extends 53 miles upstream of Dworshak Dam, with dozens of secluded inlets, streams, rocky points, stumps and long bars creating ideal bass-fishing conditions. The state-record smallmouth bass record, weighing in at 9.72 pounds, was caught on Dworshak Reservoir by Dan Steigers of Juliaetta, Idaho, on Oct. 28, 2006. Dworshak Dam is a large straight-axis concrete gravity dam 717 feet high and 3,287 feet long. Its construction created various marinas, boat launches and camping facilities on the reservoir.

The Columbia River runs about 1,200 miles from its headwaters in British Columbia, Canada, through Washington and Oregon to the Pacific Ocean near Astoria, Oregon. The Corps operates five dams on the Columbia River mainstem, each forming a lake and water recreation opportunities including fishing. The Walla Walla District operates McNary Lock and Dam, which created Lake Wallula stretching upstream to the Kennewick-Pasco-Richland area in Washington.

More information about Walla Walla District outdoor recreation opportunities is available at www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors.

WALLA WALLA DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS FY2014



CONTRACTING ACHIEVEMENTS

\$126,641,958 DOLLARS AWARDED - 1,187 ACTIONS - LARGEST OBLIGATION YEAR EVER FOR THE DISTRICT!



NAVIGATION ACHIEVEMENTS

SUCCESSFULLY REPAIRED THE LITTLE GOOSE GUDGEON ARM



HYDROPOWER ACHIEVEMENTS

DWORSHAK UNIT 3 EMERGENCY REPAIRS ACCOMPLISHED AS PLANNED IN MINIMAL TIME. STARTED 4-YEAR MCNARY STATION SERVICE UPGRADE; FIRST MAJOR UPGRADE OF POWERHOUSE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION. SYSTEMS AT MCNARY IN 65 YEARS ICE HARBOR MAIN UNITS 4, 5, 6 DIGITAL GOVERNORS INSTALLED.



FISH PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

2014 RECORD: 2,778 ADULT SOCKEYE SALMON CROSSED LOWER GRANITE DAM.
2014 RECORD: 5,382 ADULT AND JACK COHO SALMON CROSSED LOWER GRANITE DAM.
INSTALLED MCNARY PROTOTYPE LAMPREY-PASSAGE STRUCTURE AT FISH LADDER ENTRANCE



ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

OTHER

- ☒ WRAPPING UP CONSTRUCTION OF THE LOWER GRANITE BARGE MOORAGE FACILITY

- ☒ SUPPORTED THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

- ☒ DWORSHAK FISH HATCHERY REHAB REPORT

- ☒ LOWER GRANITE FISH LADDER/TRAP

TEMPERATURE WORK

- ☒ WORK FOR OTHERS SUCH AS THE DALLES EMERGENCY AUXILIARY WATER SUPPLY (EAWS), ALBENI FALLS, MUD MOUNTAIN, FEMA FLOOD PLAIN MAPPING

CONTRACTING NUMBERS

- ☒ WORKED ON 50 ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

- ☒ CLOSED OUT 35 CONTRACTS

- ☒ WORKED ON MORE THAN 200 ENGINEERING TECHNICAL SUPPORT (ETS) TASKS

DAM AND LEVEE SAFETY

- ☒ PERFORMED ICE HARBOR PERIODIC INSPECTION/PERIODIC ASSESSMENT
- ☒ RECLASSIFIED MILL CREEK DIVERSION DAM TO DSAC 4

- ☒ PERFORMED PERIODIC INSPECTION FOR MCNARY LEVEES

- ☒ HQUSACE DAM SAFETY OVERSIGHT GROUP PRESENTATION OF LITTLE GOOSE PERIODIC ASSESSMENT AND MILL CREEK ISSUE EVALUATION STUDY

- ☒ BEGAN MILL CREEK DAM SAFETY MODIFICATION STUDY

LEVEE SAFETY

- ☒ ACCOMPLISHED DISTRICT'S LEVEE SCREENING GOAL PLUS ROUTINE LEVEE INSPECTION PROGRAM

- ☒ MILTON-FREEWATER NURSERY STREET BRIDGE DROP STRUCTURE PL 84-99 FLOOD DAMAGE REHAB: DEVELOPED PROJECT INFORMATION REPORT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION BEFORE FLOOD SEASON

COST ENGINEERING SUPPORT

- ☒ COST CERTIFICATIONS ON ALL FY15-BUDGET CORPS PROJECTS

- ☒ PROVIDED EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT TO FELLOW DISTRICTS INCLUDING JACKSONVILLE, SACRAMENTO, SEATTLE AND OTHERS.

- ☒ NEW COST MOA WITH/IN SUPPORT OF FEMA



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

MORE THAN \$210 MILLION IN EXPENDITURES (\$10M MORE THAN LAST FY)
MORE THAN \$250 MILLION IN OBLIGATIONS (\$35M MORE THAN LAST FY)
RECORD YEAR ACCOMPLISHED WITH SAME WORKFORCE AS LAST FISCAL YEAR: 796 FTE (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS)



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Russell A. Smith



Photo by Russell A. Smith



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Russell A. Smith

Top: Darcia Darcy paints kids faces at Corps Day. LaRhonda McCauley, Mitsi Fukuhara Poloa, Jennifer Rand and Tonya French successfully coordinated Corps Day. Greg Brooks uses a bicycle pump to build pressure and launch a soda bottle rocket. **Above:** Haley Hockett and Angel Inglis have fun with the three-leg race.



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Russell A. Smith



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Stephen Doherty



Photo by Russell A. Smith

Top Left: Kids, young and old, enjoy the Corps Day waterslide. **Middle Left:** Linley Donnelly smiles and shows off her butterfly face paint. **Bottom Left:** (left to right) Kassidy Willard, Caleb Willard, Jeff Lyon, Alicia Neher, Charlene Brandon and Lynn Parsons pose for a photo after winning 1st place in the Corps Day volleyball tournament. **Top Right:** Alicia Neher serves the volleyball. **Middle Right:** District volleyball fans cheer on their favorite team. **Bottom Right:** Bouncy House fun for Corps families.

Around the District



Photo by Stephen Doherty

Above: Inland Waterways Users board gathered in Walla Walla on Aug. 14 for a meeting on navigation-related issues. Above, right: Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy



Photo by Stephen Doherty

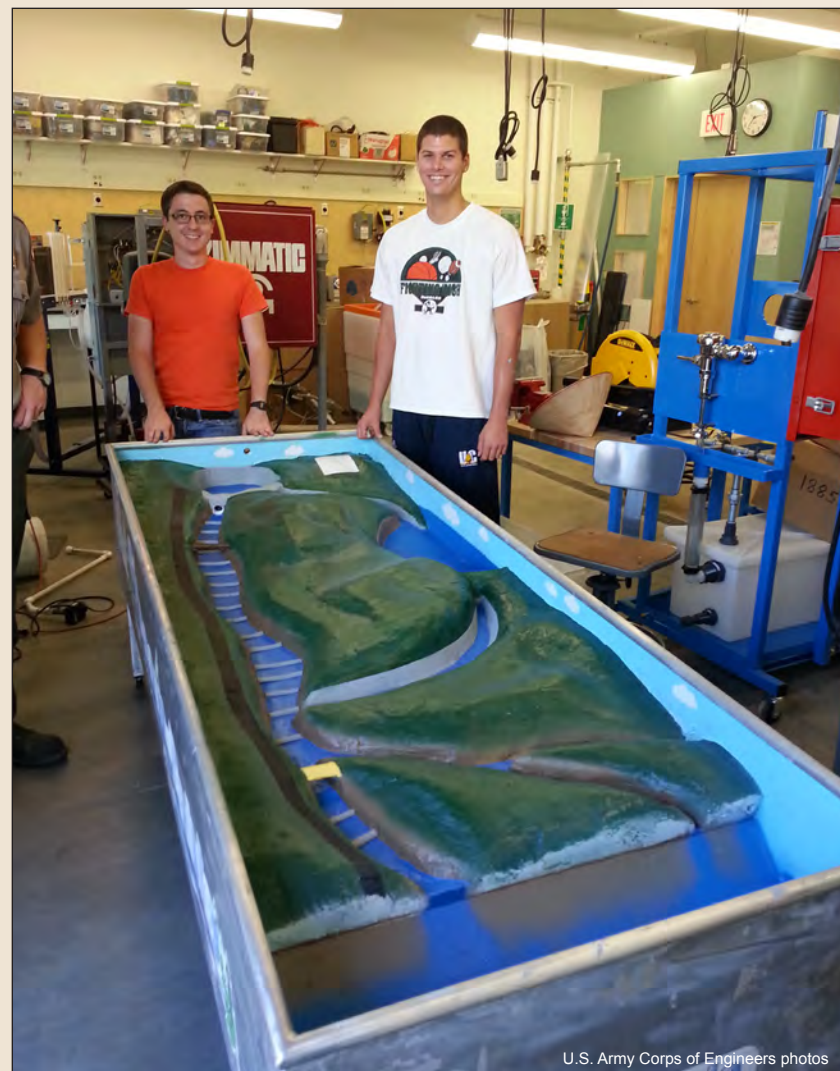
and David Ponganis, Regional Director of Programs, Northwestern Division, share a light moment at the Inland Waterways Users board meeting.



Lt. Col. Tim Vail views levee rehabilitation work on the Public Levee at the Jackson Levee project in Teton County Wyo. with county officials and the contractor.



Kelly Gardner, a Contracting Officer Representative at Dworshak Dam was honored as USACE Contracting Officer Representative (COR) of the Year, while Jake Shaw won the USACE Excellence in Contracting Leadership Award.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Right: Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) Water and Environmental Center 2014 Summer interns Evan Nally (L) and Maxwell Failing (R), with some help from the WWCC Go Green Club, turned the District's old hydropower stream table into a new stream table that shows how Mill Creek's dams work to reduce risk of flood damage to the Walla Walla Valley. Students used spray insulation foam, bondo, spray sealant, and paint to portray the landscape. They tested it to ensure that it is waterproof. Water running through it shows visitors at the Mill Creek Office how the Mill Creek System works.

Michael Jacobs
Cost Engineer of the Year



employees of the quarter



Photo by Bethanne Kubecka



Photo by Bethanne Kubecka

Third Quarter

Steven Heninger (far left)
Environmental Protection Specialist,
Ice Harbor Lock and Dam

Jeff Lyon (left)
Electrical Engineer



Photo by Russell A. Smith

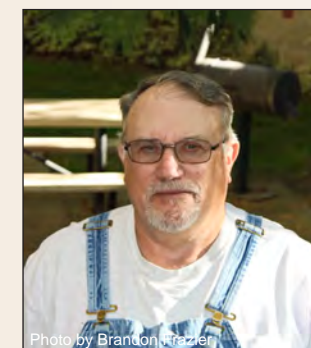


Photo by Brandon Kozier

Fourth Quarter

Martin Ahmann (far left)
Hydraulic Engineer

Steve Shular (left)
Mechanic, McNary Lock and Dam

Outstanding Achievement Awards

were presented in three categories to employees with more than 5 years of federal service who made a contribution in a career field other than engineering that resulted in material improvement in service, substantial financial or manpower savings, or in significant social or technological improvements or progress.

Marie Palmer, a contract performance specialist at Lower Granite Lock and Dam, was honored in the pay-grade 9 and under category for, most notably, developing an efficient process for guiding contracts through administrative requirements.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Sarah Reagan, an office automation assistant at Lucky Peak Dam and Lake, was honored as the New Employee of the Year. A first-year Pathways program employee, Reagan researched, learned and executed complicated federal rules, regulations, laws and policies through a steadfast common-sense approach, quickly assuming the additional responsibilities of an administrative officer, supporting 14 employees.



Photo by Ken



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Gene McDonald, a power plant mechanical planner at Lower Granite Lock and Dam, was honored in the trades-and-crafts category for coordinating numerous special projects involving hydropower and fish passage. He was also instrumental in the research and procurement of a water blaster -- a "green" alternative to sandblasting to remove paint from structures which significantly decreased waste stream and reduced the risk of a release into the environment.



Photo by Stephen Doherty

Mark Jones, an architect-engineer (A-E) contract coordinator in Engineering Division, was recognized in the pay-grade 10 and higher category. In addition to supporting a recent high volume of A-E contracts, he authored a new District quality-management process to ensure A-E contracting requirements were consistently performed, improving quality and efficiency.



Photo by Stephen Doherty

Stacy Wachob, a program analyst in Operations Division, was recognized in the pay-grade 10 and higher category for her contributions to budget process improvements

Support Employee of the Year Awards

Presented to employees with more than 5 years of federal service who provided exemplary service, exceptional devotion to duty, and significant, broad-scope contribution of to the efficient and economical operation of the District.



Photo by Stephen Doherty

Dave VanDewark, a supply technician in the Logistics Management Office, was honored in the pay-grade 9 and under category for his role in developing a more efficient annual property inventory process implemented across the District.

Annual Award Winners

Spence Reynolds, a project engineer scheduler in Construction Branch, received the Project Management Business Process award for complex scheduling coordination and overall PMBP improvements.



Jeff Lyon, an electrical engineer in the District's Electrical Design Section, received the Public Outreach & Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education program award for coordinating National Engineers Week activities within the district and at many Walla Walla-area schools. For the past several years, Lyon led fellow Corps engineers in supporting National Engineers Week school activities, getting young people interested in what can be done with a little science and imagination.



Jeremy Giovando, an hydraulic engineer in Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, received the Engineering Excellence Award. Giovando earned Engineer of the Year honors for his excellence in reservoir regulation, hydrologic studies, and engineering support to planning studies for the Walla Walla District. His most notable accomplishments include multi-agency coordination to regulate reservoirs in the region; hydrology and hydraulics modeling and analysis for the Columbia River Treaty Review, Boise River General Investigation study and Weiser River water-storage and flood-risk-management studies.



Around the District

Jeannette Wilson, a facilities and equipment manager in Operations Division, received the Quality Proponent award for her initiative and contributions to process improvements and coordination for future joint-district navigation system maintenance outage planning.



Peter Gibson, a former electrical engineer, was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees for being a leader with imagination and vision throughout his 29 years of service with the Corps. His dedication to mission excellence and mentoring staff led him to establish a centralized Power Plant Apprenticeship Program, located at McNary Lock and Dam, for the Walla Walla District's Operations Division. This program became a model for the entire Corps of Engineers, spurring other districts to establish similar training programs. Gibson began his Corps career as an electrical engineer-in-training at McNary Lock and Dam in 1979, and many job titles and locations later, retired at McNary as operations project manager in 2008. He again answered the call to service soon after retirement to represent the District as lead negotiator during union collective bargaining negotiations over several years.

LOCATION:

Water & Environment
Center

Walla Walla

Community College,

Walla Walla, WA 99362

TIME:

9:00 AM

to

4:30 PM

* Learn about
upcoming
opportunities
and how to
compete for them.

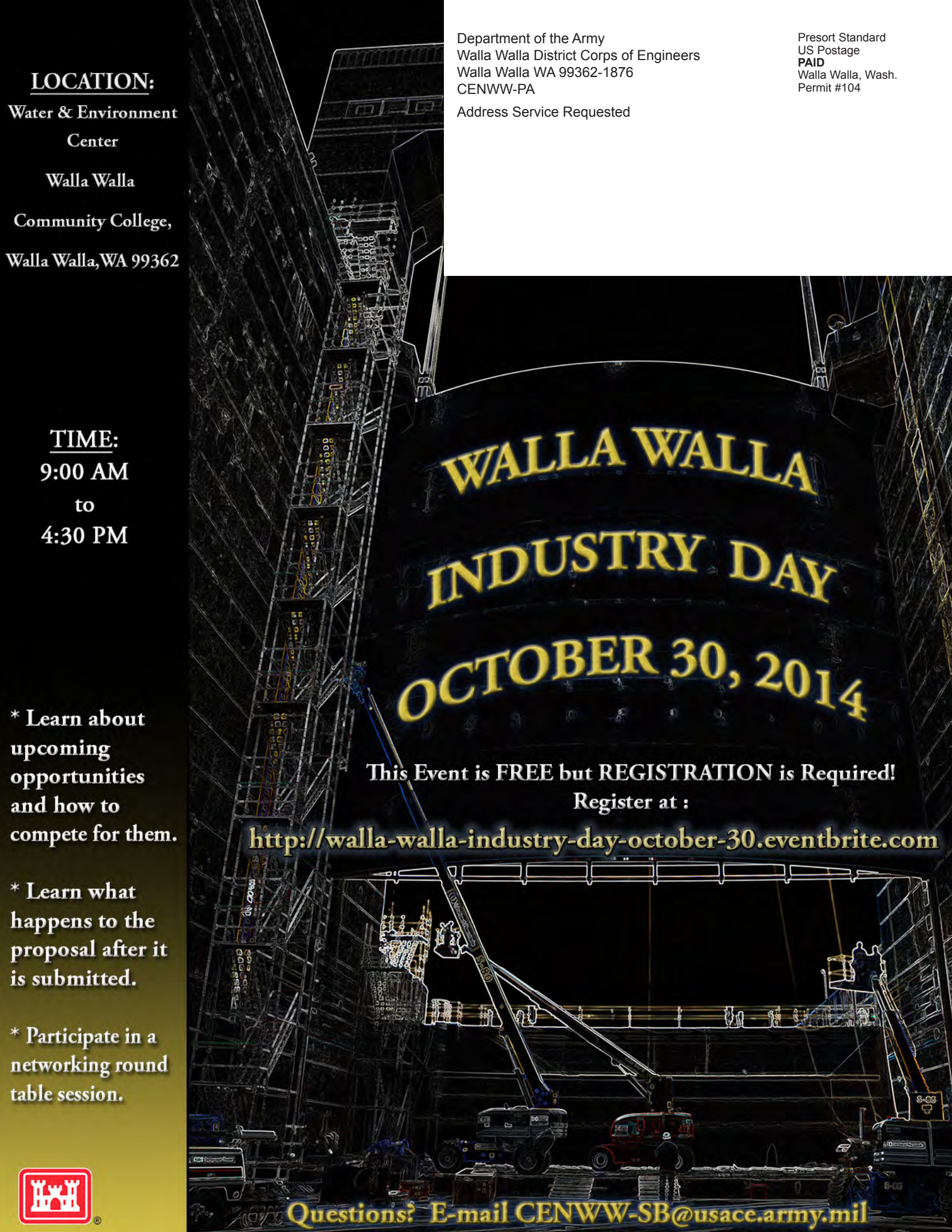
* Learn what
happens to the
proposal after it
is submitted.

* Participate in a
networking round
table session.

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**WALLA WALLA
INDUSTRY DAY
OCTOBER 30, 2014**

This Event is FREE but REGISTRATION is Required!

Register at :

<http://walla-walla-industry-day-october-30.eventbrite.com>

Questions? E-mail CENWW-SB@usace.army.mil

