

**LOWER GRANITE LOCK AND DAM MASTER PLAN – DRAFT**  
**APPENDIX A, LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF LOWER GRANITE LOCK AND DAM**



## **APPENDIX A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF LOWER GRANITE LOCK AND DAM**

### Item 1 - Legislative History

The legislative history leading to authorization of Lower Granite Lock and Dam is lengthy, dating back to 1902, when the first formal proposal for the improvement of the lower Snake River was adopted by Congress. The Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1910 and 1935 authorized channel improvement along the Snake River, providing a channel dimension of 60-foot width and 5-foot depth. A synopsis of subsequent important legislation and related actions has been prepared to afford an understanding of events leading to the construction of Lower Granite Lock and Dam.

#### a. Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945

Public Law 14, Seventy-Ninth Congress, First Session, authorized construction of four locks and dams at river miles 4, 57, 93, and 135 on the Snake River, supplemented by open-channel improvement to provide a minimum depth of 5 feet over a bottom width of 150 feet outside the pools. The authorized plan was presented in the earlier House Document 704, Seventy-Fifth Congress, Third Session, which proposed that the open-river improvement be replaced by six locks and dams, when justified.

##### (1) Washington, D.C., Public Hearings

Proponents of House Document 704 held a public hearing in Washington, D.C., in 1945, where they presented voluminous data in support of immediate slackwater navigation to Lewiston; and the economic consequences to the nation and the region which would be caused by any delay.

##### (2) Local Public Hearings

At that time, local interests in general wanted the adoption of a comprehensive plan in the interest of navigation for the coordinated development of the Columbia and Snake Rivers, through a series of locks and dams from The Dalles, Oregon, to Lewiston, Idaho.

##### (3) Fishing Interests

The fishery interests, in general, did not oppose the adoption of a comprehensive plan of improvement, but desired that further developments on the Columbia and Snake Rivers be held in abeyance until the effect on the fishing industry of Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams was determined.

#### b. House Document 531

At the request of Congress, the Corps of Engineers undertook a complete review of the original reports on the Columbia River and tributaries. Studies for that review were carried on during

the last half of the 1940's, and resulted in House Document No. 531, Eighty-First Congress, Second Session, dated 20 March 1950. That report, which is the basis for much of the water resource development that has taken place in the Columbia River Basin during the past two decades, considered four lower Snake River dams at River Miles 9.7, 44.7, 72.2, and 113.1; and they became a part of the overall plan of development. In House Document 531, Lower Granite, at River Mile 113.1, had a reservoir elevation of 715.

c. House Document 403

In 1955, Congress requested a view of House Document 531. That review was completed in 1958, adopted by Congress, and ordered to be printed as House Document 403 in May 1962. That review report again summarized the four lower Snake River dams, and proposed that the Lower Granite reservoir be raised from Elevation 715 to 735. Little Goose Design Memorandum No. 1, Site Selection and Pool Determination, was published 13 February 1961; and moved the Lower Granite Dam location downstream from river mile 113.1 to river mile 107.5.

d. Public Works Appropriation Act of 1962

This law appropriated funds for the initiation of detailed planning of Lower Granite, based on the project described in House Document 403. This detailed planning led to the publication of Lower Granite Design Memorandum No. 2, Upper Pool Determination, dated 12 April 1963, which increased the reservoir level from elevation 735 to 738.

e. Public Law 89-16, Dated 30 April 1965

This legislation appropriated funds for the start of construction of a project at the head of the Little Goose pool, approximately 107.5 miles upstream from the mouth of the Snake River, with a reservoir at elevation 738.