



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

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News Release No. 03-16

Date: June 17, 2003

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## Corps preparing supplemental EIS to regional dredging plan

**Walla Walla, Wash.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that it intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the dredging plan issued in July 2002, according to an agency official.

The July 2002 Final Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) EIS issued by the Corps' Walla Walla District on the 20-year program addressed the programmatic approach the Corps planned to use to maintain the navigation channel within the Walla Walla District in the McNary Reservoir on the Columbia River and lower Snake River Reservoirs, said Jack Sands, DMMP Project Manager.

"This supplement will reorganize and clarify information already included in the DMMP/EIS, expand the discussions and evaluations of measures considered in the DMMP/EIS, incorporate new information and data collected subsequent to the issuance of the DMMP/EIS, and modify alternatives, as needed, including the preferred alternative," Sands said.

Another federal agency is participating in this process. The Region 10 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which was a cooperating agency for the original DMMP/EIS, will also be a cooperating agency for this supplemental effort.

"The SEIS will address measures, alternatives, and impacts on a programmatic level, but will not address site-specific actions. However, the SEIS will present the coordination and environmental review steps the Corps will take after its completion with regard to site-specific actions which could follow. The SEIS will also continue to include input from a local, interagency sediment management group formed under the Northwest Regional Dredging Team. After public

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review of the final SEIS, the Corps intends to sign a new Record of Decision for the programmatic plan," Sands said.

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## **DMMP SEIS/2-2-2**

The Corps wants input on the scope of this SEIS but does not plan to conduct public scoping meetings for the DMMP-SEIS. However, the Corps has invited federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested organizations and parties to provide input by July 7, 2003.

The Walla Walla District also intends to prepare a Supplemental Analyses and Information Report (SAIR) to the July 2002 final DMMP/EIS. The SAIR will help the Corps determine whether it is appropriate to conduct maintenance dredging next winter. The EPA is assisting in this effort as well, according to Sands.

"The SAIR will include a Biological Assessment and any other documentation and analysis related to dredging proposed for winter 2003-2004. The areas proposed for dredging in 2003-2004 are the same as the areas proposed for dredging in 2002-2003 and are described in the July 2002 DMMP/EIS," Sands said. "We'll distribute the SAIR for a 30-day public review this summer and will be able to provide interested parties with a copy either on paper, CD or through our web site." That web address is: [www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp/sair/default.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp/sair/default.htm) .

For more information about the DMMP SEIS or SAIR, contact: Jack Sands, Project Manager, Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, CENWW-PM-PPM, 201 North Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362, (509) 527-7287.

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