



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 04-06

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Corps locks to close for maintenance March 6-20

Walla Walla, Wash. – Starting Saturday, the only traffic going up and down the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers will be fish.

River traffic will stop from 6:30 a.m., March 6, until midnight, March 20, so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors can perform annual inspections, repairs and maintenance on the navigation locks at the eight dams between Portland, Ore., and Lewiston, Idaho.

In the Walla Walla District, this inland navigation outage will affect McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River, and Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite locks and dams on the Lower Snake River. Portland District's Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day locks and dams on the Columbia River will also close their navigation locks to conduct annual maintenance during the same period.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinates the annual outage with inland shippers and cruise lines.

In addition to the two-week outage, longer closures are planned for two of the navigation locks.

At Lower Monumental, repairs will keep the lock closed until midnight, March 27. Scheduled work includes wire rope and bearing replacement and possible tainter valve work after standard maintenance is complete. John Day Lock and Dam will be closed until 6:30 a.m., April 3, for completion of concrete repair work begun in 2003. The additional two weeks are required to allow sufficient curing time for grout the contractor will use for the repair.

Locks are normally dewatered for a complete inspection every five years. Full dewatering of the navigation lock is scheduled for Bonneville, John Day and McNary. Dewatering permits the Corps to perform a more extensive inspection of the lock chamber.

For more information on the lock outages at McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite, contact the Walla Walla District Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020, and for the lock outages at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day, contact the Portland District Public Affairs Office at (503) 808-4510.

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