



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

News Release

News Release No. 04-17

Date: June 25, 2004

Contact:
Dworshak Visitor Center

Phone: (208) 476-1260

Dworshak to increase flows June 29 – July 1 during spillway gate test

Orofino, Idaho, -- Power plant operators at Dworshak Dam announced today that they will increase flows from the reservoir periodically June 29 – July 1 to perform spillway gate structural testing.

Fishing and water recreation enthusiasts on the North Fork of the Clearwater River should be careful during the test period. The test cycles performed on each spillway gate will cause water levels to rapidly rise and fall, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official here.

"During the testing, water levels near the powerhouse will fluctuate by about 1 foot during each test cycle. This activity could pose a potential hazard to people who may be wading or have a boat anchored in the Fork while we're testing the gates," said David Tucker, a powerhouse engineer at Dworshak. "Water levels further downstream near the Ahsahka boat ramp and Dworshak National Fish Hatchery may see water level fluctuations of a few inches. Any fluctuations in the main stream of the Clearwater will be minimal, and most likely not even noticeable."

Estimates on additional flow into the North Fork of the Clearwater during testing are about 5000 cubic feet per second when a gate is 3 feet above seal. Since water will also be flowing through one or more hydroelectric generators, the total expected discharge during testing is unknown. This is because of the inability to predict what requirements will be in effect and take precedence with respect to power generation and recreational needs.

By Friday morning, the Clearwater River and its north fork below the dam will be back to current flow rates and elevation levels. The Corps is continuing its efforts to provide power to meet regional demands for electricity.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876
Phone (509) 527-7020 (forwards to on-call representative after hours) FAX (509) 527-7824
Web site: www.nww.usace.army.mil E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil