



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

Media Advisory

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Corps offers media opportunity to see innovative juvenile fish structure under construction at Vancouver, Wash.

Walla Walla, Wash., – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer the media the opportunity to see a spillway weir, an innovative juvenile fish by pass structure, under construction at Thompson Metal Fabrication, 3000 SE Hidden Way, in Vancouver, Wash., Nov. 16.

There will also be an opportunity to hear from federal executives on salmon recovery efforts in the region. Brig. Gen. William Grisoli, Northwestern Division commander; Steve Wright, Bonneville Power Administrator, and Bob Lohn, NOAA Fisheries, will be available to talk about the structure and its potential benefits to regional fisheries efforts.

The spillway weir weighs more than 1.7 million pounds, and is 105 feet tall and 70 feet wide. Currently, at the Corps' lower Columbia and Snake river dams, juvenile fish have to dive to depths of 50 to 60 feet to find the passage routes. Federal engineers and biologists for the past several years have been pursuing new technologies that would provide more surface-oriented, less stressful, passage routes for juvenile fish.

A prototype spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001. The weir allows juvenile salmon and steelhead to pass the dam near the water surface, providing a more efficient and less stressful dam passage route. The weir, currently being constructed, will be installed at Ice Harbor Dam on the lower Snake River near Pasco, Wash. It will be moved up river in 2005 and tested in the spring and summer.

The media tour begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Media representatives desiring to attend are asked to call and confirm their participation so adequate supplies of safety gear can be made available. As this is a construction site, sturdy shoes are required. More information on the spillway weir is available at www.nww.usace.army.mil/spillway_weir/default.html.

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NOTE: PLEASE CALL AND CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION

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