



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps opens Lower Granite Dam crossing as test; times and types of vehicles allowed will be limited; photo ID required

Walla Walla, Wash. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will open Lower Granite Lock and Dam to public traffic on a limited basis, as part of a six month test starting Dec. 8.

According to Marty Mendiola, project manager, this is the first time the dam on the lower Snake has been open to public crossings since the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor will remain closed.

Lower Granite Lock and Dam will be open for crossing 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on holidays. Passenger cars, motorcycles, open trucks, recreation vehicles, small vans and farm equipment, with the exception of fuel trucks, will be allowed to cross. Large, commercial vehicles, trucks, vehicles hauling flammable or explosive cargo and vehicles that cannot be easily searched will not be allowed to cross the dam.

All vehicles crossing the dam are subject to a search. Photo identification is required for all vehicle occupants, 16 years of age and older. All firearms must be declared at the gate and be unloaded.

Foreign nationals with proper identification may cross the dam.

“The security guards are authorized to perform detailed vehicle searches and to deny vehicle access across the dam,” said Mendiola.

“It is important to note that there will still be closures. The district may at any time close access to traffic for extended periods of time due to operations, maintenance or construction-related activities at the project,” said Mendiola. “A change in security conditions could also terminate public access across the dam until such time as that the threat levels decrease,” he said. Mendiola emphasized that the public will be notified about closures, if possible, in advance, but the crossing is still subject to closing at anytime.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020.

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