



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps asks public to call before working on Corps land

Walla Walla, Wash. -- People are drawn to rivers, whether they live next to one, go there for recreation or work beside them. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource managers in Southeastern Washington state would like to remind residents that most of the shorelines and habitat areas on the lower Snake and the McNary pool are U.S. government property.

“Recent incidents of trespassing, destruction of government property and encroachments point out that people need to be aware of these issues in shoreline and habitat areas,” said Mike Swenson, Assistant Natural Resource Manager at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. “The consequences of unauthorized use of Government land can be serious and expensive. Not only will offenders be held responsible for damage to project resources; they may also be subject to other civil and criminal penalties,” said Swenson.

“Many local residential homes and farms border project lands and habitat areas in Southeastern Washington on the Columbia and Snake rivers. And even though some of the land is leased by local entities, the owner is still the U.S. Government and federal regulations are in effect,” said Swenson.

“The public should contact the Corps before doing anything on Corps property. Not only do we require permits, but NOAA Fisheries, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others may require permits too. Some reasons include cultural resource concerns, endangered species, erosion control, and shoreline land use allocation,” Swenson said.

Rules and regulation for property owners adjacent to Corps of Engineers shoreline property include:

- No clearing or pruning of trees or brush, shoreline must remain in its natural state.
- Private boat launches, ramps, rails or tracks are not allowed.
- In established limited development shoreline areas, some amenities such as docks, stairways, steps or footbridges may be allowed; and areas near private property may be mowed and watered with an above ground sprinkler system to form a fire break. A permit from the Corps of Engineers is required, however, there is currently a moratorium on the consideration of new permits pending an update to the McNary Lakeshore Management Plan.
- Docks with pilings are not allowed.
- Removal of dead and downed wood is allowed with a permit.
- The public cannot alter, modify, destroy, or otherwise manipulate government property without prior written approval from the Corps.

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Corps property/2-2-2

The lakeshore management plan establishes policy and furnishes guidelines for the protection and preservation of the desirable environmental characteristics of the Lake Wallula shoreline. It is intended to manage and protect the shoreline, to preserve its aesthetic quality and natural environmental conditions, and to promote the safe and healthful use of the shoreline for recreational purposes. The plan also considers means of restoring the shoreline where degradation has occurred because of private use.

“Any issues that are not covered under the McNary Lakeshore Management Plan are referred to the Walla Walla District Real Estate Division. Also, wood cutting permits are required to remove any dead wood to be used for personal use. Permits to remove wood for commercial use are not allowed,” said Swenson

This plan is applicable to all McNary project lands held in fee simple title by the Corps, no matter how far from the line of ordinary high water.

For more information, contact Lanell Adams, Natural Resource Manager, at (509) 543-6060, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.