



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

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## **Dworshak visitors, river users reminded water conditions can change at any time; safety is a primary concern**

**Orofino, Idaho** -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir would like to remind visitors and river users that water conditions can change at any time.

“Safety is a primary concern of the Corps and our visitors need to be aware of changing water levels on the reservoir and on the Clearwater River,” said Paul Pence, Natural Resource Manager at Dworshak Dam.

Minimum flow at Dworshak Dam is currently 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). According to the Corps’ Reservoir Control Center at Portland, Ore., the releases from Dworshak have been about 1,600 cfs since Sept. 20 to refill the reservoir after the summer drawdown.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a hydrological analysis and determined Dworshak has flexibility to release a small volume of water (5,000 cfs above minimum flow for 10 days) to generate for power and maintain a high likelihood of refilling to the March 31 flood control elevation.

According to a hydraulic engineer at the Corps’ Reservoir Control Center, this analysis will be updated throughout the winter as soil and snow conditions change.

“In coordination with the Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration used some of this water in anticipation of forecasted cold weather. Outflows were increased to 10,000 cfs on Monday, January 10. Flows were increased starting at 3 a.m. that day to try to reduce impacts to anglers. Flows were gradually increased from 1,600 cfs to 10,000 cfs over a period of four hours. Flows were reduced to 1,600 cfs Monday night and remained at that level Tuesday and Wednesday, January 11 - 12, as previously forecasted cold temperatures were moderating,” said Cathy Hlebechuk, a hydraulic engineer at the Corps’ Reservoir Control Center.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) markets power generated at Federal dams in the Northwest. BPA may request the Corps increase flows from Dworshak on Thursday and Friday, January 13 and 14 in anticipation of cold temperatures. Flow may fluctuate daily between 1,600 cfs and 10,000 cfs. Outflow from Dworshak for this weekend and beyond will be determined at a later date based on forecasted temperatures. Water conditions can change at any time as flows are based on the most current temperature forecasts which can change rapidly.

To get the most up to date flow information, call the Dworshak Visitor Information Line 1-800-321-3198.

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