



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

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

Media Advisory

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Ten-story fish slide to pass Bonneville lock this Friday

Walla Walla, Wash., – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer the media the opportunity to see a 10-story, 850 ton spillway weir, an innovative juvenile fish bypass structure, as it passes Bonneville Dam on Feb. 18. Another media opportunity is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 22 at Ice Harbor Dam where the weir will be installed.

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. Tests have shown that the weir increases salmon and steelhead survival while freeing up more water for other uses, such as power generation. The weir on its way up the Columbia River on Friday, will be installed at Ice Harbor Dam on the lower Snake River near Pasco, Wash.

The media opportunity is expected to be on Feb. 18 at Bonneville Dam. The time is subject to change. Checking for interest, media representatives desiring to attend are being asked to call and confirm their interest so they can be kept posted on the expected arrival time of the spillway weir at Bonneville Dam. 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 INTEREST

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