



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps looking for Lucky Peak Dam builders, stories and memorabilia; 50th Anniversary celebration slated for June 23

Boise, Idaho – Nearly 50 years ago, Idaho citizens gathered to celebrate the dedication of Lucky Peak Dam, eight miles upstream from Boise. Lucky Peak, a “rolled earth-filled dam”, 340 feet high and 1700 feet long at the crest, was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Boise River to provide flood control, water for irrigation and recreation.

Prior to the construction of Lucky Peak, the lower Boise River was subject to flooding. Numerous floods of significant size, exceeding three to five times the capacity of the river channel, occurred during high water years. Local residents know the stories or remember the devastating flood of 1943.

Construction of Lucky Peak Dam began in November 1949 and five years later the dam became operational and the lake was filled. A dedication was held on June 23, 1955.

Facilities at Lucky Peak include: the Dam, the Lake, drive-to and boat-in public recreational areas and over 4,000 acres of Federally-owned lands managed by the Corps for flood control, fish and wildlife management. Partnerships with other federal and state agencies assist the Corps in managing the public lands at Lucky Peak for the approximate one-million visitors annually.

The U.S. Forest Service operates Lucky Peak Nursery – one of seven regional forest service nurseries in the nation. Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps work closely to coordinate water storage between the Bureau’s Arrowrock and Andersen Ranch Dams upstream of Lucky Peak and downstream of Diversion Dam. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation leases and manages Spring Shores Marina and Lucky Peak State Park (Sandy Point), the most visited state park in Idaho. Idaho Department of Fish and Game’s Boise River Wildlife Management Area lies within these boundaries and is home to the largest mule deer winter range in the state.

On the morning of June 23, an anniversary celebration will be held at Discovery State Park (entrance to Lucky Peak) to commemorate Lucky Peak’s 50 years of service to the Boise Valley.

The Corps is looking for volunteers to assist with the 50th celebration, memorabilia, photos and stories of the construction of Lucky Peak Dam. Suggestions or items for a time capsule that will be placed at the Corps’ Office at Lucky Peak are also being solicited.

For more information, contact Park Manager Joyce Dunning at (208) 343-0671.

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