



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Lyons Ferry Park to operate with minimum services this summer

Walla Walla, Wash., – Managers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that Lyons Ferry Park will operate with minimum services this summer.

The reduced services became necessary after the lessee relinquished its lease earlier this year.

With the recreation season starting, Corps officials are determined to make sure the day use and boat ramp facilities are open to the public, but with only minimum services such as trash removal. Chemical portable toilets will be available, but the permanent restrooms will be closed. There also will be no dump station or drinking water. Visitors are encouraged to use the pack-it-in/pack-it-out bags provided at the boat ramps to eliminate the need for litter pick up.

Operations at Lyons Ferry Park have been an ongoing issue between state, federal, local and private interests since 2002 when the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission notified the Corps of their intent to relinquish park and recreation leases at Chief Timothy Park, Central Ferry Park and Lyons Ferry Park.

An analysis of the three parks was undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, in 2002 and efforts were made to interest other federal, state and local entities to take over management of the parks. When no interest was identified, the Corps pursued solicitation of a private operator.

In 2003, commercial concession leases were negotiated with Northwest Land Management for operation and maintenance of all three parks. Northwest Land Management continues to operate and manage Chief Timothy Park and Central Ferry Park for the public's recreational enjoyment.

Meanwhile, Corps officials will pursue options for full-scale operations at Lyons Ferry Park, said Eric W. Edwardson, Natural Resource Manager.

“Although Corps policy is to close an area when a lease has been relinquished, we will conduct an impact and market analysis to establish the viability of operating Lyons Ferry Park,” he said. “Based on those results, we will solicit requests of interest from other federal, state and local agencies, or from private parties, if necessary.”

Until a permanent solution is found, the campground at Lyons Ferry Park will remain closed. There are, however, other camping opportunities in the area that offer these services. Some of their locations are listed online at www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors.

Questions regarding Lyons Ferry Park can be addressed to Eric W. Edwardson at (509) 751-0251. For information regarding park leases, contact Jana Brinlee at the Corps' Walla Walla District Real Estate Office at (509) 527-7328.

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