



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 05-41

Date: July 14, 2005

Contact: Public Affairs

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps signs record of decision on navigation channel maintenance

PORTLAND, Ore. – On July 13th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers moved to improve navigation conditions in the lower Snake River by signing a Record of Decision.

The Record of Decision, signed by Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, Northwestern Division commander, explains the Corps' intent to perform maintenance dredging in the federal navigation channel, the methods and locations to be dredged, and the methods and locations of dredged material disposal.

The Corps plans to dredge areas on the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers that have an immediate need within the federal navigation channel and berthing areas at certain public port facilities. This channel maintenance would facilitate navigation and commodity movement, and increase public safety by providing a 14-foot depth within the areas identified. At some locations in the federal navigation channel, sediment deposition has reduced available water depths to as little as 8.5-10.6 feet, compared to an authorized channel depth of 14 feet. The Corps intends to perform the channel maintenance during the in-water work window of Dec. 15, 2005 – Feb. 28, 2006, to minimize impacts to listed salmon stocks.

A wide range of alternatives were considered and included actions that would change reservoir levels or remove sediments using mechanical methods.

The Record of Decision and the Final Lower Snake River Navigation Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement can be found on the Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/channel_maint/one-year/default.htm.

For more information regarding the final environmental impact statement, contact Jack Sands at (509) 527-7287 at the Walla Walla District Headquarters.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil