



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**®  
Walla Walla District

# News Release

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## **Corps awards \$1.8M spillway weir contract; prototype structure to improve juvenile fish passage at McNary Dam**

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$1.8 million contract to a Spokane, Wash., company to build a new prototype surface-bypass structure to develop valuable information for improving passage conditions for out-migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River, officials at the Walla Walla District headquarters announced today.

Tri-State Metal Fab Inc. was awarded a contract to build the spillway weir to be installed at McNary Lock and Dam. The weir is slated for completion in March 2007, with biological testing planned for spring and summer 2007.

“The prototype weir will allow flexibility in testing to help determine the best location and flow to attract juvenile fish to the bypass entrance,” said Ken Hansen, hydraulic engineer for the project. “The information we gather in testing the weir will help us make informed decisions as we design permanent surface bypass systems for McNary”.

**WHAT IT IS** – The new weir is different from past weirs the Corps has built – this one is called a Temporary Spillway Weir. The TSW is a part of a two-year prototype testing program for acquiring information prior to installation of a more permanent system. It is about 35-feet high and 50-feet wide. The massive, steel structure weighs about 250-thousand pounds. It can be fitted into any one of McNary’s 22 spillbays. The temporary structure has a low relative cost, is easier to implement and allows for flexible biological testing.

**HOW IT WORKS** - The TSW is a surface bypass structure fitted into a spillway bay to create surface spill. The crest is shaped to create an overflow trajectory that contacts the spillway at a relatively shallow angle.

**HOW IT HELPS** – Juvenile salmon and steelhead using a surface bypass route pass the dam near the water’s surface under lower accelerations and lower pressures, providing a more efficient and less stressful route while reducing migration delays at the dam. The TSW will allow for biological testing to determine the best lateral location, number of entrances required, configuration and attraction flow required for a permanent surface bypass installation.

For more information about the spillway weir and other programs to benefit anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin, check out the “Fish Programs” links on the Walla Walla District’s homepage [www.nww.usace.army.mil/](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/).

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