



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Lower Granite Dam dive operations to cause vehicle-crossing delays

POMEROY, Wash. – Vehicular traffic attempting to cross Lower Granite Lock and Dam on the lower Snake River may experience delays tomorrow and possibly Friday while fish research equipment is installed at the dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations officials announced today.

The delays could last up to two hours as divers perform underwater installation work which requires the use of a 50-ton crane to lower hydroacoustic equipment.

“To provide safe working conditions for the divers, traffic must be delayed at times,” said Dick Hammer, chief of operations at Lower Granite Dam. “Periodically, the divers will come up and the crane will be relocated. During those times, we’ll allow traffic to cross.”

The equipment being installed will facilitate research slated to occur during the 2006 out-migration of juvenile salmonids.

Dam officials anticipate crane operations will be complete by 5 p.m. on Friday. Once crane operations cease, the dam will allow traffic crossings Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for federal holidays. Passenger cars, motorcycles, open trucks, recreation vehicles, small vans and farm equipment, with the exception of fuel trucks, will be allowed to cross. Pedestrians and bicyclists will not be allowed to cross because of safety considerations.

Large, commercial vehicles, trucks, vehicles hauling flammable or explosive cargo and vehicles that cannot be easily searched will not be allowed to cross the dam. Tour and school busses must contact the dam at (509) 843-1493 at least 24 hours in advance for crossing authorization.

All vehicles crossing the dam are subject to a search. Photo identification is required for all vehicle occupants 16 years of age and older. All firearms must be unloaded and declared at the gate.

Foreign nationals with proper identification may cross the dam. Security guards are authorized to perform detailed vehicle searches and deny vehicle access across the dam.

Hammer emphasized the public will be notified about closures in advance, if possible, but the crossing is still subject to closing at anytime.

For more information on vehicular crossings at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams, call 1-888-DAM-INFO (1-888-326-4636), or call the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020. For more information about the District’s anadromous fish research, check out www.nww.usace.army.mil/planning/ep/fishres/newmain.html.

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