



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Corps awards \$15M spillway weir contract; structure to improve juvenile fish passage at Lower Monumental Dam

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$15 million contract to an Oregon City, Ore., company to build a surface-bypass structure to improve passage conditions for out-migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead in the lower Snake River, officials at the Walla Walla District headquarters announced today.

Advanced American Construction Inc. was selected from among two companies submitting proposals to build the district's third removable spillway weir (RSW). The new weir, slated for operation in 2007, will be installed at Lower Monumental Dam near Kahlotus, Wash.

A prototype spillway weir was first installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001. A second weir was installed at Ice Harbor Dam in 2005. Testing at Lower Granite and Ice Harbor noted an average of 98-percent survival for fish passing the dams via the weirs.

WHAT IT IS – The RSW is a floating, surface bypass structure. It is about 120-feet high, 80-feet wide and 70-feet deep in the installed position. The massive, coated-steel structure weighs about 2-million pounds. The main element of the RSW is the sloped-weir fish slide, which passes surface water for juvenile fish traveling from the forebay (upstream side) of the dam to the tailrace (downstream side) of the dam.

HOW IT HELPS FISH PASSAGE – The design of a spillway weir is different from existing spillways which open their gates 50 feet below the water surface at the face of the dam and pass juvenile fish under high pressure and high velocities. The RSW passes juvenile salmon and steelhead over a raised spillway crest, similar to a waterslide. Juvenile salmon and steelhead 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 'REMOVABLE' FACTOR – The RSW is designed to be "removable" by controlled descent to the bottom of the dam forebay. The structure is hinged to allow rotation to the river bottom for removal. This capability permits returning the spillway to original flow capacity during major flood events.

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 <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/>.

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