



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps of Engineers supports Idaho flood-fight planners

Walla Walla, Wash. – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sent an emergency management coordinator to Gooding, Idaho, to help emergency planners in Lincoln and Gooding counties prepare for possible flood-fighting efforts on the Big Wood and Little Wood rivers there, officials at the district headquarters in Walla Walla, Wash announced today.

"We received one request from the State of Idaho for assistance in Gooding, and we've stockpiled 25,000 sandbags at Lucky Peak Dam and have 50,000 more in storage at McNary Dam," said Jeff Stidham, a District emergency operations specialist. "We're watching rivers and streams throughout the District and staying in touch with local emergency officials so, if requested to, we can plan, prepare or act."

Record snow packs combined with recent precipitation have resulted in high flows and minor flooding along rivers throughout southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. With the average snow pack remaining well above average across the District, Corps officials advise the current flows could continue for several weeks, depending on weather patterns.

When there is an imminent threat of flooding or when flooding has already occurred, the Corps of Engineers has authority to provide state or local governments with technical assistance, supplies and materials, equipment, or contracts for emergency construction work.

Individuals needing flood fight assistance should contact their local emergency management officials. State and local agencies needing assistance from the Corps should contact the Walla Walla District Emergency Management Office at (509) 527-7146.

District officials examining the situation around the region report that rivers and streams are generally still rising, though some are leveling off and a few have begun to drop in places. These conditions can change rapidly, however, water managers caution. Corps members are checking information from gauges to get information which augments that provided by the National Weather Service. Forecasts for additional precipitation in the next several days in some areas could keep flow levels high for some time after the rains end.

Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander, said the organization will continue to carefully watch the evolving situation and respond, when requested, with whatever assistance is authorized, appropriate and available.

District emergency managers recommend that people living in low-lying or flood-prone areas stayed tuned to information and advisories provided by the National Weather Service or their local emergency service agencies.

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