



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps holding public meeting on Mill Creek recreational activities

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The public is invited to attend a meeting on recreational activities around the Mill Creek project and Bennington Lake.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District will host the meeting on April 26, from 7 – 8:30 pm in the Harvest Room at the District headquarters building located at 201 N. Third Ave., in downtown Walla Walla.

According to Mike Swenson, acting operations manager at the Mill Creek project, the meeting's purpose is to solicit public participation in discussing hunting and other recreational activities and their compatibilities within the 612-acre facility.

Swenson said, "Increased recreational use throughout the years has led to user conflicts, especially during hunting season. The Corps wants to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for all, so we're hosting this meeting to give the public an opportunity to help us craft responsible and appropriate use policies."

The public meeting will include a brief overview followed by a questions-and-answers and an issue-identification session.

"The issues session will provide attendees an opportunity to identify and prioritize concerns for consideration in how we will manage the area," Swenson said.

Mill Creek is a water resource development project completed in 1942 after a history of damaging floods in the Walla Walla Valley. The project consists of two main units: the Mill Creek Channel and Bennington Lake; and the off-channel reservoir and associated federal lands. Mill Creek provides flood damage reduction, outdoor recreation and natural resource stewardship. It is the largest tract of public land and the only public lake within the Walla Walla Valley. Throughout the spring, the lake swells to 52 surface acres and is stocked with rainbow trout to enhance fishing.

Visitors seeking year-round recreation enjoy boating, fishing and swimming at the lake, as well as hunting, picnicking, bicycling, jogging, rollerblading, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and wildlife viewing. The Mill Creek project contains over 20 miles of recreational trails including the day-use facilities at Rooks Park.

For information regarding this meeting, contact Mike Swenson at (509) 527-7160.

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