



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Vandals strike Corps facilities in Clarkston

CLARKSTON, Wash. – Several recent acts of vandalism at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ facilities in Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho, have prompted park rangers and local law enforcement to step-up patrols at Walla Walla District recreation areas.

The most recent occurrence involved the destruction of a boat dock at the Clearwater Landing Interpretive Center on the Lewiston Levee on Tuesday, June 13. Vandals started a fire on the polymer-based-material dock which spread and melted most of the structure. District park rangers estimate repairs will cost about \$13,000.

Law enforcement officials from the Nez Perce County Sheriff’s Office and the Lewiston Police Department responded to rangers’ reporting of the incident. An investigation is being conducted. Anyone having any information about the incident is encouraged to contact Sgt. Doug McPherson of the Nez Perce County Sheriffs Department at (208) 799-3131.

During the past two weeks, the District’s Clarkston Natural Resources Management Office noted additional vandalism at other Corps recreation facilities, adding an estimated \$3,000 of damage: two toilets were destroyed – one at Chestnut Beach and another at Granite Point, and a several signs were damaged by gunfire along the Northshore Road.

“The damage from just this short spate of vandalism totals about \$16,000,” said Craig Rockwell, assistant natural resource manager at the Clarkston Natural Resource Office. “Our funding comes from taxpayers, and we try to be frugal and efficient with those funds. Vandals cause additional, unexpected expenses that ultimately affect the public, both from the taxpayer perspective and as recreation facility users.”

The dock will be closed until funding becomes available and repairs can be made.

Penalties for vandalism can range from a simple misdemeanor to a Class-B felony, with fines and jail time possible for severe cases, according to law enforcement officials at the Clearwater County Sheriffs Office.

Corps officials encourage visitors to help them keep an eye on the more than 100 recreation sites located throughout the Walla Walla District. If visitors see any damage or vandalism, they should report it to nearest Corps field office or local law enforcement office – many law enforcement agencies are contracted to provide security and law enforcement services to the District.

-30-

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