



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Dworshak to increase flows Nov. 14

AHSAHKA, Idaho – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at Dworshak Dam announced today that they will increase flows from the reservoir from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 14.

Flows into the North Fork of the Clearwater River will increase from 1,500 to about 5,300 cubic feet per second, allowing maintenance workers to perform acceptance tests on a main unit breaker that was replaced, according to Walla Walla District officials. Fishing and water recreation enthusiasts on the North Fork of the Clearwater River and down stream on the main body of the Clearwater River should be careful during the test period because water levels will rapidly rise and possibly fluctuate in depth during the testing period.

“It will take about two hours to adjust the flows to the target amount needed for testing. Once that flow amount is reached, the water level near the powerhouse will have risen by about 4 feet,” said Ed Kim, a hydraulic engineer at the district headquarters in Walla Walla, Wash. “The total change in water depth will be approximately 1.5 to 2 feet in the main body of the Clearwater River at the stream measuring gage just downstream of the community of Peck.”

Once the tests are complete, flows rates will be reduced over about a two hour period, again changing water levels. By about 4 p.m., the Clearwater River and its north fork below the dam will be back to current flow rates and elevation levels.

“Fishermen and boaters should keep in mind that the change in water levels could pose a potential hazard to those who may be wading or have a boat anchored in the Clearwater and North Fork of the Clearwater River,” said Paul Pence, Dworshak’s natural resources manager. “We care about our visitors’ safety. Whenever a person participates in an outdoor, water-related activity, there are safety issues they should consider. This is particularly true when rapid changes in depth or flow rates occur, so be observant and careful whenever you’re in, on or near the water.”

Corps recreation officials encourage visitors to make their outdoor recreation experience a safe and happy one for everybody by following a few rules, because safety is everyone’s responsibility. Boaters at Dworshak must ensure properly fitted personal floatation devices (life jackets) are on board for each person – children 14 and younger are required to wear PFDs when traveling in boats up to 19 feet in length. Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia – colder temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia occurring when exposed to cold and/or damp weather conditions for long periods of time. Hypothermia occurs when a person experiences a critical lowering of core body temperature, so stay warm and dry while enjoying winter outdoor recreation opportunities.

For updated water level and boat ramp information, call (800) 321-3198. For more information regarding facilities access and current conditions, call Dworshak staff at (208) 476-1261, or stop by the visitor center, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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