



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

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Corps seeks public comment on multi-agency agreement to establish Idaho aquatic resource mitigation program

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments on a proposal to establish an in-lieu-fee aquatic resource mitigation program for Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) projects.

The proposed program is described in a draft multi-agency memorandum of understanding (MOU) entitled “Memorandum of Understanding to Establish an Idaho Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program for Idaho Transportation Department Projects.”

The MOU establishes an in-lieu-fee mitigation agreement between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Idaho Transportation Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The proposed MOU would provide an alternative mechanism for ITD to meet their compensatory mitigation requirements for their Section 404 permits. In-lieu-fee mitigation may only be used when on-site compensation is either not practicable or use of a mitigation bank is not environmentally preferable.

The public notice regarding the MOU was issued Dec. 1 and can be found on the Corps’ Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/pn/In-Lieu-Fee.pdf . A copy of the draft MOU is posted online at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/Idaho%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife%20Foundation%20Proposed%20ILF.pdf .

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state and local agencies, Native American tribes and other interested parties on this MOU. Comments must be received by Jan 1, 2007.

The Corps issues or denies permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and for work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

For more information on any public notice under consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, please visit the Current Public Notices section on the Walla Walla District’s website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm .

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