



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

News Release

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Corps clears path through mudslide; single-lane traffic can access Lower Granite Lock and Dam

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Traffic access to Lower Granite Lock and Dam via Casey Creek Road reopened at about 9 a.m. today. Corps workers joined contractors to quickly clear a path through a mudslide that had blocked the south shore road leading to Lower Granite Lock and Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced.

The mud and rock mixture was about 80 feet long, and just as wide, and about a foot thick when it covered both lanes of traffic at about 10 a.m. on Wednesday, said Rob Lustig, acting operations manager at Lower Granite.

“We already had a contractor (Natt McDougall Co., of Portland, Ore.) working at the dam with heavy equipment, so we asked if they could help,” said Lustig. “Our workers joined theirs to open one lane until we can get our government-owned equipment here from off-site locations to finish the job.”

Corps officials are hopeful that the road will be completely cleared by Wednesday.

“It’s a lot of mud, and many of the rocks are in the boulder size-range,” Lustig described.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials notified Garfield County of the mudslide. The public will be notified when the road is completely cleared.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photographs of the mudslide are available online for downloading at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07_files/NR07.htm.

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