



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

News Release

News Release 07-25

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Mar. 23, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps nears completion of draft shoreline plan; Draft plan and EA targeted for late-April release

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Planners say they’re close to having a draft of the updated McNary Shoreline Management Plan ready for public review and comment, officials with the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced today.

The Corps held a public scoping meeting to gather input for updating the 1983 Shoreline Management plan in Sept. 2006. The plan establishes policy for the protection and management of the Lake Wallula shoreline (the reservoir portion of the Columbia River upstream of McNary Lock and Dam), with the goal of safe use by the public and preservation of environmental quality.

While planners originally anticipated completing a draft plan by the end of March, the project has proven to require more time to produce a quality plan. The Corps now expects to have the draft plan and environmental assessment ready by the end of April.

“There are multiple, complex issues associated with this shoreline plan and the environmental assessment,” said Cindy Boen, Corps project manager for the plan. “We want to ensure that we’ve fully explored the available options, so we can craft a quality plan that will balance the needs of environmental and cultural resource requirements with the public’s use of the federal shoreline.”

Since 1983, environmental and cultural resource requirements have changed significantly, necessitating management updates as well as a review of the permitting process for private boat docks and vegetation modifications.

The Shoreline Management Plan will address:

- Where development is allowed or limited
- The type of development allowed
- Design criteria for private floating facilities
- Acceptable vegetation modification
- Process and costs for obtaining permits

Once the draft plan and environmental assessment are complete, the Corps will make them available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. The Corps will also schedule a public meeting during the comment period – the date of that meeting is not yet determined, but will be announced as soon as possible. For information regarding the McNary Shoreline Management Plan, contact the Corps at (509) 527-7020 or visit the Corps’ Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/McNaryShoreline/.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil