



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

# News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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## Corps offers free firewood at Lower Granite Dam

**POMEROY, Wash.** – Free firewood is available to the general public at a special wood pile at Lower Granite Dam., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at the Walla Walla District announced today.

Every winter and spring, tons of woody debris makes its way downstream from the Clearwater and upper Snake rivers. Once it arrives at Lower Granite, it collects in the forebay area on the upstream side of the dam, where it must be removed by crane and piled on shore to keep it from entering powerhouse intakes and fish passages.

“The pile of wood on shore is huge. If someone needs firewood, all they have to do is fill out a permit and take it away,” said Greg Watson, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger at the dam. “We’d rather see the public benefit by it instead of having to dispose of it some other way.”

In an effort to reduce the size of the wood pile at Lower Granite Dam, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will allow public access to the north shore area where the pile is located.

Woodcutters 18-years and older can get a permit to gather the wood. The permit allows for two additional helpers over age 18. Permit applicants will need to present photo identification for all participants in their group and vehicle information, according to Walla Walla District officials.

Woodcutting access will be allowed Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until further notice. There will be no access on federal holidays. Security inspections requiring individual and vehicle identification will be conducted before access is allowed. Safety equipment like boots, gloves, goggles and hearing protection will be required. No weapons, including firearms, will be allowed at the woodpile location.

“Allowing access seven days a week should make it more convenient for the public, therefore giving them a better chance to take this valuable resource and put it to good use,” said Craig Rockwell, assistant manager at the Corps’ Lower Granite Natural Resource Management Office in Clarkston, Wash.

For more information about getting a permit to gather free firewood at the dam, or to learn more about access to the wood pile, please contact Park Ranger Greg Watson at Lower Granite Lock and Dam by calling (509) 843-1493, ext. 262. If there is no immediate answer, callers should be sure to leave a message including their name and phone number so Ranger Watson can return their call – he is frequently out of the office patrolling Corps recreation facilities.

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