



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

News Release

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Draft shoreline plan release postponed; Corps officials await pending guidance on ESA-listed fish

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Public release of a draft of the updated McNary Shoreline Management Plan was postponed pending an anticipated court decision on management of federal reservoirs on the Columbia and lower Snake rivers, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

Corps planners anticipated having a draft plan and environmental assessment available for public review and comment by the end of April. The release of the draft shoreline plan is now on hold. Corps officials felt it prudent to wait for the 9th Circuit Federal Court opinion on the remand of the 2004 NOAA Biological Opinion for the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), which may impact management of the federal shoreline. Planners may need to seek additional input from other federal agencies with ESA species-management responsibilities following the court's decision.

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.

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.

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. Dates for the draft plan release and public meeting are 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/.

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