



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

News Release

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Corps moving to reattach Dworshak Marina anchor cable after initial test failure

AHSAHKA, Idaho -- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials are moving ahead with plans to reattach one of Dworshak Marina's six anchor cables after their initial efforts were unsuccessful, a Corps spokesman announced today.

An outboard main marina anchor cable at the Big Eddy Marina on Dworshak Reservoir, which is operated by Dworshak State Park, first broke free from the floating winch platform in late April due to corrosion from aging and an improper adjustment following an earlier than normal rise in the reservoir. Afterwards, Corps officials advised the State to not allow the public to use the marina until the anchor was fixed because high winds could cause more damage and or loss of property.

According to Paul Pence, Dworshak's Natural Resource Manager, "A new anchor and cable system were designed from two 24,000-pound concrete blocks, left over from dam construction, and 3/4-inch stainless steel cable. On June 6, we positioned the anchor above the drop location and then stretched out the cable in the water by moving the floating winch platform away from the anchor barge to take up any the slack.

"After the last ropes were cut, the anchor gently slid off the barge, however, while dropping to the bottom, the cable tightened up and accelerated the winch platform across the surface of the water, submerging the platform halfway. When it surfaced, the anchor was no longer connected.

"Although this technique had proven successful in previous years," Pence said, "the buoyancy of the winch platform apparently prevented its success this time around.

"All of us are now working feverishly to correct this and barring any unforeseen obstacles, we expect to attempt a second repair late next week if all goes well and the weather cooperates. Safety for our staff and the public is always first, so the Big Eddy boat ramp and the area surrounding the marina will be closed during the anchor deployment operation.

Corps officials will construct a new 48,000-pound anchor from two more dam-construction-era concrete blocks and will use 1-inch cable this time to secure it to a large buoy, he said.

"The buoy has far less surface area resistance in the water than the winch platform, so we think this will be successful. We are committed to fixing the dock components we are responsible for as soon as feasible so the public can get back to enjoying the lake without having to maneuver down the boat ramps each time. We appreciate your continued patience while we work to improve this important facility," Pence said.

Information regarding the marina anchor problems and solutions or other lake recreation facilities can be directed to Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Manager, Paul Pence, at 208-476-1258. Information regarding boat slip rentals, Big Eddy Marina, Freeman Creek, or Three Meadows group camp issues can be directed to Dworshak State Park at 208-476-5994.

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