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of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Corps successfully reattaches Dworshak Marina anchor cable

AHSAHKA, Idaho -- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced success on June 20 in reattaching one of Dworshak Marina's six anchor cables.

An initial effort to attach the cable on June 6 failed after the anchor became disconnected during the submersion process.

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 or loss of property.

According to Paul Pence, Dworshak's Natural Resource Manager, "It took a lot of time and effort, and it worked this time."

The June 6 attempt used a system designed from two 24,000-pound concrete blocks, left over from dam construction, and 3/4-inch stainless steel cable. During the lowering process, the anchor became detached and fell to the bottom of the reservoir.

This time the Dworshak maintenance employees found a spool of one-inch steel cable in the dam's salvage yard, and used that in combination with a four-foot buoy and a barge to successfully sink another anchor of the same size and weight last Wednesday.

The anchor had to be submerged in an area of the reservoir that is about 350 feet deep, adding to the complexity of the job.

For public safety reasons, Big Eddy boat ramp and the area surrounding the marina were restricted during the anchor deployment operation.

"A lot had to be planned to keep Dworshak employees, members of the public, and property safe," Pence said. "The plan was executed flawlessly."

Recreational operations at Big Eddy Marina immediately returned to normal after the anchor was successfully placed on June 20.

"One of the drawbacks of doing the anchor placement with our own staff is we had to take some people away from other duties, such as servicing remote campsites or removing woody debris from the reservoir," Pence said. "We hope the public will be patient with us until we can catch up on the routine work."

Information regarding the marina anchor problems 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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