



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Walla Walla District

# News Release & Media Advisory

News Release 07-90MA

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Oct. 18, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

## **10-story fish slide to begin up-river trip Saturday; Structure to improve juvenile fish passage at Lower Monumental Dam**

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – River-watchers soon may have a chance to see a spillway weir designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as it is transported from Portland, Ore., up the Columbia and Snake rivers to Lower Monumental Lock and Dam where the weir will be installed.

This spillway weir is a 120-foot high, 80-foot wide, 2 million-pound fish slide that is fitted into a dam's existing spillway bay to allow juvenile salmon and steelhead to pass the dam near the water surface.

The weir for Lower Monumental Dam is expected to be "floated" on Friday and prepared for transport from Portland, Ore. Project officials anticipate a late-Saturday departure – time of departure depends on completion of inspections to help ensure a safe journey. Representatives from Advanced American Construction, Inc., the contractor on this project, will keep the Corps informed of the weir's status and schedule along the way. The Corps will issue another announcement to news media when the weir departs Portland with a tentative schedule for passage through the navigation locks at Corps dams along the route.

The Corps' lower Columbia and Snake rivers dams, as originally built, required outmigrating juvenile fish to dive to depths of 50 to 60 feet to find the passage routes. For the past several years federal engineers and biologists have been pursuing new technologies to provide more surface-oriented, less stressful, passage routes for juvenile fish. The spillway weir design has proven an effective means of providing a surface bypass route for fish, while retaining navigation, power production, irrigation and flood-risk-management benefits to the region.

A prototype removable spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001. A second RSW was installed during February 2005 at Ice Harbor Dam on the lower Snake River near Pasco, Wash. Testing at Lower Granite and Ice Harbor noted averages of 96-98 percent survival for fish passing via the fish slides.

This weir demonstrates the Corps' continued commitment to improving migration conditions for ESA-listed fish. The Corps now has various surface bypass improvements at six of its eight dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers – Bonneville, The Dalles, McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental and Lower Granite dams. The Corps plans to also add surface bypass improvements at John Day and Little Goose dams in the future.

For more information about surface bypass, check out our online fact sheet at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/OFFICES/PA/FactSheets/SalmonSurvival\\_SurfaceBypassStructuresAPR07.pdf](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/OFFICES/PA/FactSheets/SalmonSurvival_SurfaceBypassStructuresAPR07.pdf).

-30-

**MEDIA ADVISORY FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE**

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](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil)

E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**FOR LOWER MONUMENTAL DAM SPILLWAY WEIR**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District will offer the media the opportunity to interview project experts and see the spillway weir as it passes either McNary Lock and Dam on Monday, Oct. 22 or Ice Harbor Lock and Dam on Tuesday, Oct. 23 (transportation schedule will determine location and time).

Another media opportunity is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam where the weir will be installed (transportation schedule will determine time).

The times\dates of media opportunities depend on actual departure time from Portland and are subject to change depending on weather conditions affecting the transportation schedule. This advisory is checking for interest – media representatives desiring to attend are asked to call and confirm their interest so they can be kept posted on the expected arrival time of the spillway weir at Lower Monumental Dam.

Please call to confirm your interest and register for schedule notification for media events -- Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, USACE, (509) 527-7020.

###

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](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil)

E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)