



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

News Release & Media Advisory

News Release 07-91MA

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Oct. 21, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Fish slide begins up-river journey; tentative lockage schedule announced

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – A spillway weir designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers departed Portland, Ore., at about 3 p.m. Saturday, starting its trip 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 was “floated” on Friday and attached to two grain barges to improve maneuverability while being moved upriver by two towboats.

River-watchers should be able to see the weir being transported at various locations along the rivers. The following schedule is tentative depending on weather conditions or other potential transportation delays.

Location	Estimated -- Arrival Time
Bonneville Lock & Dam	4 a.m. Saturday
The Dalles Lock & Dam	12:30 p.m. Sunday
John Day Lock & Dam	7-8 p.m. Sunday
McNary Lock & Dam	9-10 a.m. Monday
Ice Harbor Lock & Dam	6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Lower Monumental Lock & Dam	3 a.m. Wednesday

Times are estimates only – those wishing to catch a glimpse of the weir in transit should arrive at a location in view of the river well ahead of the estimated arrival and plan time to wait for it to pass their location. Foss Maritime Company towboat Clarkston and tugboat Noydena are traveling at about 4-5 m.p.h., pushing the weir upstream toward its destination – Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, near Kahlotus, Washington.

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 spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001. A second weir was installed during February 2005 at Ice Harbor Dam on the lower Snake River. 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.

-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

E-mail: 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 McNary Lock and Dam on Monday, Oct. 22. For access to the navigation lock area media representatives should meet District Public Affairs staff at 8:30 a.m. at the main security station on the Oregon shore, downstream side of the dam in the visitor center parking lot. Security processing is required – be sure to bring media credentials and a valid U.S. identification, such as a driver's license or passport. PA staff will escort media across the dam at 9 a.m. to the navigation lock to observe the weir being locked past the dam. Media are encouraged to be on time as there will be only one opportunity to enter the gates to cross the dam to the navigation lock.

Another media opportunity is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 10 a.m. at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam where workers will be installing the weir into spillway bay number eight. For access to the viewing area, media representatives should meet District Public Affairs staff at 10 a.m. at the security station at the south shore entrance to the dam. Those approaching from the north side of the river will be escorted across by security personnel to meet with PA staff. Security processing is required – be sure to bring media credentials and a valid U.S. identification, such as a driver's license or passport. PA staff will escort media across the dam at 10:30 a.m. to the navigation lock to observe the weir being locked past the dam. Media are encouraged to be on time as there will be only one opportunity to enter the gates to cross the dam to the navigation lock.

The times of media opportunities depend on actual transportation time up-river from Portland and are subject to change depending on weather conditions affecting the transportation schedule. Media representatives desiring to attend are asked to call and confirm their interest so PA staff can ensure enough safety equipment is available for all attending.

Please, call to pre-register for either or both 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

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil