



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District

News Release & Media Advisory

News Release 07-92MA

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Oct. 22, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Fish slide passes McNary Dam today enroute to Lower Monumental

Umatilla, Ore. – Nearby residents parked their cars along roads adjacent to the Columbia River in view of McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore., this morning to watch the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' newest spillway weir lock past the dam.

The weir is on its way to Lower Monumental Lock and Dam on the lower Snake River where it will be installed into spillway bay number eight.

The weir departed Portland, Ore., at about 3 p.m. Saturday, and is anticipated to arrive at Lower Monumental, near Kahlotus, Wash., early Wednesday morning. The weir, built under contract for the Corps by Advanced American Construction, Inc., is attached to two grain barges to improve maneuverability while being moved upriver by two Foss Maritime Company tugboats *Clarkston* and *Noydena*.

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 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-

NOTE

PHOTOS OF THIS MORNING'S LOCKAGE AT McNARY DAM ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT –
www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07_files/NR07-62PIX/NR07-62PIXPage.htm

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 has tentatively scheduled an opportunity for media to interview project experts and observe the spillway weir as it is installed at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam on Wednesday, Oct. 24. For access to the viewing area, media representatives should meet District Public Affairs staff at 9:30 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 at 10 a.m. to an area on the dam to observe the weir being installed. Media are encouraged to be on time.

The times of media opportunities depend on actual transportation time up-river 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