



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

News Release

News Release 07-99

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Nov. 7, 2007

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McNary staff announce Winter recreation opportunities

UMATILLA, Ore. – Winter can be a wonderful time to enjoy U.S. Army Corps of Engineer recreation facilities on the Columbia River, operated by the Walla Walla District.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic river views while taking advantage of picnicking, camping, fishing, boating and hunting opportunities at McNary Lock and Dam recreation sites. Some developed camping areas will reduce services to primitive camping as freezing temperatures have potential to damage plumbing systems for flush toilet and potable water facilities. "Primitive camping" means no hook-ups, flush toilets, potable water or showers – just portable or vault toilets.

It's also a time to remember safety whenever playing in, on or near the water. Here are a few safety tips District park rangers hope visitors will remember while having fun at Corps lakes and recreation facilities: when boating, wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life preservers; and don't consume intoxicants when operating recreational vessels. Boaters must ensure personal floatation devices are on board for each person – children 12 and younger are required to wear PFDs when in a boat. State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Corps sites. Hunting on Corps property is allowed in designated areas only. Some areas have local restrictions on open fires, so remember to check with park managers and rangers when visiting.

Colder temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia occurring when exposed to cold and/or damp weather conditions for long periods of time or when swimming in cold water. Hypothermia results when a person experiences a critical lowering of core body temperature, so stay warm and dry while enjoying autumn outdoor recreation opportunities.

While visiting these public recreation areas, make the experience a safe and happy one for everybody by following a few rules, because safety is everyone's responsibility. Recreation areas associated with McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River are listed as follows:

Contact information unless stated otherwise: McNary Natural Resources Management. Telephone: (541) 922-2268. E-mail: McNaryParks&Recreation@usace.army.mil.

Wildlife Nature Area – open year-round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and Sept. 30. Facilities: day-use, hiking trails, wildlife viewing, non-motorized boating, fishing. Getting there: travel 1.5 miles east of Umatilla, Oregon, on Highway 730, 1 mile north on McNary Dam Road, and 0.5 mile west on Third Street; located at Columbia River Mile 291, on the south riverbank.

McNary Lock and Dam – Oregon-shore publicly accessible areas open year round. Facilities: boat ramp, day-use areas, fish-ladder viewing room. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Pacific Salmon Visitor Information Center – open year-round, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Upcoming holiday hours\closures for the visitor center: open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Veterans Day, Nov. 12; closed on Thanksgiving, Nov. 22, and Christmas Dec. 25; open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on New Years Day, Jan. 1; Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, Jan.21; and Washington's Birthday, Feb. 18. Facilities: restrooms, interpretive displays, juvenile fish facility viewing areas. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

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Powerhouse Visitor Center – open year-round 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Facilities: interpretive displays, juvenile powerhouse viewing areas, restrooms. Visitors will not be allowed to bring the following items inside the powerhouse: backpacks, purses or bags of any sort (including diaper bags), cameras, cell phones and other electronic devices. All adults must carry photo identification with them at all times and will be required to wear a visitor pass that is easily visible while in the center. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Spillway Park – open year-round. Facilities: day-use, picnic shelter is available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 30. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

West Park – open year-round. Facilities: day-use; picnic shelters are available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 30. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Oregon Boat Launch – open year-round, but boat docks are removed for maintenance after Thanksgiving and replaced in April. Facilities: boat ramp, day-use. Getting there: travel 1 mile east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, turn north onto McNary Dam Road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the south riverbank.

Washington Boat Launch – open year-round. Facilities: day-use, boat ramp. Getting there: from Highway 82, take Exit-131, travel 2 miles east on dam access road; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the north (Washington) riverbank.

McNary Beach – open year-round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and Sept. 30. Facilities: day-use, picnic shelter is available for reservation April 1 to Sept. 30. Getting there: travel 3 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730, then 1 mile north on Port of Umatilla Road to McNary Beach Recreation Area entrance road; located at Columbia River Mile 293, on the south riverbank.

Warehouse Beach – open year-round, gates closed from sunset to sunrise between May 1 and Sept. 30. Facilities: day-use, swimming area. Getting there: travel 9.5 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730 to Highway 37, exit at Highway 37, and travel immediately north on the gravel road for 0.4 mile.

Sand Station – open year-round during day light hours. Facilities: primitive no-fee camping limited to 14-days, day-use. Getting there: travel 10.5 miles east of Umatilla, Ore., on Highway 730. Follow highway signs; located at Columbia River Mile 300, on the south riverbank.

For more information about Walla Walla District's outdoor recreation opportunities, check out their Web site at: www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/.