



News Release

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

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Lower Granite opens weekends for cross-dam traffic

POMEROY, Wash. – If your upcoming plans include a road trip that will require crossing the lower Snake River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has good news for the summer.

Effective immediately, travelers can cross over Lower Granite Lock and Dam on weekends from now through Labor Day.

“We’re very excited about this change,” said Craig Rockwell, assistant natural resource manager for the Corps office in Clarkston, Wash. “We’ve been working at allowing some dam crossings on weekends for some time now, and are pleased to be able to make this change for the summer.”

Walla Walla District operations officials want to remind the public of the closed-on-holidays policy at their three dams in Washington that allow public vehicle crossings – Lower Granite, near Pomeroy; Little Goose, near Starbuck; and Lower Monumental, near Kahlotus.

The hours for crossing dams in the Walla Walla District are scheduled as follows:

Lower Granite Lock and Dam – allows traffic crossings Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except for federal holidays. Starting immediately and in effect through Sept. 1, vehicles can cross the dam on Saturdays and Sundays from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the following schedule: traveling north to south – on the 00 and 30 minute of each hour; and traveling south to north – on the 15 and 45 minute of each hour. Tour and school busses must contact the dam at (509) 843-1493 at least 24 hours in advance for crossing authorization.

Little Goose Lock and Dam – open for crossings once an hour, on the half-hour, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on federal holidays. Crossing times are 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 in the morning, and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon. Tour and school busses must contact the dam at (509) 399-2233, extensions 227, 231 or 252, at least 24 hours in advance for crossing authorization.

Lower Monumental Lock and Dam – open for crossings once an hour, on the half-hour, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on federal holidays. Crossing times are 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 in the morning, and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon. If approaching from the south shore, travelers can reach the security guard for crossing escort by calling #228 on the phone at south gate. Tour and school busses must contact the dam 24 hours in advance for authorization (509) 282-3219/3218.

At all three dams, passenger cars, motorcycles, open trucks, recreation vehicles, small vans and farm equipment, with the exception of fuel trucks, will be allowed to cross. Large, commercial vehicles, trucks, vehicles hauling flammable or explosive cargo and vehicles that cannot be easily searched will not be allowed to cross the dams.

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Dam Crossings\2-2-2

All vehicles crossing Corps dams are subject to a search. Photo identification is required for all vehicle occupants 16 years of age and older. All firearms must be unloaded and declared at the gate. Foreign nationals with proper identification may cross the dam. Security guards are authorized to perform detailed vehicle searches and deny vehicle access across the dam. Drivers may not stop their vehicles to take pictures or sight see during escorted crossings. Pedestrian traffic across the dam is not allowed because of safety considerations.

“There could still be closures,” noted Marty Mendiola, operations manager at the Lower Granite Lock and Dam. “The district may at any time close access to traffic for extended periods of time due to operations, maintenance or construction-related activities at the dam.”

A change in security conditions could also terminate public access across the dam until such time as threat levels decrease. The public will be notified about closures, if possible, in advance, but the crossing is still subject to closing at anytime.

Photo identification, vehicle searches and other previously listed requirements are standard policy for the public to cross at Walla Walla District dams. For current crossing schedules at dams in the Walla Walla District, call 1-888-DAM-INFO (1-888-326-4636).

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