



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

News Release

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Corps: Play safe – watch for floating hazards in the river

WALLA WALLA, Wash. -- Water recreation enthusiasts should keep an eye out for floating woody debris in the lower Snake River, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

Because of high spring flows, an unusually large amount of floating wood, ranging from small twigs to telephone pole-sized logs, can be seen floating in the river, according to Corps recreation officials. These floating hazards, swept into the river from high-flowing streams and tributaries, can pose a danger to boaters, swimmers and others out enjoying the water.

“Especially, keep an eye out for submerged hazards,” noted Lonnie Mettler, Walla Walla District’s chief of Natural Resource Management. “The high flows have made the water very turbulent and muddy, often hiding debris floating just below the surface.”

Walla Walla District encourages outdoor fun-seekers to play it safe while enjoying Corps recreation opportunities.

"Memorial Day weekend signals the start of summer activities--fun, sun, barbeques, boating, swimming and vacations." said Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Anthony J. Hofmann. "Unfortunately, along with the fun comes the risk of accidents – please, keep safety in mind as you partake in these activities."

Wearing a life jacket or other personal floatation device is the best way to stay safe when out on the water, Hofmann added.

For more information about outdoor recreation opportunities in the Walla Walla District, check out www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/. For streamflow data, go to www.nww.usace.army.mil/wm/index.html. Learn more about water safety at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>.

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