



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

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Lower Granite Dam offers ‘behind-the-scenes’ guided tours

POMEROY, Wash. – Visitors at Lower Granite Lock and Dam can get behind-the-scenes tours of the powerhouse, navigation lock and fish passage facilities – areas ordinarily off-limits to public access, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

“These tours offer a phenomenal view of the one of the highest navigation locks in the world, as well as the hydropower and fish passage systems, and how they all work together,” said Sheryl Grant, Lower Granite’s tour guide. “A tour highlight is the Removable Spillway Weir – a 2-million-pound ‘waterslide’ for fish which won a national engineering award in 2003.”

Tours begin at the visitor center on the south side of the Snake River. The highway running across the dam is open for public crossing daily until Sept. 1, making it more convenient for people coming from Pullman and Moscow to get to the visitor center.

Tours are offered on the following schedule Friday through Sunday:

1st Tour: Powerhouse and Navigation Lock: 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

2nd Tour: Juvenile Fish Facility: 11:30 a.m. to noon

3rd Tour: Powerhouse and Navigation Lock: 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

4th Tour: Juvenile Fish Facility: 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

5th Tour: Powerhouse and Navigation Lock: 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

6th Tour: Juvenile Fish Facility: 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tours will also be offered Wednesday and Thursday, but not on a specific schedule. If you have a group and would like to pre-schedule a tour, call Lower Granite’s tour guide at (509) 843-1493, ext. 211, or the park ranger at (509) 843-1493, ext 262.

To ensure visitor safety in these work areas, opened-toed shoes and loose-fitting clothing are not allowed on the tours. All bags including diaper bags, purses, backpacks and fanny packs are not allowed beyond the powerhouse gates. No photographic equipment is allowed beyond the powerhouse gates or on top of the dam.

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Photo identification is required for visitors age 16 or older when crossing the dam. For dam tours, photo I.D. is required for those age 18 or older. All participants must be U.S. citizens, unless pre-registered at least 30 days in advance. Non-U.S. citizen can pre-register by calling Lower Granite's park ranger at (509) 843-1493, ext 262.

"We're very excited about this opportunity to showcase our facility to the public and demonstrate tax dollars at work," said Marty Mendiola, operations manager at Lower Granite. "Our powerhouse and navigation lock provide clean power and transportation to the region, and our fish facilities help ensure safe passage of endangered fish species."

For more information, call the Lower Granite Lock and Dam Visitor Center at (509) 843-1493, ext. 211.

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