



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

News Release

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Full-pool forecasted for July 4th holiday at Dworshak Reservoir

AHSAHKA, Idaho – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir managers anticipate a full pool in Dworshak Reservoir for visitors to enjoy during the Fourth of July holiday, Walla Walla District officials announced today.

An unusually cool start to summer and a higher-than-average snowpack in mountain elevations above Dworshak Dam and Reservoir resulted in the reservoir being filled more slowly this year and water temperatures staying cooler in the Clearwater and Snake rivers, said Corps water experts.

“For the past several years, warmer springtime weather and less snowpack required us to release more water from Dworshak earlier in the year to help augment flows and regulate water temperatures in the lower Snake River to assist with fish passage,” said John Heitstuman, Walla Walla District’s chief of Hydrology Section. “It was a juggling act to try to manage flows to help fish, yet still keep enough water in the reservoir to not impact the economic livelihood of the small communities near the dam which rely quite heavily on outdoor recreation and tourism.”

This year, the various factors contributing to hydrologists’ decisions about how to manage flows in the reservoir system seemed to align in favor of recreation, according to Corps reservoir managers.

“Our goal is to have the reservoir full by July 1 and hold that level until July 7,” said Steve Hall, a reservoir regulator at the Corps’ Northwestern Division in Portland.

Of course, Hall cautioned, an unpredictable change in weather or snowmelt conditions between now and then could require reservoir managers to analyze the new data and adjust their plans.

Meanwhile, Corps recreation officials at Dworshak are gearing up for another busy Fourth of July weekend. All campgrounds and boat ramps are open. For more information about recreation opportunities at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir, call the Corps at 1-800-321-3198 or the Visitor Center at (208) 476-1255. Camping reservations for Dent Acres can be made at 1-800-444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov. Information on recreation is also available on the Corps’ Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil.

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