



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

News Release

News Release 08-59

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: July 7, 2008

Phone: (509) 527-7020

More woody debris at Little Goose Dam slated for downstream passage

STARBUCK, Wash, -- Water recreation enthusiasts should watch out for more floating woody debris in the lower Snake River between Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams starting Tuesday morning, July 8, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

Because of high spring flows, an unusually large amount of floating wood – ranging in size from small twigs to telephone pole-sized logs – has again accumulated upstream of Little Goose Lock and Dam. Operators at the dam have previously passed woody debris downriver three times this year because it was putting stress on the several-hundred-foot-long debris boom that kept it from nearing the powerhouse-intake side of the dam. Officials at the dam estimate the current floating log pile covers about 2-1/2 to 3 acres of the water's surface.

Operators will start the debris downstream at about 7 a.m. tomorrow by briefly closing all but one spillway gate. The remaining spillway gate would then be fully raised to concentrate spill until all or most of the debris has passed. It usually takes 20-30 minutes to raise the remaining gate into desired spill position and another 20-30 minutes to restore normal operations after the debris has passed.

The Corps cautions boaters, swimmers and others out enjoying the river on Lake West upstream of Lower Monumental Lock and Dam to watch for potentially hazardous floating debris for about two weeks after the wood is released downstream. Operations officials estimate it will take about two to three days for debris to start showing up at Lower Monumental, but it's uncertain how much will sink or wash up on shore and how much will ultimately arrive at the next dam.

The debris, swept into the river from high-flowing streams and tributaries, can pose a danger to boaters, swimmers and others out enjoying the water.

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

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/>.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil