



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps to hold public meetings on Dworshak Reservoir nutrient supplementation

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The public is invited to attend informational meetings on a nutrient supplementation plan for Dworshak Reservoir.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will host the meetings in two locations: in Orofino, Idaho, on Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Best Western Hotel's Riverside Room located at 625 Main Street; and in Lewiston, Idaho, on Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the offices of Idaho Fish and Game located at 3316 16th Street.

The public meetings will include a description of the proposed project followed by a questions-and-answers session.

According to Cindy Boen, manager for the nutrient supplementation project, the meeting's purpose is to provide the public with information about the proposed reservoir treatment program, answer questions and hear comments about the nutrient supplementation plan proposed to improve water quality and aquatic habitat conditions in Dworshak Reservoir. The proposed action includes an on-going water monitoring program to assess the impacts and ensure nutrient balance.

"Water quality tests indicate that phosphorus and nitrogen are at very low levels in the reservoir," said Boen.

"The Corps and Idaho Fish and Game want to add nutrients to the water to bring conditions back into balance and encourage the growth of organisms that support the kokanee salmon food chain and reduce blue green algae blooms."

Dworshak Natural Resource staff see potential benefits, not only for the fish, but also to the surrounding community.

"By increasing the productivity of the reservoir at the lowest levels of the food chain, it improves reservoir habitat and promotes more food for fish – that means bigger kokanee," said Paul Pence, natural resource manager at Dworshak.

"Thousands of anglers visit Dworshak each year to fish for kokanee salmon – you can be sure they'd like to be catching bigger fish," said Dworshak Park Ranger Deb Norton. "Also, those sport-fishermen have a considerable impact on the local economy."

Dworshak Reservoir, located near Orofino, Idaho, is about 54 miles long and has a surface area of about 20,000 acres extending into the Bitterroot Mountains. The reservoir provides substantial recreational and wildlife benefits. There are about 30,000 acres of project lands surrounding the reservoir used for public recreation purposes, wildlife habitat, wildlife mitigation, and log-handling facilities. Recreation opportunities include boating, water-skiing, fishing, developed and primitive camping, picnicking, hiking, and hunting. Visitation to Dworshak during fiscal year 2005 was 134,497.

For information regarding this meeting, contact Cindy Boen at (509) 527-7246. For more information about Dworshak Reservoir, call the Dworshak Visitor Center at (208) 476-1255.

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