



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District

FACT SHEET

LOWER MONUMENTAL LOCK AND DAM

KAHLOTUS • Washington



Authorizations

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1945.

Progress

Construction of the project began in June 1961, and it became operational in 1969. Construction of the additional generating units started in 1975 and was completed in 1981. The entire project is considered complete.

Project

The project includes Lower Monumental Dam, powerhouse, navigation lock, two fish ladders, a juvenile fish facility (JFF), and appurtenant facilities providing for navigation, hydroelectric generation, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and irrigation.

Lower Monumental Dam

The dam is located at the head of Lake Sacajawea, the reservoir created by Ice Harbor Dam. It is 3,791 feet long, with an effective height of about 100 feet. The dam is a concrete gravity-type dam, with earthfill abutment embankments.

Reservoir

Lake Herbert G. West extends up the Snake River for 28.1 miles to the tailwater of Little Goose Dam. It has a surface area of 6,590 acres.

Generators

The powerhouse has six 135,000-kilowatt units. Power generated during fiscal year 2017 was 2.67 billion kilowatt hours.



Navigation Lock

This is a single-lift lock, 86 feet wide by 666 feet long, with a 100-foot vertical lift. About 2, 288, 804 tons of commodities passed through the navigation lock during fiscal year 2023. The cargo primarily consisted of grains, petroleum products, fertilizer, and wood products.

Fish Passage

At Lower Monumental Dam, there are four primary species of juvenile salmonids collected at the juvenile fish facility which include Chinook, coho, sockeye and steelhead. The 5-year average collection of outgoing juvenile salmon and steelhead for 2019 to 2023 at Lower Monumental Dam was approximately 1.6 million fish, with approximately 1.2 million of those fish transported by barge and released below Bonneville Dam.



In 2023 alone, an estimated 1,629,520 juvenile salmonids (77.1% of the collection total) were transported from Lower Monumental. In addition to the salmonids, collection and bypassing of lamprey occurs regularly. Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus*, the primary species found at Lower Monumental Dam, also use many of the routes through the dam as adult and juvenile salmon. The 5-year average collection of pacific lamprey for 2019 to 2023 at Lower Monumental was approximately 22,524 juveniles. Adult salmon and steelhead bypass Lower Monumental Dam using fishways and spill bays. The adult fishways at Lower Monumental are comprised of a north and south shore fish ladder for migrating adult salmon and steelhead to use. The 10-year average, 2015 to 2024 of adult fish counted at the adult count station averaged 87,750 adult Chinook, 8,767 adult coho, 979 sockeye and 69,778 steelhead according to the Fish.

Lands

There are 8,335.5 acres of project lands surrounding Lake Herbert G. West. There are 7,024 acres of USACE-managed lands that are utilized for public recreation purposes, wildlife habitat, wildlife mitigation, and water-connected industrial development. Lake West offers seven day-use areas, five areas offering camping, five boat launch areas, and one designated swimming beach. Lower Monumental hosted more than 153,167 visitors in 2020.

People

About 50 Walla Walla District employees work at the Lower Monumental project. They serve as electricians, lock operators, mechanics, welders, riggers, painters, utility workers, heavy equipment operators, biologists, park rangers, environmental and safety professionals, administrative support staff, maintenance workers and engineers. Together, they manage the safe and continuous operation of the project.

Recreation

Lower Monumental project lands provide opportunities for all sorts of recreational activities, including fishing, hunting, hiking, birding, camping, swimming and horseback riding. Amenities within the parks include boat launches, campsites, shelters, fire rings, trash collections, restrooms, and picnic tables.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – WALLA WALLA DISTRICT

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