INTERCOM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Vol. 45 No. 1 Jan - Dec 2017

Responding to National Emergencies

Walla Walla District supports relief efforts for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma & Maria

Wages 100-day fight to stem Boise and Idaho flooding - pg 4

Inside this issue

The Walla Walla District

Serving our Community, the Nation, the World.

INTERCOM

The *Intercom* is an unofficial publication authorized by the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published by the Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has a distribution of 1,500 copies. Contents of the INTERCOM are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Commander
Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa

PA Chief
Joe Saxon

PA Specialist
Gina Baltrusch

PA Specialist
Brigida Sanchez

PA Specialist/ Editor
Jennifer McFadden Allen

Student Aide
John Dodd

For more information, contact:
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: 509-527-7020
E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil
Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

On the cover

Corps builds levee to prevent Boise River flooding near Eagle Island, Idaho. *US Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Office of the District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Team Walla Walla,

This has been an incredible year filled with both ordinary and extraordinary events. The following pages in this year's Intercom highlight the tremendous work that this District did in response to all of those events. I couldn't be prouder of all of you and your willingness to step up to the challenges of 2017.

I want to carry that momentum as we head into 2018. In order to do that, my priorities this year focus on four areas:
• successfully delivering on our commitments
• recruiting, retaining and developing a workforce for now and into the future
• provide a proactive approach to emergency management and safety
• strengthening our foundation.

I believe strongly that one of the things that makes a world class organization is being dependable and fulfilling our promises to our stakeholders. We have some tangible, 'no fail' projects that must be accomplished this year, but I also want to look strongly at setting the conditions for successful delivery. Many leaders in the District have contributed ideas as to how we go about this, so I am very excited as we move forward.

As many of you know, we have an unusually high number of leaders departing the District this year, either retiring or pursuing other opportunities. I want to look at our efforts to bring in young, productive talent that we can develop and grow into future leaders. However, I want to also focus on continued growth for our existing workforce through leadership opportunities and professional certifications. We must also foster a culture of engaged and included employees committed to the organization.

This past year, Mother Nature challenged the Country, and the District stepped up to support. This year is shaping up to be more of the same; therefore, we will implement lessons learned to achieve success again within our emergency management and response. I thank those of you who have answered the Nation's call for volunteers for disaster response and encourage other willing employees to do the same.

As many of you know, Walla Walla District was named a "2017 Best Place to Work." One of the things that makes us great is taking care of our people; therefore, I think it is imperative we continue to strengthen our foundation. We must renew our emphasis on doing routine business routinely and addressing gaps in dated policies and procedures. We are also making giant strides in modernizing our IT infrastructure at the Operating Projects this year which should improve productivity tremendously. I also want to emphasize our onboarding procedures. We hire around 100 new employees every year, and we owe them a thoughtful welcome and integration process into the District family.

The Walla Walla District continues to impress across the USACE enterprise, as well as our regional and local stakeholders. This year is shaping up to be a bright year for the District, filled with many opportunities. I challenge you to carry forward our successes from 2017 and strive to improve upon them.

Sincerely,

LTC Damon A. Delarosa

LTC Damon A. Delarosa
Commander and District Engineer

Boise flood fight!

Record snow runoff leads to 100+ day engagement

Above: 325-percent of normal inflows into the reservoirs at Lucky Peak, Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch dams. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Right: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Yvonne Gibbons of the Walla Walla District deployed as part of the Flood Fight Team. HESCO Barriers were used as a temporary Levee to prevent a pit capture at the Sunroc gravel pit on Eagle Island. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Above: Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, along with Idaho Governor Butch Otter briefed the news media and about 50 federal and state officials at a news conference in Boise, Idaho on April 19, 2017. The news conference was in reference to potential flood risk and how the Army Corps of Engineers is working to prevent flooding in residential areas in Boise. *(U.S. Army photo by Joe Saxon)*

by Gina Baltrusch

Record spring flows challenged communities throughout the Snake River Basin in 2017.

Thirty-five of Idaho's 44 counties were part of state or local disaster declarations. Twenty Idaho counties were included under two separate Presidential Disaster Declarations. One of the most challenging areas was the Boise River Basin in Idaho, where precipitation, in the form of rain and snowpack, and at times up to 325-percent of normal, poured into the reservoirs at Lucky Peak, Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch dams.

Walla Walla District hydrologists worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigators to safely manage Boise River reservoir system flows for more than 100 days. Dynamic changes in conditions on the Boise River were effective addressed while still managing record flooding in other reservoir systems throughout the greater-Snake River Basin.

Continued on page 6.

Arial view of water innundating Eagle Island. Above: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lucky Peak Dam, located in Boise Idaho. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)*

Boise and Idaho's Treasure Valley communities impacted by spring flooding

Continued from page 5.

Walla Walla District's Readiness Office responded to Ada County, Idaho, requests for help by sending a direct-assistance team to construct a 4-foot-tall levee, stabilizing 4,300 feet of the south riverbank across from Eagle Island to prevent pit-capture of an adjacent gravel-mining operation and reducing flood risk to the City of Boise's wastewater treatment facilities, and nearby communities and businesses.

District staff at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir employees responded to landslides and other extreme road conditions preventing public access on Corps lands near Ahsahka, Idaho, while managing water releases to minimize flood damages on the Clearwater River and further downstream on the lower-Snake and lower-Columbia rivers.

Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake staff arrived at work, east of Walla Walla, Washington, on Jan. 19 to thick ice piling up behind the division works near their office. Quick thinking and a backhoe broke up the ice jam, allowing the pieces to flow downstream, preventing potential flooding there.

Throughout the Snake River Basin, the Readiness Office's emergency managers stayed in close communication with county and state emergency management officials.

In some cases, Walla Walla, Seattle and Portland districts worked together on requests for assistance, "borrowing" each other's technical experts having unique skills or experience best suited to address a particular flooding situation, and providing flood-fight materials, like sandbags, pumps and supersacks.

The Walla Walla District deployed technical and/or direct-assistance teams to Idaho communities in Payette, Washington, Cassia, Minidoka, Ada, Canyon, Gem, Blaine, Custer, Jefferson, Bingham, and Madison counties; and to Malheur County, Oregon. Teams provided engineering expertise and flood-risk-management solutions to local emergency managers.

Material support included about 550,000 sandbags, about 2,000 4-foot-cubed super-bags to Idaho communities dealing with emergency flooding.

Communities in Boise and the Treasure Valley show the impacts of near record flows of water into the Boise River during the spring. ***(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)***

Corps constructs levee to stem flooding at Eagle Island

(Bureau of Relclamation photos by David Walsh)

After record snowfalls hit Boise's Treasure Valley, its communities were left vulnerable to springtime flooding in 2017.

Managing Boise river flows was a challenge this year because the snow runoff from January through July was the second highest in the past one hundred and seventeen years.

The Boise River overflowed its banks in early spring, and for more than one hundred days, emergency managers engaged in a flood fight.

Federal, state, and local agencies' public safety focus resulted in coordinated efforts to regulate the rapidly rising water.

The Corps worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to create space in the Lucky Peak, Arrow Rock, and Anderson Ranch reservoir. They managed flows through daily, and sometimes hourly contacts.

Brandon Hobbs, USACE's project manager, explained "As flooding began on the Boise River we immediately got engaged with the Ada county emergency operations center to support Ada County and its cities. We patrolled with them and looked for weak spots on the river. One of the first spots that popped up was at the Sunroc gravel pit near the head of Eagle Island. We started to see erosion and sinkholes forming which indicated a fair amount of weakness in the pit itself."

"As the river continued to rise it became clear it wasn't going to be enough, so we started exploring other ways to protect this pit from a potential pit capture," he said.

To prevent bank failure, the Corps helped build a temporary levee that was three-quarters of a mile long. Securing this area, east of Eagle was essential in this operation, because flowing water would have put a large number of homes and critical infrastructure, including a highway and a wastewater treatment plant at risk.

As a result of these efforts by many concerned people, the Corps and its partners were successful in preventing large-scale flooding in Boise and its neighboring communities.

When river flows threatened Eagle Island and a gravel pit there, the Walla Walla District responded by coordinating and supervising construction-contract work and built a 4,300-feet-long temporary levee made of HESCO bastions -- modular, 4-feet-square, heavy-duty wire cages lined with tarp-like material, which are quickly assembled, connected and filled with sand to form a flood barrier. Walla Walla District's emergency-management officials coordinated with the National Flood Fight Materiel Center at the Corps' Rock Island District for expedited delivery of the rapid-deployment flood barriers.

District teams deploy for Hurricane relief

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division, opened its conference room to train 40 Corps personnel who deployed to the Virgin Islands in support of the Blue Roof mission on Sept. 24th, 2017 in Atlanta. *(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)*

A U.S. Marine Corps CH53, Sikorsky Sea Stallion heavy-lift transport helicopter, lifts five-ton Jersey barriers into the Guajataca Dam, in Guajataca, Puerto Rico. USACE is assisting the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority in efforts to reduce the risk from Guajataca Dam to downstream communities by performing structural assessments, and planning and coordinating aircraft, equipment and materials to temporarily shore up the damaged spillway. This emergency effort will be followed by a temporary and finally permanent fix in the future. *(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)*

USACE, Chief of Engineers (center) Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Mobile District Commander (right) James A. Delapp and New Orleans District's (left) Richard Pinner, MVN Chief of the Geotechnical Branch inspect the progress of the Guajataca Dam. *(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)*

Story by Gina Baltrusch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District employees filled more than 100 deployment positions supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) hurricane response and recovery efforts, District emergency management officials said.

They supported temporary emergency-power response activities, temporary roofing missions, infrastructure assessments, debris removal efforts, logistics and facilitated temporary housing for Hurricane Harvey missions in Texas, Hurricane Irma missions in Florida, and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The Corps is part of the federal government's unified national response to disasters and emergencies, and serves as the lead agency to respond with public works and engineering support, and to coordinate long-term infrastructure recovery," said Walla Walla District Readiness Office Chief Val Bogdanowitz.

The Walla Walla District maintains one of the Corps' seven emergency power-response teams, ready to deploy as part of the Corps' Emergency Support Function, public works and engineering-related support. Power team members directly support FEMA emergency management staging areas and operations centers, conducting assessments and installing generators to help get critical public facilities operational following disasters.

The all-volunteer teams can provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency makes the service needed.

Team members are on-call, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes.

The Corps has more than 50 specially-trained response teams supported by emergency contracts to perform a wide range of public works and engineering-related support missions.

When disasters occur, Corps teams and other resources are mobilized from across the country to assist our local districts and offices to deliver our response missions.

In any disaster, the Corps' top priorities are 1) support immediate life-saving and life-safety response priorities; 2) sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs; and 3) initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The Corps conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities – the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, and mission-assigned by FEMA, under the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act.

Hurricane Maria stripped the land of the majority of its vegetation on the island of Puerto Rico, Oct. 5, 2017. *(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)*

(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Left: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teams remove debri in Toa Baja, San Juan Puerto Rico, on Oct. 26, 2017.
Above: After Hurricane Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico, storm surge flooded much of the island. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Power Response Team

Power Team deploys to assist communities in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Isles

In November, the Walla Walla District's 18-member all-volunteer emergency power response team (PRT) deployed to various storm-ravaged U.S. territorial islands in the Carribean to help restore power.

This was the District PRT's third FEMA-requested mission since Hurricane Harvey struck Texas in late-August. From there, team members deployed to support Hurricane Irma power-response efforts in Florida Sept. 10, before returning to the Walla Walla District in late-September.

The District maintains one of the Corps' seven emergency power-response teams, ready to deploy as part of the Corps' Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, public works and engineering-related support.

The all-volunteer teams, along with soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion, can provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency makes the service needed.

Team members agree to be in an on-call status, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes. Power team members directly support FEMA emergency management staging areas and operations centers.

In any disaster, the Corps' top priorities are 1) support immediate life-saving and life-safety response priorities; 2) sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs; and 3) initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

The temporary emergency power team from the Walla Walla District, featured in the video, relieved the Tulsa District team, which recently completed a 5 day tour on St. Croix, St Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. As of Dec. 14, 2017, of the 172 Temporary emergency generators installed by USACE power personnel have, 78 have been de-installed across the U.S. Virgin Islands at school, pump stations, government buildings and other facilities. By Jan 4, USVI permanent power is expected to be 90 percent restored, reported by DOE and WAPA.
(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

249th Army Engineer Battalion, "Prime Power" Sgt. Brett Knight mentors Spc. Michael Noel, before the installation of Termination Kits at the "Centro Medico's" power plant in San Juan, Puerto Rico on October 22, 2017. USACE deployed members of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) to assist with the power mission. USACE's temporary emergency power planning and response teams are assisting with assessments and generator installations at critical facilities in Puerto Rico. ***(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)***

Prime Power hospital generator install

Story by Brigida Sanchez

"EL Centro Medico," is one of the many hospitals in Puerto Rico operating on emergency generators.

As the Island pushes past its first month after Hurricane Maria; these systems have been placed under a tremendous strain.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers brought in its highly specialized team, the 249th Engineer Battalion, otherwise known as "Prime Power," to assist with the mission of assessing and installation of generators at critical facilities like El Centro Medico.

According to Puerto Rico's Secretary of Health, Dr. Rafael Rodriguez-Mercado, "El Centro Medico" is the most important medical center in the region as it has the only trauma center in the Caribbean basin.

"Imagine to be out of power in a very important place like this could compromise the health of many people that come here seeking help and for treatment," Rodriguez-Mercado said.

"It's a challenge because we have the Trauma Center, the University Hospital, the Pediatric Hospital, Cardiovascular Center, we have an Oncology Hospital, The City Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital, and also the Workman's Compensation Hospital they make up the Puerto Rico Medical center."

The Prime Power team sends out its Soldiers in two-man teams that receive tasking's from FEMA and complete assessments of the facilities within those tasking's.

Installing large generators accompanied by a transformer will take a team of five to seven Soldiers along with contractors.

This team of highly specialized Soldiers has been deployed around the world, and has learned to sustain power to large facilities and whole base camps/FOB's i.e. Leatherneck, Bagram Airfield during times of war. Sgt. Brett Knight, said there are lessons to be learned from every situation.

"This is not typical and you get exposed to a lot of types of electrical systems and circuits, voltages and you get exposure to different configurations, delta, open delta Y… you get a lot of experience doing this job," Knight said.

The Puerto Rican power grid was devastated by Hurricane Maria, but the hurricane has not destroyed the tenacity of the Prime Power team nor that of the people.

"There is something to be said about the resolve of the Puerto Rican People. We are working directly with hospital directors and their engineering staff that are going days without sleep to keep their facilities in operation. They have been amazing!" Master Sgt. Taran I. Dailey of the 249 Engineer Battalion, said.

Knight reminds us that, "the most rewarding part of the mission is looking at those generators and thinking; oh that hospital has power now, you know that community has water. That is the most rewarding part."

Prime Power has completed 534 assessments and installed 190 generators.

The installation process can take more than 15 hours and in many cases teams are often rerouted due to emergency generator assessments.

The Corps has partnered with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, the Department of Energy and FEMA in order to establish unity of effort in the repair of the power grid, and restoring power to the island of Puerto Rico.

As part of this effort the 249th Engineer Battalion assists in filling gaps where power will not be restored for a long length of time. Powering lifesaving, life sustaining, and critical infrastructure.

Blue Roof Mission

Right: A contractor for the Corps of Engineers in Puerto Rico works on the first install of a first Blue Roof on the Multy Medical Facilities in San Juan on Oct. 6, 2017. Having the roof protected will allow the hospital to open up additional patient beds and rooms that were previously unavailable because of the damaged roof. Above: U.S. Army corps of Engineers, Environmental Engineer Linoshka Soto-Perez fills out an assessment and Right of Entry form with Christobolina De Los Santos, in Las Margaritas, San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Oct. 17, 2017.

Story and photos by Brigida Sanchez

Top: Contractors work on installing a blue roof tarp. Left: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Structural Engineers, Christopher R. Bamberg and Ariel A. Marrero Irizarry, speak with Elementary School Principal, Eduardo Hernandez who lost a special needs classroom to Hurricane Maria. The Corps, along with their counterparts, had assessed more than 250 schools between San Juan and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico by Oct. 20, 2017.

Getting schools up and running is a priority

The Puerto Rican public school system services approximately 345,000 students.

FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Education and local communities are working diligently to get as many schools as possible up and running.

The Corps by request of the DoE and FEMA are working with a local contractor to assess as many schools as possible. These assessments require knowledge of building and construction, as well as sharp eyes.

"All of our assessors have an engineering or architectural backgrounds," notes USACE, structural engineer, Christopher Ryan Bamberg. "The goal of our assessments is to make sure the schools are safe for students to attend and school staff perform their typical duties. All of our assessments are visual and assess the structural safety, utility availability, proper ventilation, condition of cafeteria equipment, site safety and additional hazards that may pose a risk to students or staff."

Lack of power and water poses an issue for the teams, making it difficult to verify the functionality of air conditioning units, cafeteria exhaust fans, and food storage equipment. The availability of potable water at the school is also critical to the team's assessment summaries.

Many factors play into the status of opening a school, the tentative date being October 30, 2017, or later.

Bamberg said, "Getting the schools back open not only gets students back to school, and teachers and staff back to work, but it provides a sense of normalcy to the community and helps get people back to the way things were before the hurricane."

The Corps along with their counterparts have assessed more than 250 schools between San Juan and Mayaguez.

The number of assessments continues to grow daily but will eventually taper off. There are approximately 1,100 schools in the system; Hurricane Maria destroyed 70 of them.

About 190 are community centers and others continue to house thousands of people that have lost their homes.

The Corps' number one priority continues to be the life, health and safety of all who were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Logistics:

Walla Walla District's Power PRT discussing the mission in our 'Office' at the STT ISB. Left to Right, Shawn McCann (QA), Mary Van Sickle (Contract Specialist), Rich Hilt (Power SME), Don Redman (Mission Manager), Carlos Flores Lopez (QA).
(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Critical Incident Stress Management, or #CISM, team members Morgan O'Brien, Seattle District, third from the right, and Deryck Rodgers, Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, talk with members of Walla Walla 's temporary emergency power team on Nov. 25, 2017, at the incident support base on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Philadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church in the Raphune neighborhood on St Thomas. *Photo by James Wade*

An aerial shot of of Puerto Rico on Oct. 5, 2017 showing parts of the island's devastated agriculture and livestock industry, making Hurricane Maria one of the costliest storms to hit the island.
(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)

Rio Pierdas on the north eastern side of the island of Puerto Rico was one of the many municipalities affected by the Category Five, Hurricane Maria. *(U.S. Army photo by Kent Bernard)*

Left: A Debris Quality Assurance Inspector, Jackie Roy, rates a load of storm debris delivered by a contractor truck to the Toa Baja Landfill. Debris QAs ensure contractor invoices accurately reflect work performed. QA's often perform dual roles, rating loads as well as inspecting and certifying trucks hauling debris for USACE contractor Keith Hyde. Above: A Debris Quality Assurance Inspector rates a load of vegetation received at the Los Alamos temporary debris reduction site where grinders reduce woody debris into mulch which will serve beneficial use elsewhere on the island. *(U.S. Army photos by Keith Hyde)*

Top right: Daniel Alfredo Rodriguez, Civil Engineer, is working with the Critical Infrastructure team assessing a Juvenile Detention Center in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. The Critical Public Facility team continues to conduct assessments for municipal facilities.
(U.S. Army photo by Mikell Moore)

Above: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, visited Corps personnel in Puerto Rico as they provided response to Hurricane Maria. During his visit, he flew to Guajataca Dam to observe the emergency repairs that the Corps is overseeing. Elements of the U.S. Army, United States Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard have all assisted in the repairs. Here Semonite reviews dam assessments on Oct. 12, 2017.
(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)

Left: An excavator repositions for operations unloading and loading trucks at the Trujillo Alta temporary disposal site. Temporary sites serve as municipal collection points for woody debris before it's reduced to mulch or transferred to another location for permanent deposition (mulch recycling site or landfill). (*U.S. Army photo by Keith Hyde)*

Above: Kent Bernard, USACE Contracting Specialist volunteered to help the Blue Roof assessment team. Together the five member team assessed from 60 to 90 homes a day, while team members were immersed in barrios and made connections with families whose homes they assessed.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Outreach to partners and stakeholders

Lower Granite Master Plan public scoping meetings

Left: The Corps conducted public scoping meetings March 22-23 in Clarkston and Pullman to support the Master Plan revision and Environmental Assessment. The Corps invited comments from the public regarding management of natural resources and recreational opportunities. *(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)*

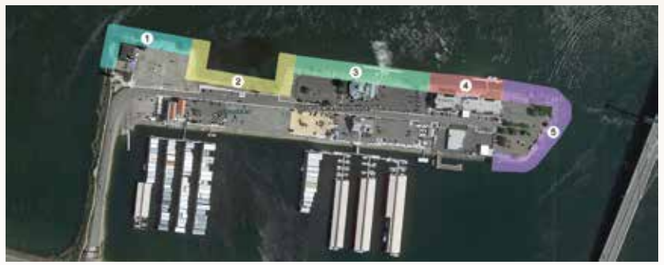
TREC familiarization

Donna Street, Walla Walla District chief of Engineering and District Commander Lt.Col.Damon Delarosa familiarize members of the Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council with levee safety issues as Tanna Bader-Inglima listens. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

Walla Walla Dam Safety

Dwayne Weston briefs local officials on the District's dam safety activities. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

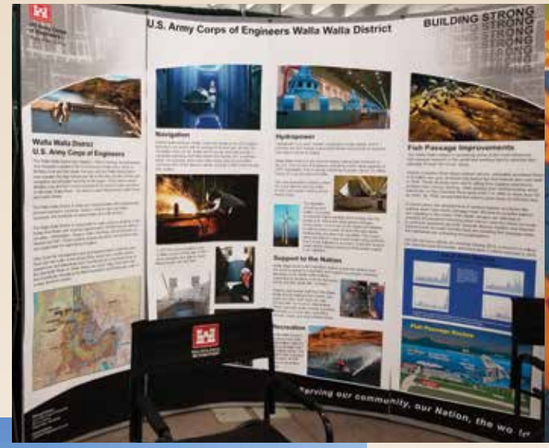
Clover Island



Clover Island is the site of an ecosystem restoration project near Kennewick, WA. The Coast Guard base in Tri-Cities hosted their seventh annual open house there, on April 29, 2017. The USCG Open House gave boaters and families a chance to learn more about what the Coast Guard, law enforcement and the Army Corps of Engineers does on the water ways of the Columbia. This year the USCG aslo performed a fast water rescue demonstration. *(U.S. Army photos by Jennifer Allen)*

Walla Walla Fair

Fairgoers stopped by and received information on the District's recreational activities and flood Control. Also at the booth was water safety games and displays for kids of all ages to enjoy. Staff and volunteers from across the District operated the District's booth at the Walla Walla Fair.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)



VA Veteran's Stand Down

EEO Manager Andrew Dankle-Ybanez mixes with some of the 230 veteran attendees and 50 venders at the Veteran's Affairs Stand Down. While the Stand Down only happens once a year, this event connects veterans with services and connect with other veterans.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

Career Fair

Christopher Russell, Walla Walla District's training manager, speaks to a group of engineering students at Walla Walla Community College about engineering and apprenticeship programs with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Giving these students information is only part of the outreach effort. Russell also performs mock interviews to get the student more at ease talking about themselves and their abilities.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

Industry Day

A Corps panel discussion focused n "Doing Business with the Corps" engaged more than 100 business owners attending the Walla Walla District's Industry Day, held Oct. 18 in Walla Walla, Washington.

Break-out sessions focused on construction, environmental and service contract requirements.

Jean DesJarlais, the District's hydropower business line manager, and Julie Morris, a contract specialist, answer questions from Industry Day attendees.

Story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District hosted more than 130 business owners during the Corps' "Industry Day" on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

The day-long event was open to those interested in learning about how to do business with the Corps, upcoming contract opportunities, competing for contracts, or showcasing capabilities.

District personnel presented informational briefings, discussed upcoming contracting opportunities and processes, and a panel of District staff members involved with reviewing contract proposals answered questions posed by attendees.

"For many small-business owners with little or no experience doing business with federal agencies, competing for government contracts can be a challenging process.

We regularly offer Industry Day seminars for business owners to get some first-hand help in learning the policies, processes and opportunities to do business with us," said James Glynn, Small Business Programs Manager for the Walla Walla District.

Sandy Young, an economically disadvantaged, woman-owned, small-business owner from Eagle River, Alaska, attended previous Corps' Industry Day events to learn how Verdis, her civil-engineering/construction/landscape-architecture company, could compete for Corps contracts and network with other businesses. The information and networking opportunities with other businesses were worth the trip to Walla Walla, she said.

"Since last years' event, my company has been able to compete for and win two small-business contracts with the Walla Walla District" said Young. "In the past two years, we've been able to land 21 contracts with various federal agencies."

For many attendees, Industry Day offered the chance to network with other businesses who do work for the Corps.

That small-business to large-business networking can be key to successful federal contract performance. Large businesses which have capacity to perform complex, high-value work often sub-contract with small businesses to perform portions of total scope of work.

Young had some advice for small-business owners who want to become more competitive for federal contracting opportunities:

"Get in your car or on a plane and attend every one of these events that you can with the Corps and other federal agencies. The networking at these events is invaluable,' she said, "and sometimes it's the industry contact you might least expect to do business with that blossoms into work for your company as a sub-contractor."

The Walla Walla District awards contracts for construction projects, architect-engineering studies, and supplies and services needed to operate their facilities.

Contracting 2017 Totals

Number of Contracts

- 1,168
- Total Value of Contracts $110 Million

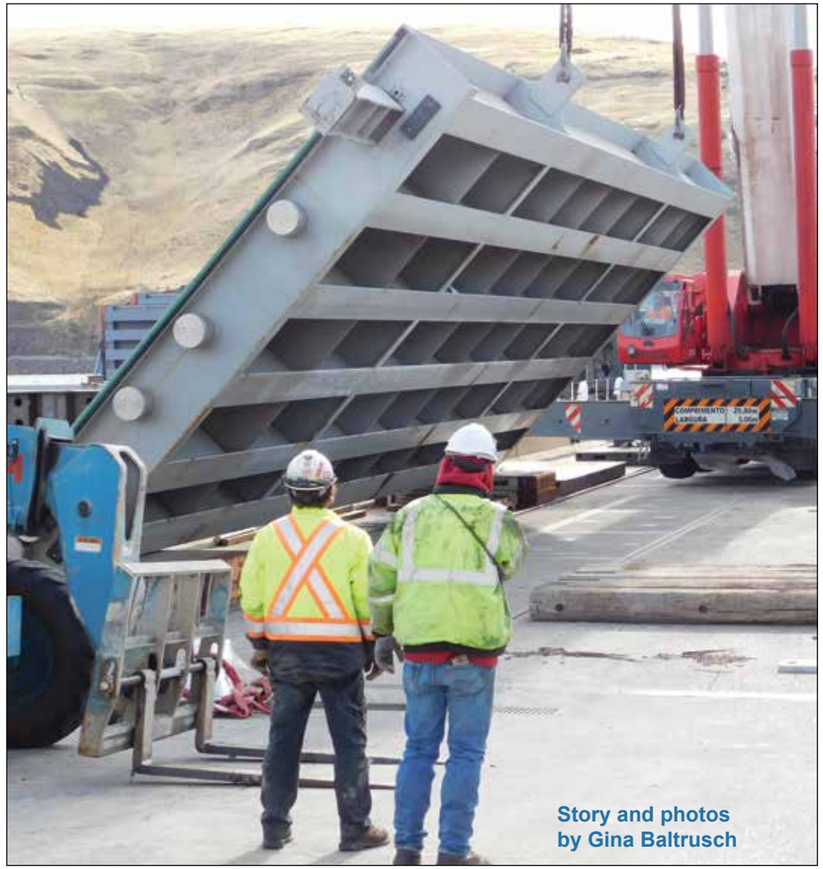
Veterans Day Parade

(U.S. Army photo by Joe Saxon)

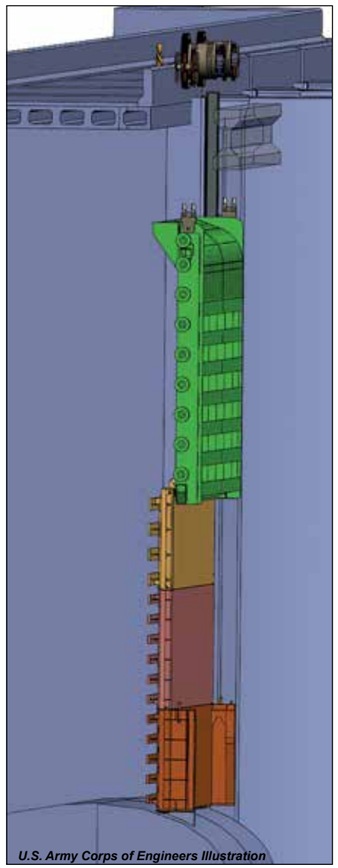
Above: Ranger Justin Stegall and Chris Alford lead the Walla Walla District's contingent in the Veterans Day parade Nov. 11.

Retiree Day

Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, Bob Bonstad, Mark Summers, Jim Cain, Curt Lindberg, Nick Moromarco and Ed Kim.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)



Story and photos
by Gina Baltrusch



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Illustration

Little Goose Dam Adjustable Spillway Weir arrives

The next generation of spillway weirs arrived at Little Goose Lock and Dam Oct. 30.

The adjustable spillway weir (ASW), functions similarly to the fixed-height fish weirs installed at other Corps dams on the lower-Snake and lower-Columbia rivers, allowing juvenile salmon and steelhead to pass the dam near the water surface under lower accelerations and lower pressures, providing a more-efficient and less-stressful dam passage route.

As with each weir that has been developed since the first prototype was installed at Lower Granite Lock and Dam, design improvements continue to be made.

The ASW features a mechanical hoist, enabling incremental height adjustments to the weir crest to better manage water flows for out-migrating juvenile salmon during spring run-off or summer flows, or possible night operations without the use of a large crane. An overlapping water-stop panel slides in a track to move up and down with the crest component.

The ASW will replace the existing, non-adjustable, top spillway weir (TSW) currently installed in spillway bay number 1.

Memorial Day 2017

Vietnam Traveling Wall Memorial comes to Pasco

(U.S. Army photos by Brigida Sanchez and Joe Saxon)

Water balloons test crane at Little Goose Lock and Dam

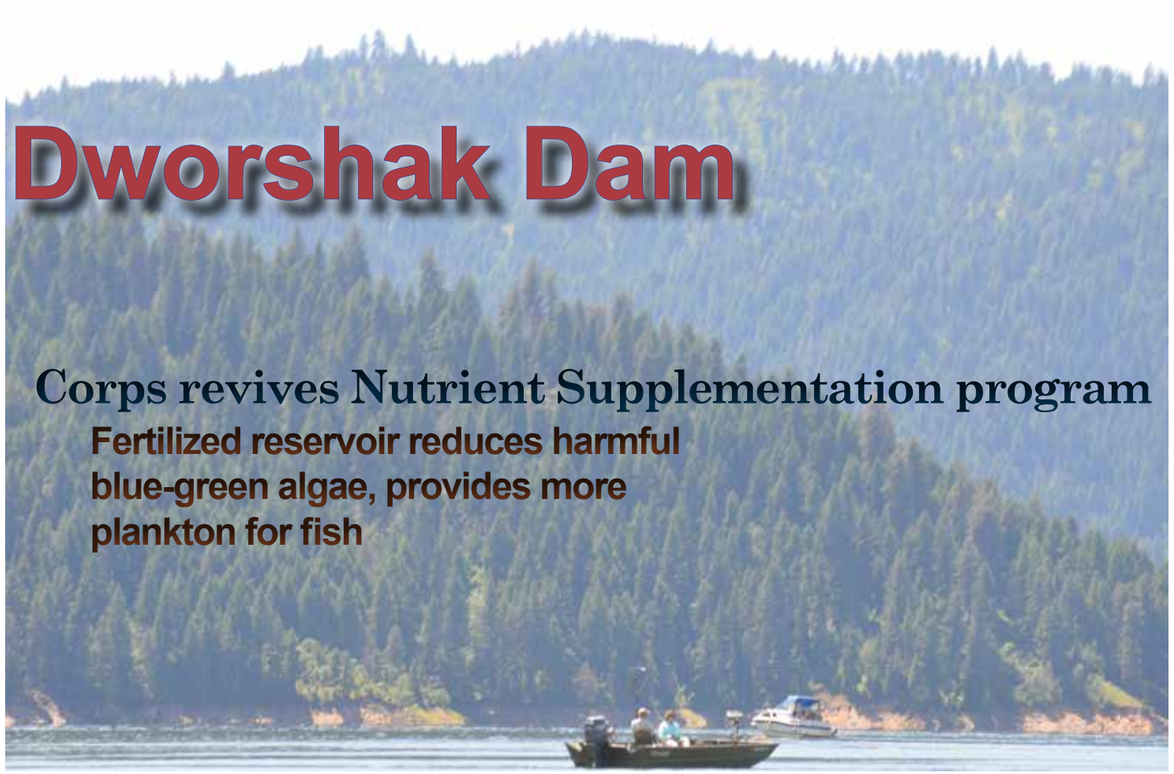
The water balloons used for Little Goose crane are a unique and simple system which provides a gradual load during the test trial rather than providing solid traditional fixed weights. The load testing bags are designed in such a way that filling of the bags can be carried out gradually, and therefore exact weights can be attained. In addition, when carrying out filling gradually, it's far easier to identify potential problems than when simple filling the bag in one go. These bags are designed with 'fire hose size' fittings which are terminated by quick release couplings compatible with standard hydrants and hoses. The test load is an essential part for each inspection, maintenance and possible repair of any lifting equipment. The maintenance crew at Little Goose use these bags for the most critical and difficult situations to test. *(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)*

McNary and Ice Harbor Dams host visitors

(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

USACE Dep. Cmdr Maj. Gen. Donald Jackson and Northwestern Division Commander Maj. Gen. Scott Spellmon visit Ice Harbor Dam (left) and McNary Dam (below right).

Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Congressmen Dan Newhouse and Greg Walden visited McNary Dam.



Dworshak Dam

Corps revives Nutrient Supplementation program

Fertilized reservoir reduces harmful blue-green algae, provides more plankton for fish

Dworshak Dam and Reservoir's Nutrient Suplementation Program *(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)*

When the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) partnered to test whether nutrient restoration can work to benefit fishing and other recreational use on Dworshak Reservoir, it began as a pilot project began in 2007.

What started as a pilot project is now bearing fruit. The nutrient project has increased the carrying capacity of the reservoir. There is more edible algae for all organisms to eat, which, translates into more food for fish.

The idea behind adding nutrients to the reservoir is to restore nitrogen (the limiting nutrient) and offset the effects of declining nutrient levels. Excessive amounts are not added, but instead small amounts of nitrogen are added that can readily be used up by organisms low on the food chain. Benefitting organisms low on the food chain provides more food for those higher up the food chain. This eventually should provide more food for Kokanee that, in turn, can be eaten by larger fish like Bull Trout and Smallmouth Bass.

Reservoirs go through a natural aging process after they are created. When a reservoir is first filled it submerges trees, grasses, and other vegetation. The breakdown of this vegetation releases nutrients into the water. The first several years after a reservoir is filled are typically the most nutrient rich conditions in a reservoir. Eventually there will be less vegetation below the high water line to provide nutrients. In Dworshak Reservoir, there is almost no vegetation below the high water line.

As a reservoir ages, eventually, the rivers and streams that flow into a reservoir become the main source of nutrients. Each spring the North Fork Clearwater and other streams flowing into Dworshak provide a nutrient pulse to the reservoir. But, these nutrients only last for a while and nitrogen is typically used up by late-July. Afterwards, nutrients decrease rapidly and reservoir productivity declines. Low reservoir productivity leads to less food for kokanee and other fish.

"We originally planned to evaluate the project over a five year period, reaching a decision by the end of 2011," said Natural Resource Manager Paul Pence. " But in 2010, we were required to stop nutrient additions due to changes in permitting requirements. Because it can take several years to begin to see the effects of nutrient restoration on fish populations, we did not have enough information to make a decision at this time.

The Walla Walla District supplies and applies the fertilizer by loading it on a work boat and distributing it across the reservoir and has a contract with a limnologist who reviews water quality samples and provides weekly fertilizer application prescriptions. *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

However, we started a second pilot phase in 2012 and continued it through 2016, giving us a full five years of data. " he said.

"After completing the fifth and final year of the pilot phase the evidence continues to show that nutrient restoration has improved the ecology of the reservoir.

In 2017 the program was converted from a pilot project to routine reservoir maintenance. DWA took over all operations with limited support from Walla Walla District. The Corps partnered with the Idaho of Fish and Game. The Corps supplies and applies the fertilizer and has a contract with a limnologist who reviews water quality samples and provides weekly fertilizer application prescriptions. Also, the Corps provides data reporting, lab analysis, water sampling materials and boat fuel for IDFG while IDFG provides monthly water quality sampling and reviews our data.

It has led to a reduction in harmful bluegreen algae, coupled with an increase in beneficial algae. This change in algae means that there has been more plankton for fish to eat, safer water for recreation, and essentially no change in water clarity. Based on these results, we are currently laying the groundwork for long-term implementation while we continue to monitor and evaluate the project, he added.

Above Left and Right: Kokanee measuring between 10 and 14" with a few fish measuring 17 inches in length populate Dworshak's Reservoir. *(Idaho Dept. of Fish and Wildlife photos)*

Dworshak Dam and Reservoir is surrounded by more than 29,000 acres of land that the Corps owns and manages. Maintaining a healthy forest is important for many reasons – ecosystem integrity, as well as wildlife habitat and recreational benefits. Forest health issues can include fuel loading, insect, disease, and parasite outbreaks or infestations. Each of these occur naturally at background levels in a healthy forest ecosystem, yet can become a serious threat to forest health when out of proportion. Dworshak natural resources management staff monitor and manage the forest on Corps lands around the reservoir. Timber sales and forest-stewardship projects are some of the most-effective methods available to help us maintain a healthy forest, by removing diseased trees, preventing the spread of beetle infestations and reducing wildfire risk. *(U.S. Army photos by Jennifer Allen)*

Navigation Lock Outage

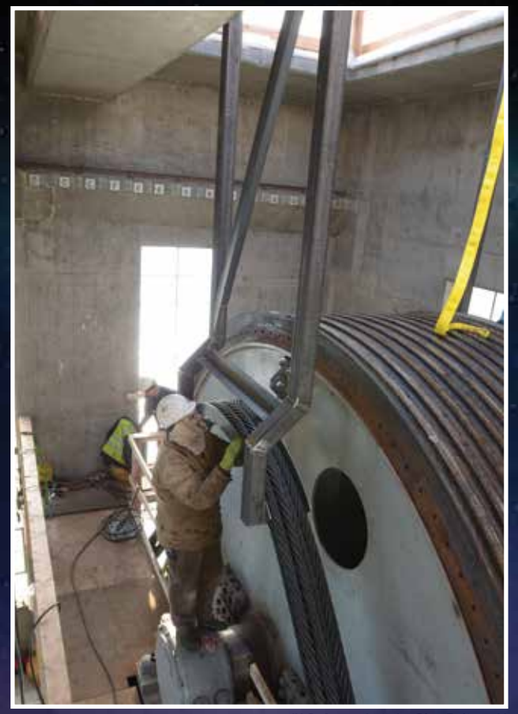
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials from Walla Walla conducted a 14-week-long maintenance outage from Dec. 12 to March 20, 2017.

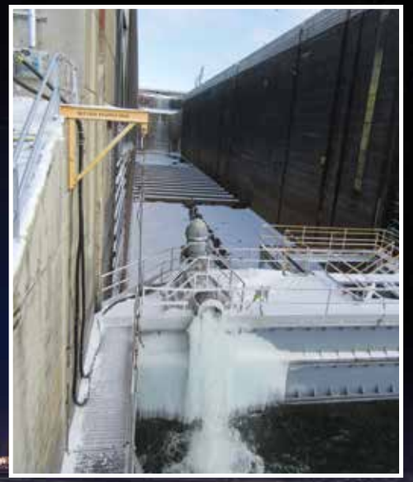
The extended outage was a coordinated effort between Portland and Walla Walla districts, as well as the commercial river users such as ports, towboat companies and others, with the goal of accomplishing prioritized critical lock repairs during a jointly scheduled time frame to minimize the impacts of these lock closures. The districts manage the locks and dams that comprise the 359-mile-long federally authorized inland navigation channel extending upriver from Portland, Oregon, to Lewiston, Idaho.

Planning milestones, contract awards, fabrication and pre-outage staging work has occurred on schedule since the Corps officially announced the extended outage almost two years ago (May 2015), giving commercial navigation businesses and their customers maximum time to prepare for the locks to be out of service.

Drawing from effective communications experiences during the 2010-2011 extended navigation lock outage, and keeping an open ear to the inland navigation industry, the Corps invited commercial navigation industry representatives to participate in regular communications about this upcoming outage and its associated major work projects.

"Aging infrastructure sometimes requires extensive non-routine repairs and improvements that cannot be completed within the traditional two week-long annual routine maintenance outages. Extended lock closures are very unusual and carefully coordinated between districts and commercial users to prioritize needed lock repairs and minimize the duration of closures," said Hal Thomas, Walla Walla District's navigation business line manager. "This work will improve the long-term functionality and safety of these locks as well as the overall reliability of the Columbia-Snake River navigation system as a whole." *(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)*





(U.S. Army photo by Gina Baltrusch)

Right, above : Ice Harbor Lock and Dam upgraded critical components of the operating machinery for the downstream gate. Right and below: Replacement of the remaining original gudgeon arm, linkage and the pintle assembly for both gate leafs.

Center, above: Torchwork. Below: Lower Granite Lock and Dam upgrades included a circular cool water spray at the upstream end of Lower Granite Dam adult fish ladder. This temperature regulation system curbs the rising river temperatures experienced by the Pacific Northwest in recent years. Bottom: Ice Harbor Lock and Dam.

(U.S. Army photo illustration by Jay Anderson)

Lower Granite:
Reliability, Resources and In-House Solutions

Story and photos
by Dawn Wadel

Each year, the Corps of Engineers does a routine outage for all eight locks on the Lower Snake and Columbia Rivers.

Generally, the outages last no more than three weeks allowing for routine maintenance and inspection.

This year was the first reoccurring extended outage that will be scheduled approximately every 5 years for 14 weeks to accommodate more complex maintenance and repair projects. Locks are scheduled to be out of service until mid-March.

During this years extended outage, Lower Granite's upstream gate, which holds back Granite Lake during a lockage, had its synthetic fiber (Kevlar) rope cables replaced with a more durable plastic filled and coated (Tuff-Kote) steel wire ropes.

When the dams were originally built in the 1970's both Lower Granite and Little Goose had similar equipment that hoisted their upstream gates. Both had problems with the cables prematurely wearing out due to the tight bend radius and fatigue cracks.

So, in 1990 the Corps replaced the traditional steel wire ropes at both facilities, each employing a slightly different type of more flexible rope. Lower Granite received synthetic fiber ropes jacketed in a polyethylene plastic. Over time, a number of concerns arose as the ropes began to stretch, exposing fibers at the root.

Mechanical crew lead, Matt Dinotto, oversaw mechanics Dave Sears and Frank Hudson as they wielded the giant gear used to turn the cable drum which operates the massive 86 ton, 27 foot high by 86 foot long upstream gate.

Despite inclimate weather, lead mechanic Matt Dinotto guided his crew through the process as they carefully reinstalled the gigantic pieces of precision equipment.

While this did not pose any direct issues, it did became increasingly worrisome as the ropes were not able to be magnetically tested for weaknesses as is possible with steel rope.

Most recently, as a precautionary measure and in an effort to buy down risk, the Corps of Engineers elected to replace the ropes with the same style that Little Goose received in 1990. Their plastic filled and coated steel wire ropes have had many years of successful reliability.

To replace the ropes, it was necessary to disassemble the entire gear mechanism and remove each of the 6 discs and 5 cables from the drum, replace them with upgraded versions and put the discs, drum, cable and gear mechanism back together before re-installing it. Because the diameter of the new ropes is slightly different than the ones being replaced, new discs had to be machined for a proper fit.

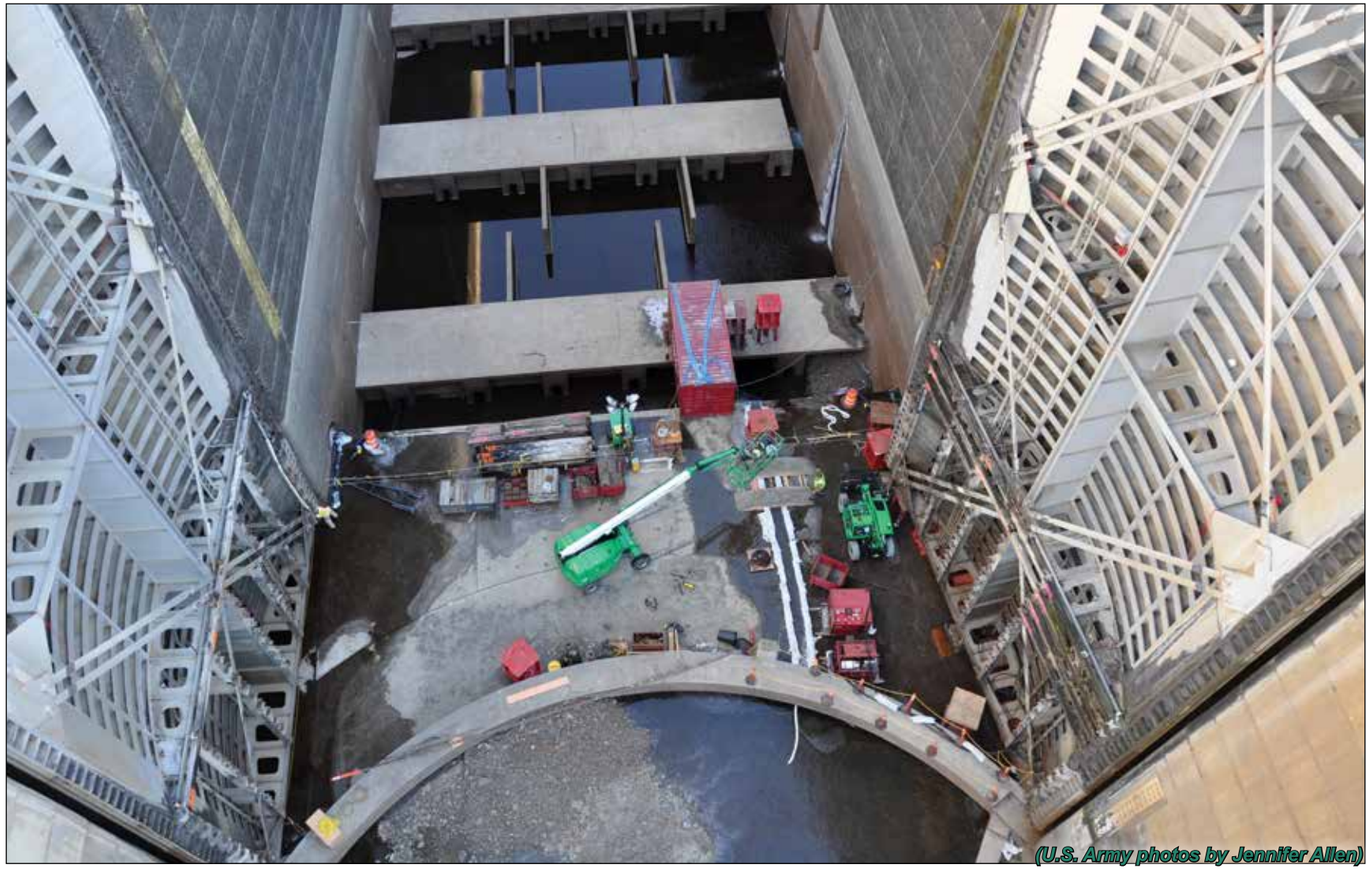
The dismantling and reassembly of the gear mechanism and rope lift was done by the Lower Granite Mechanical crew.

Keeping the project in-house allowed the Corps to save considerable resources by utilizing talented Corps mechanics already on project.

It was a cost effective operation that increased the reliability of the upstream gate and reduced the chance of cable failures that could have resulted in navigation lock shutdowns, revenue loss and inconvenience for not only the Corps, but barge operators, the agricultural industry and others that rely on the navigation locks for transport up and down the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

As a whole, Corps navigational locks are known for their reliability. Looking to the future, the Walla Walla District U.S. Corps of Engineers is already putting the wheels in motion for additional improvements to maintain that standard.

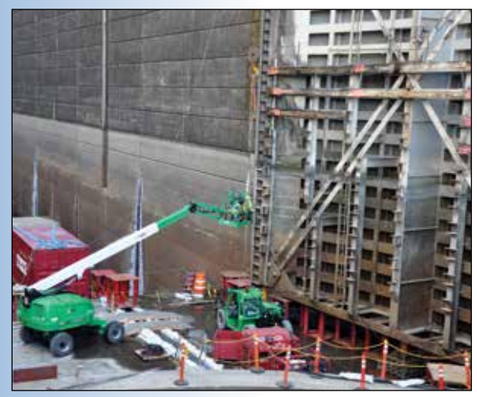
Some of the projects being planned for future extended outages include a district wide systematic replacement of the fill and drain valve structure including their operating linkages, as well as installation of computerized controls that will parallel existing systems and act as backups, reducing the chance of unplanned outages and maintaining navigational reliability.



(U.S. Army photos by Jennifer Allen)

The Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers conducted an extended navigation lock maintenance outage, Dec. 12, 2016, through March 20, 2017. Little Goose dam's navigation lock could not be returned to service by its original March 20 target because of on-site work complications which prompted the Corps to award a new contract March 10 for the completion of the remaining critical repairs on the downstream navigation lock gate.

Little Goose Dam's Navigation Lock Repair



Following an emergency outage in 2014 to repair a failing gudgeon arm, additional work was required during the FY17 outage to complete replacement of the aging components of the gate. This project involved replacement of the remaining original gudgeon arm and linkage, replacement of the pintle assembly for both gate leafs. Structural repairs included resurfacing the quoin and miter, and crack repairs to structural members. Repairs are critical to ensure reliable gate operation.

STEM Engineering Week

Corps celebrates EWeek with "Building Bridges Towards our Future" competition at local Walla Walla and College Place schools.

Story and photos by Brigida Sanchez

The Walla Walla District sponsored engineering design competitions at DeSales High School, College Place High School, Pioneer Middle School and Walla Walla Academy to celebrate National Engineers Week (EWeek) February 22-24.

The engineering design competitions were part of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) conferences. This year, Corps engineers and support staff served as judges and speakers at the STEM competitions.

"We're concerned that more kids aren't getting involved with STEM and this is a chance for us to work with them and show how much fun solving problems using STEM skills can be." Capt. Brent Vance, U.S. Army Corps, STEM coordinator says, "We really need to have enough people involved in these fields in the future, and EWeek is a good way for us to get out and interact with the next generation."

The Walla Walla District helped schools test bridges that students will built using a variety of materials. Rules for the competition include constructing bridges out of toothpicks, popsicle sticks, dental floss and water-soluble glue. Each bridge was judged on its efficiency rather than its overall strength-to-weight ratio.

Capt. Vance said, "Working with glue and popsicle sticks, the challenge will be in the preparation. With science, you want to research and experiment, and as long as they stick with that model, I think they'll work through all the setbacks before the competition."

The competition and STEM Conferences encourage students to problem-solve, use ingenuity, be creative and rely on each other as a team to build their bridges objectively and conceptually.

"I think young people bring a fresh perspective to solving problems like this. I have no idea what kind of solutions we'll see, but that's what's neat about it" said Vance "there's no wrong answer; it's just whatever they find that works."

DeSales High School students watch as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Engineer Amanda Connell, tests their toothpick and popsicle stick bridges.

Capt. Bent Vance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, STEM Coordinator weighs Corps family member's toothpick and Popsicle stick bridges in the atrium during the Engineer Week Competition.

Above: Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, commander of the Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and DeSales High School students watch as Corps Civil Engineer Hillary Smith tests the students' toothpick and popsicle stick bridges.

Left: Corps of Engineers employees Hillary Smith and Julio Morelos calibrate the testing device for the "Building Bridges Towards our Future" Engineer Week Competition. Local students worked diligently for two weeks planning, building, testing and modifying their structures. The Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the "Building Bridges Towards our Future" engineering and design competition, and Corps employees volunteered at DeSales High School, Walla Walla, Washington.

Corps Project Manager Simeon Francis ensures bridges at DeSales High School meet competition standards for the "Building Bridges Towards our Future" Engineer Week Competition.

Women in Engineering

Local Walla Walla professional women speak to young women from Walla Walla High School during the Women in Engineering Event at that the SEATech Center on April 26, 2017.

Photos above: Ms. Ruthann Haider, chief of contracting at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District, addressed young women from Walla Walla High School, along with other professional women who attended the Women in Engineering Event at that the SEATech Center on April 26, 2017. The science, technology, engineering and math event was organized in order to expose students to a variety of opportunities and bridge the gap in occupations where there is a gender disparity.

The Walla Walla High School's Women in Engineering event highlights ordinary women living extraordinary lives

In a beautifully sun lit classroom with a wall of windows a diverse group of women gathered together to talk about science, technology, engineering, math, (STEM), and life at the Walla Walla High School Women in Engineering (WIE) Panel Event on April 26, 2017 .

The WIE event introduces young women interested in STEM to professionals in a variety of career fields.

Claircy Clizer, a passionate Career Outreach Coordinator at SEATech Skills Center and at Walla Walla High School exposes students to a variety of opportunities by sponsoring events. These events bridge the gap in which information can be delivered to students, so that they may learn more about those professions in which there is a disparity in gender diversity.

"We wanted to encourage women particularly with the event to be involved in STEM Studies and encourage them to pursue the things that they maybe hadn't thought about before," explains Clizer. "The Women in Engineering event, was something that I talked about with a couple of people, and we decided let's give it a try. And, it has been very successful. It has been a very fun event to do, too."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sent three representatives to sit on the WIE panel, comprised of women from Walla Walla who are involved in STEM career fields.

All three Corps' volunteers: Chief of Contracting Ruthann Haider, Project Manager and Chemical Engineer Margret McGill, and Civil Engineer Yvonne Gibbons have participated since 2014, when the event was first organized.

Yvonne Gibbons, who was one of 10 children, grew up on a farm. She was encouraged by her mother to go to college and inspired by her older sister to become an engineer.

Yvonne, understands the significance of motivating young women to pursue a career in the engineering field.

"I hope that they will listen to what we all said, and that it isn't about who you work with, be it gender or ethnicity. It is important to be yourself and to bring forward what you have to add to those groups," Gibbons emphasized. "There's nothing holding any of them back."

Clizer who organized WIE, not only enlisted panel members but the students that attended the event.

Emma Wenzel, a junior at Walla Walla High, too shy to raise her hand in class when asked if she wanted to attend the event, rallied a group of friends interested in STEM to go and listen to the panel.

This show of confidence and strength by all the WIE members attending the event endeavored to empower the eight students from Walla Walla High School.

"They did a great job, it was really interesting to see where they started, where they ended up and how their paths changed," Wenzel an Advanced Placement Calculus student said. "I didn't realize that there are so many different career fields in engineering."

Like most people, Emma wants a job doing what she loves. The forum opened her eyes to possible opportunities in her future.

The Women in Engineering event featured ordinary women with extraordinary stories of blazing trails, like the women before them, and these eight young women who aspire follow them.

Story and photos by Brigida Sanchez

S.T.E.M.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Encouraging students to pursue science & technology careers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, STEM Coordinator Capt. Bent Vance, talks to students at College Place High School's Science and Engineering Class about becoming an engineer. Vance was one of the many Corps personnel that spoke to students on the topic of STEM. *(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)*

College & University Visits

2 Mar – Eastern Washington
1 Mar – Gonzaga
22 Feb – BSU
21 Feb – Walla Walla U
16 Feb – Oregon State
8 Feb – U of Idaho
8 Feb – Walla Walla CC
7 Feb – Washington State
17 Nov – Boise State
27 Oct – Eastern Washington
26-27 Oct – Oregon State
25 Oct – Gonzaga
5 Oct – U of Idaho
4 Oct – Washington State
28 Sep – Washington State

Students take notes as a tug prepares to push four loaded grain barges (approximately 800,000 bushels of red wheat) downriver after the navigation lock drained 46 million gallons of water and dropped 100 feet in less than 10 minutes.

Dayton Schools at Little Goose Dam

Story and Photos by Alex Miller

On September 22nd Kahlotus High School came for a two hour visit of the Juvenille Fish Facility, powerhouse and navigation lock while on October 31 students from Washtucna High School were treated to an extended tour of the Lyon's Ferry Fish Hatchery, Goose's JFF, Powerhouse navigation lock and the first floor of the dam.

Each school brought grades 7-12, their student numbers at 22 for the entire schools. In both cases most of the teachers came along as well. The Kahlotus tour was sidetracked by the unexpected and pleasant surprise of a fish barge using the navigation lock. Students were able to watch as 46 million gallons of water drained from the lock, dropping 100 feet in less than 10 minutes.

Once completed they headed to the JFF, where the students were able to discuss the juvenile fish facility, juvenile bypass system, and USACE fish transportation program with JFF biologists Rick Weis and Scott St. John, as well as biologists from Oregon Fish and Game and Anchor QEA. Students were able to get hands on experience with shad, juvenile salmon, lamprey macrophthalmia and invasive Siberian prawns.

Students from Kahlotus high school get hands on experience with juvenile salmon, shad, lamprey macrophthalmia and Siberian prawns in the Juvenile Fish Facility's wet lab.

After an hour exploring and learning in the wet lab, the group headed into the powerhouse to discuss the six turbine generators, two of which were operating. Next the group climbed to the top of the dam to look at the transformers and to learn more about how power is distributed.

One of the fortunate aspects of Little Goose's design, is that the navigation lock, fish ladder and fish flume are all on the south side of the dam. This makes for a comprehensive visual of the many mechanisms working together at the dam.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District's Park Tech Sandy Hattan teaches children to "Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go!" at the Water Safety Station during the Prospect Point Elementary School Field Day, Walla Walla, Washington.

Prospect Point School Field Day

Water safety lessons teach students to "Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go."

Natural Resources Specialist Michael J. Swenson demonstrates some "Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go" techniques.

Photos by Brigida Sanchez

Prospect Point Elementary School Student participate in a pizza box relay during their eighth annual field day event in Walla Walla, Wash. Corps personnel volunteered at the primary School and showed support to Walla Walla community youth with a Water Safety activity and play through Science, Technology, Engineer and Math.

Natural Resources:
"offering something for everyone"

Kid's Free Fishing Day at Mill Creek

Story and Photos by Jennifer Allen

Kids from the Walla Walla area gathered to try their hand at fishing during a free Kids' Fishing Day, sponsored by the Tri-State Steelheaders and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, at Bennington Lake, June 11, 2017.

More than 75 children joined the Tri-State SteelHeaders Salmon Enhancement Group and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, for a free Kids' Fishing Day at Bennington Lake on June 11, 2017.

"At the Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group, our mission is restoration, education and recreation. This event, which we have sponsored for more than 15 years, allows us to accomplish several of these," said Brian Burns, the executive director and project manager for the Tri-State Steelheaders.

Participants received gift bags that included fishing gear and an entry into the casting contest. They were also treated to free hot dogs and soda.

Bennington Lake has been stocked several times by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and there were catchable and jumbo Rainbow Trout for the taking.

"This is one of the largest turn-outs we have ever seen," Burns said. "It is encouraging to see so many who want to learn and be a part of something really fun."

All participating children were entered into a drawing for a new fishing rod, which were provided through donations to the Tri-State Steelheaders.

At the conclusion of the event the winner of the Biggest Fish competition was announced. The winning fish, coming in at 15 1/2 inches, belonged to Kyle Borgman. "I had so much fun today," exclaimed Borgman as he picked out his new fishing gear.

"We are trying to educate kids about fishing and hopefully they will take away a life-long love of recreational fishing and they become conservationist in the process," said Burns.

Above:Kyle Borgman, shows off his winnings as part of a free Kids' fishing day held at Bennington Lake, June 11, 2017. Borgman won the big fish contest with a fish of 15 ½ inches, and is awarded a new fishing rod and fishing gear. Left: Rangers and Natural Resources Managers gathered for training at the annual Vistor Assistance Refresher Training.

Salmon Summit

The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in the 2017 Salmon Summit, April 25-26, 2017. The Benton Conservation District invites students from all over the Tri-Cities to the Salmon SummitThe annual event teaches kids about the benefits of our local rivers. ***(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)***

McNary Dam Watershed Fun Days

Above: Park Ranger Paul Augustine starts his portion of the Watershed Field Days with identifying animal prints, bones and what they eat. The two-day event, held for local schools, each year is aimed at introduction to the natural sciences.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

Right: Park Ranger Carey Tolleson talks about safety at Camp Wooten, located in Pomeroy, Washington. The Natural Resource Managers, with the Walla Walla Distict, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, put great effort into their outreach program. Like other outreach efforts by USACE, Ranger Tolleson explains, throw-don't go, and lifejacket safety. ***(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)***

Tri-Rivers champions Burrowing Owl habitat restoration efforts

Story and photos by Bradly Trumbo

While the Walla Walla District manages more than 50,000 acres for wildlife habitat, planting and maintaining native vegetation are not the only beneficial measures in the quiver. Native plant communities generally benefit wildlife species, but at times, particular habitat needs may be most appropriately met with an artificial flavor.

The western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*) is a peculiar owl species that inhabits a large portion of Washington State, including the Walla Walla area. Their range extends from Mexico to Canada, and some northern individuals migrate and overwinter in the southern latitudes. However, burrowing owl habitat and distribution has declined considerably over the past approximately thirty years; their biggest threat being habitat lost to land development. For this reason, the burrowing owl is listed as a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a national "Bird of Conservation Concern" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Contrary to their cousin owl species, these adaptive creatures occupy open prairie, grasslands, and shrub-steppe landscapes with low-growing vegetation. Named for their ground nesting behavior, burrowing owls generally utilize burrows abandoned by small mammals such as prairie dogs.

Walla Walla District HMUs, being protected from the threats that burrowing owls face, are ideal lands for habitat "restoration." Restoration efforts on Corps HMUs largely focus on installing artificial burrows, providing nesting opportunity and protection from predators.

Upon being hired in 2016, Wildlife Biologist Jim Castle came up to speed on the Tri-Rivers lands and immediately prioritized burrow sites for this curious owl.

"Burrowing owls are native to the area and are an important ecosystem engineer and keystone species." Jim explained. Upon forming a considerable partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Global Owl Project, and the University of Idaho, sites were selected for artificial burrow installation. Jim further explained that Corps lands near Ice Harbor Dam provide ideal habitat sites because the terrain is "…relatively flat with a good population of burrowing rodents, an abundance of insects, and a lack of predators."

Artificial burrows were designed as far back as the 1970s, and have since been research and adjusted to relatively standard criteria based on natural burrow selection.

To mimic natural burrow criteria, the US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends burying half of a 55-gallon drum as a nest chamber with the floor three-feet below the ground surface. Ten feet of 6-inch diameter, corrugated drain pipe with a 60-degree arc and 15 to 25-degree slope up to the ground surface serves as the entrance tunnel.

The entrances must be clear of vegetation and provide good visibility to the surrounding area. Nearby perches such as snags (dead trees or brush) may also be desirable.

Left and Above: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mill Creek staff work with Eagle Scout Troop 693 to supply and install two artificial burrows for the western burrowing owl (Athene Cunicularia hypogea) on the Mill Creek Project. Burrowing Owls are listed as a Species of Concern in Washington and need a dry, open area with low vegetation. It was once broadly throughout western North America, but has declined in the last 30 years.

Tri-Rivers installed 14 artificial burrows during the early summer of 2017, but the Mill Creek Project was also on the band wagon receiving two artificial burrows.

In November, 2017, local Eagle Scout, Sean Cozart of Troop 693, cooperated with Mill Creek staff to supply and install two artificial burrows to satisfy his Eagle Scout project requirements.

"I have always been interested in birds, and I chose this project because of the benefit it provides to for the burrowing owls, which were here historically." Said Sean, as he and eight of his troop members shoveled soil overtop the burrows.

It is unknown how quickly owls may inhabit the new burrows, but in areas with existing colonies, owls have occupied newly installed burrows within a day.

Jim Castle is hoping the owls will find the new burrows during their annual migration and return to them in spring of 2018. If the habitats are not occupied naturally, efforts will be made to cooperate with the Umatilla Tribe to transplant owls from nearby sites for colony establishment.

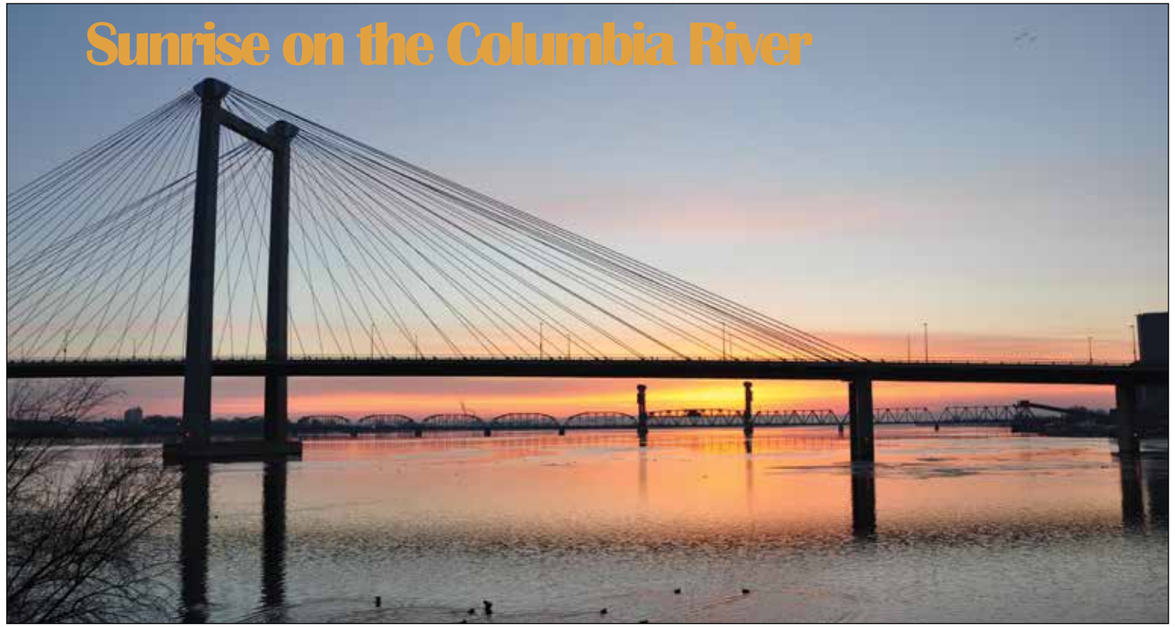
The installation and future occupation of the new burrows at both projects not only provides a unique opportunity to establish a species of concern on Corps-managed lands, but also provides significant public opportunity.

Several burrow locations at Ice Harbor are accessible by vehicle allowing for classroom participation in the field. Educational opportunities also include research on how these new habitats are colonized, as well as colony behaviors, and students and members of the general public will have the opportunity to engage in volunteer monitoring programs. Perhaps the most wide-reaching public benefit will be the wildlife viewing and photography opportunities.

Although "restoration" sounds puzzling when referring to artificial habitat development, make no mistake in understanding that these artificial burrows provide a rare opportunity for burrowing owls and Corps public land patrons.

From expanding local nesting habitat, to providing new public wildlife education and viewing opportunity, the Corps can be proud of its burrowing owl habitat restoration efforts.

Left and Above: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mill Creek staff and Eagle Scout Troop 693 installed two artificial burrows for the western burrowing owl on the Mill Creek Project site. Above right: Heading home after a job well done.



"Chasing the sun rising in front of the Lampson Cable Bridge for the "Building Bridges STEM Competition" at first was about getting the perfect shot. Upon settling down to capture the image that was meant to inspire the youth, I realized that this was a visual metaphor of the Corps bridging the gap between the institution and its community. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doesn't just serve the people; we are the people." ***(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)***

Walla Walla achieves EMAP accreditation

After months of preparation, Walla Walla District earned full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Commission on Oct. 26.

To achieve accreditation, the District's emergency management program, which includes many agencies and individuals within the program, documented compliance with 64 industry-recognized standards and a peer-review on-site assessment by a team of EMAP trained assessors.

"Congratulations to those programs that have maintained their accredited status as well as those who have joined the elite leaders in emergency management having earned accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Through their commitment and leadership, they have proven to their communities and stakeholders that their programs are sustainable and that they continue to focus on their communities' best interests," stated Robie Robinson, Executive Director of Public Safety, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and the EMAP Commission Chair.

Providing emergency management programs the opportunity to be evaluated and recognized for compliance with standards certified by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and recognized by the industry complies with the EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence.

These programs demonstrate accountability and focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed to heighten their preparedness efforts to any technical or natural disaster that may affect their communities.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment verification that its program meets the Emergency Management Standard. The emergency management program uses the accreditation to prove the capabilities of their disaster preparedness and response systems.

Accreditation is valid for five years and the program must maintain compliance with the Emergency Management Standard and is reassessed to maintain accredited status.

For those programs that were undergoing reaccreditation, this achievement proves just as significant. By maintaining their accredited status throughout the years, these programs prove that they adhere to the Emergency Management Standard, and successfully maintain accreditation status to achieve reaccreditation this year.

EMAP revolutionizes emergency management programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters based on standards.

EMAP also recognizes the ability of emergency management programs to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency, in addition to obtaining the ability to measure those capabilities.

The Emergency Management Standard is flexible in design so that programs of differing sizes, populations, risks and resources can use it as a blueprint for improvement.

Native grasses will be planted on the landward-side slopes of the Corps-managed portion of the Mill Creek levee during warmer spring temperatures to improve aesthetics and benefit insects and wildlife. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the first mile of the Mill Creek Levee System, Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake, located east of Walla Walla, Washington, city limits. ***(U.S. Army photos by Jon Hadley)***

District progressing on removing Mill Creek levee vegetation

Story by Gina Baltrusch

The paved trail on the north side of the federally managed section of the Mill Creek Levee System and pedestrian access to Rooks Park reopened to visitors Nov. 20, following the completion of levee maintenance to remove overgrown vegetation which encroached into the levee's maintenance-access zone.

Contractors remove roots and stumps that were intruding into the Mill Creek levee. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the first mile of the Mill Creek Levee System, Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake, located east of Walla Walla, Washington, city limits.

This levee maintenance, conducted in phases during the past three years, was necessary to meet National Levee Safety Program requirements in accordance with Corps headquarters regulations and policies.

Phase-1 work occurred during October-December 2015. Problematic vegetation was removed from the surface of the levee slopes and 15-feet landward from the levee's design toe. Non-compliant vegetation on levees blocks visibility for inspections, access for maintenance, hinders flood fighting, and adds uncertainty to structural performance and reliability, which increases risk to the public.

The inability to inspect, maintain or flood fight could delay emergency response or contribute to risk of levee failure. Life safety is paramount for the Corps' operations.

Phase-2 of restoring the federally managed portion of the Mill Creek Levee System included removing tree roots that intruded into the levee cross section from the landside slope and replacing levee material in accordance with geo-technical and design criteria. District Geotechnical Section engineers (levee experts) examined several test pits excavated at various points along the mile-long levee and determined removing problematic roots would require "grubbing" roughly two feet into the levee. In some locations, where tree roots have extended deeper into the levee cross section, more extensive excavation and repairs were required.

Because of the large scope of work and the narrow timeframe to accomplish it -- between bird-nesting and flood seasons – phase-2 work was conduct during the late-autumn seasons of 2016 and 2017.

Native grasses will be planted on the levees in the spring to improve the aesthetics and benefit insects and wildlife.

Work-progress photographs, environmental-compliance documents, videos, news releases and other information about this levee-maintenance project are available on the Corps' website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/MillCreekLeveeMaintenance.aspx.

Leadership Development Program 2016 Graduates

Back Row left to right: Donna Street (Corporate Board Champion), Laurie Murphy (facilitator), Michael Schaffer, Troy Waters, Steve Heninger, Matthew Zanger, Lonnie Croft, and Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col Damon Delarosa.Front Row: Kecha Bray-Coleman, Alfredo Rodriguez, Jim Mital, Jean Desjarlais, and Charlene Brandon.

Turkey Bowl

Once upon a time
the Golden Knights faced off againts the Black Knights during the fabled annual Turkey Bowl. When the dust settled, Dani Fichera's Black Knights were victorious against Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa's Golden Knights 14-7.
(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)

Corps Day Picnic

(Photos by Jeremy Brownfield)

Above:Corps staff, family and especially the kids wait patiently to get their own piece of artwork at the Face Paiting Station Top Right: A favorite station of children and adults aklike is the Bottle Rocket Station, which combines science with good old fun. Each year the kids decorate and launch their own rockets.ttom Bottom Left and Right: Kids were visited by some of their favorite charators at this year's picnic.

Top Left: children enjoy playing in a handmade slime pit. Top right: Kids, young and old, enjoy the Corps Day water slide. Left: One of the most visited station at the Corps Picnic is the Bottle Rocket Station. Kids of all ages assemble, decorate and fire off their handmade rockets.
Below: Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa and Corps employees get competative and have a blast in the annual volleyball competition.

Around the District

Thanksgiving Day meal

Left: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District staff, family and friends joined together to celebrate a time of thanks at the annual Thanksgiving potluck lunch. ***(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)***

Halloween characters

Below: The cast of Charactors were out this year for our annual costume contest. The winner this year was Mary Vansickle as Ursalla. ***(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)***

Corps Day Ball

Maj. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Northwestern Division commander, and Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa gather with District employees at the annual Corps Ball at the Gesa Power House Theatre, in Walla Walla, Washington on April 22, 2017. The annual event is organized by the Association for Corps Employees, which is a non-profit organization run by and for Corps Employees.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

Ride a Bike to Work Day

Bikers line up to embark upon a ride to the Veterans Administration as part of the District's "Ride a Bike to Work Day." ***(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)***

Christmas Gift Giving

Melissa Walker, Jennifer Rand, and Oscar Garcia ACE Volunteers, have helped to collect 115 gifts for both children and seniors. Every year the ACE committee collects gifts for community members in need. ***(U.S. Army photo by Brigida Sanchez)***

Easter Egg Hunt

Corps families run to gather eggs in the annual Easter Egg hunt organized by the Association of Corps Employees.
(U.S. Army photo by Jennifer Allen)

Employees of the Quarter

First Quarter

Kathleen Wheeler - Facilities and Equipment Maintenance (FEM) National Support Center. Ms. Kathleen Wheeler is a maintenance systems analyst with the FEM National Support Center. Although new to the team, she is already a key member by manning the FEM help desk with patience and competence. She brings a wealth of field knowledge to the team and is an accomplished trainer. She currently holds most of the FEM webinars and she is in demand as a field trainer, most recently training the Washington Aqueduct personnel on maintenance planning and scheduling using work orders. Wheeler has a superb work ethic. Her detailed knowledge of the FEM software gets her down in the weeds during product testing trials and she is our, "go-to," for software problem research, replication, and testing.

Phil Snodgrass - McNary Project. Mr. Phil Snodgrass is recognized as employee of the quarter for his exemplary work on the nine-year electrical overhaul of McNary Lock and Dam's main unit 13. Snodgrass is an outstanding member of the McNary Electrical Crew and is held in high regard by his peers and supervisors for the contribution and dedication he has for McNary Dam and his craft. He always goes above and beyond when working with apprentices. His approach and method of teaching them is well respected, highly effective, and professional.

Second Quarter

Mike Vandiver- Business Asset Management Branch. Mr. Mike Vandiver was PPPMD's administrative officer for a year and doing exceptional work when the Operation's Division astutely hired and promoted him to be their administrative officer. Before he departed PPPMD, Vandiver continued and improved several practices his predecessor began while also leading new initiatives to improve PPPMD administrative support. After departing PPPMD and being heavily taxed with Operations administrative requirements, Vandiver continued to support many of PPPMD's administrative needs due to the hiring freeze that prevented hiring of his replacement. He coordinated with supervisors to understand and support their needs and synchronized the task of balancing the workload with the workforce. He also helped and continues to help the District with administrative support.

Tim Inouye- Mr. Tim Inouye has provided superlative service over the last quarter in his role as quality assurance representative for the Lower Snake/Columbia Resident Office in Construction Branch, Walla Walla District. He oversees and coordinates construction contracts at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam and always surpasses all expectations in the accomplishment of his duties. Without fail, he goes beyond the call of duty in his dedication to the District and its mission. Over the last quarter, he has been serving in multiple roles; overseeing the ongoing contract work on the Ice Harbor Turbine Runner Installation, Downstream Navigation Lock Machinery Room Upgrades, Trolley Pipes, North Non-Overflow Elevator Rehabilitation, Main Unit Asbestos Abatement, and the McNary Levee Pump Station Roof and Hatch Replacement. Inouye's experience and excellent performance have been instrumental in the continued success and mission accomplishment of all of the contracts managed by the Lower Snake/Columbia Resident Office at Ice Harbor.

Third Quarter

Joe Braley-Electrical Design Section. Mr. Joe Braley is an electrical engineer working in the Electrical Section of Design Branch. Braley is a relatively new employee to the Walla Walla District, was assigned to be the Electrical lead PDT member for the Lower Granite Juvenile Fish Passage Upgrade project upon his arrival. He has been instrumental in overcoming a large number of electrical issues, concerns and omissions in the contract plans and specifications for this critical project. Throughout his time with the Walla Walla District, Braley's support, responsiveness and overall dedication to the electrical aspects of this project were invaluable in overcoming the number of electrical short comings discovered in this contract. Without his efforts, allowed the project to be completed on time.

Brandon Hobbs-Planning Branch, Boise, Idaho. Mr. Brandon Hobbs is a hydraulic engineer in Planning Branch assigned to the Field Office in Boise, Idaho. Hobbs' efforts and commitment during the 2017 Flooding and High Water period (March –June 2017) in Idaho and particularly in Boise are deserving of recognition. Over a period of about four months, he regularly sacrificed family time to work overtime at odd hours and through several weekends, to coordinate state, county, city, federal, and private responses to flooding events throughout Ada County and the City of Boise. His actions, advice, assistance and data collection efforts directly informed flow changes in Lucky Peak Reservoir, and contributed to reduced flooding damages experienced throughout the Boise River Valley.

Fourth Quarter

Dave Schmode- Construction Branch. Mr. Dave Schmode's work on the Lower Granite Juvenile Fish Facility Phase 1a and 1b contracts has been outstanding. Throughout the life of the LLA Juvenile Fish Passage Upgrade projects, Schmode has been invaluable with his review of the changes and negotiating the modifications. In the last quarter of the fiscal year, he worked significant nights and weekends to settle critical modifications needed for the contractor to stay on schedule. In the last month of the fiscal year, Mr. Schmode was responsible for negotiating four large and complicated modification that resulting the Walla Walla District obligating about $5.5 million on the contract. Without his dedication and efforts, this project would not have a chance of finishing on schedule.

Theresa Stephens- Dworshak Project. Ms. Theresa Stephens, Dworshak's Administrative Services Assistant, went above and beyond in the 4th Quarter to assist Lucky Peak in training its administrative staff. She worked with ACE-IT to provide remote assistance, which was beneficial in assisting staff in navigating CEFMS screens and processing GPC cardholder statements at year end. In August and September, Stephens spent a total of three weeks on-site at Lucky Peak aiding and training their administrative staff, as well as continuing to execute her day-to-day Dworshak responsibilities.

SMCX

DoD Safety Management Center of Excellence

2017 Operating Project of the Year - Lower Granite Project
2017 Safety & Occupational Health Award for Program Excellence -
Lucky Peak Project Intake Tower (John Gentry, Josh Preston, Dan Smith, Rick Miller)
2017 Safety Design of the Year - David Kloewer
2017 Safe Worker of the Year - Troy Gilbert

Corps Day Awards 2015

Engineering Excellence

Mr. Jon F. Renholds is a registered professional engineer who works in the Hydraulics Section in the Hydrology & Hydraulics (H&H) Branch, Engineering & Construction Division. He has been proactive during his 9-year career with the Corps in pursuing professional and H&H Branch outreach opportunities including completing a six-month developmental assignment at the USACE Risk Management Center (2015) and sharing his professional knowledge through multiple conference presentations and other forums. Renholds has demonstrated great leadership, communication skills, and technical competence on very demanding and critical projects in addition to reaching out to mentor engineering students in very positive way. He is very deserving of receiving the Walla Walla District Engineering Excellence Award!

New Employee of The Year

Mr. Scott St. John's extemporary leadership skills and technical knowledge of the biological sciences has tremendous positive impacts on Little Goose and the Juvenile Fish Facility (JFF) in his short time at the facility. His positive leadership style, communication and organization skills greatly improved the team and processes at the JFF and Little Goose Lock and Dam.

In less than a year, St. John has become highly respected by his employees, peers and the management team alike. He works efficiently with district and Project staff to resolve challenging problems to minimize operational impacts to fish passage at Little Goose Lock and Dam. His proactive approach minimizes risk before problems develop and his commitment to excellence and positive leadership demonstrate that Mr. Scott St. John is the Walla Walla District New Employee of the Year.

Outstanding Achievement GS 10-14

Mr. Greg Hernandez is nominated for his performance as Project Engineer on the Lower Granite Juvenile Fish Facility Phase 1a and 1b contracts. Over the past year, Lower Granite Dam has been the site of a highly visible, multi-year and multi-phased construction project for the upgrade of the juvenile fish facility. Due to the highly complex and unique project upgrades, an exceptional amount of construction management capability was essential.

His intensive management of both contracts resulted in both contractors executing their work within the required work windows. Hernandez is highly regarded amongst his peers and the personnel at Lower Granite Dam and is a valued member of Construction Branch. Hernandez's extraordinary efforts, dedication, technical expertise and support to the PDT go far beyond what is expected of a COR and Project Engineer. For these reasons, Hernandez is deserving of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Outstanding Achievement T&C

Joe Rosenthal has performed excellent service as Lower Granite's Mechanical Crew Supervisor. As the Project lead on all mechanical equipment of the facility, Joe leads a crew of more than 15 mechanics, crane operators, riggers and utility workers. He's responsible for prioritizing and safely accomplishing routine and non-routine maintenance. He has an uncanny ability to accomplish all of his workload no matter how much is thrown at him. He has an impressive ability to maximize the potential of his work crew performing both routine and non-routine work, while keeping a positive, can-do attitude through an extremely hectic year with incessant inclement weather. His excellent planning and leadership skills are even more impressive when you consider they have done all this with zero lost time accidents, zero grievances, and extremely high crew moral.

Public Outreach/ STEM

Mr. Jared Frank is officially commended for his dedication STEM and Outreach. As an engineering engineer, he has made exemplary efforts to take on additional duties above and beyond his own workload to share his passion for science and engineering in outreach to students. He served the Corps of Engineers well to ensure the success of our District Missions through developing the engineers of tomorrow. Mr. Frank is well respected and is a credit to himself, the Walla Walla District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Support Employee of The Year GS 1-9

Ms. Teri Johnson, serves as Project Support Specialist for the Lower Snake/Columbia Resident Office in Construction Branch. Over the last year, Ms. Johnson has gone over and above, both in the seamless execution of her duties but also in her willingness to train others and ensure that the office is timely in executing its missions. Johnson has been instrumental in transitioning contracts to the Paperless Contract File (PCF) system, ensuring that all necessary documentation was complete, timely, and without error. Due to her efforts, there are no issues related to missing documentation, contract closeout delays, or any other discrepancies on the contracts in the Lower Snake/Columbia Resident Office, which contributed to the Walla Walla District's overall "Green" rating during the last Procurement Management Review (PMR).

Support Employee of The Year GS 10-14

Mr. Steven Bradbury is nominated for the support employee of the year award. Mr. Bradbury is the permanent Administrative Officer for the Dworshak Project and started his career in the Walla Walla District on 26 January 2015. Bradbury also provided outstanding support to the Dworshak Hatchery dealing with previous year issues, and preparation of the FY17 D&F.

Bradbury is an excellent example of how a newer employee can come into an organization with fresh ideas and a positive attitude and make a significant difference to the organization. His commitment, enthusiasm, and integrity are examples for others to follow. His proactive attitude and dedication to the Dworshak Project and District reflect very favorably on himself, the Walla Walla District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Quality Proponent

Mr. Don Redman is nominated for the Walla Walla District's 2017 Quality Proponent Award because he recognized a major quality issue with environmental compliance implementation and interpretation regarding lead abatement as it applied to contracts. Redman's can-do, will-do attitude resulted in success by condensing the material and added a paragraph to the Safety specification requiring contractors to follow the general Lead Standard from OSHA, 29 CFR 1910 and 1926.

Don's attention to detail, his input to Contracting Officers and Contract Officer Representatives for district hazardous and toxic waste disposal, spill response, and asbestos and lead abatement actions lead to higher quality execution. He is an example for others to follow in looking for solutions to improve processes and saving taxpayers' dollars

PMBP Proponent-PDT

Lower Monumental Barge Mooring Repair- Jack Sands, Carolyn Foote, Dani Fichera, Josh Davin, Doug Newton, Jesse Edward, Davin Sands, Rick Robinson, Lisa Huston, Garrett French, Mike Jacobs, David Hill, Kent Bernard, Jani Long, Pamela Brown, Glenn Matlock, Craig Kendall, Rob Wall, Troy Gilbert, Ann Setter, Bryce Thompson, Sarah Wilson, Ron Elder, and Chuck Barnes.

Distinguished Retiree

Stephen B. Tatro

Mr. Stephen B. Tatro is commending for his exceptional service and contributions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from Aug. 6, 1979 to March 12, 2011. He distinguished himself as a civil engineer, project manager, supervisor, and nationally recognized expert in the field of concrete analysis and roller-compacted concrete design. He earned the respect of his coworkers in the Walla Walla District and throughout the Corps of Engineers as a result of his dedication, extensive technical knowledge, and his unwavering personal courage and conviction. Tatro's career has brought great credit to the Walla Walla District of the Northwest Div. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I'M WITH THE CORPS

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla WA 99362-1876
CENWW-PA

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Walla Walla, Wash.
Permit #104

Donna Street

Position: Chief, Engineering and Construction Division, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Describe your job: My job is to provide leadership and management for a staff of 180 plus engineering professionals and support employees to meet the engineering and construction management requirements for the Walla Walla District. I am the senior engineering advisor to the District Commander, the Dam Safety Officer, the Levee Safety Officer and the Career Program 18 (Engineering and Scientists) Manager. In addition, I'm the Corporate Board Champion for the District's Leadership Development Program.

What are some of the challenges you've faced in your current position? The biggest challenge for me in this level of position is time management. With the very diverse employee base and workload, I get pulled in many different directions every day. I must ensure that I focus on the most important things to reach mission success and provide strategic direction for the E&C division, as well as ensuring that all of the day-to-day issues are resolved and don't become impediments to the mission, and requires continually taking a moment to focus and then push forward again.

Describe accomplishments you've experienced with your job. Describe accomplishments you've experienced with your job. Specific accomplishments are too numerous to list but in general providing the required engineering and construction support whether in the form of plans and specs, surveying, water management, cost estimates, agency technical reviews and construction management of every construction and major supply contract. This ensures that our Operating Projects continue to provide their authorized missions of flood risk reduction, hydropower, navigation, environmental stewardship and recreation in addition to all other missions we perform.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? The most rewarding part of my job is making sure that my employees have the resources and support necessary to accomplish our mission. Watching new employees develop and ensuring we have a strong base of experienced and future leaders means that we will continue to accomplish that mission.

Please share a notable milestone or memory with the Corps. Again, so many to choose from. If I had to pick one - I would probably go back to my time in Iraq and the friendship I developed with one of our Iraqi Engineers. This lady was bright and smart so eventually being able to see her immigrate to the U.S. and establish herself in this country safe from some of the dangers in Iraq was very meaningful.

(U.S. Army photo by Linda Carter)

"I thoroughly enjoyed the work that I did, both from a professional engineering aspect and from a personal satisfaction, being able to help the people in Iraq. Yes, I would like to go back." -Donna Street