



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Comment sought on Little Goose portage route

Starbuck, Wash. –The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering plans for a portage route at nearby Little Goose Dam and is inviting public comment on the proposal, according to a natural resource program official.

“We want the public to know we’re planning to change the boundary of the forebay restricted area upstream of the dam here. The current restricted area prohibits boat access to the north shore for 2,500 feet above, or east, of Little Goose. Current plans include installing a canoe and kayak portage route around the northern end of the dam,” said Park Ranger John Schroeder. “The route includes a tapered buoy line along the forebay north shore to keep boats clear of the spillway. The buoy furthest upstream of the dam would be 200 feet offshore. The most downstream buoy would be 50 feet offshore. The area between the buoy line and the shore, to include the shoreline, would be opened to the public. The paved north shore road below, or west, of the dam would also be opened to public foot traffic. Public access to the earthen embankment across the top of the dam would remain restricted.”

A proposal like this one changes current practices at the dam and public input is important before making the proposal a reality. Comments are encouraged and can be sent to: John Schroeder, Park Ranger, Little Goose Lock & Dam, 1001 Little Goose Dam Road, Dayton, WA 99328, or made directly by calling him at (509) 399-2233 ext. 262. Any final decision and action would be subject to funding availability.

If implemented, signs would guide the route for the public. New buoys would be acquired for about \$1,500 and installed by the Coast Guard; new docks installed for roughly \$15,000.

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This portage route would enhance existing recreation opportunities at Little Goose Dam and officials hope they'll be in place in time for key events during the 200th Anniversary commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

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