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Of Engineers**

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Corps' annual marmot control efforts start March 31

Clarkston, Wash. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' natural resources officials will begin annual marmot removal efforts along the Walla Walla District-managed river levees in Lewiston, Idaho, on March 31.

The ongoing marmot-control program involves live trapping and euthanizing the animals with carbon dioxide gas. The American Veterinary Medical Association approves this form of humane euthanasia.

The marmots burrow into the levees that protect Lewiston. Left uncontrolled, the marmots' burrowing could cause problems with the structural integrity of the earthen-filled levees.

"The levee is designed to allow the slow filtering of small amounts of water through the gravel layers and the earth-filled core," said Rebecca Miner, manager for the District's Clarkston Natural Resources Office. "Marmot burrows in the levees could allow high water a direct path that could erode the levee core."

Live trapping and relocating the marmots to other sites was considered, but this option was determined not to be the most humane control method. Relocation would subject the animals to stress during transportation, heavy losses from predators and starvation.

For more information about the Corps' marmot control program, call (509) 751-0240.

-30-