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of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Boaters can learn how to use Corps navigation locks at free one-hour seminars Sat., May 22, at Ice Harbor Dam

Burbank, Wash. – Recreational boaters who use U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation locks to pass up and down the Columbia and Snake rivers are invited to participate in free one-hour seminars at nearby Ice Harbor Dam to learn how to safely and properly use the system this coming Saturday.

“We want to help people learn how to be comfortable with the process of getting upstream and downstream through the waterway,” said Russ Gilliam, a lock operator at Ice Harbor. “We’re going to show them how to avoid lessons learned the hard way by other boaters.”

Gilliam and other workers at the dam, along with park rangers, will provide this session twice on May 22. The first session starts at 9 a.m., the second at noon. Both sessions will start promptly so attendees can get the procedure familiarization and then move to observe scheduled lockages at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Attendees must bring along a current, valid photo i.d. to enter the navigation lock area. All access to these sessions will be from the north shore access along the Snake River. The access is via U.S. Hwy. 12 east of the Tri-Cities, turn east onto the “Pasco-Kahlotus Highway” and travel about nine miles straight out and turn at the large panel sign marked “Ice Harbor Dam” and follow it to the indicated parking for these sessions.

“We want these sessions to be interesting for our participants so we’ve minimized the things people need to know or do to get the most out of this. Attendees should ***not*** bring their own boats. We’re going to use a Corps boat for the lockage demonstration and have a convenient bag of information handouts and water safety information materials and reminders. The sessions will be short but attendees can bring along a snack and water bottle or other soft drink, if they choose. We’re hoping for

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great spring weather Saturday, but if necessary, we'll reschedule and make an announcement through the media for the same times and place on Sunday, May 23, as an inclement weather alternative," said Gilliam.

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