



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

News Release: 04-29

Date:  
September 1, 2004

Contact: Nola Conway

Phone:  
(509) 527-7020

## Spend the day on the water Labor Day Weekend at Corps recreation areas

**Walla Walla, Wash., --** The Labor Day Weekend is a great time to spend the day at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Always play safely when you're in, on or near the water. Wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Swim with a buddy. Watch for changing currents and water levels. Keep non-swimmers of all ages under close observation at all times. Cliff diving on Corps property is strictly prohibited and violators will be cited without warning.

### IDAHO

- **Lucky Peak Dam and Lake near Boise.** Ramps are available at Turner Gulch (across the top of the dam at the end of the road) and the downstream (main) ramp at Spring Shores Marina. These ramps will be busy and parking is limited; have your boat ready for launching before backing down the ramps. An extra measure of patience and courtesy when using these sites will help. Lake elevation is expected to be around 3015 MSL (40 ft. down from full pool) going into the weekend and is continuing to draw down a little more than two feet per day. Be alert to increased boating hazards from underwater obstacles. For more information, call (208) 373-0671 or make contact with a park ranger or sheriff deputy on site.
- **Dworshak Dam and Reservoir near Orofino.** The Dworshak Dam Visitor Center will return to fall hours starting Sept. 7. The center will be open Monday through Friday noon - to 4:30 p.m. The Visitor Center offers a variety of interpretive displays and movies about Dworshak and the history of the area, including the popular "Last of the Log Drives." While enjoying the traditional end of the summer recreation season, Park Rangers would like visitors to be aware that the reservoir is dropping approximately 1 foot per day. A new destination dock is now available at Drift Creek near the Freeman Creek campground. Boat launching ramps are currently available at: Big Eddy, Bruces Eddy 1, Freeman Creek (Dworshak State Park), and Dent Acres Park. Dent Acres Park is open and has sites available. Reservations may be made by calling (877) 444-6777, or campers may register at the park. All facilities at Dworshak State Park are open and available. Fuel will be available at Big Eddy Marina on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Sept. 12. For more information, call the Corps at (800) 321-3198, the Visitor's Center at (208)-476-1255 or Dworshak State Park at (208) 476-5994.

### OREGON

- **McNary Lock and Dam and Reservoir near Umatilla.** The Pacific Salmon Visitor Information Center, the fish viewing room on the south shore of the Columbia River, and the Power House viewing room is open. Identification is required to enter the Power House. This is a great time to see salmon and steelhead migrating back from their stay in the Pacific Ocean. Picnic and nature areas will be popular attractions. For information call (541) 922-2268.

**-MORE-**

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil)

E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)

## CORPS RECREATION/2-2-2

### WASHINGTON

- **Ice Harbor Lock and Dam and Lake Sacajawea near the Tri-Cities and Lower Monumental Lock and Dam and Lake Herbert G. West near Kahlotus.** Be aware of low water levels and flows in the Snake River; boaters should use caution in shallow areas. Swimmers should use marked areas only and anyone diving into the water from a boat or other platform should be sure they know what's below the water surface. For information call (509) 547-2048.
- **Little Goose Lock and Dam and Lake Bryan near Starbuck.** This is a popular fishing area and can become congested at times. Please bring plenty of cooperation and patience and be prepared to share this area with others. For information call (509) 751-0240.
- **Lower Granite Lock and Dam and Lake near Pomeroy.** Illia Dunes is a popular destination for all ages. Expect crowded beaches and be careful when parking along roadside. Avoid bringing potentially hazardous materials such as glass containers onto the beach. For information call (509) 751-0240.
- **Swallows Beach in Clarkston.** The beach remains closed because of high bacteria counts of E. coli. The picnic area is still open. For information call (509) 751-0240.
- **Mill Creek Dam, Bennington Lake and Rooks Park near Walla Walla.** Visitors will enjoy the variety of activities, including swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, picnicking and multiple-use trails on the largest tract of public land in the Walla Walla Valley. State hunting seasons have already opened and hunters as well as public land users should be aware of designated hunting zones. Rooks Park is open daily 7 a.m. – sunset. The park is closed to motor vehicles Oct. 15 - April 1. Bennington Lake is open from 5 a.m. – 10 p.m., daily. Gasoline motors on boats are not permitted on Bennington Lake. Swimming is permitted in both Bennington Lake and Mill Creek. The keep-out-zones include boat ramp and intake structure at the lake and all flood control structures on Mill Creek. Bennington Lake and Mill Creek are open to fishing. Please refer to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's pamphlet "Fishing in Washington" for rules and regulations. The Corps maintains over 20 miles of recreation trails. Stop by a bulletin board or ranger office for a "Mill Creek Trails" brochure. The operation of motorized or electric vehicles is prohibited on the trail system. Rooks Park and Bennington Lake have designated picnic sites under shelters and the shade of trees. For information call (509) 527-7160.

To allow everyone to enjoy the opportunities at Corps facilities, here are a few simple reminders: keep your pet on a leash at all times and be aware that a "Pack It In - Pack It Out" program is in effect. Please help keep your recreation sites clean.

Fire danger levels aren't as high as they have been throughout the region, but restrictions may still be in effect so be sure to check for posted information about local conditions. Remember that fireworks are prohibited in all Corps facilities and that firearms are subject to local regulation in most Corps areas. For up-to-the-minute information is to visit with a park ranger or stop in the visitor center. For campground reservations, call toll-free (877) 444-6777, or visit "ReserveUSA.com" on the web. Rangers and law enforcement officials will be on patrol at Corps facilities to assist and inform visitors over the holiday. They'll also enforce traffic and other laws and regulations. For more information on recreation opportunities in the Corps' Walla Walla District, visit our Web site at [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil).