



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 05-10

Date: March 24, 2005

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Corps holds open house and public meeting on Lower Snake River navigation maintenance proposal, March 29 in Lewiston, Idaho

Walla Walla, Wash., – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a public information meeting Tuesday, March 29, to present the alternatives considered for performing near-term maintenance of the federal navigation channel and certain public port berthing areas on the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers in Washington and Idaho.

There will be an open house at the Red Lion Hotel, 621 21st Street, Lewiston, Idaho, 3 – 5:30 p.m. and the formal presentation and discussion will start at 6:30 p.m.

The Corps is proposing to perform maintenance at several locations in the federal navigation channel. Sediment deposition has reduced available water depths in some areas to as little as 8.5 – 10.6 feet, compared to an authorized channel depth of 14 feet, and is impeding navigation. The Corps considered five alternatives in detail and identified its preferred alternative as “Maintenance Dredging with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material.”

Under this alternative, the Corps is proposing to dredge up to 450,000 cubic yards of material and use the material to create resting/rearing habitat for juvenile fall Chinook salmon in the Snake River near River Mile 116 (Knoxway Canyon). The Corps will accept written comments on the draft environmental impact statement at the meeting.

Information on the need for maintenance and a description of the alternatives can be found on the Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/channel_maint/one-year/default.htm. For more information regarding the meeting or the draft environmental impact statement, contact Jack Sands at (509) 527-7287 at the Walla Walla District Headquarters.

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