



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Contact: Nola Leyde

Phone: (509) 527-7019

Corps' completes report on Lower Snake River navigation maintenance

Walla Walla, Wash., – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a report on the routine maintenance of the Lower Snake River navigation channel.

The Final Lower Snake River Navigation Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now available to the public. Preparation of the Final EIS was a cooperative effort between the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the Corps as the lead agency.

The Corps is proposing maintenance of areas that have an immediate need – the Federal navigation channel and berthing areas at certain public port facilities – on the lower Snake and Clearwater Rivers. This channel maintenance would facilitate navigation and commodity movement and increase public safety by providing a 14-foot depth within the areas identified.

Eight alternatives were considered and included actions that would change reservoir levels, manipulate water flows or remove sediments using mechanical methods.

“After considerable analysis, the preferred alternative identified, is to dredge the navigation channel to its congressionally authorized dimensions at five particularly shallow and/or narrow areas, and use in-water disposal of the dredged material to create shallow-water habitat for listed salmonids,” said Jack Sands, program manager for the Corps.

The Final Lower Snake River Navigation Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement can be found on the Walla Walla District Web site at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/channel_maint/one-year/default.htm. A record of decision is expected in July and if the decision is to implement dredging, it would take place during the in-water work window of Dec. 15, 2005 – Feb. 28, 2006, to minimize impacts to listed salmon stocks.

For more information regarding the final environmental impact statement, contact Sands at (509) 527-7287 at the Walla Walla District Headquarters.

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