



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps awards \$5.1M maintenance-dredging contract

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made an initial award on a contract valued in total, including options, up to \$5.1 million to a Seattle company to perform planned maintenance dredging in five areas of the federal navigation channel in the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers and ports, Corps officials at Walla Walla District announced today.

Manson Construction Company was selected from among five companies submitting proposals to restore the 14-foot congressionally authorized channel depth in three key areas of the navigation channel and two port berthing areas that are clogged with sediment – the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, the navigation lock approaches to Lower Granite and Lower Monumental dams and the berthing areas at the ports of Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho.

Sediment removal is slated for the winter in-water work window – Dec. 15 through February 28, 2006. The dredged material will be beneficially used to develop rearing and resting habitat for juvenile salmon in the Lower Granite reservoir. The Corps has not performed navigation maintenance dredging since the winter of 1998-99.

The lower Snake River is part of an inland channel system that provides navigation from the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon, to port facilities on the rivers in Lewiston-Clarkston. Transporters shipped 17.4 million tons of products through the lower Snake River locks in 2004. That included 12.2 million tons of grain products, 2.1 million tons of petroleum and 1.5 million tons of wood products. Ports pay the Corps for the costs incurred dredging the berthing areas in front of their facilities.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, 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

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil