

PORTAGING THE MID-COLUMBIA RIVER DAMS

Following the Lewis and Clark
Water Route?

Here's how to safely pass
the dams on the Mid-Columbia River

FOLLOW LEWIS & CLARK'S RIVER ROUTE ALONG THE MID-COLUMBIA RIVER

During the Lewis and Clark bicentennial you may want to retrace these brave explorers' steps...and paddles.



The Columbia River Gorge marks the culmination of Lewis and Clark's journey to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition watched the transformation from the arid rolling hills of eastern Oregon and Washington, through the near sea level passage into the lush greenery of the western end of the gorge.

Paddling these same river miles shows the dramatic changes that have occurred, both natural and man made. The information that follows gives details about portaging the mid-Columbia River dams in non-motorized vessels.

Have a safe and enjoyable journey! Remember to wear your life jacket!

Since the journey of Lewis and Clark, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed four hydropower dams on the mid-Columbia River creating McNary Dam, John Day Dam, The Dalles Dam, and Bonneville Dam. For your safety, portage around these dams is recommended for non-motorized recreation vessels. Planning your portage in advance around these dams ensures concessionaire availability and a smooth safe ride. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not provide portage service. Information on navigating the Columbia River is available from the Oregon State Marine Board at :(503) 378-8587 <http://www.marinebd.osmb.state.or.us> or at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b/brochures.asp>

The following is a description of portage routes and commercial businesses that may provide portage services.

McNARY LOCK AND DAM:

Upstream sites are boat ramps on both Oregon and Washington sides immediately upstream from the dam. Restrooms available. Phone and water available on Oregon side. Downstream sites are a cobble beach below navigation Lock (3/4 mile portage) and a beach area west of Spillway Park (1 1/4 mile portage).

For more information contact McNary Park Rangers at 541-922-2259 or 541-922-2226.

JOHN DAY LOCK AND DAM:

Upstream site is at Railroad Island Park on Washington (North) side of the river, 1/4 mile upstream of navigation lock through railroad culvert. Downstream site is Cliff's boat ramp. Distance of approximately 1 mile. Currently no phone service is available. Restrooms located both upstream and downstream.

For portage assistance contact:

Mark Zoller's White Water Adventure,
White Salmon, WA
(509) 493-2641 or (800) 366-2004

Touche Clark's Fly By Nyte Guide Service,
Rufus, OR (541) 298-2770 or
(541) 739-2770

Young's Fishing Service, The Dalles, OR
(541) 298-1381 or (541) 296-5371

THE DALLES LOCK AND DAM:

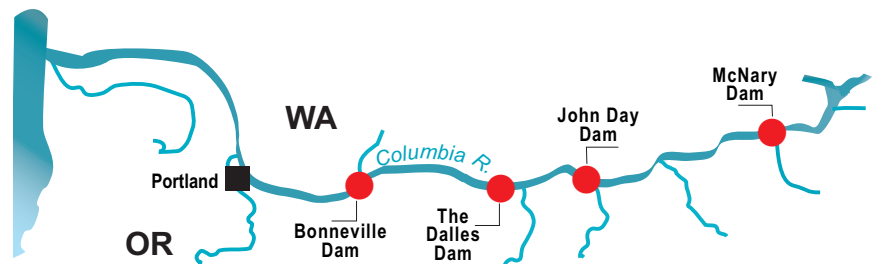
Upstream site is Northshore Boat Ramp on Washington side. Downstream site is being developed and currently unavailable for use. Distance is approximately 1/2 mile. Restrooms are available at the boat dock, but no phone service.

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BONNEVILLE LOCK AND DAM:

Upstream portage site is at the Cascade Locks Marina on the Oregon side, approximately 4 miles upstream. Restrooms and telephone are available. Also upstream is the Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson, WA, which can be accessed by going under the railroad and highway bridges at Rock Creek. This is about 5 miles upstream of the dam. There are restrooms, but no phone service. The river between these sites and the navigation lock is narrow and steep with no take out points. Downstream portage site is the Hamilton Island Boat Ramp located on the Washington shore, approximately 1/2 mile downstream of the dam. Currently restrooms are available, but no phone service.

For portage assistance contact:

Renegade River Rafters / Mark Hughey
(<http://lewisandclarktours.net/Renegade>)
(509) 427-RAFT or (888) 763-4233

Rivers Edge Towing, Hood River, OR
(800) 313-6303 or (541) 386-6944

Fish On! Guide Services / Wade Erickson
(360) 652-2359

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bonneville Lock and Dam

Cascade Locks, OR 97014-0150

(541) 374-8344

www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b

The Dalles Lock and Dam

P.O. Box 564

The Dalles, OR 97058

(541) 506-7802

www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/d

John Day Lock and Dam

P.O. Box 564

The Dalles, OR 97058

(541) 506-7802

www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/d

McNary Lock and Dam

82790 Devore Road

P.O. Box 1230

Umatilla, OR 97882-1230

(541) 992-3211

*http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/
corpsoutdoors/mcn/mcndam.htm*



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Portland District