

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Site Visit on Snake River

1. Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received a letter of concern from the Columbia River Towboat Association (CRTA) with regard to operation of Snake River pools at minimum operating level. Because dredging has not occurred since FY1998, CRTA has submitted the location of several areas on the Snake River that they feel are potentially unsafe for passage with towboats if the pools are operated at minimum operating pool (MOP) to accommodating smolt passage.
2. At the TMT meeting on 9 April 2003, CRTA voiced their concerns. At that time it was decided to do site visits on the Snake River at the locations where Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had no previous survey data. The Coast Guard volunteered to provide a boat, depth finder and GPS. The results of the site visits will be discussed at the TMT meeting 16 April 2003.
3. Site visit details are as follow:

**Spot Depth Checks on Snake River**

Participants in site visits on 11 April 2003, were:

Ely North, BM2, U.S. Coast Guard  
Mike Tosma, SM, U.S. Coast Guard  
Fred Harding, Shaver Transportation  
Ted Niezgodna, Soil/Civil, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Ann Glassley, Operations, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Summary of Findings**

- Note:
1. Coast Guard provided boat, GPS and Depth Finder.
  2. GPS coverage was intermittent in some locations.
  3. Depth readings are in feet from surface of water to river bottom surface.

**Ice Harbor Pool – MOP 437'**

- The area between Snake River Miles 27 and 29, just below the Sheffler grain elevator.
  - Actual pool elevation at 8:30 am - 439.83'
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 18'-28'
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 15.5'-25.6'

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- Because the shoaling is moving outward toward the navigation channel, this area should be added to future surveys.
- Just immediately above Sheffler, between the Walker grain elevator and the airstrip at Burr, shoal area marked by buoys “34” and “38”. Snake River Mile 31-32.
  - Actual pool elevation at 8:00 am - 439.83’
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 18’-34’
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 15.5’-31.6’
  - Because the shoaling is moving outward toward the navigation channel, this area should be added to future surveys.

**Lower Monumental Pool – MOP 537’**

- Beginning on lower McGuire Range up bound to the lower guide wall entrance of Little Goose Lock & Dam. Snake River Mile 68-70.
  - Actual pool elevation at 10:30 am – 538.21’
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 26’-40’
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 24.8’-38.8’

**Little Goose Pool – MOP 633’**

- Approach to the upper entrance of the locks beginning at buoy “2”.
  - Actual pool elevation at 11:30 am – 634.40’
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 17’-20’
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 15.6’-34.2’
  - Because the shoaling is moving outward toward the navigation channel, this area should be added to future surveys.
- Schultz Bar between buoys “29A” and “35”. Snake River Mile 101-102
  - Actual pool elevation at 3:00 pm 634.54’
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 17’-30’
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 15.6’-28.6’
  - Latest survey of this location in September 2002 indicated no problems in the navigation channel
- Almota Grain elevator – The areas immediately above and below the two elevators. Snake River Mile 103.5-104
  - Actual pool elevation at 3:30 – 634.54’
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 18’-40’
  - Depth readings at MOP would range from 16.5’-38.5’
- Entrance to the lower lock at Lower Granite along what is known as Davis Bar.
  - Actual pool elevation at 4:00 pm – 634.66’

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- Depth readings ranged from 16'-28'
- Depth readings at MOP would range from 14.3'-26.3'
- Latest survey of this location in September 2002 indicated the need to dredge. This area was in the FY2003 dredging contract that was cancelled.

**Lower Granite Pool – MOP 733'**

- The area known as Steptoe Lower Range on the south side of the river. Snake River Mile 129-130.
  - Actual pool elevation at 6:00 pm – 734.54'
  - Depth readings along shoal ranged from 14'-30'
  - Depth readings at MOP range from 12.5'-28.5'
  - It appears that most, if not all of the depth readings taken on the site visit are outside the navigation channel.
  - Because the shoaling is moving outward toward the navigation channel, this area should be added to future surveys.
  - CRTA requested buoys placed at the 30' depth

**Additional Areas of Concern Not Covered in the Spot Check**

- Lower Monumental downstream approach beginning approximately at buoy "58A" all the way to the guide wall.
  - Latest survey of this location in September 2002 indicated the need to dredge. This area was in the FY2003 dredging contract that was cancelled.
  - From the surveys, depths at MOP in this area range from 12.6'- 16' within the navigation channel boundaries.
- The area covering the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers.
  - Latest survey of this location in September 2002 indicated the need to dredge. This area was in the FY2003 dredging contract that was cancelled.
  - From the surveys, depths at MOP at the Port of Lewiston run as low as 10.6' at the upper end of the turning basin.
- Mouth of the Snake River and through out Ice Harbor Cut (McNary Pool). Snake River Mile 0-9.7
  - Latest surveys of this location in September 2002 indicate areas in Ice Harbor Cut that will require dredging.

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- At Snake River Mile 5+ the shallowest water depth at MOP in the channel is 13.5'. This area is to be added to the next dredging contract.
- At the downstream approach to Ice Harbor lock where the shallowest water depths at MOP is 11.5'. This area is to be added to the next dredging contract.

ANN GLASSLEY