

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT
Building 602, City-County Airport
Walla Walla, Washington

September 13, 1951

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF McNARY
RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION AND OTHER PUBLIC USES

In order that the people adjacent to McNary Reservoir and all other interested parties may be informed and have opportunity to express their views frankly, fully and publicly concerning the development and management of the McNary Project for recreational and other public uses, public meetings are to be held at McNary, Oregon, Walla Walla, Washington, and Kennewick, Washington. The meeting at McNary will be held in the Recreation Room of the Shopping Center, beginning at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 2nd, 1951, and will consider principally developments in that part of the reservoir downstream from the mouth of Walla Walla River. The meeting at Walla Walla will be held in the chapel of the Memorial Building at Whitman College, beginning at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 3, 1951, and will consider principally developments at the dam and in that part of the reservoir area adjacent to Walla Walla County. The meeting in Kennewick will be held in the Kennewick Junior High School auditorium, beginning at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 4, 1951, and will consider developments at the dam and in that part of the reservoir area situated above Wallula Gap. Other locations will be discussed at each meeting if questions are presented.

At each of these meetings the District Engineer will explain the tentative proposals for coordinated development and management of the McNary Reservoir area. Representatives of other public agencies will be invited to explain their plans for proposed developments. Invitation will be extended to private individuals and organizations to express their views and recommendations concerning the proposed plans.

All interested parties are invited to be present or to be represented at one of the above places, including private individuals and property owners; representatives of Federal, State, county, municipal, or other governmental agencies; organizations including educational, religious, youth, recreational and other civic groups; and private interests including commercial, industrial, railroads and waterway transportation. All will be afforded full opportunity to express their views concerning the character and extent of development desired and the need and advisability of its execution.

Oral statements will be heard, but for the accuracy of the record, all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing, as the record of the hearing will be submitted to the Chief of Engineers. Written statements may be handed to the District Engineer at the hearing or mailed to him.

Both general and detailed maps of the reservoir will be displayed. These maps will show information of a more detailed nature than that shown on the map inclosed herewith. The attached pamphlet and map are furnished for your information and will be of value for reference use at the hearing.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons known to you to be interested in the matter.

R. N. Anderson

R. N. ANDERSON

Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers

Acting District Engineer

September 13, 1951

INFORMATION PAMPHLET
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF McNARY RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION
AND OTHER PUBLIC USES

General

McNary Lock and Dam is a navigation and power project constituting an important unit in the comprehensive plan for development of Columbia and Snake Rivers. It is located on the main stem of Columbia River, 292 miles above the mouth and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles upstream from the community of Umatilla, Oregon. In addition to its primary functions of providing an improved channel for navigation and producing power, the project will afford important benefits to the general public through use of the reservoir area for recreational, industrial, commercial and other purposes. Construction on the dam was initiated in 1947 under authority contained in Public Law No. 14, 79th Congress, First Session which was approved March 2, 1945. Subject to the availability of funds, the final closure of the dam and raising of the reservoir pool is scheduled for the spring of 1953. McNary Reservoir at normal pool elevation 340 will extend a distance of 61 miles upstream from the dam to a point approximately 25 miles above the Pasco-Kennewick highway bridge as well as several miles up the Yakima, Snake and Walla Walla Rivers. At this pool stage, the water surface area will be about 37,900 acres and the shore line will be about 242 miles long.

After the initial filling of the reservoir the operation schedule will aim to maintain normal pool at the dam with minor fluctuations to meet power demands. These fluctuations will usually occur in the period from September through March and will be in the order of about 2 feet, although provision has been made for a maximum draw-down of five feet (to elevation 335). Normal pool will not be exceeded at the dam except in case of an unprecedented flood, exceeding the highest flood of record. In the upper reservoir area significant fluctuations in the pool level will result from the backwater effect of high river flows, the magnitude of these fluctuations increases as the distance above the dam is increased. The highest river flows (and greatest fluctuations) usually occur during May and June. For a normal expected flow of 100,000 cubic feet per second during the low flow season, an essentially flat pool will be realized. A normal expected flow of 485,000 c.f.s. in June will increase the pool elevation approximately 2 feet at Snake River and approximately 6 feet at Yakima River. A flow of 1,200,000 c.f.s. (the maximum of record) would increase the pool elevation approximately 9 feet at Snake River and approximately 18 feet at the mouth of Yakima River. The termination of backwater effect is at approximately mile 353, about 61 miles upstream from the dam.

Public Use of Reservoir Area

When the McNary Project is completed, there will be about 20,000 acres of Federally owned land above the shore line of the normal operating pool. Much of this area is either rough terrain predominately basalt cliffs and associated talus slopes or is barren and desert like. However, there are also extensive areas which are suitable for various types of use. Public use and particularly public recreation use of this shore line area and of the water areas of the reservoir has been anticipated and provided for by Congressional action. A copy of Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 is attached to this information pamphlet. This law places the responsibility for developing and managing the resources of reservoir projects administered by the Department of the Army with Chief of Engineers under the supervision of the Secretary of Army. Accordingly, to implement this program, this office has proceeded with the preparation of a Master Plan for the Development and Management of McNary Reservoir for Public Use. As one of the initial steps in the preparation of this Plan, public hearings were held in May 1950 for the purpose of determining the desires of the local people and interested agencies and organizations. Subsequent conferences, meetings, and correspondence have furnished additional data. The overall plan has now progressed to the stage where tentative conclusions have been reached and accordingly proposals for development and management are presented in the following paragraphs. Neither these tentative proposals nor the final proposals to be incorporated in the Master Plan are intended to be fixed and unchangeable, but rather are subject to modification to better meet the needs and desires of the area and to conform logically with future changing conditions. The plan contemplates an initial phase of development which will include the construction of those facilities for which current need is apparent. It also envisions an ultimate complete development of the various features which would be undertaken only at such time as the need therefore arises.

Plan For Development and Management

In selecting the various areas to be devoted to the different uses and in designing the management program, the aim has been to provide for that use of each area which will yield the maximum sustained benefit to the public. To this end, careful attention has been given to the desires of other governmental agencies, local organizations and groups functioning in the public interest. Five broad use categories have been established as follows:

1. Restricted use
2. Recreational use
3. Fish and Wildlife use
4. Commercial and Industrial use
5. Agricultural use

The classification of areas into the various use categories and sub-categories has been indicated on the attached Land Use Map and is discussed in detail in the following paragraphs. All work indicated for accomplishment by the Corps of Engineers is subject to approval by the Chief of Engineers and contingent upon the availability of construction funds.

1. Restricted Use Lands. -

a. Areas where public use is restricted by the District Engineer. - Only two types of areas fall in this category. The first is the water area immediately upstream from the dam from which it will be necessary to exclude all boating activity for the obvious purpose of safety to the boating public. The second includes active wind erosion areas where it will be necessary to restrict grazing or other traffic in order to protect the sand stabilization measures now being carried out.

b. Lands taken under flowage easement. - No public use of these lands is permitted since the government has acquired only the right to flood the lands with all other rights being retained by the owners.

2. Recreational Lands. - Four types of recreational lands are shown.

a. General public lands. - These are the lands reserved for development as recreational areas open generally to all of the public such as State, County, City or neighborhood parks or public parks administered by the Corps of Engineers. Eight such areas are planned.

- (1) McNary Dam. - All public use facilities in and near the dam will be developed and managed by the Corps of Engineers. These will include roads, parking areas, a public launching ramp, water supply, comfort stations, picnic facilities, overlook areas, viewing windows, balconies, walkways, and informational displays. Some of these facilities are being constructed as integral parts of the dam. All will be of a high caliber, permanent construction.

- (2) Hat Rock--Cold Springs. - The Oregon State Parks Department has tentative plans to develop a state park at this site incorporating McNary Project lands as well as other lands being acquired by the State for this purpose. The Corps will assist to the extent of providing access roads, parking areas, launching ramp, water supply and minimum sanitary facilities.
- (3) Walla Walla River. - The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has tentative plans to develop a state park on the lands flanking the Walla Walla River arm of the reservoir. Work accomplished by the Corps will be similar to that described above for the Hat Rock--Cold Springs area.
- (4) Snake River--Burbank Side. - This area is being tentatively reserved for use as a community waterside park. The Corps plans to develop an access road, parking area, launching ramp, water supply and sanitary facilities all of minimum caliber. Excavation for a boat basin has already been accomplished through the cooperation of the Washington State Highway Department.
- (5) Sacajawea State Park. - Current plans provide that this park unit will be retained by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Appropriate protection and preservation measures will be accomplished. Additional adjacent area will be reserved for uses related to the park.
- (6) Pasco. - Two areas are being reserved for use by the City of Pasco as city parks. One is located at the downstream end of the Pasco levee, lying east from the railroad bridge and south from Washington Avenue. Borrow material for construction of the levee will be taken from this area and if feasible, this excavation will result in a protected boat basin. The Corps will provide an access road and a launching ramp.
- (7) Kennewick--Benton County Area. - By joint endeavor, Kennewick City and Benton County plan to develop a public waterside park in the area extending from the new Columbia River bridge to the mouth of Yakima Slough. Several existing buildings in this area as well as roads, water systems and other facilities are being retained by the Corps for use in this development. Design of the Tweedt's Canyon drain considers

its use for boating purposes. Inclusion of a launching ramp is being studied.

Kennewick City plans to develop the ponding area behind the levee north of the city as a juvenile fishing area.

- (8) Riverview. - The project lands in the Riverview area are being tentatively reserved for public recreational use. Access roads, parking areas, and sanitary facilities will be provided by the Corps.

b. Organized Group Use Lands. - These are the areas to be reserved for quasi-public organizations--youth, church, or educational groups, local granges, etc. Eight of these areas are shown on the map. Three of them are located by and may be separate from or an integral part of State, County or city parks depending upon the operating policies of the agency involved. In general, the Corps will provide access roads, parking areas and launching ramps and in some cases sanitary facilities.

c. Semi-Private Recreational Lands. - These are the lands which are not needed for general or quasi-public use and which are suitable for and to be made available to organized groups having more or less restricted or selective membership, principally local boat clubs. Four such areas are shown: two at Cold Springs, one at Walla Walla River, and one at Pasco. Applications have been received for sites at each of these locations. Minimum access will be provided.

d. Private Recreational Lands. - These are the areas which can be made available for lease as private cabin sites without inhibiting the development for general or quasi-public recreational use or for other types of use benefiting the general public. Four areas have been selected: one about four miles above the dam; one at Port Kelley; one at Hover and one on the Snake River near Burbank. Minimum access will be provided. Permits can be issued for private or community boat docks adjacent to these sites.

3. Fish and Wildlife Land and Water Areas. - Six of these areas are shown: two are to be licensed to the Fish and Wildlife Service for use as National Wildlife Refuges--the Burbank Slough and the Snake River arm of the reservoir. An area at the Hat Rock--Cold Springs location including islands in the reservoir will be licensed to the Oregon Game Commission as a wildlife management area. Lands by the Walla Walla River, along the Columbia River from Wallula to the Snake River, and an area along the Yakima River together with islands in the reservoir will be licensed to the Washington Department of Game for wildlife management purposes.

4. Commercial and Industrial Lands. - Navigation is one of the primary purposes of the McNary Project. Future use of the project lands should be such as to encourage local industrial development and promote full realization of the potential navigation benefits. To this end, eight areas within the project boundary have been designated for industrial use. The suitability of these areas to industrial development varies considerably. Some are small in size. The two areas flanking mouth of Snake River are low lying and will be subject to flooding. No rail access is presently available to the area near Cold Springs. All have highway access but in each case, except at Cold Springs, a railroad grade crossing will be involved.

5. Agricultural Lands. - Two types of agricultural lands are shown--grazing lands and crop lands. The areas in the gorge below Wallula Gap and above Berrian are shown as grazing lands, primarily to indicate that there will be no restriction against the passage of livestock over these lands in going to and from watering points along the reservoir.

Crop lands are shown only in those tillable areas where irrigation is possible. These are confined to the shore line area extending from Hover to the Union Pacific Railroad bridge across the Columbia River and to the area lying north and northwest from Sacajawea State Park.

(Public Law 526-79th Congress)
(Chapter 596-2d Session)
(H. R. 6597)

AN ACT

Authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes.

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Sec. 4. That section 4 of the Act approved December 22, 1944 (Public, Numbered 534, Seventy-eighth Congress), is amended to read as follows:

"The Chief of Engineers, under the supervision of the Secretary of War, is authorized to construct, maintain, and operate public park and recreational facilities in reservoir areas under the control of the War Department, and to permit the construction, maintenance, and operation of such facilities. The Secretary of War is authorized to grant leases of lands, including structures or facilities thereon, in reservoir areas for such periods and upon such terms as he may deem reasonable: Provided, That leases to nonprofit organizations may be granted at reduced or nominal rentals in recognition of the public service to be rendered in utilizing the leased premises: Provided further, That preference shall be given to Federal, State, or local governmental agencies, and licenses may be granted without monetary considerations, to such agencies for the use of all or any portion of a reservoir area, when the Secretary of War determines such action to be in the public interest, and for such periods of time and upon such conditions as he may find advisable. The water areas of all such reservoirs shall be open to public use generally, without charge, for boating, swimming, bathing, fishing, and other recreational purposes, and ready access to and exit from such water areas along the shores of such reservoirs shall be maintained for general public use, when such use is determined by the Secretary of War not to be contrary to the public interest, all under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may deem necessary. No use of any area to which this section applies shall be permitted which is inconsistent with the laws for the protection of fish and game of the State in which such area is situated. All moneys received for leases or privileges shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts."

