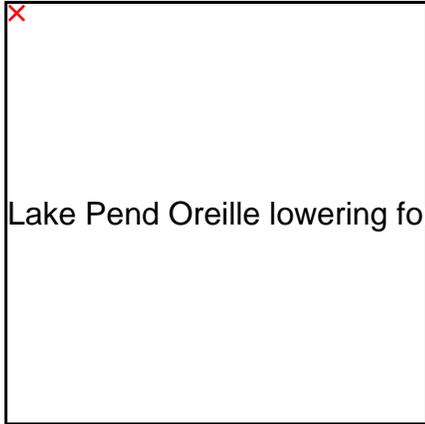


Lake Pend Oreille lowering for winter beginning mid-September



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SEATTLE--Lake Pend Oreille will begin falling to its winter level in mid-September, according to the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps operates Albeni Falls Dam, which regulates the level of Lake Pend Oreille.

The Corps intends to hold the lake at 2,062 - 2062.5 feet above sea level through mid-September and draft to 2,060 - 2,061 feet by the end of September. The lake was at an elevation of 2,062.2 feet Sept. 2.

Lake Pend Oreille's winter level is managed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho fish managers as part of a 10-year test of lake levels on kokanee populations. Kokanee serve as a major food source for Lake Pend Oreille's threatened bull trout. The Service is awaiting an independent evaluation and recommendation regarding lake levels for this year through 2006 from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Independent Scientific Review Panel. The Corps anticipates receiving and announcing this winter's lake elevation target by the end of September.

The Council develops and maintains a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program to balance the Northwest's environment and energy needs. The Panel reviews projects proposed for funding through the Bonneville Power Administration's annual fish and wildlife budget.

Information about the lake level for Lake Pend Oreille is on-line at: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/cgi-bin/pend.pl> or by clicking [here](#).