

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-Sept. 20, 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 Sept. 20, draft to 2,060 - 2,061 feet by the end of September, and reach 2,055 by late November. The lake was at an elevation of 2,062.2 feet Sept. 13.

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 Oreilles threatened bull trout.

Last year the federal agencies agreed to implement System Operation Request 2003-FWS01, which requested that the lake be held at elevation 2,051 feet during the fall and winter of 2003/2004 and operated at elevation 2,055 feet in the fall and winter of 2004/2005.

Information about the lake level for Lake Pend Oreille is on-line at:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/pend.html>