

## Flood control spill at Libby Dam continues; more rain in the forecast

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SEATTLE -- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water managers are continuing flood control spills at Libby Dam as forecasts for more rain this week in the Kootenai River Basin were received today. Forecasts generated by the National Weather Service River Forecast Center are used by the Corps to make decisions on dam operations. Thunderstorm activity in the area later this week may cause local tributary flow to rise, and Kootenai River stage at Bonners Ferry to rise.

At Libby Dam, water is being passed through the powerhouse and spillway. The increase in outflows slows the refill of the reservoir in order to maintain the ability to manage flows downstream. A total of 38,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) is now being passed through Libby and may increase further.

Corps emergency management teams have been on the ground this past month and are currently in Montana and northern Idaho, providing technical assistance at sites that have been affected by rising rivers. In Bonners Ferry where the river is expected to rise near or above flood stage this week, the Corps is assisting local emergency management officials with strengthening levees and providing assessments on weakened structures. In Montana, the Corps is monitoring the situation and working with local emergency management officials on identifying areas of concern.

The public is urged to be aware and take caution near the river during these higher flows. The water velocities are high and water temperatures are still quite cold. An added danger is debris accumulation along the river and possible stream bank erosion in some locations.

River forecasts are being monitored and Libby operations may be adjusted as new information becomes available.

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