

Corps Watch property protection program to deter crime at Northwest recreation areas

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SEATTLE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, will be using a neighborhood crime-watch deterrence program to protect recreational areas in the Northwest. Each year, millions of dollars in property damage are lost due to vandalism, larceny, arson, environmental and cultural degradation.

"This program is designed to heighten public awareness of the seriousness of the impacts of crime within and around dams, lakes, navigational locks, recreation areas and other Corps facilities," said James Sydnor, security specialist with the Seattle District.

To help fight these crimes and reduce costs, the Corps has received Congressional authority to offer cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of individuals causing damage to Corps property.

Individuals who witness or suspect that a crime has been committed against Corps property are encouraged to use the toll-free number, 1-866-413-7970, to report information of theft, vandalism or any threats or suspicious activity against the Corps 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers can remain anonymous.

"It is important to note that this program does not replace the 911 emergency notification system," said Sydnor. Those observing a crime, or having knowledge of a crime, should call this number. In addition, they should call the Corps Watch number," he said.

The Corps operates the following facilities in Seattle District:

- Albeni Falls Dam, Oldtown, Idaho
- Chief Joseph Dam, Bridgeport, Washington
- Libby Dam, Libby, Montana
- Lake Washington Ship Canal, Seattle, Washington
- Mud Mountain Dam, Enumclaw, Washington
- Howard Hanson Dam, Enumclaw, Washington

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For more information, call Vicki Sydnor, Seattle District Natural Resource Management team leader, at (206) 764-3477 or Sydnor at (206) 764-4473.

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