

Corps of Engineers flood teams help counties assess damage and repair levees

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SEATTLE – More than 50 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood team members are working with local communities to help with flood fighting, assess damage, make repairs and continue to monitor saturated areas as waters recede.

The Corps has flood engineers out at seven river basins, has distributed more than 300,000 sand bags and continues to supply materials, equipment and assistance to communities as requested.

In the Snohomish/Stillaguamish basin, the Corps is assessing damage to French Creek and Marshland dikes.

The Skagit River basin flood team is now monitoring levees at Fir Island, Lyman and Cockreham where crews placed sandbags and rock to shore up levees. The team has supplied ecology blocks to protect the Sedro-Woolley sewage treatment plant and placed rock adjacent to the Sauk River at Bryson Road at a section that was in danger of giving way.

In the Nooksack basin, engineers are assessing levees for damage and determining where repairs are needed.

In the Puyallup basin, several sections of levees breached, and crews are working in the Orting area today to make emergency repairs.

The Seattle District Reservoir Control Center and Emergency Operations Center began 24-hour operation Nov. 5 and will continue to operate around the clock for the foreseeable future.

### **Dams reduced flood levels significantly**

Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River received peak inflows of 24,000, and the Corps held outflows to as low as 5,000 cfs, reducing the flood stage in Auburn by 7 feet. The Corps is monitoring downstream flows and is working to keep flows at Auburn below flood stage. The dam is currently passing outflows of 7,500 cfs.

Mud Mountain Dam operation reduced the flood stage downstream in Puyallup by more than 4 feet. Peak inflows to Mud Mountain Dam were 29,000 cfs, and the dam held outflow to less than 1,000 cfs. Mud Mountain Dam on the White River (which feeds into the Puyallup) is now releasing flows at a rate of 10,000 cubic feet per second. Flows will gradually increase to as high as 12,000 cfs to make room in the reservoir for this weekend's expected rain.

In the Skagit River basin, the Corps is regulating Upper Baker and Ross dams, and passing 14,500 out of Upper Baker and 20,000 out of Ross Dam. Inflow to the dams peaked at 39,000 cfs, and the Corps held flows to minimum outflows until the Skagit peaked, reducing the flood stage downstream at Concrete by about 5 feet.

Wynoochee Dam is receiving about 1,500 cfs of inflow. The Corps is now allowing outflows from Wynoochee Dam of 4,500 cfs. When inflows peaked, Wynoochee Dam held back about 13,000 cfs, reducing the river stage downstream by about 6 feet.

For up-to-date river forecasts, go to

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/index-j.html>  
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The National Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.