

## Corps changes restricted areas for boaters, anglers at Libby Dam

**Contact: Natural Resource Staff at Libby Dam (406) 293-5577 or Nola Leyde (206) 764-6896**

Seattle – Recreationists, boaters, and anglers need to be aware of changes that will restrict access above and below Libby Dam. The change will go into effect on Jan. 15, 2008.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed the restricted area at Libby Dam to enhance safety for recreational boaters and security for the dam.

Waters immediately above and below the dam will be considered restricted areas. Restricted areas are those waters upstream and downstream of the dam where trespassing is strictly prohibited. Rangers and law enforcement officers patrol these areas and citations may be issued to individuals who enter these boundaries.

The Corps is authorized by the Code of Federal Regulations to close or restrict waters that could cause harm to public health, safety or other reasons in the public interest. The new restricted area on Lake Koochanusa extends 500 feet upstream of the dam. Eventually a buoy line will run across Lake Koochanusa indicating the restricted zone. Until then, markings on the shoreline will serve to designate the water area as restricted. For safety and security reasons, boats will no longer be allowed in this area, however, fishing from the shoreline will still be allowed.

The Corps places public safety as the number one priority in all programs. Visitor safety and enjoyment of many recreational activities are available year round at Libby Dam and Lake Koochanusa. You can prevent tragedy during winter months when operating on or near water by following a few simple rules of water safety: file a float plan with a relative or friend, always wear a life jacket when on or near the water, know the symptoms of hypothermia and come in off the water before they strike.

For more information, call the Natural Resource Staff at Libby Dam at (406) 293-5577 or Nola Leyde in the Corps' Public Affairs Office at (206) 764-6896.