

Army Corps flood fight teams continue to provide assistance east of Cascades

Contact: Patricia Graesser 206-764-3760

SEATTLE - Flood teams from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, are continuing work to assist local governments with flood fighting activities on five river basins in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Trained flood engineers, environmental scientists and specialists are working in the Pend Oreille, St. Joe, and Coeur d'Alene river basins in Idaho, Kootenai River Basin in Montana, and the Yakima / Naches basin in Washington.

The Corps has been asked to assist with bank erosion on the Yakima and Naches rivers and with levee erosion at Lightning Creek near the Lower Clark Fork in Idaho. The Corps provided a pump that is reducing water levels in Cataldo, Idaho. A Corps team is working to protect a sewer line in Osburn, Idaho, and Corps flood fighters are finishing work to day to protect the City of Yakima's water treatment facility on the Naches River. The Corps has also provided 20,000 sandbags to the town of St. Maries, Idaho.

The Corps activated its Emergency Operations Center May 15. Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share in the repair of flood protection structures.

The Seattle District Reservoir Control Center is also monitoring river conditions. The Reservoir Control Center manages and regulates Mud Mountain and Howard Hanson dams, both located near Enumclaw, Wash. Howard Hanson dam is currently releasing about 5,400 cubic feet per second and Mud Mountain dam is currently releasing about 7,000 cubic feet per second. At this time, no major flooding is expected in western Washington, where many rivers are expected to run high with snowmelt flows over at least the next few days.

The Corps' Northwestern Division Reservoir Control Center in Portland, Oregon oversees operations at Chief Joseph Dam near Brewster, Wash., Albeni Falls Dam near Newport, Wash., and Libby Dam in Montana.

For more information on the Corps, and up-to-date river forecasts, go to www.nws.usace.army.mil <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Administration/Front_Page/News/www.nws.usace.army.mil> and click on the link to "lake and river level information" under Links of Interest. The Corps has a 24 hour recorded information toll free line that is updated during emergencies at (866) 596-2635.