



Lower Monumental Dam and Lake West

Quick Facts

- ▶ Stream: Snake River (RM 41.6)
- ▶ Location: Kahlotus, WA
- ▶ Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
- ▶ Authorized Purposes: Hydropower, Navigation (1945 Rivers and Harbors Act)
- ▶ Other Purposes: Fish & Wildlife, Recreation, Water Quality, Irrigation
- ▶ Type of Project: Run-of-River

Dam

- ▶ Completed: 1970
- ▶ Height: 152 ft
- ▶ Length: 3,791 ft
- ▶ Features: powerhouse, spillway, navigation lock, fish passage facilities
- ▶ Forebay Elevation Normal Operating Range: 537–540 ft msl
- ▶ Spillway Capacity (max): 850,000 cfs

Powerhouse

- ▶ Generation Capacity: 810 MW, 6 Units
- ▶ Hydraulic Capacity: 130,000 cfs

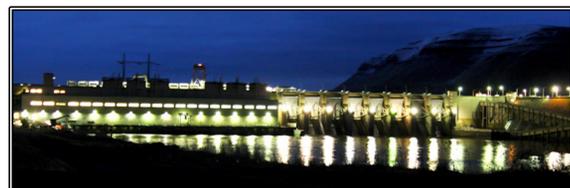


Lower Monumental Lock and Dam was the second of four dams constructed as part of the Lower Snake River Project, authorized in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945. Construction began in 1961, and three turbine units were operational in 1970. Three more units were operational in 1978.

Lake Herbert G. West extends upstream of the dam for 28 miles to Little Goose Dam.

Hydropower

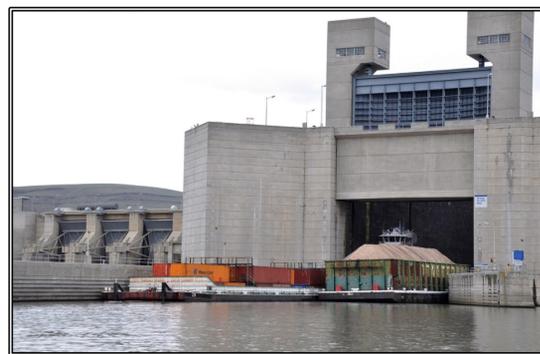
Lower Monumental Dam has six 135-megawatt turbines, for a total generating capacity of 810 megawatts.



Lower Monumental Dam, Lake West, and associated facilities are operated for Hydropower, Navigation, Fish & Wildlife, Recreation, Water Quality, and Irrigation.

Navigation

Lower Monumental Dam navigation lock is the sixth of eight locks encountered in the Columbia-Snake Inland Waterway, a 465-mile river highway that allows barge transport of commodities between the Pacific Ocean and Lewiston, ID. In 2015, more than 2 million tons of cargo passed through the Lower Monumental lock.



Water Quality

Water quality is monitored and managed consistent with Clean Water Act and state standards for the health of aquatic species. During spill for juvenile fish passage at the four Lower Columbia and four Lower Snake River projects, the Corps implements a Water Quality Program to manage total dissolved gas.

Recreation

Popular recreation activities around Lower Monumental Dam and Lake West include fishing, swimming, picnicking, boating, hunting, hiking, and camping. There are more than 7,000 acres surrounding Lake West utilized for public recreation, wildlife habitat, wildlife mitigation, and water-connected industry.

Currently, there are 7 day-use areas, 5 campgrounds, 5 boat launch facilities, and 1 designated swimming beach. Lake West is known for the scenic confluence of the Snake and Palouse rivers, the historic Mullan Road and Lyons Ferry crossing, and the Joso Railroad Bridge.

Fish & Wildlife

Lower Monumental Dam has two fish ladders—one on each shore—to provide a passage route for upstream-migrating fish, including adult salmon and steelhead, lamprey, shad, and others. Passage routes operated for downstream-migrating fish are the spillway, a spillway weir, and a juvenile bypass system.

In 2015, about 1.2 million juvenile salmon and steelhead were collected in the bypass system—of those, 98,000 were returned to the river and over 1 million were transported downstream by barge or truck and released below Bonneville Dam.

