

Continued drought conditions force closing of one boat ramp on Swift Reservoir, one on Yale Reservoir

Low water has made boat launching impossible at Swift Camp and Cougar ramps

WOODLAND, Wash. – Low water levels on the Lewis River drainage are continuing to impact boaters this recreation season. The boat ramp at Cougar Camp is unusable now and the Swift Camp ramp will be unusable by July 4 weekend. Both closures will last for the rest of the season.

Ramps at Yale Park, Beaver Bay, Saddle Dam Park, Cresap Bay and Speelyai Bay Park are currently anticipated to have enough water to launch throughout the summer unless conditions change.

Low snowpack and below average spring rains means water coming into the series of reservoirs managed by PacifiCorp is only 35 percent of normal for this time of year. This is the lowest it has been in over 85 years of water records. Signs are posted on the road leading up the Lewis River and leaflets are being distributed in recreation areas to prevent boaters from making the unnecessary haul to Cougar or Swift only to find the ramps unusable.

PacifiCorp held water in Swift, the uppermost reservoir, during the late spring and early summer. Now, to keep the most ramps open for the largest number of boaters, PacifiCorp is releasing water to the lower reservoirs, Yale and Merwin.

Reservoir levels during the summer months, even without the drought conditions seen today, are subject to available inflows and downstream flow requirements for fish and aquatic habitats. While reservoir levels are always subject to fluctuation, PacifiCorp recognizes the importance of recreational resources and is working to balance recreation with environmental requirements and strives to maintain elevations that keep as many boat ramps open through the summer as possible.

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About PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, serving 1.8 million customers in the West. PacifiCorp operates as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California, and as Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. The company's generating capability of more than 10,620 megawatts includes power from coal, hydro, gas-fired combustion turbines and renewable wind and geothermal facilities. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.

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