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Continued drought conditions limit boat access on Swift Reservoir and Yale Reservoir

Low water has made boat launching impossible at Swift Camp, Yale Park

WOODLAND, Wash. – Low water levels in the Lewis River drainage are continuing to impact boaters. The boat ramps at Swift Forest Camp on Swift Reservoir and Yale Park on Yale Reservoir are typically available in the fall and winter. However, due to continued drought conditions the Swift Forest Camp boat ramp became unusable in mid-summer and the Yale Park boat ramp became unusable Oct. 16.

The ramp at Speelyai Bay Park on Merwin Reservoir and ramps along the lower Lewis River downstream of Merwin Dam are currently available.

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. Closure signs are posted on the road leading up the Lewis River and at the affected recreation sites.

PacifiCorp held water in the three reservoirs during the summer months to enable the release of increased flows for salmon spawning in the fall. PacifiCorp is currently using that stored water to provide increased flows out of Merwin Dam which results in lower water levels in the reservoirs.

Reservoir levels, even without the drought conditions seen this year, 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 balancing of recreation access with environmental requirements.

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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.