



Hermiston Herald, File
McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River near Umatilla is in line for upgrades totaling \$22.7 million thanks to the federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act.

\$22.7 million McNary Dam project part of new work plan

Hermiston Herald

McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River near Umatilla is in line for almost \$23 million in improvements.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, in a press release announced it has allocated approximately \$55 million for area dams. The federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in November 2021, provides funding for the projects.

The act allocated approximately \$17 billion in funding for Corps' infrastructure projects for fiscal years 2022-24.

Among the 2022 projects in the plan is \$22.7 million for work on McNary Lock and Dam, including replacing downstream gate gudgeon anchors, spillway hoists and gates, the acquisition and installation of a second derrick crane, dredging and surveys, rehabilitating levee drainage pump stations, upgrades to Hood Park's septic system and

reconstruction of Third Street's road at the lock and dam.

Other projects are planned for Dworshak Dam, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, Lower Granite Lock and Dam, Little Goose Lock and Dam and Lucky Peak Dam and Lake. There also are additional projects at waterways in the region. The McNary project, however, is the largest of all the listed projects.

"This funding will allow us to complete critical projects the District has been striving to fund for several years," said Alan Feistner, Walla Walla District's deputy district engineer. "When completed, these funds will have helped us lower the risk of infrastructure failure and flooding, protect the environment, and improve efficiencies to serve the public. This is a great benefit for our communities and the Nation."

Additional funding from the infrastructure investments act be made available to the Walla Walla District in fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

Hermiston residents asked to complete broadband surveys

Hermiston Herald

The clock is ticking on completing broadband internet access surveys for Hermiston.

Starting in January, residents were able to weigh in on their internet service and use. Residents with active email addresses listed with the city received invitations to participate in the survey on Jan. 26. The survey runs for six weeks and closes at the end of February.

For residents who did not receive an invitation via email to participate, they can find links from the city of Hermiston website that directs users to the surveys — one for individuals and one for businesses. Byron Smith, Hermiston city manager, said the survey could encourage the direction of Hermiston's future.

A press release from the city explained the surveys

resulted from a partnership between the city of Hermiston and Strategic Networks Group to "explore options for connecting high-capacity digital infrastructure throughout city facilities."

"The infrastructure could be leveraged to also connect residents, businesses and institutions, while assisting internet service providers in extending services to currently underserved areas," the press release states. "Through this effort, the city is exploring ways to encourage healthy competition from internet service providers, leading to improved service and lower costs for residents and businesses."

Once the survey is complete, Smith said its results will be available on the city of Hermiston website.

The survey and additional information is online at bit.ly/3JxPY3e.

How do you discover and share information about your community?

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