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IMPACTS OF HIGH WATER ON RECREATION FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

PITTSBURGH – Many of the “KEEP OUT – DAM” buoys placed upstream and downstream of navigation dams on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers have been moved off station or washed away during recent flood events. Recreational boaters are cautioned to approach the locks and dams with **extreme** care, especially when proceeding downstream, until these buoys can be replaced. It will be several weeks before the river levels drop and the full complement of buoys can be installed. Recreational boats are also advised to be alert to floating debris which is prevalent on the rivers during high water.

Additionally, recent heavy rains and resulting high lake levels have led to the closure or partial closure of a number of recreation facilities at US Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Pittsburgh District. The impacts are listed below for those facilities that were affected. Recreation areas will reopen as the pool levels recede and debris cleanup is accomplished. The status is subject to change based on any additional rain that is received and it is recommended that members of the public call the recorded 24-hour information line or the project office for updates.

Berlin Lake, Oh. - The Mill Creek Campground and Mill Creek Boat Launch are closed and will likely remain closed until Friday, June 4. The water is too high for boats to launch at the Dutch Harbor Marina at this time and the ability to use the Bonner Road (ODNR) and Les’s Bait Shop launching ramps is dependent on the type of boat and trailer. The Mill Creek day use area remains available for picnicking. *(24-hour recorded message, 330-547-5445; Dutch Harbor, 330-584-4174; Les’s Bait Shop, 330-584-6741; ODNR, 330-644-2265)*

Crooked Creek Lake, Pa. - The family campground and picnic areas were unaffected by the high water and the boat launch and group camping area, which were closed earlier in the week, have reopened. However, the beach is still closed and is expected to be unavailable through the Memorial Day weekend. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-763-2764)*

Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir, Pa. and N.Y. - Although the reservoir is a few feet above summer pool, all US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service and Allegany State Park facilities are open with no limitations expected for the holiday weekend. The Onoville and Wolf Run marinas are also open. The Corps’ boat launch on the Allegheny River below the dam is available for use, but high discharge from the dam does impact the ability to use watercraft on the river, especially non-powered craft. Visitors are encouraged to check the 24-hour line for updates on river flow and reservoir pool levels. The Big Bend Visitor Center opens for the recreation season on Friday, May 28th and will be open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM until September 6th, then on weekends up until October 17th. *(24-hour recorded message, 814-726-0164)*

Loyalhanna Lake, Pa. - There are no facility closures due to high water levels, but visitors should note that the concession and boat rental facility at the Bush Recreation Area is not open for business at this time. (*Project Office, 724-639-9013; 24-hour recorded message not available*)

Mahoning Creek Lake, Pa. - Both the Milton Loop and Sportsmen's boat launching ramps are currently closed. It is possible that at least one ramp will reopen at some point over the holiday weekend but that will depend on how quickly the water recedes. The Milton Loop Campground and dam picnic areas are unaffected by the high water. (*24-hour recorded message, 814-257-8017*)

Shenango River Lake, Pa. and Oh. – Shenango Recreation Area campsites 226-330, known as the New Duck Lake Loop, are currently closed and will remain closed through the Memorial Day weekend. The remainder of the campsites (1 – 225) will remain open pending no additional heavy rain. The Clark Boat Launch and Golden Run Wildlife Area will also remain closed throughout the Memorial Day weekend. The Mahaney and Shenango Recreation Area boat launches are available for use. (*24-hour recorded message, 724-962-4384*)

Tionesta Lake, Pa. – The Outflow Recreation Area campground, the Tionesta Lakeshore campground, the Nebraska Recreation Area Boat Launch and the Tionesta Lake Boat Launch are closed and are expected to remain closed through the holiday weekend. The Tionesta Recreation Area and Kellettsville campgrounds are open. (*Project Office, 814-755-3512; 24-hour recorded message not available*)

Woodcock Creek Lake, Pa. – The boat launch and campground at Colonel Crawford Park are open. The beach area is currently flooded but it is anticipated that it may be available for use during the holiday weekend. (*Project Office, 814-763-4422; 24-hour recorded message not available*)

There are no recreation facility closures at the remaining Pittsburgh District reservoirs - Conemaugh River Lake, East Branch Clarion River Lake, Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir, Mosquito Creek Lake, Stonewall Jackson Lake, Youghiogheny River Lake, Union City Dam and Reservoir and Tygart Lake.