



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Seattle District

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News Release

Engineers at Howard Hanson Dam begin to fill reservoir for additional water supply mission, provide testing opportunities

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SEATTLE— The Corps will began slowly allowing water levels to rise within Howard Hanson Dam's reservoir in March. This operation mimics normal spring operations, but will also allow for testing and in-depth investigations following the damage to the dam's right abutment during flooding this past January.

While the pool level rises to an elevation of 1,147 feet above sea level, special and additional instrumentation will be installed to measure the effects of the pool on the right abutment.

The Corps operates the Howard Hanson Dam project, which provides flood damage reduction to the area as well as additional water supply to Pierce and South King counties and eco-system restoration.

Additionally, three-fourths of the reservoir's supply will be used to augment downstream supplies of water to help endangered species of fish, including Chinook and steelhead. Project managers believe that the regulated downstream flows will aid spawning and other life cycle events for the fish.

Throughout the reservoir fill, as with all project functions, the Corps will constantly monitor the operations of the facility. Because of the damage sustained to the abutment in January, a higher frequency of monitoring will be done and 24-hour monitoring will be done at elevation 1,147 feet.

More details and history about Howard Hanson Dam and the right abutment issue can be found at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil>.

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