

Newspaper advertisement

American Falls Concrete Spillway Rehabilitation Project

The American Falls Dam concrete spillway rehabilitation project construction resumes Aug. 1. American Falls Dam, a 94-foot-high composite concrete and earth gravity-type dam on the Snake River in Power County, near the town of American Falls, will undergo maintenance and rehabilitation through Dec. 2021. Additional construction activities may occur in 2022 with completion by Oct. 15, 2022.

Residents and visitors may experience traffic restrictions and increased traffic supporting construction activities on SH-39 and within the City of American Falls traveling to and from the construction site. Reclamation is coordinating with the Idaho Transportation Department throughout the project.

Effects to recreation are anticipated to be minimal during the construction period. Parking access at the West Wall may be limited for the contractor staging area. The public will continue to have access at the west side beach from the West boat ramp.

The planned construction activities address the need for rehabilitation and repair of the 43-year-old dam, which has experienced degradation over the years. Construction activities consist of the demolition, removal, and replacement of existing damaged concrete on the spillway face, stilling basin floor, dam face, dam entrances, and operator gate decks. This year's construction activities will focus on completing the spillway and dam face repairs.

Given its size and location relative to other Reclamation facilities located throughout the upper Snake River storage system, American Falls Reservoir is heavily relied upon for the delivery of water for irrigation purposes. American Falls Reservoir is typically full or near full, with water receding as the irrigation season progresses. Reclamation plans to operate American Falls Reservoir through the construction period, consistent with previous years. Water storage conditions in the reservoir and discharges from the dam can be found at the project web page identified below.

A Water Quality Restoration Plan to monitor and mitigate for water quality issues is included within the final environmental assessment. Reclamation is actively working with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Power Company, and Idaho Fish and Game throughout the planning and construction phases to monitor and mitigate water quality issues.

For up-to-date information, go to <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ea/idaho/americanfalls/index.html>.