Project overview
Physical removal began August 2011 on the Condit Dam, located on the White Salmon River in south central Washington State, in Skamania and Klickitat counties. Built during 1912 – 1913, the dam is a 125-foot high, 471-foot long concrete gravity diversion dam. Dam removal plans call for creation of a 13-foot high by 18-foot wide drain tunnel at the base of the dam that will allow Northwestern Lake to drain through the tunnel into the White Salmon riverbed. The drain tunnel will discharge water at a rate of approximately 10,000 cubic feet-per-second, allowing the lake and impounded sediments to rapidly move downstream.

Safety is our top priority
PacifiCorp has operated in the Pacific Northwest as Pacific Power for more than a century and has a proven record of safety and reliability. Our commitment to public and employee safety is an integral part of our culture. Our policy is to meet or exceed all applicable local, state and federal safety laws and regulations in the construction and operation of our facilities, and we do. Safety is PacifiCorp’s top priority and that is demonstrated by the company being named among Washington’s most safety conscious employers for three years running (2007-09) by the Association of Washington Businesses. Safety awareness and planning was a major factor in choosing JR Merit of Vancouver, Wash. as lead contractor for the work at Condit.

PacifiCorp’s top priority for decommissioning Condit Dam is safety for the public and for the workers involved in its removal. PacifiCorp, contractors and local law enforcement officials are working together to ensure that the worksites are secure. This coordination will protect the public, workers on site, area residents and any individuals who may errantly get too close to the work.

Public safety during the dam decommissioning process
Communication with the public is critical as the Condit Dam removal project progresses. Over the past few months PacifiCorp has partnered with the community of White Salmon, Wash., emergency response agencies from Skamania and Klickitat counties and the state of Washington, to effectively communicate construction and activity updates regarding the decommissioning process.

Protecting the public from hazards is vital to a successful decommissioning of the hydro facilities. Access restrictions have been communicated to the local community and are posted on the project web page pacificorp.com/condit and other linked sites, and are placed throughout the dam decommissioning project area. Fencing, construction signs, barricades and no trespassing signs have been placed to notify and protect the public. PacifiCorp asks for the public’s patience and appreciates the cooperation of all parties during this process.

• The general public is asked to avoid designated construction zones to help ensure your safety and safety of the construction crews. These areas will be clearly marked with fencing and signage.
• Local residents, communities and other interested parties will receive regular updates about the progress of demolition via direct mailings, a project newsletter and postings on the PacifiCorp website.
• As construction progresses, we encourage you to bring questions or issues to PacifiCorp’s attention as quickly as possible so they can be resolved. You can email the project team at Condit.Decommissioning@PacifiCorp.com or call us at 1-503-331-4361. Updates will also be available on PacifiCorp’s website at pacificorp.com/condit.
White Salmon River access

The White Salmon River is a popular whitewater boating destination in the region. Boaters will continue to have access to the river upstream of the dam during decommissioning activities except in Northwestern Lake/Reservoir. For the public’s safety, beginning in July 2011 the White Salmon River was closed from the Northwestern Lake Bridge downstream to the White Salmon Ponds fish facility. PacifiCorp communicated these closures with local commercial recreation companies and the public through direct notification and through navigation signs, buoys and signage at access points and on the river. The river closure will continue until the completion of the dam removal process and channel restoration work in early 2012. In early August 2011, Northwestern Lake and its associated boat ramps were closed to all activities as work at the dam site intensified in preparation for the late October breaching.

Restricted river access during breaching in late October 2011

To protect the public, additional river closures will be in effect during the actual breaching in late October 2011. These closures and events will be communicated throughout the local communities, and to the public and the media. Updates on closures can be found online at pacificorp.com/condit.

Scan code here with your smart phone to link to PacifiCorp’s Condit Dam page or go to pacificorp.com/condit