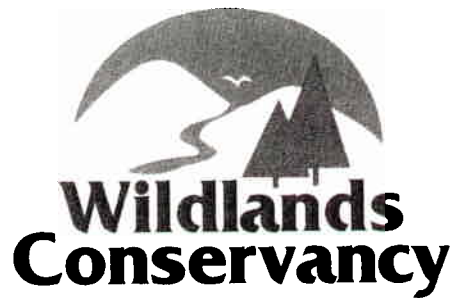


## **APPENDIX B**

### **Workshop and Website Comment**





24 March 2005

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Philadelphia District  
ATTN: Merv Brokke  
Wanamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RE: Recreational Enhancement on the Lehigh River

Dear Mr. Brokke:

On behalf of the board of directors of Wildlands Conservancy, I would like express our support of the proposed flow enhancements on the Lehigh River, and publicly thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its project partners for formulating and implementing these enhancements to the Lehigh River from the Francis E. Walter Reservoir.

As you know well, the Lehigh River is an important natural, recreational, and economic resource that has been used and enjoyed by countless generations. It is cleaner today than it has been in the last 150 years. In February of this year, and because of the work of Wildlands Conservancy and its partners, the river was placed on the *Pennsylvania Rivers Conservations Registry*. In 1982, a 32-mile portion of the river was designated as part of the state's *Scenic River System*. Because the Lehigh River provides recreational opportunities to tens of thousands of people annually, it is an important part of our lives and an important part of our community.

These proposed changes mark a significant milestone in the management of this great resource. Wildlands Conservancy supports this appropriate first step and hopes that it leads to permanent changes in the management of the reservoir. We also encourage the collection of scientific information that will determine the impacts of those changes. Thirdly, we believe the inclusion of stakeholders in the decision-making process in the dam's future management reflects a proper stance for a resource manager. We applaud your efforts.

In our belief, these proposed changes will have positive recreational, environmental, and economic effects on the Lehigh River and the entire region. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its principal partners – Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and the Delaware River Basin Commission – are to be commended for their efforts in balancing the complex issues involved with changing the management of the Reservoir.

3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049-1637  
610-965-4397 • Fax 610-965-7223 • [www.wildlandspa.org](http://www.wildlandspa.org)  
E-mail: [info@wildlandspa.org](mailto:info@wildlandspa.org)

Wildlands Conservancy was pleased to facilitate the public workshop in February, and we look forward to assisting the Corps and its partners throughout this process. Thank you for your interest and commitment to the Lehigh River. As always, Wildlands Conservancy staff looks forward to working with you and your organization on the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the Lehigh River and its watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas J. Kerr  
President

Cc: Austin Gerrard, Reservoir Program Manager  
Robert Ruch, District Commander  
Gregory Wacik, Ecologist, PL-E



Kevin Colburn  
National Stewardship Director  
329 North Jefferson Street  
Moscow, ID 83843  
208-882-2711  
[kevin@amwhitewater.org](mailto:kevin@amwhitewater.org)

Public Affairs Office  
**Merv Brokke, CENAP-PA**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Wanamaker Bldg., Rm 600  
Phila., PA 19107-3390

Re: Comments, F.E. Walter Reservoir Operation Technical Study (CENAP-PL-E-05-03).

Dear Mr. Brokke,

I am writing you on behalf of American Whitewater, a national nonprofit organization with the mission of protecting and restoring our nation's whitewater resources while enhancing opportunities to enjoy them safely. Many of our members live and/or recreate in Pennsylvania and specifically on the Lehigh River. American Whitewater therefore has a direct interest in the flow regime of the Lehigh River, and any proposals to change that flow regime.

The February 24<sup>th</sup> 2005 proposal to enhance the recreational benefits of the Lehigh River's flow regime followed years of discussion between the paddling community and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). We were, and remain, very pleased that the ACE initiated a public process aimed at enhancing paddling and other recreational benefits. Shortly after the release of the proposed plan, we shared the plan with the paddling community through our website and encouraged paddlers to comment on the proposal and to attend the public meeting. We fully supported the proposal to provide 30 days of recreational releases, to increase the reservoir pool, and to increase the continuous base flow throughout 2005 as a means of testing the ability of the F.E. Walter project to better meet multiple objectives.

Unfortunately, before we even filed official comments and prior to the recommended comment deadline, the proposal was radically changed through negotiations between a small subset of stakeholders. On March 9, the public notice was issued for CENAP-PL-E-05-03, which recommended fewer releases than the original proposal and no releases guaranteed for the months of May and June. The Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (KCCNY) sought clarification from ACE, and were notified by e-mail on March 28 that the study proposed releases on May 14-15, May 28-29, June 11-12, June 25-26, July 2-3, July 23-24, August 6-7, August 20-21, September 3-4, September 17-18, and October 1-2, for a total of 22 releases.

We have never experienced a federal agency changing a recommended action during a public comment period – without even alerting the public that what they were commenting on had become moot. Certainly this constituted a breach of trust, if not a breach of process. American Whitewater would like the paddling community to be considered a respected and responsible stakeholder group with the same access to information and negotiations that the ACE grants other stakeholder groups. We hope that we can move forward in such a capacity, and welcome future dialog with the ACE.

With this being said, we would like to reiterate our support for the concept of testing the ACE's ability to increase the public benefits of the F.E. Walter Dam in 2005 and in subsequent years. While the flow regime as defined in CENAP-PL-E-05-03 does not meet our interests to the extent that the original proposal did, we still support testing the CENAP-PL-E-05-03 flow regime this year, with the understanding that there may be opportunities discovered through this trial that will provide additional recreational benefits in future years. It is our interest to see the dam managed in such a way that maximizes ecological and recreational values of the Lehigh River, and feel that this process does have the potential to meet our interests.

We sincerely appreciate the ACE responding to our requests to improve the recreational benefits of the F.E. Walter Dam. The fact that a new flow regime will be tested this year and that we have the opportunity to write this letter is a testament to the ACE's flexibility and desire to meet the public's interests on the Lehigh River. We look forward to reviewing the results of this year's trial flow regime, and working with the ACE and other stakeholders to further enhance the ecological and recreational values of the Lehigh River.

Please feel free to contact me any time regarding these comments or any related issue that may arise.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin R. Colburn  
National Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater

Cc:

Dr. Minas Arabatzis  
Chief, Planning Division  
ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Wannamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390



KCCNY Conservation  
Lauren Cook, Chair  
517 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia PA 19146  
508-789-7533  
Fax: 609-655-3050  
E-mail: lcook@richardgrubb.com

April 5, 2005

Dr. Minas Arabatzis  
Chief, Planning Division  
ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Wannamaker Building,  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

Re: Comments, F.E.Walter Reservoir Operation Technical Study  
(CENAP-PL-E-05-03)

I am writing on behalf of the Conservation Committee of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (KCCNY). KCCNY is a regionally based educational and recreational club with approximately 300 members in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Our club sponsors approximately 10 official trips on the Lehigh each year, and our message boards indicate that many of our members utilize the river regularly on "unofficial" trips. KCCNY has a strong interest in fostering recreational opportunities on the Lehigh, on which flows are administered by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and we are well situated to see the many positive impacts that river releases offer to the local economy.

Recently, on March 2, 2005, our club commented favorably on the ACE's plan, unveiled on February 24<sup>th</sup>, to provide 30 release days during the whitewater boating season. All indications were that the ACE had arrived at this number after considered research and consultation with the recreational and environmental communities, as well as the appropriate state agencies. Subsequently, on March 9, the public notice was issued for CENAP-PL-E-05-03. The language in that notice appeared to call for potentially fewer releases, with no releases guaranteed for the months of May and June. We sought clarification from ACE, and were notified by e-mail on March 28 that the study proposed releases on May 14-15, May 28-29, June 11-12, June 25-26, July 2-3, July 23-24, August 6-7, August 20-21, September 3-4, September 17-18, and October 1-2, for a total of 22 releases. We understood from the email that the reduced number of releases

was necessary to ensure a constant pool height of 1335 feet to encourage fish spawning within the reservoir.

I am writing to express our club's support for the flow management plan contained in CENAP-PL-E-05-03, as amended by the information in the March 28 e-mail, which is appended for reference. We believe that the study will allow ACE to work out any issues with the releases, and that it represents a compromise between various interests.

That said, it is our hope that in future years, once the present study is complete, that ACE can begin to move toward their own stated goal of 30 releases per season. We also feel that the ACE should study the possibility of higher reservoir levels to accomplish this goal.

We would like to commend the ACE for seeking the advice and input of the paddling community, and point out that this sort of full and frank communication goes a long way towards earning the trust and respect of the recreational community. KCCNY looks forward to working with the USACE and other boating and recreational groups in order to ensure the success of recreation on the Lehigh River.

Sincerely,



Mr. Lauren J. Cook  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
Kayak and Canoe Club of New York

cc. PA Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf



**From:** Gerrard, Austin L NAP [mailto:Austin.L.Gerrard@nap02.usace.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2005 11:48 AM  
**To:** lcook@richardgrubb.com  
**Cc:** Cook, Francis P NAP; Brokke, Mervin E NAP  
**Subject:** F.E. Walter Flow Management

Ms. Cook, In response to your request for information, the following is offered for your consideration. As a result of the responses received from interested stakeholders, and further discussions with the coordinating agencies involved in developing the 2005 flow management plan, some modifications have been made to the originally proposed plan. Below is a listing of the target schedule of white water releases for 2005, and a listing of some of the other operational goals and constraints. Mr. Merv Brooke will be posting this information to the website within in the next couple days. If you need any additional information, please let either Merv or myself know. Thanks, Austin Gerrard (215) 656-6737.

Target flow of 750 – 1000 cfs – May 14 – 15

Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow with a 750 cfs min. – May 28

Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow with a 500 cfs min. – May 29

Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow – May 7 – 8; May 21 – 22; June 4 – 5, June 18 – 19

Target flow of 750 cfs – June 11 – 12; June 25 – 26; July 2 – 3; July 23 – 24; August 6 – 7; August 20 – 21

Target flow 750 – 1000 cfs – September 3 – 4; September 17 – 18; October 1 – 2

In addition, the following target flow management constraints are proposed.

- Temporarily raise pool from 1300 to 1335 between May and October.
- Begin raising pool the Monday after the first weekend of trout season (April 18, 2005) with a target to reach a pool of 1335 by May 1.
- Limit pool fluctuation between 1330 and 1335 in May and June for lake spawning enhancement.
- Increase Target Minimum flow to 250 cfs between May and September for downstream fisheries. However, beginning on July 1, if a target release cannot be met due to limited pool, then the minimum target flow would be reduced to 200 cfs until the pool returns to a level where in all likelihood it could sustain the next scheduled release.





lr\_fishing\_flows.pdf  
(367 KB)

Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Lehigh River Stocking Association and Lehigh River Guides Association I want to express my gratitude to the Army Corps for holding this meeting last night to discuss new storage and flow management possibilities for the FEW.

It was a great pleasure to finally meet some you you last night. I throughly enjoyed my conversation with Mr. Gerrard and Mr. Wacik, thank you for taking time to do so. Mr. Sauls I'm sorry our paths never crossed but I believe you talked with my guiding business parnter Mr. Jake Markezin.

From a fishermans stand point I was a bit dissapointed in the 2005 plan especially with the quantity of water to be stored and the target releases that were discussed. I think a lot of this is due in part to lack of information that may not have been available to the agencies in regards to what the fisherman concieve as "friendly" flows/releases.

Attached is what the fishing guides percieve as "friendly" flows for the Lehigh River. These flows discussed in the attachement are relative to the Lehighton USGS gauging station. It should be noted, base on our expeirence fishing the river that during average to above average years of precipitation the release from FEW contributes approximately half of the flow at the Lehighton Gauging stations. Therefore if FEW is releasing 500 cfs, on average the FLOW at Lehighton is approximately 1000 cfs (+/-).

Please review that attached and keep this information so that we may work on perfecting the release from FEW to be more fisherman friendly.

The group(s) I represent plan on putting more thought and information together on behalf of the fisherman. I first want to look at the data that has been placed on the website for this project. Upon our review I will submitt a document that discusses the concerns and views for improving the trout fishery on the river.

I sincerely look forward to working together on this project. Thank you for all your time and effort in forming this working group to better enhance the recreational oppurunities on the Lehigh River.

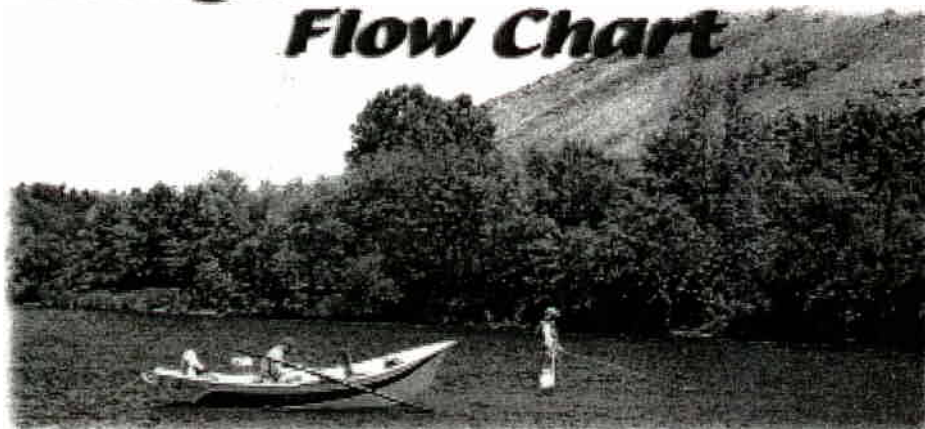
Thank You,

Dean Druckenmiller  
LRSA- Watershed Committee  
Fly Fish PA, LLC

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# Lehigh River Flow Chart



## Flow (CFS)

## Description

< 250	Ideal for wading all sections of river, very difficult for floating
250-500	Still good wading all section of river – floating is difficult
500-750	Wading is good but water begins to push, use caution - Good floating
750-1000	Wading is difficult and limited to certain sections – Ideal floating, great conditions for surface action
1000-1400	Wading is very difficult and limited to banks– Ideal floating and surface action remains consistent
1400-1800	Wading not recommended, limited to bank – Perfect for floating, surface action is fair, good streamer/bugger conditions.
1800-2200	River becomes very big, swift and deep. Upper limit to good fishing by floating. Rapids change from class 2 to class 3
>2200	Stay home and tie flies or fish the tribs

CFS – Cubic Feet Per Second

Flows at Lehighton Gauge on USGS website

([http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=01449000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060,00010](http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/uv/?site_no=01449000&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060,00010))

**NOTE:** When wade fishing the Lehigh River, the use of a wading staff and boots equipped with metal studs or Korkers is **HIGHLY** recommended. Nothing replaces good common sense and judgment when wade fishing.

[www.flyfishpa.net](http://www.flyfishpa.net)



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*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Working Group  
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**Public Affairs Office  
Merv Brokke, CENAP-  
PA  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Wanamaker Bldg., Rm  
600  
Phila., PA 19107-3390  
Phone: (215) 656-6032  
Fax: (215) 656-6820**

## Comments:

---

[American Whitewater's comments to F.E.Walter Reservoir Operation Technical Study \(CENAP-PL-E-05-03\)](#)

---

I am writing on behalf of the Conservation Committee of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (KCCNY). KCCNY is a regionally based educational and recreational club with approximately 300 members in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Our club sponsors approximately 10 official trips on the Lehigh each year, and our message boards indicate that many of our members utilize the river regularly on "unofficial" trips. KCCNY has a strong interest in fostering recreational opportunities on the Lehigh, on which flows are administered by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and we are well situated to see the many positive impacts that river releases offer to the local economy.

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---

I have previously written in support of the newly proposed management plan which provides for increased whitewater releases. I am therefore pleased that the plan will be implemented this year with 22 releases, and hope that the number can ultimately be increased to the 30 releases originally proposed.

As I mentioned before, I have paddled the sections below the dam on numerous occasions for recreational purposes with the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York. I have also helped with instructional programs run by the Appalachian Mountain Club on the Lehigh, and have taken instructional courses there with my wife and

with my grandson, who is a Pennsylvania resident. In addition, my wife, my daughter (a PA resident), and her two children have taken raft trips on the Lehigh.

The additional releases will help all of us make better use of the river, by providing more opportunities for myself, my family, and my paddling clubs. It will also be helpful in coordinating schedules with the non-paddlers in the family, who can be riding their bicycles on the trail above the Gorge while we paddle.

Naturally, while we are there, we always find time to dine in local restaurants, and often camp in local campsites, and shop in towns such as Jim Thorpe.

My entire extended family is looking forward to taking advantage of the additional releases this year, and hope that they will become a permanent fixture.

---

I've known, or heard rumors, that the Corps had been working to improve the infrastructure at the Francis E. Walter Dam in the Poconos for whitewater recreation for awhile now. I was recently very pleased to hear that a water release schedule was proposed by the Corps that benefits paddlers and other outdoors people.

I am writing to express my great appreciation. It's a wonderful area that I have loved visiting for many years. Even though I don't live there and never have, it holds a place in my heart because of the natural beauty I've enjoyed there and the fun that I've had. As I reflect back, I think of how it's benefited our communities and our children by providing a great recreation area.

Thank you, and please pass my gratitude on to any politicians involved! From as far away as Long Island, thanks!

---

I applaud the increase of water releases from FEW Dam as an important first step towards revitalizing the Upper Lehigh River. I believe the river would benefit even more, if a system of controlled releases were instituted to maintain a cold water fishery. The river has the potential to become one of the best cold water fisheries on the East coast if higher water levels were maintained at the dam and proper flows were established. I believe these controlled flows would not only benefit the environment of the Upper Lehigh, but also could provide an economic boom to the area.

---

I am a member of KCCNY and a frequent a Lehigh paddler. I support the 22 release program and am hopeful it will be expanded to 30 in the future. The Lehigh is a gem and the releases allow large numbers of us to enjoy this scenic river at a level which is safe for many skill levels.

---

I spoke with you a bit at the Split Rock event. I think the ACOE has achieved a great first step in enhancing the Lehigh River recreationally.

But, I think the ACOE can do much more to take the Lehigh River to the next level. And by that I mean, maximizing the coldwater pool in the reservoir to allow coldwater bottom releases from FEW. If this could be achieved throughout the summer months a potentially world-class coldwater fishery could be created. Currently, very little of the fishery is enhanced with the 2005 plan - except for the 250 cfs min.

Just think what a win-win this could be for the rafters and the fisherman...they could easily co-exist - we all want the same thing - which is more water. However, the fisherman want the cold water, not just more water...and with some modifications to the management plan at FEW this could be doable. Not to mention if the two valves located at 1,297' were operational. Why aren't they? Just think what this could do to conserve the coldwater.

Here is a quote from a DRBC document:

QUOTE FROM DRBC - <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/04flowreport/index.htm> -

DOCUMENT: "Changes in F.E. Walter operating policies could provide flow augmentation benefits for

whitewater rafting, establishment of a naturally reproducing trout fishery, and other purposes."

As a fisherman here in Pennsylvania, I feel creating this wild trout fishery is as much of a priority as fulfilling your 'flood control' mission.

---

I would just like to take the opportunity to say thanks and that I am thrilled that a potential wild trout fishery below the Francis E. Walter Dam tailrace is being taken into consideration regarding the new flow management plan! I'm sure I can speak on behalf of thousands of local anglers-as well as the tens of thousands that would follow-by saying that the opportunity to fish over wild trout is a privilege that should not be taken lightly and we applaud your efforts.

Anyone that has fished the upper Delaware River-as well as any of the great tailrace trout fisheries out west-has seen what an opportunity like this can present for the local economy. Particularly regarding fly fisherman. They will travel great distances and spend a LOT of money to sample a top-notch wild trout fishery in a beautiful setting... and there is every reason to believe that the Lehigh River could provide just such an attraction. The very thought of a large, stream bred rainbow trout peeling line off my reel while an osprey soars overhead with the mist still hanging in the mountains above brings a smile to my face.

I realize that there is still work to be done and we live in a land of compromise... and that the Lehigh Gorge area is a valuable paddling resource as well as a potential world-class trout fishery, but nothing happens without that most important first step. Congratulations on hatching a great plan and good luck in "fine-tuning" it for the future.

---

I would like to make a few comments regarding the proposed flow regime for the Lehigh River below FE Walters Dam.

Let me begin by saying that I think it is a wonderful idea that the flow is going to be more strictly regulated. The idea of a minimum flow will be most beneficial to the trout which inhabit the river. I recall when a friend and fly shop owner first approached Congressman Kanjorski about cold water releases over 15 years ago. It's great to see that they will finally become reality.

However, I really have to question if it is necessary to supplement the natural flows with releases on every weekend in May and June. A flow of 1000 cfs at White Haven renders the river unfishable for the overwhelming majority of wading anglers. That flow is unsafe for wading. With the schedule as planned there will be no opportunity for a visiting angler to fish the Lehigh on the weekend during the prime time for fishing.

I realize that Mother Nature often conspires to make the river unfishable in the Spring, and I am willing to deal with that as it occurs. I cannot in good conscience sit back and allow whitewater releases to ruin whatever fishing opportunities Mother Nature hasn't.

Please reconsider your release schedule. Why not release more water during the months of July and August? Let the natural conditions prevail during May and June. Why not release water during the week during the summer months? Fishing is generally poor during the heat of the summer and the additional water will be better utilized by the rafting interests. Rafting to me seems like a "summer vacation" activity, why not make it so?

---

I am writing in support of the planned releases on the Lehigh River. The increased volume of water will be a focus of attention by individuals who come to the area for recreational purposes (fishing and rafting/boating) as well as the individuals who make a living meeting the needs of these individuals while on the river. The interest that the releases will generate are going to be felt both on and off the river. Having a great

resource such as the Lehigh river and the managers of that resource using it to the benefit of these many individuals will undoubtedly spark a great deal of interest in the Lehigh River area and beyond. Local people and visitors to the area alike will benefit from this new proposed management plan.

I wholeheartedly support and applaud your efforts to bring this to reality and look forward to the start of these releases in May, 2005.



---

I love to paddle the Lehigh River. I mean there are fewer things in the world that give me a better feeling. Please don't cut back the River Release schedule. If anything, please add more releases over 800.

---

I am a homeowner in Bear Creek Lakes, Penn Township, Pennsylvania. I learned of plans to relocate a road near the Dam to allow greater storage capacity and consequently greater water releases for recreational uses downstream. I support this plan and would appreciate being kept up to date of any new developments to continue my support.

---

We are avid kayakers, paddling up to 40 days each year.

We strongly support the following water releases that benefit Lehigh River kayakers and rafters.

---

As a whitewater paddler and a local resident of Carbon County, I strongly support the ACE proposal to increase by 5x the number of scheduled Whitewater releases on the Lehigh. Not only will this enhance local sport and recreation, but it will provide a strong economic shot in the arm to local business in an area which needs it.

---

Please share this with all concerned persons and those that helped bring about this most wonderful news. Being an avid paddler who works many weekends, some seasons I have missed most releases if not all. Last year with all the extra rain opened the river on many weekends, that a release was not scheduled, much to my delight. I tried to suggest to the park service on several occasions, that doing what you have now done would improve the economy of the area. As I also travel 2 hours, I sometimes prefer to find lodging nearby if it's a Saturday and Sunday release. And I'm sure fisherman as well as paddlers end their days hungry and are looking for a good meal. And then there is gear to be purchased.

---

I am a recreational paddler, and I am really excited by the opportunity to paddle the Lehigh River more often this year. Keeping a balance between the needs of all the different people who use the river must be a challenging endeavor. But please keep the newly scheduled releases.

I have just read quite a few memos in support of the proposed 2005 water release schedule. As an avid outdoorsman I have seen the increase in recreational river use by both fishermen, boaters and paddlers and understand the impact on the environment and local economy. I do believe there is a happy medium for both anglers and paddlers. The local economy benefits from both. I support using sound science to improve the quality of water and trout fishery in the entire drainage.

---

WOW great idea - This should not only make the kayakers happy but also be a major boost to the local economies. The merchants and tour operators will love the boost to the bottom line.

---

Although you may recognize my name as being one of the long-standing critics of the ACE management of the FEW Dam, please allow me to join my fellow whitewater enthusiasts in applauding you for taking dramatic strides towards allowing the Lehigh River to reach its recreational and economic potential. My frustration with the ACE over the years stemmed not only from what I perceived as a recreational resource being squandered, but also from what I believed this has meant in terms of foregone economic benefits. Having grown up in Carbon County, just a few miles from Jim Thorpe, I know first-hand the lack of employment and economic opportunity the area offers. I have also witnessed the condition of Jim Thorpe slowly improve in this regard as a direct result of increased tourism. I personally benefited from tourism in that I was able to



work on the Lehigh as a river guide during summer breaks while I was in college, and believe me, summer jobs for kids were in very short supply.

With regular and dependable whitewater releases (at levels of at least 750 CFS), the Lehigh could become the most popular whitewater destination in the Northeast. With this would come more tourist dollars, more jobs, more tax revenue, etc. This will not happen overnight, but given time and consistent releases, the Lehigh River will provide a significant economic boost to Carbon County. I know that when I paddle the Lehigh, I spend money in Carbon County!

22 releases is a great start! The original 30 proposed would be even better!! While I understand there are other stakeholders, namely those the Fish and Boat commission claim to represent, please keep in mind that there are thousands of miles of trout streams in the Commonwealth and only a few miles of this caliber of whitewater. The sheer numbers of boaters using the river, when compared to the fishers, speaks for itself. After all, this is a democracy.

Please consider the suggestion to modify releases such that the dam is opened 12 hours per day (instead of all weekend) in order to maximize the release potential. Also, please remember that many boaters (private boaters and raft customers alike) have been burned by releases of 450 and 500 and 600 CFS over the years. These levels do not provide the whitewater experience people are looking for, in fact, these levels are dreadful...and this has caused many to stay away. What I am saying is that it will take some time for the word to spread and for people to believe the Lehigh really will have the whitewater that's been promised. In other words, please give the plan some time before drawing any conclusions about how many people the river can attract. Finally, please allow us private boaters to have a seat at the table when, in the future, river related issues are discussed with the F&B Commission, the outfitters and the other stakeholders.

The Lehigh River Gorge is an incredible place. I look forward to there being 22 releases, and I look forward to an expanded plan and more releases in future years.

I am writing to thank you for your support of the new release schedule and management plan for the Lehigh River. As a paddler and user of the river, I was overjoyed when I became aware of the proposed number of releases for 2005. I know that these releases will benefit not only the local paddling community, but also expand economic opportunities for the communities and businesses along the river corridor.

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Please consider the following:

- Five feet of pool is not much to work with when trying to secure releases every weekend in May and June. Releasing water during these months is very important to the whitewater boaters and these months are the easiest to secure since natural flows are the highest at this time of the year. Inflows often drop below 250 cfs before June and raising the pool to the maximum allowed for long term storage (15% or 1365.00) would provide much more water to work with (if the pool is allowed to fluctuate by only five feet). At 1365, five feet of pool is approx. three times the water compared to 1335. A pool of 1365 would help to secure- that the FEW pool does not fluctuate more than 5 feet in May or June for fish spawning, the recreational releases in May and June as well as the rest of the scheduled whitewater releases, and the minimum 200 to 250 cfs for downstream fisheries enhancement throughout the season.

- A huge amount of water can be saved by changing the policy/procedure concerning when the water is turned on and turned off. At the present time, releases are started at 4pm Friday and turned off around 2 pm on Sunday, this is 46 hours of water being released. If you turn the water on at 2 am and off at 2 pm daily, the water will reach White Haven by 4 am, Rockport by 7:30 am, and Glen Onoko by noon and will drop at White Haven at 4pm and Rockport at 7:30 pm. This allows whitewater boating through the entire Lehigh Gorge and as far as Bowmanstown, while saving 22 hours of water over a two day release. Yes, you may have to pay a little overtime, however when you take into consideration the benefits of saving 22 hours of water, it is well worth the investment.

In addition to saving 22 hours of water, by doing daily gate adjustments, the "prime" fly fishing section of the Lehigh River (the FEW dam to just below Tannery) would offer both the whitewater boaters and fly fishermen the opportunity to enjoy their sport, both in the same day and on every weekend!

Example: Fly fishing would be possible on Friday evenings if the water was not turned on until *after dark*. Then the whitewater boaters would use the river on Saturday, the gate is cut back on Saturday at 2 pm and by 4 pm the water would be back down and the fly fishermen could use the river again on Saturday evening. The water is turned on again after dark on Saturday and the whitewater boaters can use the river again on Sunday, the water is cut back again on Sunday at 2 pm and once again the fly fishing is good again by

4 pm . That I am aware of, most fly fishing is done in the evenings and the fluctuation of the river should not have a negative effect on the feeding habits (or hitting on fly's) of the fish. Everyone is happy (well, except for the gate keeper).

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I just thought I should let you know how pleased I was to find that I can paddle for 30 days on the Lehigh in 2005. I hope that you will be able to maintain that schedule.

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I'd like to thank you on behalf of my family for your recent help in the decision to provide more water releases for river running during the whitewater season. Between my parents, myself and my husband, and my children, we have three generations enjoying the Lehigh River . We are all excited by the opportunity the more frequent water flows offer us for the season

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I am in favor of all the added dam release dates, especially every weekend in May and June.

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I am happy to hear that you have added release dates, especially every weekend in May and June.

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Very pleased with proposed water release schedule, especially each weekend in May and June . All of your hard work is appreciated.

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Thanks to your hard work, many kayakers will be able to enjoy doing the thing they love, kayaking the Lehigh.

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This is just a short note of support for the schedule of Lehigh River releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam. I love using the Lehigh River to kayak, and I very much appreciate all of your efforts toward this plan. I am really excited about the release schedule for 2005. Thank you for all you've done to support this plan, and I am looking forward to taking advantage of the increased number of releases for 2005 and paddling the Lehigh River much more frequently.

---

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your role in expanding the scheduled releases on the Lehigh River. The additional release dates along with the varying release levels will be a very positive thing for me personally as an avid whitewater paddler, and I believe for the businesses and tourism along the Lehigh River as well. I applaud your efforts.

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Please know that I am delighted of the decision to increase the releases on the Lehigh. I am Commodore of the Mohawk Canoe Club that has over 250 members, many of whom are avid paddlers of the Lehigh.

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Many thanks for your support of the planned dam releases on the Lehigh River. It will be great for us paddlers, as well as a boost for that region's economy.

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I am writing to you to voice my support of the proposed 2005 release schedule from the FE Walter Dam. The proposed 2005 whitewater release schedule for: May 7-8;14-15; 21-22; 28-29 June 4-5, 11-12; 18-19; 25-26 July 2-3; July 23-24 August 6-7; 20-21 September 3-4; 17-18 October 1-2 is very favorable to me and my family.

We live in Doylestown, PA and utilize the Lehigh River Valley for frequent recreational trips. I have enjoyed the previous release schedule most recently as a private whitewater kayaker, but also as an employee of Pocono Whitewater in the years of 1985-1994. Any increase the release schedule to support whitewater and fishing opportunities is a step in the right direction.

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*For 6 years, I lived in Bethlehem and am somewhat familiar with the Lehigh River. I also believe that the region is missing out on a 10's of millions of dollars of business if the lake was filled and cold water releases used to keep the water in the gorge (and further) cool enough to hold trout through the summer. I believe that the upper Delaware fishery brought in a BILLION dollars, but that may be off. The Lehigh River could be the single greatest flowing freshwater fishing destination in the Eastern United States. You'd be amazed to know what flyfishermen will do or go through to get into larger rising wild trout, and it is easily within Eastern PA's grasp with the Lehigh River. I live in Western PA now, but rest assured, if the Corp stores more cold water in the dam and uses it to keep the Lehigh cold, I'll be there with bells on, spending \$\$\$.*

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*I am writing to request your support of increased recreational water releases from Francis Walter dam on the Lehigh River. The proposed schedule set forth by the Army Corps and Pennsylvania Senator Stuart Greenleaf is as follows:*

*May 7-8; 14-15; 21-22; 28-29  
June 4-5, 11-12; 18-19; 25-26  
July 2-3; July 23-24 August 6-7; 20-21  
September 3-4; 17-18  
October 1-2*

*I live within a 45 minute drive of the Lehigh Gorge and attend several of the releases each year. When there is no water flowing on the Lehigh River many of us boaters travel to the Mongaup River just above Port Jervis, NY., which provides releases each weekend during the summer. It's not much of a river and a much longer drive, but we do it a few times each summer when nothing else is flowing. We inevitably need to stop for food, gas, etc on these trips. I believe that it would be wiser to keep these recreationists, along*

*with the money that we spend on food, gasoline and lodging, here in Pennsylvania. One has to agree that this would be an economic boon to the merchants within the Lehigh Park Corridor. It would also be wiser to have them driving closer distances and therefore keeping the air that we breathe that much cleaner. and saving energy in the process.*

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*Thank you for planning releases with the paddling community in mind. We appreciate it.*

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*I am writing to express my emphatic support for the newly developed Lehigh River management plan proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers for the FE Walter Dam. As an avid whitewater enthusiast, fisherman and outdoor lover, I have enjoyed the Lehigh River gorge on many levels for many years and believe that this proposed plan is an ideal compromise to suit the needs of the many people who enjoy the Lehigh River. Furthermore, having been employed on the Lehigh River as a river guide and being exposed to that business, I cannot emphasize enough how economically important the proposed thirty whitewater releases could be for the area. Dependable whitewater would serve as a continued draw to bring people not only to the park, but to the surrounding area, bringing much needed outside revenue to this region. For the sake of all involved, please do all that you can to support and implement this excellent plan for a treasured resource.*

---

*I just wanted to let you know that I support the Army Corps' new plan for water releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam.*

*The Lehigh River is an integral part of the lifeline of the D&L corridor and it's a lifesaver for me. Whether, I'm hiking, biking or cross- country skiing along the land trail or kayaking on the water trail, the Lehigh River is truly a life-giving force. I have closely followed the development of the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club's interest statement and carefully read the commentary regarding the pros and cons of the proposed releases. It appears that the releases would improve the water trail for kayakers and fish, alike!*

*Please give your support to the current proposed releases.*

---

*I read through the proposal for the study of releases this year. I thank all who are responsible for this effort. It looks like a well thought out plan which has my full support. As a private boater of the river for over twenty years, I feel confident to say that the increase of scheduled releases, combined with the 750-1000 cfs target, is very beneficial to the future of the Lehigh as a viable Whitewater Boating destination. The*

*500 cfs releases of the past, I feel have done much to tarnish the image of the Lehigh River to the boating community.*

*I also believe this will have a few environmental benefits as well. Namely for the target species of trout in the stream.*

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*Thanks for making the decision to increase the number of releases this year at FEW dam. It will be great to be able to enjoy the river so much more.*

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*I have just become aware of the proposed schedule of dam releases on the Lehigh River. I wish to express my support for this schedule, as well as my gratitude for all your actions in bring this schedule to fruition.*

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*On behalf of the Lehigh River Stocking Association and Lehigh River Guides Association I want to express my gratitude to the Army Corps for holding this meeting last night to discuss new storage and flow management possibilities for the FEW.*

*It was a great pleasure to finally meet some you last night. I thoroughly enjoyed my conversation with Mr. Gerrard and Mr. Wacik, thank you for taking time to do so. Mr. Sauls I'm sorry our paths never crossed but I believe you talked with my guiding business partner.*

*From a fisherman's stand point I was a bit disappointed in the 2005 plan especially with the quantity of water to be stored and the target releases that were discussed. I think a lot of this is due in part to lack of information that may not have been available to the agencies in regards to what the fisherman conceive as "friendly" flows/releases.*

*Attached is what the fishing guides perceive as "friendly" flows for the Lehigh River. These flows discussed in the attachment are relative to the Lehighton USGS gauging station. It should be noted, base on our experience fishing the river that during average to above average years of precipitation the release from FEW contributes approximately half of the flow at the Lehighton Gauging stations. Therefore if FEW is releasing 500 cfs, on average the FLOW at Lehighton is approximately 1000 cfs (+/-).*

*Please review that attached and keep this information so that we may work on perfecting the release from FEW to be more fisherman friendly.*

*The group(s) I represent plan on putting more thought and information together on behalf of the fisherman. I first want to look at the data that has been placed on the website for this project. Upon our review I will submit a document that discusses the concerns and views for improving the trout fishery on the river.*

*I sincerely look forward to working together on this project. Thank you for all your time and effort in forming this working group to better enhance the recreational opportunities on the Lehigh River.*

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*This is just a short note of support for the schedule of Lehigh River releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam. I really appreciate all of your efforts toward this plan, and I am very excited about the release schedule for 2005. Thank you for all you've done to support this plan, and I am looking forward to taking advantage of the increased number of releases for 2005 and paddling the Lehigh River much more frequently. Thank you again!*

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*I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your role in expanding the scheduled releases on the Lehigh River. The additional release dates along with the varying release levels will be a very positive thing for me personally as an avid whitewater paddler, and I believe for the businesses and tourism along the Lehigh River as well. I applaud your efforts.*

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*I wanted to thank you for your role in setting up the dates for this season's dam release. The dates will allow my family to get the most enjoyment paddling on the river in a more natural state.*

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*This is a brief note of thanks for your actions regarding the proposed plan for recreational water releases on the Lehigh this season. Your efforts are greatly appreciated not only by myself, but also by my many whitewater paddling colleagues who frequent & enjoy the Lehigh River.*

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*I would like to thank all those involved in getting more recreational releases on the Lehigh River. I'm looking forward to bringing more of my canoeing and kayaking friends from NY to enjoy this wonderful resource more than twice a year for guaranteed water. Typically we will spend the weekend paddling the different sections of the Lehigh and then enjoying the hospitality of the local restaurants, camping, lodging facilities and wonderful shops in the area.*

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*I am writing in regard to proposal for additional recreational releases from the FE Walter Dam.*

*I would like to say that, as an avid paddler, I welcome this proposal enthusiastically! Not only will the additional releases enable paddlers to enjoy the scenery and challenge of the Lehigh River Gorge more often, but it should also have a positive impact on that region's retail stores and restaurants in terms of tourism dollars.*

*I'm glad that the Dam can finally be utilized for recreational enhancement as well as flood control.*

*I look forward to enjoying the river with my family and friends. The extra water in warmer months will help me to get my children into paddling as well.*

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*Thank you for your proposal to provide paddlers an enhanced release schedule for the 2005 season. While the flows are not optimal for paddlers, we understand you must reach a balance between all the stakeholders and the proposal seems a reasonable compromise at this stage. I understand the fishermen have registered some complaints about the new flows and hope they, too, will see that we cannot all get the optimal conditions for our personal use of the river. From a practical standpoint, the proposed spring flows do not seem that much altered from a normal year's flows, so I am somewhat confused by the fishermen's apparent objections. The big difference seems to be in mid summer when paddlers will get 2 weekends per month and the fishermen will get 2 weekends. That seems like an appropriate balance for those months. Thanks again.*

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*I want to thank you, personally for the decision to increase the water releases for the Lehigh River. I am currently the Commodore of the Mohawk Canoe Club and we have over 250 enthusiastic paddlers as members. Many of them love the Lehigh. When we paddle there, we buy food, gas and some stay overnight. We think we are an asset to the community. We are also careful of our river environment and leave the river a cleaner place than we found it!*

*We are grateful for this decision and want you to know of my personal support and that of the club members also.*

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*I am a member of the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club and regularly kayak on the Lehigh River. As a concerned user of the river I have been following the proposed release schedule revisions. I would like to thank you for considering the boaters in preparing the new schedule. Kayaking is a growing sport that is being enjoyed by so many people in our area. I think the increased release dates will be a huge benefit to the river users and the businesses in the area. I look forward to being on the river with many others during the upcoming release weekends.*

---

*I recently visited your website and was excited about your 2005 release date schedule. I am a whitewater kayaker and I plan to travel to the Lehigh River a lot more this spring/summer to take advantage of the flow. I appreciate your consideration in opening up more dates for 2005. We have a few young enlisted men who are interested in kayaking and I have spread the word so they can have the opportunity to take advantage of this Pennsylvania "gem" while they are stationed at Carlisle Barracks.*

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*As President of the Conewago Canoe Club of York county, I would like to express my support for the 2005 dam release schedule for the Lehigh River. The Lehigh River is a favorite canoe and kayak destination of our 300+ members, and we are very pleased to see the number of weekend releases planned for the coming year.*

*Thank you for taking the needs of the paddling community into account in making your decision. This will make a significant and positive difference in our club's summer recreational activities, and we greatly appreciate your efforts on our behalf.*

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*I would like to thank you for your efforts in increasing the number of releases this year. I know this was not an easy process but I'm sure you'll find the results to the community and the watershed well worth it. As an environmental consultant for the last 20 years I've found that more users (not abusers) can result in a greater demand for better quality water which is what we all want, both fisherman and boaters (I'm both).*

*Keep up the good work.*

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*Many thanks for your support on the planned releases on the Lehigh River. As paddlers and nature lovers, we are very grateful.*

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*Thank you very much for your efforts in improving the utilization of the Lehigh River and FE Walter Dam this year. I am a whitewater kayaker, still relatively new to the sport, and I thoroughly enjoyed my days on the Lehigh last summer. It really is a wonderful river for a broad cross-section of boaters, from beginners to experts. The only probably is we can't get enough of it! But your newly proposed schedule of releases will allow more people more chances to enjoy the river. I am very excited about the season now.*

*Anyway, I figured you hear enough complaints from the various groups who use the lake or river, and wanted to let you know that your willingness to work with the constituents and find a workable solution for everyone is very much appreciated.*

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*I am writing to support the recent proposal to release water in the Francis E. Walter Dam in a flow management plan. I will benefit this decision and as a taxpayer I and as a taxpayer I thank you.*



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*A quick note of thanks for your collective efforts (in conjunction with the Lehigh Lovers United) in developing the new release schedule for the F. E. Walter Dam. The Lehigh Gorge is a great natural resource and the new schedule will allow more people to enjoy it. I frequently paddle several sections of the Lehigh and am looking forward to this spring and summer.*

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*Just a short word of thanks & gratitude for the 30 release days that are scheduled in May, June, July, August, September, and October 2005 that fits most of the needs of the paddling public.*

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*Hello I am a canoer and outdoor enthusiast,*

*On Thursday, February 24, the Army Corps came up with a proposal that fits most of the needs of the paddling public, and most of the needs of all the other interest groups. Now the time has come to support this plan and see it implemented!*

*Thank you for your effort in making this plan happen.*

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*I would like to thank you for all your courtesy, time and diligence that was put into the improvement of the dam and water releases. I'm sure it will benefit many entities such as businesses, pleasure, etc. It can only get better from this point on. Whitewater paddlers won't have to leave the area to enjoy class III to IV water.*

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*I want to thank you for the progress being made toward the additional spring releases from the F.E.W. dam. The Lehigh is a wonderful resource, and these releases will make it much more accessible to the boating community. Thank you for hearing us, and for your response.*

---

*Hello - I am a long time canoeist and have paddle the Lehigh River numerous times over the past 20 years. It is a beautiful gorge and I have often wondered how wonderful it would be to do it more often. The Lehigh River was the first "white water river" my now 15-year-old son paddled in his kayak. In fact, over the years he has paddled the Lehigh River countless times and it honed his kayaking skills. Today at 15, he is one of the top kayak junior slalom racers in the world. I firmly believe the countless hours he spent on the Lehigh River when he was young, has helped him develop his slalom skills to what they are today. I am so pleased to hear that having more releases is being considered. Not only is it wonderful for the paddling community, it is wonderful for the economics of the area. Paddlers like to eat and they often frequent the local restaurants after paddling the river (I know we have!). They also stay at nearby hotels and campgrounds, and shop in the local shops. Thank you for consideration of having more releases. Spending the day canoeing on the Lehigh is a great way to spend a day!!*

---

*We understand that the Corps of Engineers plans to increase the number of whitewater releases on the Lehigh River below the Francis E. Walter Dam and also plans to increase low flow levels in order to enhance the fishery. The Garden State Canoe Club is pleased with this news and supports this effort.*

*Many of our members look forward to enjoying the Lehigh River each year. It is the premiere whitewater river within reasonable driving range for many of us. Your plans to increase the number of whitewater releases is strongly supported by our club.*

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*Based on the data that I have acquired on the positive impact on the fishery and riparian environmental issues having been appropriately addressed, I fully support the proposed modifications in the Dam Release*

schedules.

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*I wanted to send you a quick note to thank you for your efforts to allow releases during the summer. My son and I usually have to go to Western Pennsylvania or West Virginia for summer paddling. It will be great to enjoy whitewater in the summer so close by!*

*I'm sure the local area will see a positive economic impact from your work as thousands of paddlers spend time in and around the Lehigh this summer.*

*The Army Corp of Engineers does great work that unfortunately most people take for granted. My son and I sure look forward to paddling the Lehigh most weekends this summer and thank you and the Corps for your hard work!*

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*You're the guy we call when we want to know the river level of the Lehigh. I just want to say thank you for being so kind and available with that information. Also, I heard that the Lehigh may have releases in the summer. Fantastic news! My husband and I love to paddle the Lehigh and are ecstatic that there may be summertime paddling on the Lehigh. The Lehigh is a lovely river. We love paddling it and we try to patronize the local businesses in the area, such as restaurants and shops to show our gratitude to having access to such a wonderful place.*

*Also, if you would ever like a lesson in kayaking, let me know. We can always meet ya on a calm stretch of the Delaware or Schuylkill or our local favorite, the Brandywine. I don't know if you whitewater paddle, but if you'd like to give it a try, just let us know. Then you'll get as excited as we do when you hear about summertime releases on the Lehigh!*

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*I have just heard the exciting news about the proposed 2005 whitewater release schedule. I am writing you to applaud your efforts and the actions taken in making this happen. My family has been coming to the Lehigh gorge state park for last sixteen years and are property owners in carbon county. The Lehigh river is were I developed a passion for the outdoors especially whitewater. This passion has lead me threw both the East and west coast of the united states and to seven countries around the world working full time in the outdoor industry in my teens and early twenties. Threw my travels I have gained and passed on many incredible experiences and crucial life changing events that may not have happened if not for those early years spent on the Lehigh. Once again thank you so much!! you have made my year. I look forward to teaching my seven year old daughter the joys of whitewater this summer on one of those hot summer weekend releases.*

---

*What a fantastic schedule! The Army Corps of Engineers should be congratulated for being such a responsive organization, willing to meet the needs of the recreational community (fishing, paddling..). I would personally like to thank you for hard work in creating a schedule that will improve the whitewater and economic opportunities of the Lehigh Valley. I look forward to paddling the river more often and enjoying its scenic beauty.*

---

*I am writing to support the Dam release proposal discussed at the meeting at Split Rock.*

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*I'm writing to thank you all for the wonderful proposed management plan for the Lehigh River. I've spoken with Ms. Tingle and Mr. Cook over the years always about release level information. I'm delighted to hear this great news about the higher release levels and the higher frequency of the releases.*

*I've paddled the Lehigh from above the lake all the way to the Delaware past the spellbinding Bethlehem monoliths. We paddled from White Haven to Rockport as recently as a few weeks ago with ice crystals dangling on the shore. My many paddling friends and I have thousands of pictures of paddling on the Lehigh to treasure in our old age showing all the fun we've had. I especially cherish the time my youngest son, age*



35, followed me and friends through No Way in my old Prijon Cyclone. He still talks about it with hairs raised.

Simply put, and keeping it as brief as possible, I love the Lehigh and pray for continued enjoyment for us all in the best manner possible. So many river resources in the world are threatened today, we are so blessed to have this river so close to home in such a pristine condition.

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I'm writing this note in support of your efforts to come forth with a proposal that makes a lot of sense for the region. I am a resident of Carbon County, and live 100 feet from the Army Corps levee in Weissport, PA. I was impressed with how the Corps managed the flows in order to successfully limit damages from the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. As a resident of the flood plain I take a more keen interest in dam operations at Walter than most people.

I also run Northeast PA Kayak School, a whitewater kayaking school utilizing the Lehigh River as the main course in a carefully constructed program of instruction. Higher summertime flows will not impact what I do very much, as I spend my time between Jim Thorpe and Bowmanstown, but I certainly can see the benefits what you're proposing.

The Lehigh has been where I've made my living for almost 23 years. As a kayak instructor I am on the river 180 days per year. I see the ebb and flow of seasons, the effect of drought, of high water, and of water-borne pollutants. Over the past six years I have seen the proliferation of driftboat fishing on the Lehigh - those folks are landing some big fish! There are dozens of Great Blue Herons nesting... 7 or 8 years ago there were few if any. The river is cleaner and better than ever before. Careful management of the resource in the Lake will allow the entire watershed to enjoy the benefits of better-managed flows and only improved water conditions.

This entire area relies on the Lehigh River for a significant portion of the economy. Your proposal appears to carefully consider all users and interest parties. Studies in the late 1980's on the Savage River in Maryland proved that water releases actually improve a downstream fishery. This will no doubt be the future of the Lehigh River. The rather subtle, but more frequent release schedule will serve the river system well - ecologically and economically.

So take this note as a vote of confidence. The economic impact on the area will be huge. The ecological impact will be positive. Your maintenance of higher minimum flows will serve only to improve the quality of the Lehigh's water in the Valley. The higher pool level will allow for increased fishing grounds within the Lake.

Thank you for efforts and thank all of your Army Corps colleagues. Time will show that your proposal was "watershed moment" in the development of a great fishery, a large influx of tourist dollars, and a booming local economy.

---

I am writing to express my support for the flow management plan unveiled by the USACE at the February 24, 2005 informational session. The Lehigh is such a beautiful and fun river, the paddling community is very excited about the prospect of having more frequent releases.

Thank you for considering the interests of boaters in your plan.

---

We support the Corps of Engineers' proposal on the releases as stated at the meeting on Feb. 24 at Split Rock.

We feel this is best for the overall health of the river.

---

This message is to indicate my support for the dam releases you have scheduled for the coming season on the Lehigh River. As a fisherman and boater, I believe the releases will be beneficial to both.

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I am a whitewater kayaker from Philadelphia. I was thrilled to see that the Corps of Engineers is considering

*increasing both the number and volumes of releases on the Lehigh this year. The Lehigh River is the only class II & III whitewater within close proximity to the Philadelphia area. Whitewater sports are gaining participants every year and the Corps release plans recognizing that fact are greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you for recognizing the public interest in whitewater sports.*

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*I would like to add my support to the proposed am releases on the Lehigh this season.*

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*I am a paddler with the Wilmington Trail Club. In regard to the proposal of May and June releases, I would like to thank you on behalf of my club and the many people enjoy the Lehigh River. We are looking for a wonderful summer in PA.*

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*I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my excitement over the new proposed dam release schedule for the Lehigh River. I have enjoyed boating on the Lehigh for many years now. I feel that these releases will serve to make boating safer for all as there are fewer obstructions in the river when the water level is higher.*

---

*I would like to thank you for the wonderful news regarding the Lehigh releases for this coming year. As a whitewater kayak instructor for both the Philadelphia Canoe Club and the Wilmington Trail Club in Delaware, the Lehigh is a wonderful river with many features for a safe and fun training environment. By having more releases, the paddling clubs will be able to have many more trips for the novice paddlers so they can advance their skills with supervision. Also, the Lehigh is a just beautiful scenic river for a day out on the water for ANY type of paddler. I would also like to mention that after a day on the river most paddlers support the local restaurants in the area.*

---

*I just read the presentation from the meeting at Split Rock on February, 24. I wanted to thank you for the additional whitewater release dates. Could I be added to a distribution list for notification about any additional meetings?*

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*I am writing to support the Dam release proposal discussed at the meeting at Split Rock.*

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*I am a paddler who uses the Lehigh River. I am happy to learn that this year's release schedule has many more releases planned than in years past. I look forward to paddling the Lehigh many times this boating season. Thank you for your efforts.*

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*I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate the work you are doing to help initiate more releases on the Lehigh. I am an avid whitewater kayaker, and I will take full advantage of increased releases on the Lehigh. I was on the river 77 times last year and am shooting for the century mark this year, and any added releases on the Lehigh will put me on the river that many more times.*

---

*I wanted to let you know that I fully support the new Dam Release schedule and that I think this will be a very positive step in the right direction to preserve and increase the level of tourism to our area. As you know, this is a vital income to many residents of Carbon, Monroe and Schuylkill counties.*

*I have guided on the Lehigh River for since 1986, before it was a State Park. I supported the Park because I knew it was the only way to preserve what we had. I know it took a long time for this type of release schedule to be possible, but I feel that this is a very positive second step in improving what we already have. I know that this will help the local economy and offer more safer and enjoyable water levels for all to enjoy.*

*I am also aware of the protests of the fishermen and I understand their point. However, there are many rivers and streams for fishing the local area, and only one Whitewater River, the Lehigh.*

*Thank you for all of your hard work and efforts in the past to maintain a pleasurable experience on the Lehigh, and I look forward to many more.*

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*I am a paddler with an interest in the Lehigh River and I without reservation support the proposed release schedule.*

*I appreciate the Corp's efforts to increase the recreational utilization of the Lehigh.*

---

*Let me say amen and halleluia. This was a long time coming. As a kayaker and sometimes guide this is great! The Lehigh is a great learning river and up to now it's potential has been underutilized. I applaud all of you for this decision against what I'm sure was vocal opposition. This is good not just for boaters but also the surrounding communities that will benefit from increased tourism dollars.*

---

*I am an avid kayaker as well as a guide for Pocono Whitewater. I would just like to express my approval and excitement for the potential increase in dam release days for this spring, summer, and fall. I expect that all environmental effects have been anticipated and that the only great change that will be seen will be on the river in the great enjoyment of the boaters and rafting patrons. Thanks for your consideration.*

---

*I will be paddling and supporting the release schedule whether working for Pocono White Water as an outfitter guide or private boating!*

---

*I am a boater and guide on the Lehigh for Pocono Whitewater. Thank you for making the changes to the dam release schedule for the Lehigh. These changes will make the river and season so much more enjoyable. I guide every Saturday and Sunday from April through October. Thank you.*

---

*Just a note to let you guys know how much we appreciate your extending the dam release schedule. Rafting the Lehigh Gorge is one of the best things to do in our area, especially in the summertime. Thanks for your work in making it available. See you on the river?*

---

*I am writing in support of the newly proposed management plan which provides for increased whitewater releases. I have paddled the sections below the dam on numerous occasions for recreational purposes with the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York. I have also helped with instructional programs run by the Appalachian Mountain Club on the Lehigh, and have taken instructional courses there with my wife and with my grandson, who is a Pennsylvania resident. In addition, my wife, my daughter (a PA resident), and her two children have taken raft trips on the Lehigh.*

*The additional releases will help all of us make better use of the river, by providing more opportunities for myself, my family, and my paddling clubs. It will also be helpful in coordinating schedules with the non-paddlers in the family, who can be riding their bicycles on the trail above the Gorge while we paddle.*

Naturally, while we are there, we always find time to dine in local restaurants, and often camp in local campsites, and shop in towns such as Jim Thorpe.

My entire extended family is looking forward to taking advantage of the additional releases this year, and hope that they will become a permanent fixture.

---

I am a concerned citizen for the environment and do all that I can to help our environment from recycling, to practicing "pack it out / leave no trace" when camping. However even I can not find any reason why your whitewater release program plan proposed for 2005 would be cause for alarm amongst certain animal rights groups claiming this program may inhibit fish spawning. I can find NO detriment to the fish caused by non-motorized craft, and therefore I can not support these groups and their claims the fish will be harmed by your release program. So I am writing to you and your agency to show my support of your whitewater release program proposed for 2005. Thank you very much on behalf of all kayak and canoe aficionados!

---

I am sending this note to express my appreciation for your consideration of the needs of the Lehigh Valley whitewater paddling community in the formulation of your proposed 2005 release schedule.

The May and June releases are especially important to Lehigh River paddlers.

Your efforts are much appreciated.

---

I am writing in full support of the following dam releases that have been scheduled:

Every weekend in May & June

July 2 & 3  
July 23 & 24  
Aug. 6 & 7  
Aug. 20 & 21  
Sept. 3 & 4  
Sept. 17 & 18  
Oct. 1 & 2

---

This is just to let you know at the Army Corp of Engineers that I support this schedule. Thank You!

---

I operate The Inn at Jim Thorpe a restored 45 room hotel in the town in Jim Thorpe. After hearing about the proposed new water release dates for the Lehigh River, I would like to voice my support. This new action will have a tremendous positive impact on ours as well other businesses in this area of Carbon County.

From what I understand, there is possible negative impact on fishing in the lake above the dam. But at the same time a positive effect on fishing in the river from the proposed actions.

I feel that the tremendous benefits of this action to our area far outweigh the possible negative effects. I urge you to follow through on the proposed new release dates.

---

I am writing to you in regard to the water releases that you are looking to do in May & June of this year. I am very excited about the decision and hope that others are as well. I just wanted to let you know that the efforts the Army Corp of Engineers have put forth are much appreciated. Have a great day!

---

*Water storage and dam releases in the summer - I am getting my sunscreen ready right now.*

---

*This really is great - for me personally and for all of the people who want the fun of whitewater but can't take the cold of April.*

*Yeah!*

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*First I would like to thank you and the rest of the Army Corps of Engineers for your hard work in getting these release dates to materialize. This will be my fourth season as a commercial guide on the Lehigh, and I wholeheartedly support the new summer release dates. The ideal of having extra release dates during the summer is very exciting. Aside from being exciting for guides and private boaters...these dates represent the opportunity for economic gain for the outfitters and businesses in the area. As we all know this prospect is openly welcome by many! Every year the Poconos faces more competition from surrounding recreational areas in WV, NY, and MA. These dates will ensure folks find the whitewater here in northeast PA!*

*Please continue to do your much appreciated work to make and keep these release dates. Thank you for your time.*

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*This is a note to let you know that I support the new 2005 water release schedule for the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania. As a kayaker and a naturalist I find this a "win-win" situation for not only downstream recreation, downstream water quality for fish habitat and for an increase in the fishery above the dam.*

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*I wanted to show my support for the new dam release schedule. This has the potential to do so many great things for this area in terms of economics and recreation. It will not only provide income for local workers, businesses and NPS, among others. It will also provide the opportunity for a great number of people to explore and enjoy the Lehigh gorge.*

*I know a lot of hard work and negotiation went on to make this possible. Thank you for all that you have done to make the releases possible.*

---

*I just wanted to let you know that I support the new 2005 water release schedule as proposed on the Lehigh River. You did a great job.*

---

*I am VERY much in favor of the new dam release schedule.*

*This schedule would allow whitewater boating and rafting on the Lehigh throughout the entire season. Your efforts in this endeavor will open the Lehigh to its full potential.*

*The people of the surrounding area will now be able to fully enjoy a magnificently scenic gorge all season long.*

---

*I wanted to thank you for your help in securing the new water release schedule from Francis Walters. This has the potential for an enormous positive economic input on the local area. A local area which is one of the*

more depressed in the state with one of the highest unemployment rates.

The potential increase in boaters and fishermen will bring jobs and revenue to the area. Hotels, restaurants, shops, outfitters, and local taxing bodies such as school districts will all benefit. Carbon County has one of the older average ages in the state, a state which itself has one of the oldest average ages nationwide. Young people leave because there are no jobs. Problems like the new release schedule are very positive economic developments steps towards changing that equation.

---

I am encouraged by this initial effort at a management flow plan for the FEW reservoir and the proposed 250 cfs minimum conservation releases for July and August. These releases should help enhance the wild trout fishery that exists on the river and increase the number of holdover trout in the river. I would encourage the committee to look at the possibility of releasing a 250 cfs minimum on any given day when thermal stress may be lethal for trout.

However, it was obvious from the remarks at the kick-off meeting, that the emphasis was on whitewater opportunities. A 750 - 1000 cfs release scheduled for every weekend in May through the weekend of June 4-5 and a 750 cfs release scheduled for the rest of the weekends through June will prohibit anglers from utilizing the resource on all weekends during this time period which is considered prime for fishing. The river cannot be waded at 750 cfs. The committee may want to revisit this schedule to accommodate the over one million anglers in Pennsylvania who buy licenses, equipment, gasoline, food and lodging and have just as much passion for and right to enjoy their sport as anyone else.

There was much talk about balancing the needs of all users. I urge the committee to balance the release schedule for May and early June to accommodate both whitewater enthusiasts and anglers. Anglers have a huge impact on the economy, something I am sure the PF&BC can attest to. Also, emphasize that the Lehigh River already is a wild trout fishery. Certainly, more cold water will enhance that if released at the proper time.

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Thank you for opening the Lehigh to kayaking every weekend in May and June.

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Please consider expanding the number of water releases on the Lehigh River as a winning situation for all parties involved. The commercial recreational companies benefit, the private boaters and float fisherman are happy, and the local businesses and campgrounds also benefit. Thank you for considering this option and have a good day.

---

I'm a hillbilly from Arkansas that visited the Poconos & the Lehigh River Gorge for my 1st time when I was a young buck. I still enjoy

floatin' & fishin' on the Lehigh River below the Francis E. Walter dam. I fully support the proposed 2005 whitewater release schedule of:

May 7-8; 14-15; 21-22; 28-29  
June 4-5, 11-12; 18-19; 25-26  
July 2-3; July 23-24  
August 6-7; 20-21  
September 3-4; 17-18  
October 1-2

---

As a Pennsylvania resident and avid whitewater kayaker, I was very pleased to see that the release schedule for WE Walter Dam for 2005 has been significantly expanded. I was also pleased to see that the target release levels are higher than have typically been available in past years. The additional flow definitely makes for a more enjoyable whitewater experience.

As a result of these changes, I will certainly be traveling to the White Haven area more frequently than I have



*in the past to take advantage of the Lehigh River's whitewater opportunities, particularly in the dry summer months when PA whitewater is difficult to find.*

*I offer my thanks to the USACE and the other parties involved for considering the interests of whitewater boaters in the recent changes to the flow schedule for FE Walter Dam.*

---

*I would like to thank all those involved in getting more recreational releases on the Lehigh River. I'm looking forward to bringing more of my canoeing and kayaking friends from NY to enjoy this wonderful resource more than twice a year for guaranteed water. Typically we will spend the weekend paddling the different sections of the Lehigh and then enjoying the hospitality of the local restaurants, camping, lodging facilities and wonderful shops in the area.*

---

*I support the proposal of 30 Lehigh River releases of 750-1000 cfs for the year 2005. I have kayaked, guided rafts, and taught since 1980 on this beautiful piece of water. I am thrilled to see safety finally being taken into consideration. It is unsafe to run trips less than 700 cfs on this river. Over the years, I have seen many elbow, shin, shoulder dislocations, and head injuries due to the constant bumping against the smaller rocks which are present at low levels. Additionally, the river is much more fun at 1000 CFS, and you will see the industry (and local economy) grow, particularly if local accommodations such as parking is not too difficult or expensive. The past habit of releasing large volumes of water at night time or during the week days was simply mean spirited and a true waste of natural resources from the perspective of a boater. I strongly commend you for getting to this point in the discussion, and support the adoption of these proposed more numerous, safer and more fun release levels.*

---

*Although we currently live in West Virginia my wife and I spent many years in the Philadelphia suburbs. We are both whitewater paddlers, and we ran the Lehigh River often. This stream is one of the best intermediate whitewater runs in Eastern Pennsylvania and has been a popular destination for paddlers since the 1950's. We look forward to the day when we can return and paddle it again.*

*We are both very excited to hear about the proposed water release schedule that was unveiled in your February 24th public meeting. The significant increase in the number of scheduled whitewater releases will be a huge attraction for canoe, kayak, and rafting enthusiasts from New York to Washington and will, I think, provide a significant economic boost to the area. The Corps is to be commended for bringing together diverse interests and creating a plan that offers significant benefits for paddlers, fishermen, and the ecology of the river.*

---

*This is just a short note to inform you how important I find the proposed releases on the Lehigh River. As a paddler the resource of the Lehigh is invaluable. Thank you for all of your work to make this possible*

---

*I am a whitewater paddler that regularly paddles the Lehigh River below the Francis E. Walter dam. I vote in every election and am active in several organized paddling/environmental organizations. I understand that due to the relocation of a low-lying road on the upstream face of the dam, that there is now additional storage capacity, giving you the flexibility to store and release water for recreational white water releases more frequently.*

*I applaud this course and encourage you continue. If there was more dependable water on the Lehigh it will bring a lot of paddlers to the area. Those paddlers will then help revitalize the economy of that area by staying in local lodging, eating in local restaurants and buying from local store owners. That in turn will increase other services businesses and suppliers.*

*Additionally it will allow the river to be enjoyed by many more than it currently does. Because of its proximity to NY and Philadelphia, many people will be able to experience a rafting or canoe trip that would otherwise maybe never get a chance.*

*This would be a huge benefit for both the local area and whitewater paddlers along the northeast.*

---

*I am writing in support of the proposed dam release schedule for 2005 that was presented by the army corps of engineers on Feb. 24.*

*As a whitewater kayaker, I believe that additional weekend releases will bring increased revenue to the area, bring many fisherpeople and boaters joy, and that this will not interfere with the Corps management of water flow.*

*As one who watches the gauges, I can not tell you how frustrating it is for boaters to see large volume releases during the weekdays, only to find a trickle running on the weekend. It seems counterproductive for both the environment (enjoyment of the river motivates people to want to preserve the river valley), for local business interests, and for our citizens optimal enjoyment of what few natural resources we have in this country.*

---

*I am writing to express my support for the flow management plan unveiled by the USACE at the February 24, 2005 informational session.*

*The Lehigh is such a beautiful and fun river, the paddling community is very excited about the prospect of having more frequent releases.*

*Thank you for considering the interests of boaters in your plan.*

---

*I am in support of your plan for this season! Thank you from my paddling (kayak) family*

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*I wanted to take a minute and thank you for increasing the number of Lehigh River Releases for 2005. I've been kayaking for the last decade and have spent many weekends driving to Ohiopyle, PA and beyond to kayak. It will be great to spend more time near home and enjoy the beautiful Lehigh River Gorge.*

*Also our newly found whitewater club, Lehigh Valley Whitewater, Inc., is in the midst of scheduling several trips and paddle events for this upcoming season. In the past, we would have been forced to hold Safety classes and other paddling events on the Delaware River. I can not express how happy we are to have other alternatives.*

*Finally, I fully expect these more frequent releases to financially help the local small towns like Jim Thorpe, Lehighton, Weatherly and Whitehaven. I was born and raised in Lehighton and I hate to see towns like that deteriorate. Good job and keep it up!*

---

*As a canoeist, I strongly support the proposed release schedule for the*

*Francis Walter Dam. Not only is it environmentally friendly, it will augment economics in the area. Paddlers spend money wherever they are. Food, Camping supplies, lodging, etc. And Whitewater paddlers rarely leave behind any trash. They usually pick it up.*

---

*Your website has dates for dam releases on the Lehigh for 2004. Are 2005 dates available? Please tell me the dates of those releases, or provide me a link to where they are on the web. Thank you.*

---

*A quick note of thanks for your collective efforts (in conjunction with the Lehigh Lovers United) in developing the new release schedule for the F. E. Walter Dam . The Lehigh Gorge is a great natural resource and the*



*new schedule will allow more people to enjoy it. I frequently paddle several sections of the Lehigh and am looking forward to this spring and summer.*

---

*I would like to thank you for all your courtesy, time and diligence that was put into the improvement of the dam and water releases. I'm sure it will benefit many entities such as businesses, pleasure, etc. It can only get better from this point on. Whitewater paddlers won't have to leave the area to enjoy class III to IV water.*

---

*I was delighted to see the new 2005 Lehigh release schedule for the Francis E. Walther Dam. This is a boon to whitewater sports of all kinds in this area. This is the first time in history that we have a reliable whitewater river within day-trip range of the New York/NJ and PA metropolitan areas.*

---

*I am a member of KCCNY and also a kayak instructor. In addition to my own paddling and club trips, we plan to use the Lehigh regularly for training. Therefore, my personal intent is to use the river as much as possible this summer and take advantage of the new opportunities now available to paddlers.*

---

*We use the Lehigh gorge, and the lower section for training.*

*Thanks for creating this new opportunity for us*

*See you on the river.*

---

*I was very pleased to learn of the plan for expanded whitewater releases from the Frances E. Walter Dam. For avid paddlers like me, the Lehigh River is a wonderful resource, and I strongly support the proposed new management plan from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many thanks.*

---

*I am a New Jersey resident who paddles the Lehigh River a number of times each year. The proposed management plan would allow me to use the river even more often while enhancing the ecological viability of the river. I wholly support the proposed 2005 release schedule.*

---

*This is a note of support and thanks for your efforts regarding the release plan on the Lehigh River. My friends who paddle whitewater & I enjoy coming to this beautiful area in PA quite frequently.*

*We do not take the releases for granted. The access is extremely important to us & we are grateful. Thanks again for whatever part you have played in support of this plan.*

---

*I heard that you were looking for input about public recreation on the Lehigh river. There is a new book out titled Waterfalls of the Mid-Atlantic States by Gary Letcher. He listed Lehigh Gorge State Park for the waterfalls and hiking-however I couldn't find a good listing on the state parks website for directions to the falls. Maybe you could elaborate on the recreational aspects of viewing the waterfall for those who visit the Lehigh gorge state park as part of your policy to enhance recreational activities.*

---

*I understand that the Corps of Engineers is considering increasing the number of releases suitable for whitewater paddling from the Walter Dam.*

*I am writing to strongly support this plan.*

*I am an avid paddler who has greatly enjoyed the recreational opportunities afforded by these releases. The fact that I live four hours away from the river, yet am ready to make the trip for the opportunity it provides, is testament to my interest. I would think that the hundreds of other paddlers similarly inclined, many of whom come from equal or greater distance, would provide an additional economic incentive to the region for this plan.*

*I hope you will give it careful consideration, and I hope it is adopted.*

---

*I would like to thank you for your efforts in increasing the number of releases this year. I know this was not an easy process but I'm sure you'll find the results to the community and the watershed well worth it. As an environmental consultant for the last 20 years I've found that more users (not abusers) can result in a greater demand for better quality water which is what we all want, both fisherman and boaters (I'm both).*

---

*I have been a dedicated paddler and outdoor person for most of my life, as well as being a member of local paddling clubs for many years. I enjoy recreational releases from Francis E. Walter Dam and support the proposed flow enhancement and increase in number of releases scheduled for 2005. The cooperative efforts of many people and groups are appreciated. We hope that climatic conditions will be agreeable and look forward to these and other additional boating opportunities on the Lehigh in years to come.*

*I'm also a resident living along another one of our local rivers. I'd like to add that I support and encourage recreational users of our waterways and the general public showing respect for the environment, toward other responsible people enjoying the river, and toward the residents of these areas who seek a quality way of life.*

---

*I just want to express my support for the Army Corps of Engineers proposed new release schedule for the Francis E. Walter Dam.*

*I started paddling the Lehigh River from White Haven to Rockport and Rockport to Jim Thorpe in kayak 28 years ago. Eventually, I was joined by wife, paddling together in C-2M (mixed doubles decked canoe) as we developed the skills that led to our winning the National Championship in whitewater slalom in C-2M in 1984. This past summer, I introduced our 12-year-old son to the Lehigh, who paddled the Upper Gorge in C-1 - his first Class III trip. We are all delighted to see that your proposed schedule significantly increases the number of releases, increasing the accessibility of this wonderful river to a larger number of interested paddlers.*

*We all hope that your proposed schedule meets with strong support and is implemented as planned.*

---

*I just received notice of the proposed release schedule on the Lehigh River for this summer. I think it is a great plan. Not only will I enjoy it as a kayaker, I know it will bring an influx of business to the towns along there. Not only will outfitters benefit; local restaurants, markets and gas stations will also. I applaud your initiative.*

---

*I just wanted to write and thank you for the 2005 water release schedule on the Lehigh. I've been kayaking for 3 years now, and have always enjoyed paddling the Lehigh. Thanks to your work I'll be out there a lot more than the last three years. I think the increase in the number of Lehigh releases will really be a great help to all the Delaware Valley paddling community.*

---

*I am a canoeist and whitewater kayaker who has enjoyed releases from the Francis Walter Dam over many years. I very much favor the Lehigh River Flow Management Plan unveiled by the Corps at its public meeting on February 24*

---

*Hello I am a canoer and outdoor enthusiast, On Thursday, February 24, the Army Corps came up with a proposal that fits most of the needs of the paddling public, and most of the needs of all the other interest groups. Now the time has come to support this plan and see it implemented!*

*Thank you for your effort in making this plan happen.*

---

*I am writing to express my support for the proposed increased release schedule at the FE Walters Dam. Although I am a resident of New Jersey, I frequently travel to the Lehigh River to kayak. I believe that the proposed release schedule is an excellent starting point, representing a good compromise of the various stakeholders' interests. In particular, the increased releases in the Spring and early Summer are a unique addition to the recreational opportunities available in the Lehigh Valley. Whitewater is a limited commodity, particularly during the summer months. With that in mind, I would suggest that additional releases be added later in the Summer, so long as water is available. Finally, I would like to thank the Corps for its work on this matter.*

---

*I am writing you to tell you of my support of the Corp's proposed 2005 whitewater release schedule on the Lehigh river. I am both a whitewater kayaker, riverguide and kayak instructor for Whitewater Challengers. I think this enhanced release schedule would be a great economic benefit for White Haven and the surrounding communities with the rafting business that would be generated when the public finds out there is whitewater rafting in the gorge in JULY!! (and not to mention the guide staff will be thrilled about whitewater opportunities in July as well).*

*Having additional whitewater releases later in the year will also provide ample opportunity for beginner kayakers to learn whitewater in a safer environ - hypothermia will be less of an issue (if at all) and a level of 750 CFS from the dam is a great teaching level - it's not too much water to make the river too "pushy", and not too little that people would have to "knuckle" themselves over shallow areas.*

*Again I would like to voice my support for these proposed releases.*

---

*As a regular paddler in this area, I would like to submit my support for the proposed update to the whitewater release schedule.*

---

*I wanted to send you a quick note to thank you for your efforts to allow releases during the summer. My son and I usually have to go to Western Pennsylvania or West Virginia for summer paddling. It will be great to enjoy whitewater in the summer so close by!*

*I'm sure the local area will see a positive economic impact from your work as thousands of paddlers spend time in and around the Lehigh this summer.*

*The Army Corp of Engineers does great work that unfortunately most people take for granted. My son and I sure look forward to paddling the Lehigh most weekends this summer and thank you and the Corp. for your hard work!*

---

*Thank you for increasing the volume to 750-1000 cfs on water release levels for this year. It will make boating more playful. Also thank you for increasing the number of releases. Looking forward to visiting the Lehigh more this year.*

---

*I wanted to thank you for your part in developing the proposal for 2005 management of the FE Walter Dam.*

*My husband and I love kayaking the Lehigh River, and the schedule of release targets for this year is very exciting. The idea to vary the levels of releases is also a good one. Thanks again for your part in making paddle sports more accessible to more people in our area.*

---

*I am writing on behalf of the Conservation Committee of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (KCCNY). KCCNY is a regionally-based educational and recreational club with approximately 300 members in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Our club sponsors approximately 10 official trips on the Lehigh each year, and our message boards indicate that many of our members utilize the river regularly on "unofficial" trips. KCCNY has a strong interest in fostering recreational opportunities on the Lehigh, and we are well situated to see the many positive impacts that river releases offer to the local economy.*

*Accordingly, I am writing to express our club's strong support for the flow management plan unveiled by the USACE at the February 24, 2005 informational session. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank USACE for soliciting input from the boating community and incorporating that input in the flow management plan.*

*KCCNY looks forward to working with the USACE and other boating and recreational groups in order to ensure the success of recreation on the Lehigh River*

---

*I am writing to support the recent proposal to release water in the Francis E. Walter Dam in a flow management plan.*

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*More frequent releases of water in the Lehigh river would be a great benefit to the canoeing and kayaking community. The Lehigh river above Jim Thorpe is extremely beautiful and a real gem for many living in the Philadelphia and New York City areas.*

---

*We are writing to support the request for additional releases on the Lehigh river .*

---

*I have become aware of the proposed whitewater release schedule on the Lehigh River for 2005 and am very supportive of the plan.*

*The river is a wonderful experience and I welcome the opportunity to enjoy it more often. I would also imagine the local economy would benefit from the releases with increase prospect for sales of food, lodging, supplies, entertainment, gas (etc).*

---

*I am writing to express my support for the expanded whitewater release schedule from the Francis E. Walter dam. I am a Pennsylvania kayaker and look forward to having more opportunities to paddle this beautiful section of the Lehigh River. Whitewater boating is a great family sport. My two teenage children (both avid paddlers) join me in supporting the added releases.*

---

*We are whitewater paddlers and consider the Lehigh releases to be our favorite river trip east of the Mississippi.*

*We support the proposed release schedule and, along with members of our canoe club, will be making use of many of the releases. We usually camp at Hickory Run State and take many of our meals at restaurants in the White Haven and Jim Thorpe area.*

*Please make this new schedule official and permanent!*

---

*I am a paddler with the Wilmington Trail Club in Delaware. We paddle the Lehigh as often as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers schedules releases. So we are elated over the news that there are now 30 scheduled releases due to your hard work and efforts. Thanks to you we are anticipating a great season.*

---

*I am a paddler with an interest in the Lehigh River and I without reservation support the proposed release schedule.*

*I appreciate the Corp's efforts to increase the recreational utilization of the Lehigh.*

---

*I am a long-time whitewater paddler, and I am writing to express my support for the plan to increase both the number of releases and the size of the releases on the Lehigh River. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and thank you for soliciting community input.*

---

*I am a whitewater paddler who strongly supports the proposed release schedule - I really like the idea.*

---

*I am a member of the Philadelphia Canoe Club, and have been following the debates about the flow management at the Francis Walter dam for the last several years.*

*I look forward to enjoying the warm waters of the Lehigh this summer as I bring my stepsons into the world of whitewater. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to teach them when the water and air temperatures will be at a safe level.*

---

*I am a paddler who uses the Lehigh River. I am happy to learn that this year's release schedule has many more releases planned than in years past. I look forward to paddling the Lehigh many times this boating season. Thank you for your efforts.*

---

*I am a kayak paddler, a former resident of Reading, PA and I learned to paddle on the Lehigh.*

*I strongly support increased scheduled releases and I plan to take advantage of this opportunity to bring my family down the Lehigh.*

*Please add me to your e-mailing list and confirm the following proposed 2005 whitewater release schedule:*

*May 7-8; 14-15; 21-22; 28-29  
June 4-5, 11-12; 18-19; 25-26  
July 2-3; July 23-24  
August 6-7; 20-21  
September 3-4; 17-18  
October 1-2*

---

*As a frequent visitor to the beautiful Lehigh River, I commend the US Army Corps of Engineers efforts to improve the recreational releases from the Francis E Walter Dam.*

---

Thank you for your Dam Flow Plan, I support the regular water release. Will fish the river at low water and canoe it at high water. As a retired guy I'll enjoy it often . Thanks to you and F.D.R.s' Soc. Sec.

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My wife and I and many of our friends are frequent paddlers of the Lehigh Gorge and we are very excited that an effort is being made to continue and enhance the white water release schedule for this beautiful river. We completely support this effort and encourage any support related to making this proposal permanent. With that said, please know that we also feel the need to always keep an open mind and a watchful eye on the impact that these events have on the environmental qualities of this beautiful gorge.

---

Hello - I am a long time canoeist and have paddle the Lehigh River numerous times over the past 20 years. It is a beautiful gorge and I have often wondered how wonderful it would be to do it more often. The Lehigh River was the first "white water river" my now 15-year-old son paddled in his kayak. In fact, over the years he has paddled the Lehigh River countless times and it honed his kayaking skills. Today at 15, he is one of the top kayak junior slalom racers in the world. I firmly believe the countless hours he spent on the Lehigh River when he was young, has helped him develop his slalom skills to what they are today. I am so pleased to hear that having more releases is being considered. Not only is it wonderful for the paddling community, it is wonderful for the economics of the area. Paddlers like to eat and they often frequent the local restaurants after paddling the river (I know we have!). They also stay at nearby hotels and campgrounds, and shop in the local shops. Thank you for consideration of having more releases. Spending the day canoeing on the Lehigh is a great way to spend a day!!

---

I am a paddler and I support the proposed release schedule on the Lehigh River. I also support the water flow to support the fish habitat and the overall health of the river. I paddle there often and believe that this is a jewel and I support improving the ecological and recreational benefits.

---

I would like to comment on the management plan for 2005. First, the plan shows a genuine effort on the part of ACE, DCNR and others to improve recreational opportunities of everyone, fishermen and whitewater boaters.

However, I am a whitewater boater and a fisherman, and I believe that the plan benefits the fishermen more than the whitewater boaters.

My concerns are:

-There are no scheduled releases for April. April is considered to be a prime time for whitewater on the Lehigh. Only the Fishermen benefit in April while the whitewater boaters may be left high and dry.

-Five feet of pool is not much to work with in May and June. Releasing water during these months is very important to the whitewater boaters and these months are the easiest to secure since natural flows are the highest at this time of the year. Raising the pool to the maximum allowed for long term storage (15% or 1365.00) would provide much more water to work with, if the pool is allowed to fluctuate by only five feet. At 1365, five feet of pool is approx. three times the water compared to 1335. A pool of 1365 would help to secure recreational releases in May and June as well as the rest of the scheduled whitewater releases and the minimum 250 cfs for downstream fisheries enhancement throughout the season. Again, the fishermen benefit more with the spawning enhancement at FEW, the 5 days a week that the river will be low, and the minimum 250 cfs for downstream fisheries enhancement.

The whitewater boaters could loose releases in May and June since the pool will not be allowed to fluctuate more than five feet.

-I believe that the only way to secure releases without running out of water, under the 2005 plan of storing only 35 feet of extra water, is to change the policy/procedure concerning when the water is turned on and turned off. At the present time, releases are started at 4pm Friday and turned off around 2pm on Sunday, this is 46 hours of water being released. If you turn the water on at 2am and off at 2pm daily, the water will reach White Haven by 4 am , Rockport by 7:30am , and Glen Onoko by noon and will drop at White Haven at 4pm and Rockport at 7:30 pm . This allows whitewater boating through the entire Lehigh Gorge and as far as



*Bowmanstown, while saving 22 hours of water over a two day release. Yes, you may have to pay a little overtime, however when you take into consideration the benefits of saving 22 hours of water, it is well worth the investment.*

*The plan is a big step forward, however it does need some adjustments. I think that the whitewater community is willing to sacrifice the loss of releases in April in return for GUARANTEED releases in May and June. The loss of the May and June releases would have a huge impact on the boating community. The whitewater and spawning enhancement releases in July, August,*

*September and October are a great benefit to both the whitewater boaters and fishermen.*

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*Just a short word of thanks & gratitude for the 30 release days that are scheduled in May, June, July, August, September, and October 2005 that fits most of the needs of the paddling public.*

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*I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate the work you are doing to help initiate more releases on the Lehigh. I am an avid whitewater kayaker, and I will take full advantage of increased releases on the Lehigh.*

*I was on the river 77 times last year and am shooting for the century mark this year, and any added releases on the Lehigh will put me on the river that many more times.*

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*Please count me as one of the many canoeists that would like to see the proposed increase in releases, and increased water flow for each, in the Lehigh River below the Francis Walter Dam.*

*I'm a 72 year old member of the Monocacy Canoe Club, based in Frederick, Maryland.*

*I've been canoeing the Lehigh Rv. since the late 1960's, and this river has always been a favorite. For many years I've paddled all of the releases each year for many years [except for the ones that get washed out].*

*The club, and I, are in favor of the USACE's plans for this beautiful river.*

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*I am a peddler with the Wilmington Trail Club. In regard to the proposal of May and June releases, I would like to thank you on behalf of my club and the many people enjoy the Lehigh River. We are looking for a wonderful summer in PA.*

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*As an avid paddler, fisherman, outdoor educator, and advisor to a college student outing club, I'd like to express to you my support for the proposed dam release schedule for the Francis E. Walter dam below the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania. Securing the future of our beautiful natural land and waterscapes while balancing the needs of a growing, and often encroaching, human population, and the recreational shareholders is a tricky balancing act. I believe that the proposed release schedule does an excellent job of balancing these needs, and I hope the proposed plan carries forth and becomes the plan implemented in 2005.*

---

*I just want to express my gratitude for your efforts in increasing the releases from Walter Dam.*

*I, and all of the 50 odd members of our Paddling club in Wilmington, Delaware will be grateful for more reliable whitewater flows on the river during the summer.*

*This is a recreational resource we all cherish.*



---

*I am a white water paddler and a member of the Philadelphia Canoe Club. I am writing today to thank you and the Corps of Engineers for all your hard work in getting more releases on the Lehigh River this year.*

*My fellow paddlers and I support the proposed schedule and appreciate the effort of the Corps in this endeavor.*

*If we can help the Corps in any way, please contact me.*

---

*Many of my fellow paddlers in the Lancaster County area would be very interested in more whitewater releases from the Francis E Walter Dam on the Lehigh River in northeastern PA. I support the proposed release schedule.*

---

*I just wanted to let you know that I support the Army Corps' new plan for water releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam.*

*The Lehigh River is an integral part of the lifeline of the D&L corridor and it's a lifeline for me. Whether I am hiking, biking or cross-country skiing along the land trail or kayaking on the water trail, the Lehigh River is truly a life-giving force. I have closely followed the development of the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club's interest statement and carefully read the commentary regarding the pros and cons of the proposed releases. It appears that the releases would improve the water trail for kayakers and fish, alike!*

*Please give your support to the current proposed releases.*

---

*We support the Corps of Engineers' proposal on the releases as stated at the meeting on Feb. 24 at Split Rock.*

*We feel this is best for the overall health of the river.*

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*As a paddler and working in the professional academic setting teaching recreational skills including whitewater paddling, rescue, river reading, etc. I think that the availability of more entry level rivers is ideal to teach whitewater skills. The increased releases will aid the entire sport of whitewater paddling and teach lifelong recreation skills to future generations whether paddling or not.*

*I am emphatically supporting the new releases for education, environmental, and personal reasons.*

*At a public meeting on Feb. 24th the Corps unveiled their proposed management plan. It includes a five-fold increase in the number of whitewater releases in 2005: a total of 30 750-1000 CFS water releases between May and October as compared to seven 500-700 CFS releases in a normal year. They will also increase low-flow augmentation for fisheries enhancement by providing 50% more days with flows over 250 CFS, a level considered ideal for fishing.*

*This proposal is supported by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the Lehigh Gorge State Park.*

*American Whitewater strongly supports these efforts also.*

---

*I am a whitewater paddler from the DC area. I visited the Lehigh for the first time last fall and thoroughly enjoyed my time on this beautiful and entertaining river. I would certainly enjoy visiting a few more times this year and would like to applaud the proposed expansion in whitewater release dates.*

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*I am very happy that the Corps is generating these additional releases.*

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*I am a paddler who loves paddling the Lehigh with my family.*

*I am in full support of increasing the number of Lehigh releases.*

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*I recently visited your website and was excited about your 2005 release date schedule. I am a whitewater kayaker and I plan to travel to the Lehigh River a lot more this spring/summer to take advantage of the flow. I appreciate your consideration in opening up more dates for 2005. We have a few young enlisted men who are interested in kayaking and I have spread the word so they can have the opportunity to take advantage of this Pennsylvania "gem" while they are stationed at Carlisle Barracks.*

---

*As a kayak paddler, fisherman, and hiker along rivers, I support the proposed plan.*

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*I have read the report for the new 2005 flow proposals regarding the Walter Dam and Lehigh River. Being both an avid trout fisherman and white water rafter I full support the changes.*

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*I am a boater and guide on the Lehigh for Pocono Whitewater. Thank you for making the changes to the dam release schedule for the Lehigh. These changes will make the river and season so much more enjoyable. I guide every Saturday and Sunday from April through October.*

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*Just a note to let you guys know how much we appreciate your extending the dam release schedule. Rafting the Lehigh Gorge is one of the best things to do in our area, especially in the summertime. Thanks for your work in making it available. See you on the river?*

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*We are whitewater as well as flat water paddlers who support the proposal of more recreational releases on the Lehigh. The more we can get on the river is more money spent in the state of PA. as we always make this a weekend affair. Thank you so much for making this a possibility.*

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*I am a paddler who has enjoyed the Lehigh River for many years. The current limited release schedule often makes it difficult to find a day that will work with my schedule. The new proposed expanded schedule with releases of 750-1000 CFS would be great and provide many more opportunities for me and my friends to paddle. Thank you for your consideration.*

---

*Thank you very much for the proposed increase water releases for the 2005 season. As a whitewater paddler, fisherman and businessman, I can assure you that this will provide an excellent opportunity for both enjoyment of this great natural resource as well as provide enormous economic stimulation to area businesses.*

---

Nice meeting with you both again last week at Split Rock. On behalf of LRSA, we are grateful for your work and are enthusiastic about collaborating further with ACE, Wildlands, PFBC and others on these changes at FEW regarding conservation pool depth and release strategy. The water quality stratification data (1996-2003) Greg shared is valuable and we appreciate your providing it to LRSA for further analysis. It was certainly a surprise to me that we may not be able to expect significant cold water benefits from increasing the pool depth but at least we have good data to assess this. I understand this is largely because the volume of water at the deeper zone is small and the fact that we have no option but to draw from the bottom. When the river does not need cold water it would be great if we had the ability to draw from the upper levels, like at Beltzville. Has anyone assessed the cost of adding an upper tap?

The quality of fishing on the river given the new weekend release strategy of 750-1000 (up from 500-750) will need to be assessed. The letter Dean had sent Greg on 2/25 noted some concern here. A lot depends on mother nature and I suspect that like the last 2 years, we have another wet year coming along. It was great seeing the minimum flow increased from 50 to 250. We will eventually be back into a drought cycle (like 2001, 2002) and minimum flow maintenance is a key factor in sustaining fish in the main stem.

The ongoing efforts by Wildlands to remediate major AMD locations is a key to the long term improvement of the Lehigh. It was great to hear that plans are underway to secure funding to begin work on the Owl Hole AMD site. The LRSA is very willing to contribute manpower and technical support in these projects, particularly the new Lausanne Tunnel lagoon system, which will probably need some care and feeding to get off to a good start (lets hope the cattails thrive). The LRSA would like to learn more about what the plans are for monitoring the efficacy of this remediation project and we can certainly participate in taking water quality readings etc. LRSA is also interested in learning more about specific plans with regard to Buck Mountain AMD site and how we might be able to get involved with this remediation effort.

It is great to see that wild trout populations are reportedly healthy and on the rise. Are there any studies underway to assess which tributaries are making the biggest contributions to natural reproduction, where the wild trout populations are most prevalent and how far south they extend? As a trout stocking organization, the LRSA wants to be cognizant of these factors as we continue to refine our stocking strategies for the maximum advantage of the fishery and recreational value. My understanding is that it is detrimental to wild trout populations if stocking farm raised fish in the same locations. Assuming this to be true, it is important to have a good handle on the wild trout distribution.

Finally, we at LRSA are eager to continue our evaluation of water quality factors most important to the fish populations. One important indicator of this is the insect populations and diversity. We plan to conduct studies this spring on macroinvertebrates at key locations along the river. Collaboration here would be helpful and we may want to help raise a group to take the training class offered by Wildlands for this. Please send more information regarding scheduling and pricing so we can plan accordingly. I suspect that AMD discharge is one of the key impacts on insect life and getting a good baseline before remediation projects are in place will provide a basis for measuring improvement. AMD reduction should also affect a reduction in specific conductance and LRSA will periodically monitor this parameter at the confluence of Nesquehoning Creek and on a more regular basis (if not 24/7) at Northampton.

We look forward to our on-going collaboration on the FEW and AMD projects and the continued revitalization of the Lehigh River trout fishery.

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Thank you for adding the recreational releases this year. I am a kayaker from New Jersey and have made several trips to the Lehigh in the past. I would have made more had there been enough water. The new release schedule is great.

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It is wonderful that you are considering increasing the number of releases along the Lehigh River. Right now the 5 release schedule means that kayakers-- like me-- have to plan carefully for trips on a limited number of weekends. It can be very difficult to schedule trips and then "release weekend" becomes a very crowded event. More releases= less crowds per release= convenience and more appreciation for just how beautiful the area can be. This is an excellent plan and I hope you will implement it.

---

I am writing in support of the proposed management plan for the Lehigh River below the Francis E. Walter dam.

For the past dozen years, I have regularly paddled the Lehigh gorge during the scheduled June releases and

*also occasionally during autumn releases, including serving as trip leader for the Monocacy Canoe Club for the last five years or so. The increase in the number of release dates will be very much welcome.*

*The proposed release levels of 750-1000 cfs would be excellent. I have found that lower release levels, although still providing ample water to paddle the river, cause commercial rafts to jam up on the rocks and become hazards to those of us in canoes and kayaks.*

---

*I am writing to thank you for your support of the new release schedule and management plan for the Lehigh River. As a paddler and user of the river, I was overjoyed when I became aware of the proposed number of releases for 2005. I know that these releases will benefit not only the local paddling community, but also expand economic opportunities for the communities and businesses along the river corridor.*

---

*I fully support the more frequent release of higher cfs levels out of the Francis Walter dam. This is the only resource in this area for regular White Water Recreation. I believe it will also bring more commerce to the Pocono area. Thank you for considering this proposal.*

---

*It has been with great pleasure that I learned of the Corps intention of more frequent dam releases at the Francis E. Walter Dam on the Lehigh River. I fully support the Corps proposed release schedule and I am already looking forward to spend many more enjoyable whitewater hours paddling the River this year and hopefully in the years to come. Thank you very much!*

---

*Lehigh Valley Canoe Club is to be commended for their initiative regarding releases on the Lehigh (and to Army C of E as well). You can find more details, discussions, etc on the message board for their club at [www.lehighvalleycanoeclub.org](http://www.lehighvalleycanoeclub.org) This meeting was held on Feb 24th.*

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*To All, Last night about 60 people turned out on a snowy night to hear the ACOE proposal. It's great news. They propose, subject to change and the weather, to raise the pool from 1300 to 1335 from May till October and have a minimum daily release of 250 cfs for water quality and the critters. They also propose to add many more whitewater release days, currently we have 7 per year, the new proposal calls for 30 per year. Releases are proposed for every weekend in May and June, two weekends in July, August and September and one weekend in October. The May, early June, September and October releases will be 750-1000 cfs the other releases in June, July and August will be 750 cfs.*

*This is a historic starting point in my opinion. We will have an opportunity to comment on this plan through their web site. We will be working on an official club position.*

*Also at this site they plan on posting this plan soon. Some obvious sticking points are the fisherman needs and the ACOE asking stakeholder to cost share.*

---

*I wish to write in support of the plan to increase the pool level of the Francis Walter Dam and the # of recreational flows. My family and I are whitewater kayakers and we regularly do the Lehigh. Increasing the frequency of flow will be beneficial to the boaters, the rafting companies and other businesses in the area which we regularly frequent when we are there.*

---

*As Commodore of the Philadelphia Canoe Club, I'd like to convey that we are delighted at the attention that the US Army Corps has given recreational users of the Lehigh river with this project. Our club has over 200 members and a good many of us regularly utilize the top sections of the Lehigh River every year to conduct whitewater training and trips. The increased number of releases will permit us to be more flexible in our training programs and well as extend our overall enjoyment of the river. As well, more releases will likely make*

for a safer river since rafting and boating can be more evenly distributed over more releases - thus reducing the "boat-jams" that we have sometimes experienced in the past with the rare, warm weather releases.

We know that your primary mission is control of the watershed but when such a project as this is undertaken, it tells us that the Army Corps really does attempt to please recreational users. Thank you very much for listening!

---

I am writing to strongly support the proposed new plan for water flow management at the Francis Walter Dam. I have been an avid recreational whitewater kayaker for 12 years, and an active member of the Philadelphia Canoe Club. I "cut my teeth," boating-wise, on Lehigh whitewater, and since 1999 have also been a nationally certified whitewater instructor and taught many classes there. I have paddled there at flows from 400 to 8000 cfs. The visual beauty of the well-preserved gorge seen from the river will always be in my mind.

I am overjoyed that the relocated dam road now permits the possibility of about three times as many weekends of substantial recreational water releases as in the past, and most especially in the warmer months. It has always been frustrating to have such a wonderful resource so close to home (I live about 90 minutes from White Haven), but see water released in quantity only during the week in the summer, even after heavy rain.

I am pleased that the plan in the public announcement also acknowledges the stream use by anglers, whom we paddlers occasionally share the river with, and try to give a large, quiet berth to. I hope you can find a way to bring it to fruition as soon as possible.

---

I am writing to provide comment on the proposed release schedule for the Lehigh River. FYI, I was a river guide on the Lehigh for Whitewater Challengers for about 10 years (weekends only), and I am the prior Chairman of the Kayaking and Canoe Club of New York. I have run the Lehigh hundreds of times and many different levels.

First of all I would like to say that I am extremely happy about the proposal. Opening up the Lehigh for Summer recreational boating and expanding the Spring and Fall season is going to make the Lehigh a true destination. It will allow beginner boaters a place to hone their skills in the warm weather, will allow families to get out for rafting, canoeing and paddling during the warmer weather which is when they have the time and when it is safer to do so due to warmer water temperatures. I do have a few comments on the schedule, however. I personally feel that the paddling community would be better served with more releases in October and possibly even November. October is a prime paddling month and there are not many local options. It is a beautiful time to be on the river with the foliage and the water temperatures tend to be much warmer than in the Spring. I see that the schedule tends to be front-loaded, perhaps that is because water tends to be more plentiful then, I am not sure. But if possible I think more Fall releases would be great. If they cannot be guaranteed, perhaps they can be tentative based on levels with announcements made in advance?

Another comment I have is that while the proposed levels are decent, higher flows would really put the Lehigh on the map. Occasional flows of 1500-2000 based on water availability would make this a true class 3 run with excellent play. Perhaps one larger release per month (water permitting), or, perhaps higher flows on Sundays would be possible?

I am very happy with the developments as-is, but I wanted to provide my feedback just in case there is an ability to improve the plan per my comments. Please know that I am not complaining, I am overjoyed to know that I will be able to paddle the Lehigh every weekend all summer long should I desire. I look forward to teaching friends out there, taking my nieces and nephews rafting, etc. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

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As a Philadelphia resident, it is great to see the increase in the amount of dam releases. Being a kayaker and one who enjoys the river it will be nice having more access to the river without having to travel a great distance.

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Thanks for deciding on more dam releases. This will bring enjoyment for many on the river this year.

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*I am in favor of all the added dam release dates, especially every weekend in May and June.*

---

*Thanks for deciding on more release this year. This will bring enjoyment for a lot of water enthusiasts.*

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*Thanks to your hard work, many kayakers will be able to enjoy doing the thing they love, kayaking the Lehigh.*

---

*I appreciate the increased number of releases that you have planned. It will certainly make my life as a paddler happier. It's not so easy to find a white water river to run during the "dry" months when there is no more snow run off.*

---

*I am writing to express my emphatic support for the newly developed Lehigh River management plan proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers for the FE Walter Dam. As an avid whitewater enthusiast, fisherman and outdoor lover, I have enjoyed the Lehigh River gorge on many levels for many years and believe that this proposed plan is an ideal compromise to suit the needs of the many people who enjoy the Lehigh River. Furthermore, having been employed on the Lehigh River as a river guide and being exposed to that business, I cannot emphasize enough how economically important the proposed thirty whitewater releases could be for the area. Dependable whitewater would serve as a continued draw to bring people not only to the park, but to the surrounding area, bringing much needed outside revenue to this region. For the sake of all involved, please do all that you can to support and implement this excellent plan for a treasured resource.*

---

*I just wanted to let you know that I support the Army Corps' new plan for water releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam.*

*The Lehigh River is and integral part of the lifeline of the D&L corridor and it's a lifeline for me. Whether I'm hiking, biking or cross-country skiing along the land trail or kayaking on the water trail, the Lehigh River is truly a life-giving force. I have closely followed the development of the Lehigh valley Canoe Club's interest statement and carefully read the commentary regarding the pros and cons of the proposed releases. It appears that the releases would improve the water trail for kayakers and fish, alike!*

*Please give your support to the current proposed releases.*

---

*I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the proposed dam releases for 2005 on the Lehigh River. It will be a boom to recreation in the area as well as an boost to the local economy.*

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*This is just a short note of support for the schedule of Lehigh River releases from the Francis E. Walter Dam. I love using the Lehigh River to kayak, and I very much appreciate all of your efforts toward this plan. I am really excited about the release schedule for 2005. Thank you for all you've done to support this plan, and I am looking forward to taking advantage of the increased number of releases for 2005 and paddling the Lehigh River much more frequently.*

---

*I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your role in expanding the scheduled releases on the Lehigh River. The additional release dates along with the varying release levels will be a very positive thing for me personally as an avid whitewater paddler, and I believe for the businesses and tourism along the Lehigh River as well. I applaud your efforts.*



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*Friends have made me aware of your efforts regarding the above-mentioned Plan & I simply want to say thank you very much for same. They are very much appreciated by all of us who travel to enjoy the beauty & richness of this area.*

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*I would like to thank all those involved in getting more recreational releases on the Lehigh River. I'm looking forward to bringing more of my canoeing and kayaking friends from NY to enjoy this wonderful resource more than twice a year for guaranteed water. Typically we will spend the weekend paddling the different sections of the Lehigh and then enjoying the hospitality of the local restaurants, camping, lodging facilities and wonderful shops in the area.*

---

*Thank you for your proposal to provide paddlers an enhanced release schedule for the 2005 season. While the flows are not optimal for paddlers, we understand you must reach a balance between all the stakeholders and the proposal seems a reasonable compromise at this stage. I understand the fishermen have registered some complaints about the new flows and hope they, too, will see that we cannot all get the optimal conditions for our personal use of the river. From a practical standpoint, the proposed spring flows do not seem that much altered from a normal year's flows, so I am somewhat confused by the fishermen's apparent objections. The big difference seems to be in mid summer when paddlers will get 2 weekends per month and the fishermen will get 2 weekends. That seems like an appropriate balance for those months. Thanks again.*

---

*Please know that I am delighted of the decision to increase the releases on the Lehigh. I am Commodore of the Mohawk Canoe Club that has over 250 members, many of whom are avid paddlers of the Lehigh. So with our grateful appreciation, we say thanks to all who had a part in this decision.*

---

*I recently visited your website and was excited about your 2005 release date schedule. I am a whitewater kayaker and I plan to travel to the Lehigh River a lot more this spring/summer to take advantage of the flow. I appreciate your consideration in opening up more dates for 2005. We have a few young enlisted men who are interested in kayaking and I have spread the word so they can have the opportunity to take advantage of this Pennsylvania "gem" while they are stationed at Carlisle Barracks.*

---

*I would like to thank you for your efforts in increasing the number of releases this year. I know this was not an easy process but I'm sure you'll find the results to the community and the watershed well worth it. As an environmental consultant for the last 20 years I've found that more users (not abusers) can result in a greater demand for better quality water which is what we all want, both fisherman and boaters (I'm both).*

---

*Many thanks for your support of the planned dam releases on the Lehigh River. It will be great for us paddlers, as well as a boost for that region's economy.*

---

*Thank you, thank you, thank you for your work towards improving utilization of FE Walters Dam and the Lehigh River. I know you have many interests to please and constraints that must be satisfied, and making everyone happy cannot be easy. But my husband and I are ecstatic with your proposal to increase releases, with the understanding that these can only be targets.. We are kayakers who have grown to love the Lehigh River. We will definitely take advantage of the increased opportunities this summer. Also, I believe there is some aspect of the new plan to vary the release amounts – that is a great idea and will really maximize the recreational benefits of the river, since paddler skills vary so widely.*

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As the Head Kayak Instructor for the Wilmington Trail Club, I am emailing you to express support for the US Army Corps of Engineers plan for increasing water storage and frequency of release flows (750 or more cfs) to the Lehigh River. Our kayaking club uses the Lehigh River for instructional purposes and for recreational trips for qualified students and members. Your plan will significantly increase the frequency of opportunities for continuing recreational outings throughout the year, and particularly during the typically drier months when local rivers have minimal flows.

Providing these additional release flows will greatly enhance recreational kayaking, rafting and fishing opportunities. Your plan represents an excellent balance between a variety of multiuse purposes and will generate significant additional economic benefits to the region.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on your proposed plans.

---

A quick note of thanks for your collective efforts (in conjunction with the Lehigh Lovers United) in developing the new release schedule for the F.E. Walter Dam. The Lehigh Gorge is a great natural resource and the new schedule will allow more people to enjoy it. I frequently paddle several sections of the Lehigh and am looking forward to this spring and summer.

---

Thank you for your hard work and efforts to come to an amicable, forward-thinking proposal for the management of the Lehigh River resource. All around the country careful management of river water has allowed tourism, fisheries, and water-quality to flourish - just look at the Gauley River in West Virginia and the Summersville Dam as an example.

I have lived along the Lehigh River since 1987, and made my living part- and full-time on its waters since then and to this day. I run Northeast PA Kayak School, based in Weissport. While the additional water releases will not significantly affect what I do, I know what their effect will be. I'm on the river 180 days a year. I've seen the water quality increase. I've seen increasing numbers of Great Blue Herons, more fishermen, more drift boats - every year.

Your plan to manage the water behind the dam allows so many things to start to flourish. Local economies will benefit. I know that I bring over 500 people a year into this area, most of who are not from the Lehigh watershed. I know the kind of money they bring to the economy in lodging, food, fuel, entertainment, and tourism dollars. The drift boat fishermen must love the plan - their guests come from far and wide as the Lehigh River is now famous for its fishing. And water quality has improved dramatically and will continue.

I want to voice my support and thanks for the Flow Management plan, and to the significance of the May and June releases and the maintenance of good minimum flows all summer. The general health of the Lehigh Gorge and Lehigh Valley will be evident to all.

Keep up the good work!

"Luck is what happens when practice meets opportunity."

---

I would like to thank you for all your courtesy, time and diligence that was put into the improvement of the dam and water releases. I'm sure it will benefit many entities such as businesses, pleasure, etc. It can only get better from this point on. Whitewater paddlers won't have to leave the area to enjoy class III to IV water.

---

Hello I am a canoer and outdoor enthusiast,

On Thursday, February 24, the Army Corps came up with a proposal that fits most of the needs of the paddling public, and most of the needs of all the other interest groups. Now the time has come to support this plan and see it implemented!

---

*I want to thank you for the progress being made toward the additional spring releases from the F.E.W. dam. The Lehigh is a wonderful resource, and these releases will make it much more accessible to the boating community. Thank you for hearing us, and for your response.*

---

*My family has been paddling the Lehigh River for over 20 years. It is a beautiful gorge and I have often wondered how wonderful it would be to do it more often. The Lehigh River was the first "white water river" my now 15-year-old son paddled in his kayak. In fact, over the years he has paddled the Lehigh River countless times and it honed his kayaking skills. Today at 15, he is one of the top kayak junior slalom racers in the world. I firmly believe the countless hours he spent on the Lehigh River when he was young, has helped him develop his slalom skills to what they are today. I am so pleased to hear that having more releases is being considered. Not only is it wonderful for the paddling community, it is wonderful for the economics of the area. Paddlers like to eat and they often frequent the local restaurants after paddling the river (I know we have!). They also stay at nearby hotels and campgrounds, and shop in the local shops. Thank you for consideration of having more releases. Spending the day canoeing on the Lehigh is a great way to spend a day!!*

---

*I am writing to support the Dam release proposal discussed at the meeting at Split Rock.*

---

*May I express my heartfelt appreciation for all the work that has been done to co-ordinate the water release from the Francis E. Walter Dam in the Poconos. The fishing community, paddlers and the economy will all benefit from the fine work being expedited by The Army Corps of Engineers.*

---

*Thank you all for the fine ongoing efforts being made with regard to Francis E. Walter Dam Flow Management. These considerations are appreciated very much.*

*I like the current 30 day releases plan and I'm requesting ACE honor its original plan to release all 30 days starting May 7th and continue for every weekend through July 5th, and then every other weekend beginning July 23 and continue through October 2nd. These releases could flow for 12 hours/day so fishermen can have the river in the afternoons every weekend. Note: According to PA-Fish and Boat, PA has 10,000 miles of trout streams, 1,000 of which are "World Class" and trout fishing has more than 10 times the opportunities as whitewater boating in PA.*

*I expect I will be spending money when visiting the Lehigh Valley area. Gas, snacks, dinners and more add up quickly as my budget shows, I spend a good chunk of change up there, (\$25+ per trip) and that's just me and I drive an economy compact car and don't eat as much as my friends which I'm sure spend a much greater amount.*

*Based on the expenses involved and of course the enjoyment factor, I need accurate advance information to attend a release and won't come if I'm disappointed, again and again.*

*Lastly, please consider paddlers having direct representation in decision making. This is our only way to be heard. We whitewater paddlers are ever growing community and deserve to be heard. We are a very big part of the Lehigh. We're are in it, and on it and sometimes it's in us when we gulp some down. I truly love the Lehigh. It's a fun, safe river I've had my son on. It's lots of fun!!!! We can challenge ourselves by ferrying across every rapid and going down all the drops knowing a pool will be there to catch us gently.*

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*I have interest in the river and I SUPPORT proposed release schedule thank you*

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*I am an avid whitewater kayaker, who would love to see more releases on the Lehigh River. Your efforts to support this matter would be greatly appreciated by many.*

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*I would like to express my appreciation for the expanded release schedule for the Lehigh River, as currently proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers.*

*Since there are not many resources in this area for whitewater paddling the increased schedule is most appreciated. It is likely that I will paddle every one.*

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*I want to send a note to express my thanks for your efforts to get more releases on the Lehigh River. This will not only provide the area with a more reliable tourism industry but also provide the general public with a solid river to learn the exciting sport of whitewater boating. I know everyone has worked very hard to accommodate many requests and the proposed schedule for this year looks like a win - win for everyone. Keep up the good work and we look forward to taking advantage of the extra water this season.*

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*I read about the proposed plan to increase the number of dam releases on the Lehigh on your website, linked there from the Philadelphia Canoe Club. I read the posted pdf document, and am very excited that there may be more releases per year in the future. I am a big supporter of environmental preservation, but it seems that you've done quite a bit of extensive research and planning with many relevant groups to ensure minimal impact to the Lehigh Gorge and its surrounding environment. I also think that this would be a real positive move towards bettering the economy in the area.*

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*I have been rafting the Lehigh for about eight years, and have taken up kayaking more recently. I would plan to raft and kayak the Lehigh quite a bit more if the number of releases were increased.*

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*As a recreational kayaker and Rafters I am very excited to hear about the potential for more releases. The more releases the better. Perhaps some could be during the week, too, to benefit those of us who work most weekends.*

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*I am a kayaker. The Lehigh is one of the most beautiful class III runs in the North East. I believe having additional releases at higher water levels will greatly benefit the local economy. It will attract more paddlers more often. It is a river many new paddlers cut their teeth on (not literally) including myself.*

*Please add as many release dates as possible.*

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*Thank you to you and the Army Corps of Engineers for increasing the amount of water releases to the Lehigh River. I am 36 years old, originally from Philadelphia and began my kayaking on the Lehigh 15 years ago. The Philadelphia Canoe Club travels to the Lehigh River often to teach and practice. I was one of those people that took advantage of the premiere training environment the river has to offer. I revisit the Lehigh to assist with training, practice downriver racing and to enjoy the amazing scenery the river has to offer.*

*Once again, thank you for your efforts in making this natural area more accessible to the public.*

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*To my disappointment I have heard that the number of releases has been reduced from the original plan. As I really love the river in my whitewater canoe, may I beg you to reconsider?*

*I understood that our friends the fishermen were not very happy with the original proposed plan. However, I think we can satisfy both the whitewater boaters and the fishermen by having limited times for the releases. E.g. by turning the water on at 2 am and off by 2 pm daily on release weekends, there should be enough water for the whitewater boaters before 4 pm, and good circumstances for the fishermen the same late afternoon and evening. I think this way I think we can make all of us happy!*

*I hope a solution can be found that pleases all of us.*

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*I am a paddler from the Philadelphia Canoe Club in Philadelphia. I live in*

*Delaware County and have been an active paddler since the mid 80s. Just wanted to say how much we all appreciate the additional dam releases on the Lehigh this spring. There is nothing better than spending the day on the river, then dinner in town after the take-out!*

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*Kutztown rep for LVCC and also on Lehigh lovers united comity. I support the planed 30 release days as planned 12 hour per day releases an .As Rich B reminded us according to PA-Fish and Boat Pennsylvania has 10,000 miles of trout streams, 1000 of which are "World Class" and trout fishing has more than 10 times the opportunities as WW boating in Pa.*

*As boaters we need accurate advance information to attend a release and will not come if disappointed, again and again.*

*As a paddler we love the river and want direct representation in the decision making process. And we thank you for hearing our voices*

*We support the local economy i.e.: fuel, food, gear and supplies as well as lodging and turnpike tolls an entertainment. So it only goes to show we should have a say on some of the decision making process.....*

*Thank you again for your support of our WW community we hope we can all work together.*

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*While I'm not currently in a position to take advantage of the proposed whitewater release schedule as I'm deployed to Iraq, reading about the schedule was highly exciting. Being able to go on the river in the middle of the summer without having to monitor the weather forecast for rain or check the webpage to ensure a sufficient release will make weekend planning significantly easier.*

*This is a wonderful plan. Thanks for the opportunity, that I hope to capitalize on when I return.*

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*I am looking for the 2005 dam release schedule for the Lehigh River.*

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*I'm writing to voice my support for the proposed Lehigh release schedule for 2005. I'm a frequent user of the river for both boating and fishing and the proposed schedule meets both of those needs. This produces a significant opportunities to enjoy the river for most of the summer.*

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*Hi... Just a note of support for the river and scheduled release. A good move for one and all !*

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*My wife and I are whitewater paddlers who live in southern Chester County in Pennsylvania. We support the proposals to increase (water levels permitting) the number and volume of increases on the Lehigh River. From reading through the proposal that was made available on the internet, it appears that the releases can be accomplished with minimal, adverse effect on water quality, habitat upstream from the dam, and fishing downstream from the dam.*

*Assuming this is so, then the increased chances for recreation would certainly be welcomed by all whitewater paddlers and would also have economic benefit to the region.*

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*To reiterate, we support the proposed changes to water flow management at F.E. Walter dam.*

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*I am thrilled to hear that you are planning to release water from Walter Dam on additional weekends in the summer and late spring.*

*I am a whitewater kayaker and have been paddling on the Lehigh for over ten years, mostly with the Philadelphia Canoe Club. We do a considerable amount of training, introducing new people to the sport. Having scheduled releases during the summer will make more courses and trips possible. That's good for us, for our students, and for the economy of the towns around the Lehigh gorge.*

*I have a couple of comments about the planned releases. First, on the schedule, I hope that you can include one more release later in October, comparable to the last release of previous years. This has often been my favorite trip of the year because the gorge is usually at the peak of fall color. It is truly a beautiful time to be on the river. Second, on release level, I would encourage you to have releases at the high end of the range that you propose, specifically 1000 cfs. It is my observation that there are several places on the river which are hazardous for pinning on rocks at lower levels but become clearer to run and therefore safer as the level rises to 1000 cfs or more. This is particularly true of No Way Rapid and Wilhoyt's Rock Rapid.*

*Thank you for your efforts in making these releases possible. I look forward to a great summer on the Lehigh.*

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*My husband and I would like to thank you and the Army Corps of Engineers for your work on increasing the number of Lehigh River dam releases. My husband and I met while kayaking and have since had a daughter who is 7 1/2 months old. My family is from the White Haven and Wilkes-Barre area and so releases on the Lehigh River will allow my husband and me a chance to spend time together on the river while my parents get much-needed quality time with their granddaughter...a win/win situation for all!!*

*We look forward to the summer months and enjoying the beauty of the Lehigh River Gorge.*

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*Thank you for your efforts to maintain a reasonable & balanced schedule of releases on the Lehigh.*

*In addition to supporting local economies along the river, these releases are personally important to me.*

*Paddling has been a major factor in my recovery from cancer, and the Lehigh is one of the few rivers I can paddle.*

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*I would like to tell you how pleased my family and I are that the Francis Walter Dam will be releasing more often this summer. We are a kayaking family now spread out in NY and PA, who look forward to the time we can spend together on the river. With more releases scheduled, we're already planning our summer. I think this is a wonderful way to utilize the economy that boating brings to communities as well as managing our natural resources. I hope the Army Corps of Engineers continues with this progressive view.*

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*I've been a kayaker in the Philadelphia area for almost 10 years, as well as a member of Philadelphia Canoe Club. I want to let you know what a valuable resource the Lehigh is for the region and how much we rely on it to teach, play, and replenish ourselves through kayaking.*

*I urge you to increase the number of releases each year. It would be such a great asset to the sport and the region to have more recreational time on the Lehigh.*

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*We come from all over (NYS for me) to whitewater in the Lehigh and I'd like to take the time to thank you all for your efforts and to let you know that it is definitely appreciated!*

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*As a paddler and a voter, I am happy to hear that there are to be more river releases in the future.*

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*I am a Pennsylvania resident, paddler, and a fisherman with a great interest in the Lehigh River. I just wanted to let you know that I am very excited about and support the proposed release schedule. Thank you for your consideration.*

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*I am writing to express my support for the proposal to have more water releases at the 750 cfs and above levels. The Lehigh River is a wonderful place for children and adults to experience nature and to learn outdoor recreation, such as paddling.*

*In our family, white water paddling is a tradition. My husband and I bring our daughter to the river to hike nearby, and when she is older we hope to teach her to paddle. My father in law has been paddling for many years, and this is a wonderful sport that the different generations can enjoy together.*

*My father in law, husband and I enjoy paddling together on the Lehigh, and hope to spend more time doing so.*

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*Thank you for supporting the proposal to increase the number of releases on the Lehigh River.*

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*I am a resident of PA and a open canoe paddler belonging to the Philadelphia Canoe Club and the Wooden Canoe Heritage Assoc. I often paddle the Lehigh but it never seems enough. I understand that there will be additional releases this year, thank you very much. The Lehigh is one of the best places to paddle and I look forward to more time on the river.*

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*I am a paddler from Chester County, PA and I am on the Lehigh as much as*

*I can. The new proposed schedule looks awesome - thanks for considering us paddlers - we will do our best to help you in our shared endeavors.*

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*Thanks for the expanded release schedule. I am a paddler on the Lehigh, for more than 20 years, and your new schedule is great. Give us more dates if possible.*

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*I am a paddler who lives in Pennsylvania. I am writing today to let you know that I am grateful for all the work the Corps has done to improve the fishing and paddling opportunities for us this year. I support and congratulate you for all your efforts and hard work.*

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*It is with great anticipation that I look forward to the acceptance of the proposed water release schedule. We use the releases to give many young adults their first white water kayak trips and I often marvel at the tremendous joy and exhilaration that comes from the experience. I applaud your efforts on behalf of all who use and enjoy this resource.*



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*As an avid paddler and whitewater enthusiast, I continue to support Senator Greenleaf's efforts to have more whitewater releases.*

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*As someone who lives quite close (Doylestown, Pa), and who has been paddling the Lehigh, for more than 20 years, I think your proposal to markedly increase the number of releases this year, is a super idea. As well as making a large number of local hard boat paddlers happy, I think that this will increase the usage of that area for rafting and recreational/commercial activities.*

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*I want you to know how pleased I am with the plans to increase water flow in the Lehigh Valley. I have avoided the area in the summer because of dry weekends, the releases from the dam will enable my friends to use the Lehigh all summer.*

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*I have been boating on the White Haven to Jim Thorpe section of the Lehigh for many years. I think it is great that the possibility now exists to have many more releases throughout the year due to the greater capacity of the dam. This can only be a positive thing for the surrounding region due to money spent by visiting boaters and tourists. Anytime you can promote the nondestructive use of our natural resources I think everyone comes out ahead. Thank you for the effort and I look forward to many more pleasant days paddling down the Lehigh.*

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*I am a member of the Philadelphia Canoe Club and a kayaker. I want to say thanks very much for scheduling more water releases this year. I hope very much that other groups/organizations/townpeople will also benefit.*

*I appreciate the fine work the Corps does all over the United States and encourage the fine work to continue.*

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*I want to thank you for the efforts you are putting into an increased number of releases from the Frances Walter Dam on the Lehigh. As paddler living in Bucks County I know I will make an increased number of trips to Whitehaven and the surrounding areas. My friends and I make it a habit to have dinner in town as well as stop at the local market for lunch supplies. We also fill up the cars at the gas stations near the Northeast Extension. We feel a loyalty to support businesses in the areas we paddle. Hopefully the increased number of releases will increase the economic growth in the area. Again, thanks for the efforts on behalf of the paddlers.*

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*I was very please to hear you are going thru with the proposed relief schedule, it will most definitely be a boost to the economy and make a lot of citizens, Fisherman etc. etc. very happy.*

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