



Cocolalla Lake Association
Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813
Protecting Cocolalla Lake
Since 1984

FALL WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

Results of 2016 Cocolalla Lake Treatment: by Tom Woolfe

Survey found some milfoil plants around the lake a month after treatment. The milfoil observed was only single plants, but they were found on the north and south ends. Follow up survey with ACE diving removed some plants, but visibility made it too difficult to be very effective. “My hope is that divers will be able to address the milfoil starting early next season”. ISDA is currently still going through the RFP process to select an herbicide applicator for 2017. If an applicator can be selected in time, “I’m still going to try to do an endothall curlyleaf / milfoil treatment on the south end in November”.

Is It Coal??



Our Annual East Side Shore Clean-Up produced a disturbing find. This solid matter was found along the shore and was identified to be “Coal” by Tom Herron of IDEQ.

Many Thanks to Norm Anderson, Dave Crow, Vern Newby and Fred Vincent for your ongoing efforts of collecting foreign items before they make their way into the Lake.

More On Oil/Coal Trains on Page 3

Inspection Station Report by: Tom Woolfe:

As of September 25th, over 85,992 watercraft inspections have been conducted during the 2016 season. <http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/watercraft-inspection-stations/>

- o A 25% increase in inspections over last year's total.
- o 1,053 hotwashes have been conducted and 459 boats were intercepted with weeds.
- o Over 1,200 vessels were inspected that had been in mussel impacted waters in the previous 30 days.
- Cotterell (I-84 westbound) and Cedars (I-90 westbound) will remain open through October. The rest of the Idaho stations are now closed for the season.
- 18 mussel fouled vessels have been intercepted so far this season.

Station	Inspections	Hotwash	Weeds	Fouled Boats	Status
Albeni Falls	7,524	7	11		Closed
Bear Lake	4,946	63	3		Open
Bruneau	3,393	7	13		Closed
Cedars	10,525	36	69		Open
Clark Fork	4,847	9	71		Closed
Cotterell	3,494	209	7	2	Open
Franklin	4,071	30	16		Open
Huetter	12,758	9	83	1	Closed
Hwy 20	6,267	14	22		Open
Hwy 53	4,173	1	21		Closed
Hwy 87	5,169	19	4	1	Open
Hwy 93	1,784	232	22	6	Open
Malad	5,947	370	32	5	Open
Marsing	1,818	17	26		Closed
Redfish Lake	1,678	6	4	1	Closed
Samuels	3,802	15	30		Closed
Subtotal:	82,196				
Roving 1	1,834	4	3		Closed
Roving 2	1,483	0	17		Closed

Total Inspections	85,513				
Total Hotwash	1,048				
Total Weeds	454				
Total Fouled Boats	18				

Spokane City Council Drops Controversial Oil Train Measure from November Ballot.

Back in July the Spokane City Council added a controversial measure fining oil and coal trains passing through town. On Monday, August 8th, they decided to drop the measure from the November ballot.

By a vote of 5-2, the council removed the same measure they voted to put on the ballot just three weeks before, which would have fined potentially dangerous uncovered coal and oil train cars that traveled through the city. Council members were split on the decision, as were those who spoke during the open forum.

Council President Ben Stuckart said he had a change of heart after meeting with railroad representatives and looking into the legal issues including possible lawsuits down the line. There was a question as to whether the city actually had the authority to impose fines on railroads which are federally and state regulated.

"I don't think it's a winnable issue," Stuckart said.

The city though isn't done. They will be looking into becoming part of a regional group looking to improve railroad safety.

Oil and coal train protest shuts down BNSF tracks in Spokane

Three people were arrested Thursday, August 11th, in a protest against oil and coal trains that shut down the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks near Trent Avenue and Napa Street. This protest, organized by Veterans for Peace, is the second in Spokane in the last month. The first was organized by the Raging Grannies and also saw three people arrested.

About a dozen protesters gathered on the tracks in front of a stopped train to speak against oil and coal trains as well as global warming.

The stopped train visible on the tracks was pulling a large number of what appeared to be oil tanker cars. BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas said he would not confirm what the train was carrying. Three trains were halted by the protest, he said.

A BNSF police officer warned the crowd to disperse and most of them did. The three remaining – Taylor, activist Rusty Nelson and Maevea Aeolus – were arrested and face charges of trespassing and blocking a train.

Nancy Nelson, who was arrested and charged after the first protest last month, said her husband Rusty was arrested because things like speaking out at council meetings, signing petitions and writing letters wasn't working.

"We have to do what we can," she said. "In our minds they are death trains."

Melonas said people are welcome to speak their mind about oil trains, but the company asks that people not block the train tracks

Cameras could be the next weapon against Aquatic Invasive Species

WILLMAR—Kandiyohi County, Florida is proud of its lakes, and there is a group of people who want to keep those natural gems healthy and viable for the next generations. Top on their list is preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species into those lakes.

"I'm doing it for my children and my grandchildren. The people will thank you for it," said Terry Frazee, who served on the Green Lake Property Owners Association and currently sits on the Kandiyohi County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force.

Frazee and Richard Falk, a former Kandiyohi County Commissioner, spoke this week to the Willmar Public Works and Public Safety Committee about efforts to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species.

"Once an AIS is in a lake, it's there," Frazee said.

Frazee said the Green Lake Property Owners Association purchased a power washer a few years ago for boaters to use to clean off their boats before leaving the lake. Now the group is helping install the inspection camera system called I-LIDS, or Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor, created by Environmental Sentry Protection. Frazee and Falk would like to see the same system installed throughout Kandiyohi County, including at the boat launches at Willmar and Foot Lakes.

"We want to have every boat access in Kandiyohi County covered," Frazee said.

There are I-LIDS systems installed at Green Lake and Lake Florida.

The system includes a self-contained, solar-powered camera that takes photos and video of a boat as it goes in and out of the water. The camera will be able to capture not only the license numbers of the boat, but be able to remotely inspect the watercraft and see if there are any invasive species being transported in or out of the lake. The system also includes an audio message asking boaters to clean off their boats. Frazee said just by looking at the video and photos, you can tell the system does remind people to check their boats.

"This works 24 hours a day," Frazee said.

Each system costs approximately \$7,000, less than what it would cost to hire a human inspector for each launch. The Kandiyohi County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force has a grant program in place to pay for half of the cost for the system. The funding for the grant comes from the state, which gives Kandiyohi County \$126,000 a year for aquatic invasive species prevention funding, Frazee said.

Falk said the lake associations in Willmar have shown interest in helping fund such a project as well.

Currently, Green Lake, Lake Calhoun, Games Lake, Norway Lake and Lake Florida are infested with either Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussel or both. The hope is to prevent other lakes in Kandiyohi County from being added to that list.

"We don't want more weeds," Frazee said.

Frazee said the next real worry is starry stonewort, which has found its way into Lake Koronis near Paynesville.

"You must be proactive," Frazee said.

"There is nothing as effective for the cost as these monitors," Peterson said.

University of Idaho ‘Lake Lab’ to Study Ecology, Economy of Local Lakes

The University of Idaho is opening a \$100,000 “lake lab” in Coeur d’Alene to study the ecology of local lakes and their importance to the region’s lifestyle and economy.

“Lakes are the center of much of North Idaho’s life,” said Mark Solomon, director of the new laboratory. “The more we understand about what makes them work for us and what we do that harms them, the better off we are.”

Over the past several years, for example, UI researchers have tracked an increase in toxic algae blooms in Fernan Lake and how lake recreation was affected when people were advised to stay out of the water.

University researchers also looked at how milfoil affected the value of waterfront real estate around Lake Coeur d’Alene. Where milfoil was present, properties sold for 13 percent less than comparable properties without the aquatic weed.

The new lake lab will help UI continue those kinds of scientific and economic studies, Solomon said.

UI funded the lab’s start-up, which included a research boat, a dock at the university’s Coeur d’Alene Harbor Center and new lab equipment. The Harbor Center is next to the Spokane River, just downstream from Lake Coeur d’Alene. The building once housed an Idaho State Police forensic lab and was already configured for research.

“We have a (lake), a lab and an interest in doing research. That was the birth of the lake laboratory,” Solomon said.

A National Science Foundation grant helped pay for the Fernan Lake studies, and UI will apply for similar grants for future research. University officials also expect to work closely with state and federal agencies and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe on cooperative projects.

Understanding how historic mine waste affects Lake Coeur d’Alene already is a topic of collaboration among the UI’s Frank Wilhelm, a lake scientist who will be the lab’s research director, and the tribe and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Last summer, UI researchers studied zooplankton in the lake. The tiny animals are an important part of the food web, but little was known about their presence in Lake Coeur d’Alene and how they’re affected by heavy metals that washed downstream from decades of mining activity in Idaho’s Silver Valley.

UI’s research “is helping us understand some of the questions that are out there in terms of the science of Lake Coeur d’Alene,” said Laura Laumatia, the tribe’s lake management plan coordinator.

The university will apply for another National Science Foundation grant to study how the federal cleanup of historic mine waste in the headwaters of the Coeur d’Alene River could affect water quality downstream in the lake. It’s a complicated topic.

The cleanup will reduce the amount of zinc and cadmium flowing into the lake, which will improve water quality, Solomon said. But as the amounts of those metals decline, the lake will become more productive for plant and animal growth.

Over time, a more productive lake could lead to decreased levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. That has implications for 75 million tons of polluted sediment at the bottom of Lake Coeur d’Alene because lower oxygen levels increase the chances of the metals becoming re-suspended in the water.

What happens with dissolved oxygen is critical for the lake's future water quality.

"We're really optimistic that over the next year, we'll be looking at some expanded funding to answer some of the questions we have," Laumatia said. "These are things that we wouldn't have the resources to address on our own."

Board Members enjoyed an afternoon of Croquet and Dinner at the Vincent's in August with distinguished guests: Dr. Kurt Getsinger- Leader, Chemical Control and Physiological Processes Team, Steve T. Hoyle - Research Specialist Aquatic and Noncropland Weed Management at NC State University, Dr. and Mrs. Dave Soballe, USACE, Tom Moorehouse of Clean Lakes and Tom Heron, IDEQ

Research Update By: Dr Kurt Getsinger

- The US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program was funded again for 2017. Technologies developed in this National program have been used to control Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, and flowering rush in Pacific Northwest waterbodies, including Lake Pend Oreille, Lake Cocolalla, and Hayden Lake. While the program survived for another fiscal year, funding levels are only 50% of the amount provided in past annual budgets.
- Researchers at North Carolina State University are collaborating with Army Corps scientists from Vicksburg, MS, to evaluate herbicide trials against flowering rush in Lake Pend Oreille. Support for this work is being provided by the Albeni Falls Project Office, USDA-ARS, ISDA, and Bonner County. Both drawdown and in-water treatments are being evaluated over the next several years. Flowering rush has become established in the Oden Bay and Drift Yard areas of the lake, and stands of the plant are increasing each year. There is also a small population that is being hand-pulled by volunteers at the City Beach Marina in Sandpoint.



Steve, Kurt and Tom

- Army Corps researchers are working with the USEPA and academia to evaluate a unique new herbicide for selectively controlling invasive plants in public water bodies. Early results indicate that the product is very active against Eurasian watermilfoil and several of the hybrid milfoils. The University of Washington is hosting a meeting with NOAA Fisheries, the Corps, and industry in October to discuss potential impacts of this product on various salmonid species, including the bull trout. Ecological impacts are expected to be minimal, since the molecule is being registered as a reduced-risk pesticide. A label may be approved for aquatic use by 2018.
- With declining Federal resources to support invasive species research activities, more reliance will be placed on co-operative efforts with academic institutions to develop and evaluate the management technologies of the future. Several universities are operating under this model for aquatic plant control in the Southeastern US, but there are few counterparts in other regions of the country. As problems with invasive plants increase in Pacific Northwest waters, universities in that region could play a key role in helping to solve those problems. Academia could partner with Federal, state, utility companies, and non-profit groups to develop environmentally compatible and effective control technologies, as well as train the next generation of aquatic scientists that will be needed in the Pacific Northwest. Investigators at Portland State, Univ. of Washington, Washington State, Univ. of Idaho, and Montana State have been contacted to determine potential partnership opportunities.

KNOW BEFORE YOU BURN

Fire Near Lakes and Streams

Consider This:

WHAT DOES FIRE HAVE TO DO WITH POOR FISHING AND ALGAE SCUM?

Burning piles of leaves and yard debris on the beach adjacent to a lake or stream is a convenient way to dispose of unwanted waste. However, the ash from these piles is a potential source of soluble plant fertilizer. Fertilizers turn clean lakes and streams into green lakes and streams.

The same is true for ice fishing fires and beach campfires, too. If the ashes and burned materials are left to accumulate on the ice or the beach, you are contributing to this problem. If we continue using our beaches as fire pits, eventually we will have more green algae and less desirable fish.

Place campfires and debris piles away from the beach and above the high water line. Remove the Ashes.

Help keep our Lake Healthy.

For more Information on Burning Contact: Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality 208 769-1422

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/burning/residential-burning/>

Results Of Fall Algal Bloom By: Tom Herron IDEO:

We looked at the algal sample that we collected yesterday and it is the same as last year's bloom: Aphanizomenon flos-aquae. It wasn't in a concentration that warranted an advisory and with the high winds that will start tonight and continue through Friday it is not likely that we will see anything accrue in the next few days that would trigger an advisory. We will keep our eyes on the shoreline for a visible scum and will collect another sample if we see high concentrations.

North American Lake Management Society (NALMS):

Science to Stewardship: Balancing Economic Growth and Lake Sustainability

Workshops will include:

- Collection, Identification, Ecology and Management of Freshwater Algae
- Internal Phosphorus Loading
- Lake & Pond Phosphorus Inactivation & Interception

We are pleased that CLA Board Member, Janet Conlin will be attending on our behalf. This is a very important annual meeting with all major water body agencies along with many from the public sector in attendance.

The Final CLA Board Meeting for 2016 will be Held Thursday, October 27th, 7:00 p.m. at The Cocolalla Community Center.

Wishing Everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season

