



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

*Fall ~ Winter 2017*

## **SOUTHSIDE STUDENTS WILD ABOUT LEARNING AT WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT**

Restoration efforts of 123-acre area on the south end of the lake began in 2015. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Cocolalla Lake Association, Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service all had a hand in the restoration project, said Miles Benker, wildlife habitat biologist with IDFG.

The lake surface is 805 acres, and the overall watershed surrounding the lake is approximately 41,000 acres divided into five smaller watersheds — Cocolalla, Fish, Butler, Westmond and Johnson creeks. There is enough drainage that the watershed turns the lake twice a year, helping to preserve it, said Cin-da Bennett with the Cocolalla Lake Association.

One step in the restoration project was to incorporate man-made wetlands, which were engineered to mimic natural wetlands, Benker said. The shallow-water wetland cells were designed to benefit the majority of "obligate wetland species" in the area, which Benker said includes anything from amphibians to waterfowl. The area includes six cells, five of which capture and hold water and slowly recede at a natural pace. The biggest wetland cell to the north has a water-control structure, so IDFG officials can actively manage the water level. Some of the restoration also included reconstructing one-third mile of Fish Creek to put it back to its "historic channel," Benker said.

The second and third-graders had some knowledge about wildlife, such as the nesting habits of wood ducks, monarch butterflies and milkweed as well as the some of the wetland names — swamps, marshes, ponds. However, it was with great enthusiasm as they learned more from Idaho Fish and Game biologist Bill Ament who was planting milkweed on-site while talking to the kids. They also learned, of course, all about the restoration project efforts and its importance to area wildlife.

The CLA, along with Lake Pend Oreille School District Trustee Gary Suppiger, helped coordinate the tour for the students.

Thank you Gary Suppiger for organizing the tour and the continued support of the Cocolalla Lake Association and its Mission Statement.



**See Page 2**

## **Fall and Winter are Good Times to Submit Dock Permit Applications**

**Submitting an encroachment permit application before the end of the year enables the owners to get their plans approved and contractors scheduled well before the spring and summer of the following year.**

**Additional information about IDL encroachment permit applications is available [here](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/lakes-rivers/lake-protection/index.html):**

**<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/lakes-rivers/lake-protection/index.html>**

## **Burn Responsibly**

The risk of fire doesn't end when wildfire season does – any time there is a fire on the land, there is a risk that it can spread.

Through the winter months, farmers and other Idahoans on the land may need to conduct winter burns. Controlled burns get rid of dead vegetation, minimizing the risk of wildfires come summer.

But if they're not done right, winter burns can also increase the risk of wildfires. If fires aren't properly put out, they can spread underground – up to three metres under the snow and ice – and can burn all winter. Under the right conditions, these fires can re-emerge in the spring as wildfires.

The fire has to be at least 25 ft. from any structure, and in order to leave it unattended it must be completely cool to the touch *everywhere*, and hoses, shovels and rakes should be left, and it should only happen in daylight.

Never burn yard waste along the shore. The ashes contain phosphorus and other nutrients that can easily make their way into the lake and result in excess weed and algae growth. Phosphorus is the nutrient of greatest concern. Even small amounts of phosphorus, in most cases, can cause excessive plant and algae growth. (Reference: Michigan State University Home\*A\*Syst Shoreline Property Management)

Consider the wind direction when planning to burn. If you are close to other residences, roads and highways, ensure that smoke from your burn pile doesn't interfere or endanger what or who is downwind. Smoke generated by burning can contribute to poor air quality and impact human health. Smoke contains small airborne particles that can become lodged in our lungs, making breathing difficult and leading to more serious short-term and chronic health problems for sensitive populations such as children, pregnant women, older adults, and people with asthma or other respiratory ailments.

## **Permitting Process For Docks and Encroachments**

Applicant completes and submits an application packet to the local IDL area office, which includes:

- Joint application Form
- IDL Application Form
- Supporting documents such as drawings, maps, etc
- Single Family \$300.00 Filing Fee
- Boat Lift (if not included in original Application) \$300.00
- Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control (RipRap) \$500.00 + \$75.00 Publication Deposit
- Community Dock (anything over 2 families) \$2000.00 + \$75.00 Publication Deposit.

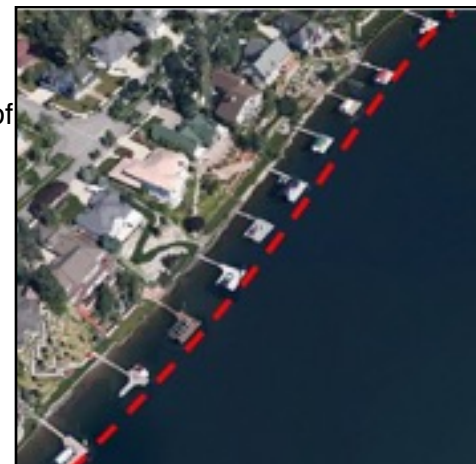
If the encroachment meets all standards, IDL issues a permit.

### **Of Special Note:**

Docks may not exceed the adjacent neighboring docks or the line of navigability established by the majority of existing docks in the area.

Docks may not be located closer than 10 feet from adjacent littoral right lines without written consent from the adjacent littoral owner.

Amidy also indicated that IDL is no longer permitting private boat launches where public access is available.



### **Meet Amidy Fuson - IDL**

Amidy came to our July meeting and was very helpful in clarifying the Dept. of Lands regulations and fees pertaining to the permitting process of Docks and Encroachments.

# **The Importance of Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Through Best Management Practice**

The ways we use our land have changed a great deal over the last 500 years. Many of our forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other wilderness areas have been replaced with houses, farms, pastures, factories, stores, businesses, roads, and streets. These changes in the way we use our land have altered the hydrology of watersheds. Hydrology is the study of water, where it is and how it gets there. A watershed is a region of land that drains into a body of water, typically a river or lake. Water not only moves across the surface of land in a watershed (runoff), but it also filters down through the soil and rock to form groundwater. Groundwater is the water beneath the surface of the ground that has seeped down from the surface and is the source of water for wells and springs. Runoff is water that does not seep into the ground, but instead flows over the surface of the land.

Changes in land use affect our watersheds. Water may flow in a different direction, more water reaches the rivers, lakes, and oceans, and the water gets to these bodies of water faster without sediments and pollutants being removed by slow infiltration into the soil. The amount of nutrients, sediments, and toxic materials from increased runoff and soil erosion can seriously harm ponds, streams, and groundwater resources. Infiltration is when water seeps into the soil and rock and recharges an aquifer. An aquifer, or groundwater reservoir, is a section of rock beneath the earth's surface that is soaked with groundwater. Aquifers are often a primary source of water for many communities. Currently, aquifers are being depleted due to the huge water demand of American industries, farms, and families.

Forests have less runoff because leaves and trees slow down the rain before it hits the ground, giving plant root's time to absorb water and time for the water to soak into the earth. When land is paved (by parking lots and roads) or cleared for buildings, the vegetation is removed and the land is covered by blacktop or concrete. There is no longer any vegetation to slow down the rain hitting the ground and since the ground is covered, no water can soak into the soil. Instead, the water runs over the surface, often causing flooding and erosion. Our aquifers are also not being recharged with surface water as fast as they used to be.

This can cause serious water quality problems. Water clarity and purity are affected by this extra soil. Another serious problem is that of contaminants carried by the runoff water. As it flows across streets and through fields, runoff water will carry chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides to wherever it drains. This can lead to an accumulation of these materials in the water bodies in that watershed. The result of adding pesticides and fertilizers can be disastrous. Most pesticides are toxic to all living creatures, not just bugs, and can have deleterious effects even in small quantities. The addition of fertilizers (such as Nitrogen) to water will achieve the same effect that it does when it is on the land: it encourages plant growth. So the primary plants of the water system will begin to grow and reproduce more rapidly. These plants are microscopic algae, and when you see a river that has turned green or has a green "mat" of scum over the surface, that is the result of these microscopic organisms reproducing too rapidly. The decay of the algae will result in reduced oxygen levels in the water, affecting the entire ecosystem of the stream.

Animal and poultry waste, until recent years, has not been considered a major pollutant. Until the past ten or fifteen years few problems existed, because animals were relatively wide-spread on pasture and rangeland and their manure was deposited on the ground to be naturally recycled through the soil and plant cover. . . . The recycling capacity of the soil and plant cover to recycle has been surpassed. . . . Precipitation runoff from these areas picks up high concentrations of pollutants, which reduce oxygen levels in receiving streams and lakes and accelerate the eutrophication process.

**Fish and Game have done an amazing job on our Wetland Restoration Project, we must continue our outreach to educate our neighbors in our watershed and lakefront .**

## Continued Concerns Over the Coal Trains

A Montana Rail Link train hauling coal left the tracks, sending several thousands tons of coal near or into the Clark Fork River, Sunday, August 13th, 2017. (Courtesy of Brenda Calvin Fitchet)

By Jonathan Glover



Montana Rail Link train hauling coal left the tracks Sunday night, sending several thousand tons of coal near or into the Clark Fork River.

The westbound 120-car train derailed at around 11 p.m. Sunday night about 10 miles west of Noxon, Montana along the river, said Jim Lewis, spokesman for Montana Rail Link. Thirty of the cars carrying coal tipped over, spilling their load. There were no injuries.

Lewis stressed the cars were “not hauling hazardous material.”

Still, Shannon Williamson, executive director of Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper, was critical of pollutants entering the river. In a statement sent Monday, she said the Clark Fork River has overcome “decades worth of toxic pollution from mining activity to provide some of the best fly-fishing in the country.”

“This incident is yet another reminder of what’s at risk when we transport tons of uncovered piles of dirty coal along environmentally sensitive water bodies,” she wrote. “Why sacrifice our clean water when we’ve got better, cleaner options for powering our homes and businesses?”

Bill Naegeli, emergency manager at the Sanders County Office of Emergency Management, said no structures were damaged in the derailment. He was unsure Monday if coal was confirmed to have fallen into the river.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, Lewis said. All services on that rail have been suspended, Lewis said, and an estimated time for rail traffic to resume has not yet been determined.

Ten of the 30 cars were cleared from the tracks by Monday afternoon, and crews planned to have all 30 cars cleared by midday Wednesday.

# Flowering Rush

Flowering rush is a submersed and emergent noxious weed that is expanding in Idaho. It forms dense growth and causes significant problems for boating and irrigation systems. Up until recently, there were no effective treatment methods for this species. Through cooperation with federal and local entities, it appears that several dry ground and in-water treatment methods can effectively control this plant.

Dr. Kurt Getsinger USACE Reports - Scientists with the US Army Corps of Engineers and NC State University are conducting a multi-year study to improve the control of invasive flowering rush in Lake Pend Oreille, ID. This European transplant currently infests several thousand acres of the littoral zone in the lake, and is an impending threat to fish and wildlife habitat, including critical habitat of the endangered bull trout. The suspected source of the flowering rush is the Flathead lake population in Montana – via the Clark Fork River. Several aquatic herbicides are being evaluated to systemically control the shoots and rhizomes of this perennial plant. Small-scale submersed and draw-down treatments are being evaluated on Corps of Engineer property in cooperation with the Albeni Falls Project Office, the ISDA, the USFWS (Spokane Region), the USEPA (Bosie, ID office), and Bonner County. Pre and post-treatment data are being collected to monitor water exchange processes, measure any changes in water quality (oxygen, temperature, pH), and determine herbicide impacts on flowering rush and the non-target native plant community. Results of the work will be used to develop environmentally compatible techniques for selectively reducing flowering rush infestations in the Pacific Northwest.



## **Milton Ollerton - Planning Director and Jason Johnson of the Bonner County Planning Department**

Milton and Jason from Bonner County Planning addressed the Findley ranch development and what the department covers regarding the shoreline. There is a 40 foot setback that needs to be maintained in its existing vegetative state. It can be modified with native plants that are on a list provided by them. If there is any questions regarding your shoreline vegetation the Bonner County Planning Department should be contacted. They also have a Facebook page and Website. There will be a Public Meeting on Oct. 5th on the Findley ranch development. Of note, there is no official Shoreline Management Act in the State of Idaho. It falls upon the counties to establish what acceptable land practices will be in effect in the 40 foot riparian zone up from the shoreline. Further, Bonner County is increasing its staff to better oversee building activities and compliance with existing regulations.



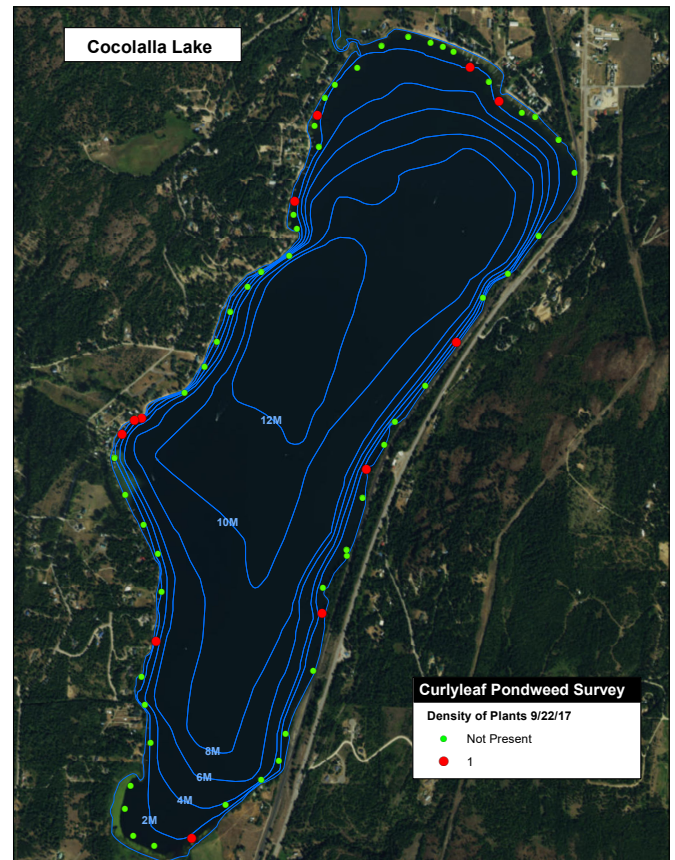
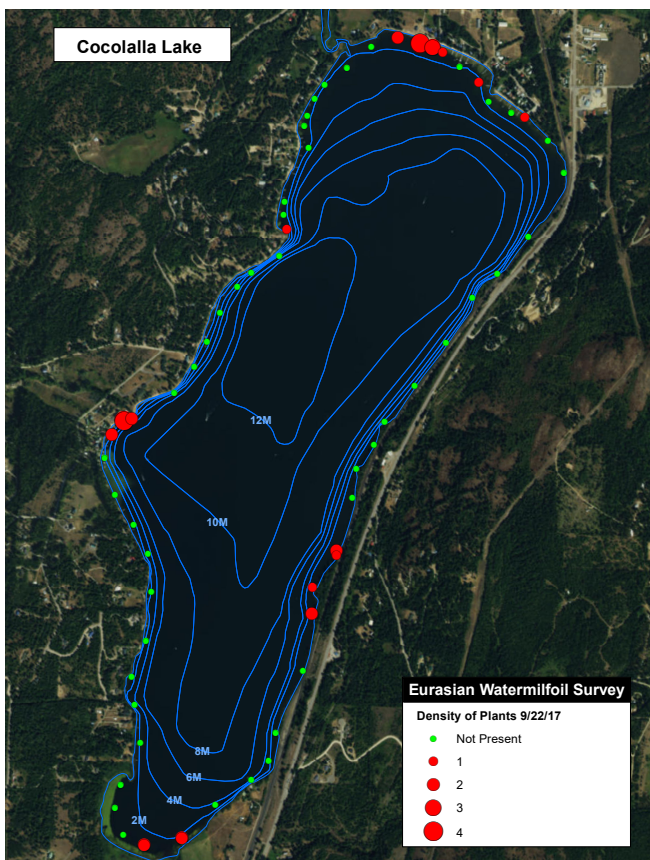
## Nic Zurfluh and Kim Holzer - Idaho Dept. of Agriculture

We are happy to have Kim Holder as the new Program Manager for Invasive Species in our area. She has an extensive education and background in Invasive Species Management. Her previous position was at the Smithsonian. Nic Zurfluh is the Section Manager.



### Post Treatment Maps

Obviously not the results we were looking for. The CLA board will be working closely with the Idaho Department of Agriculture to discuss the approach to further treatments. The September 2017 treatment was done based on a Fall 2016 survey.



**Bob Brimmer-** updated us on the Boat Inspections: He inspected 214 boats since the Memorial Day Weekend. He continues to sell the lake maps for \$3 each. They are a popular item for fisherman bringing over \$100.00 income.

**A Big Thank You to - Larry and Peggy Erickson for their generous donation that allowed us to secure a temporary summer Lake Host Shelter.**

# Western Governors Want Federal Help in Invasive Mussel Fight

Associated Press November 3rd, 2017

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Governors of 19 Western states are pressing the federal government to do more to prevent the spread of damage-causing invasive mussels from infected federally managed waterways.

The Western Governors' Association on Thursday sent a letter urging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to put in place by spring 2018 controls to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels.

The governors are also asking that federal agencies conduct mandatory inspections and decontamination of boats leaving infected water bodies. The mussels can attach to boats and trailers and travel long distances, clogging water pipes, damaging boat motors and affecting other aquatic life.

"Given the significant risks that quagga and zebra mussels pose to uninfested waterbodies, it is critical to implement effective control policies in a timely manner," the letter states.

The governors say they're particularly concerned about the mussels reaching the Columbia River Basin, Lake Tahoe, and the Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell.

The Interior Department has said that hydroelectric projects infested with the mussels might require an additional \$500,000 in annual maintenance. The Pacific Northwest gets much of its power from hydro projects, so an infestation could increase the cost of electricity.

Many states have spent millions and continue to do so to keep the mussels out. Some have set up mandatory checkpoints near borders to intercept boats for inspections, including Idaho, which is spending more than \$3 million annually.

"Idaho and our neighbors in the West are acting individually and collaboratively to address the challenge of these invasive species," Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said in a statement to The Associated Press on Friday. "Now our federal partners must step up to help us stop further infestations."

Heather Swift, Interior Department spokeswoman, said in an email to The Associated Press on Friday that Zinke hadn't seen the letter and couldn't comment specifically.

"Stopping the spread of invasive species is a big concern of the Department and the Secretary," she said, noting a June 26 news release outlining some of the agency's collaborative efforts with states and tribal agencies.

The governors' letter on Thursday is the second they've sent this year about invasive mussels to Zinke. A letter sent June 22 also pressed for watercraft inspection and decontamination.

The Interior Department responded Sept. 15 with a two-page letter agreeing with the severity of the problem. The most recent letter by the governors' included "clarifying questions."

Specifically, the governors want to know what timeline has been set for the National Park Service to complete an assessment of mussel containment and monitoring programs at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in southeastern Nevada and northwestern Arizona, and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in southern Utah and northern Arizona.

The governors are also interested in knowing if similar timelines are being set for other Interior Department agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

The governors also asked if federal agencies have the authority to require mandatory boat checks and, if not, what authority would be needed.

"Western states need adequate measures to ensure these invaders do not spread to uninfested waters," the governors said.





Avid Fisherman Dan Goffman and His Prize Fall Catch

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**Interesting Read:**

ENOUGH OF THIS MANURE: WHY THE EPA NEEDS TO DEFINE THE AGRICULTURAL STORMWATER EXEMPTION TO LIMIT THE “RUNOFF” FROM THE ALT COURT

<http://www.nyulawreview.org/sites/default/files/pdf/NYULawReview-92-4-Kenyon.pdf>

**Winter is officially here, Please make sure docks and any other Waterfront Items are Secure.**

*Wishing All our Members A “Merry Christmas”  
and a Healthy Happy Holiday Season*