



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

Spring - Summer Newsletter 2018

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be Thursday, June 28th 7:00 P.M. at the Cocolalla Community Center.

Elections Will Be Held for Board Membership and Officers

Kim Holzer of Idaho Department of Agriculture will be attending to discuss the recent findings on their milfoil, curly leaf survey from June 14th.

Please Plan to Attend
Community Support is Imperative to Continue our Efforts in Fulfilling Our Mission Statement

“To halt and reverse the eutrophication process occurring in Cocolalla Lake and preserve it for public use”



Meet “Coco” Aptly named by our Lake Host Bob Brimmer. Coco likes to visit the Boat Launch on a regular basis.

In 2017 Bob inspected 189 boats entering Lake Cocolalla for the season. With an increased subsidy from Idaho Department of Agriculture of 40 hours to maintain our lake host, Bob has inspected 250 boats as of June 15th, 2018.

A Big “THANK YOU” to Larry and Peggy Erickson for their Generous Donation that allowed us to purchase a Permanent Structure for our Lake Host.

Water Quality and BNSF Second Track Report by : Tom Herron of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality Conditions on Lake Cocolalla are off to a good start. Winter ice formed, opened up and re-formed to reduce the overall accumulation of nutrients from internal loading due to mixing by wind. Spring runoff was substantial enough to create a good flushing condition on the lake to take out the more bioavailable nutrients that accrue in the Winter under ice, replacing that water with less available nutrients that will transform in another Summer/Winter cycle. Flooding was not dramatic this year. Over the last couple years, with good runoff conditions we have seen fewer advisories issued for Blue-Green algae, which can be toxic under significant bloom conditions.

After a number of wind events the water has settled reducing turbidity and it has warmed into temperatures that allow water sports. Conditions on Lake Pend Oreille with debris and high water have increased boat traffic on the Lake, but I have not heard of problems associated with increased boat traffic. I am expecting good water quality on Lake Cocolalla this year. Monitoring will begin the week of June 4th and continue into September.

The final Water Quality Certification is finalized for the installation of the Double Track along the Lake. IDEQ was able to provide feedback to BNSF that has mitigated some of the risk to water quality in Westmond Creek and to the Lake along the reach from the intersection of the BNSF Track at the North Loop Road to the intersection of Butler Creek Road and U.S. 95. There will be a discharge of 3,360 cubic yards of rock into 0.37 acres of wetlands adjacent to the Lake and into Westmond Creek to construct 2.8 miles of additional track adjacent to, and east of, the existing BNSF mainline track. There will be an extension of the newly replaced concrete box culvert at Westmond Creek, which will be extended by 42 feet at each end and adjacent to wetlands that will be filled to accommodate the existing track. The total length of the box culvert at Westmond Creek will be 192 feet and will have fish gravel lining the bottom of the culvert to provide streambed conditions. A second concrete culvert located 0.12 miles south of the intersection of Westmond Road and Highway 95 crosses an unnamed tributary to Lake Cocolalla. This culvert will be extended by 14 feet on the west side of the existing track and 19 feet on the east side to accommodate the new track. The impact to this adjacent wetland was mitigated by installing a corrugated elbow culvert and debris rack at the inlet end of the culvert to prevent the wetland from being drained. An additional water quality improvement is that there won't be a need for excavation on the outlet of the culvert, which will reduce sediment inputs to the lake. There are a number of ditches along the east side of the existing track that are technically wetland that will be filled and the mitigation will be re-establishing them further east at the base of the slope of the new track. There are also 12 other culverts that carry stormwater under the tracks to be extended; one to be abandoned and two that will require replacing. The new culvert extensions and replacements will have armoring to reduce erosion. Numerous Best Management Practices to reduce to erosion of sediment and transport to surface water includes working during low flow to reduce erosion. If water is present in Westmond Creek a temporary bypass with a fish screen will be used to route water around potential sediment. Construction related impacts to the Lake are greatly reduced by locating the track to the East of the existing track and not extending the track into the Lake with fill material.

No new access roads will be required for construction. Sediment control measures will include silt fence, sediment filter rolls and seeding/mulching of disturbed areas. These areas will be inspected daily. The EPA Construction activities on uplands will be conducted under the EPA Construction General permit that will minimize stormwater related impacts to the Lake.

Four retaining walls will be constructed to stabilize steep slopes to minimize lake fills and prevent slides into wetlands, ditches and ultimately to the Lake. Wetland impacts will be mitigated by purchase of 5 functional unit wetland credits from the Valencia Wetland Mitigation Bank for improvement and enhancement of wetlands in other areas around the Lake. This could benefit a second phase to the wetland enhancement that has been completed on the south end of the Lake on the Fish and Game Wildlife Management Area. Spill containment materials will be on-site and within immediate access of machinery and vehicles. No vehicle or machinery maintenance will be done within 50 feet of open water or wetlands.

If you are out on the lake and you see a sediment plume extending along the shoreline or out into the Lake please contact me, Tom Herron, at 208-666-4631 or Thomas.Herron@deq.idaho.gov

We will be collectively vigilant over this project to protect Lake Cocolalla.

Thomas Herron
Regional Water Quality Program Manager

This Little Beauty was
Caught by:
Cai Hogan
On The
Memorial Weekend



Cocolalla Lake Campground Closure

By Andy Dux, Fisheries Regional Manager

Thursday, May 3, 2018 - 6:00 PM MDT

Idaho Fish and Game manages a fishing and boating access site on the northern end of Cocolalla Lake. This is the only public boat ramp on the lake which makes it popular with anglers. In addition, a small camping area has been available for many years at this site. This fishing and boating access site is free of charge for users.

Unfortunately, there have been many challenges with managing the campground. For instance, it has been routine for folks to overstay the camping limit and leave excessive amounts of garbage behind. Even worse, illegal activity has become more common and presents a safety risk for other users.

Offering camping opportunity for the public is something that Idaho Fish and Game values and has tried hard to maintain. However, the increased level law enforcement and cleanup required at this site is not sustainable. Thus, we have closed this site to overnight camping and made it a day use only site. Providing a clean and safe place for folks to enjoy fishing and boating is our priority. We are disappointed with the lost opportunity for campers, but we are hopeful that day users have a better and safer experience when visiting Cocolalla Lake.

We recently installed docks at the boat ramp for the season and graded the parking lot. We also were able to increase the number of rainbow trout that will be stocked in Cocolalla Lake this year. Good fishing opportunity exists for a variety of species, such as rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, brown trout, brook trout, yellow perch, and channel catfish. Spring is here, so get out and enjoy the fishing!



Inspection Stations Intercept Mussels Headed for NW Waterways

Added stations, extended hours find more boats transporting irrigation system-damaging mussels.

By Brad Carlson Capital Press ~ Published on May 24, 2018 7:53AM

ISDA

Watercraft inspection stations along Idaho and Oregon highways likely will be busier than ever this year.

Crews at the stations target invasive species such as non-native weeds and mussels that damage irrigation works, power generation equipment and other water system infrastructure while degrading water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

Inspectors are especially concerned about keeping quagga and zebra mussels — documented in some neighboring states — out of the Northwest. All watercraft, motorized and non-motorized, are inspected.

Through mid-May, Idaho stations had found **22** mussel-fouled craft compared to **31** in all of 2017. Lloyd Knight, Idaho State Department of Agriculture plant industries division administrator, said he expects the number of inspections to increase in 2018 from last year's 93,083 because the network of stations added capacity.

Idaho has 20 stations plus three roving crews. The state in the last two years added three stations, including one that is open 24 hours, and extended the operating hours at three others. Knight said the 2017 data does not include two stations open this year: North Fork, north of Salmon on U.S. 93, and on U.S. 12 near Kooskia.

High-use stations include U.S. 93 in Idaho north of Jackpot, Nev.; Malad on Interstate 15 and Cedars on I-90 east of Coeur d'Alene, he said.

"We want to make sure all (watercraft) are clean, drained and dry even if they are headed through Idaho to another state or province," Knight said.

Idaho inspectors offer voluntary hot washes but note any refusals. A watercraft can be held up, and decontamination required, in cases where viable live mussels are found but a wash is refused, he said.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Invasive Species Coordinator Rick Boatner said state inspections found two mussel-transporting boats on the May 11-13 weekend, bringing the year-to-date total to six. Northwest waters currently do not have quagga or zebra mussels, he said.

In addition to damaging and blocking irrigation facilities, they're damaging to the environment partly because they consume food that smaller fish and invertebrates need to survive, he said.

Quagga and Zebra Mussels can stay alive out of water for up to 20 days!

Scientists offer Six-Figure Prize to help stop Invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels

New creative but more high tech techniques may finally be turning the tide in the fight against invasive species. (April 28) AP



BOISE, Idaho (AP)

The invasive quagga and zebra mussels have a \$100,000 bounty on their "heads."

The U.S. government is offering the six-figure prize for the best suggestion on how to stop their relentless and destructive spread because scientists say they are stumped. "We might as well give it a try," said Sherri Pucherelli, a biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. "Open water. That's really where the challenge is. Nothing has been developed right now that causes complete eradication in a large water body."

The filter-feeders that syphon in water to pluck out microscopic organisms can throw food chains out of balance, and their sheer numbers in attaching to surfaces can clog pipes at reservoirs and damage boat motors. Giant water bodies turning aquamarine blue is a sign that the base of the food chain is being depleted, risking starvation for other species, including sport fish. BY: Keith Ridler, Associated Press Published 12:37 p.m. PT Feb.19, 2018

Buying or selling lake front property with a dock?

Contact IDL to assure the dock is compliant and the permit is in the name of the current owner. To assign a permit, submit an assignment form, proof of transfer of upland ownership, and \$150 processing fee.

Guests This Summer?

Renting Out Your Home?

Please ensure everyone is aware of Safe Boating Practices and Responsibilities!



