Priest Lake Project

Priest Lake Management Plan

Idaho Department
of Health and Welfare

Division of
Environmental Quality

Priest Lake
Planning Team

November 1995

Priest Lake Management Plan Action Items

The lake plan is comprised of eight general lake issue topics, along with an implementation topic, each with specific management action items. As a guideline for implementation, a priority ranking has been assigned to the action items as follows:

1 = Immediate implementation 2 = Action needed following implementation of priority 1 items
3 = Action needed - not as imperative as priorities 1 and 2.

Each action item has been assigned a Lead; public agencies and/or private interests that would oversee and accomplish the implementation of an action item. For those action items that may require enforcement considerations, the lead agency for enforcement is identified as Enf = Lead. The last column identifies agencies and/or private interests from which funding for implementation will be sought.

Timberland and Associated Roads	Priority	Lead	Funding Sources
1. Implement pre-operational inspections for all proposed timber harvests and related road construction in the Priest Lake watershed which have the potential for sediment delivery to watershed streams.	1	IDL	IDL
2. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) should foster better compliance with the Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act (SCPA). Accomplish this by streamlining the stream alteration permit process, making the application procedure less time consuming and easier to complete.	2	IDWR, ACOE	IDWR, ACOE
3. Encourage the IDWR to administer and enforce the SCPA for stream crossings and other applicable stream alteration proposals more aggressively. This should be accomplished in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, IDL, Idaho Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies. Develop well-engineered stream crossing and stream alteration Best Management Practices (BMPs) that provide a high level of water quality protection from road sediments.	1	IDWR, ACOE, IDL Enf = IDWR	IDWR, ACOE, IDL
4. Promote public Information and Education (I&E) programs aimed at forest land management including landowners, loggers, purchasers, etc.	1	PLPM-DEQ, IDL, USFS	PLMP-DEQ, IDL, USFS
5. To assure compliance with the Idaho Forest Practice Act (FPA), and to reduce nutrient and sediment delivery to Priest Lake and its tributaries, agencies with road management responsibilities need to focus budget efforts on securing the necessary funding to meet present and future needs on all basin forest roads. As water quality needs and existing budgets allow, "excess" roads will be appropriately closed by the responsible land agencies.	1	IDL, USFS	IDL, USFS

Hazardous Materials (HM) and Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs)	Priority	Lead	Funding Sources
1. The project manager shall provide for monitoring and implementation of the HM, USTs and ASTs Action Items and BMPs, in this management plan.	2	PLPM-DEQ, DEQ-REM	PLMP-DEQ, DEQ-REM
2. The project manager shall assist Bonner County by identifying Aquifer Sensitive Areas and Lake Sensitive Areas, and in the development of comprehensive plan goals, objectives and ordinances relating to planning and development.	1	County, PLPM-DEQ	County, PLMP-DEQ
3. Require secondary containment of all new USTs, ASTS, and piping in the Priest Lake watershed. Leak detection systems for USTs will be required.	1	DEQ-REM County Enf = DEQ-REM	Private, County, DEQ-REM
4. No UST or AST larger than 20,000 gallons will be permitted in the Priest Lake watershed.	2	DEQ-REM Enf = DEQ-REM	DEQ-REM
5. Secondary containment of commercial motor vehicle pump stations, and fueling areas shall be required within a 2 mile perimeter of Priest Lake, over Aquifer Sensitive Areas, or within 100 feet of any surface water of, or flowing into, Priest Lake or its tributaries. Any existing motor vehicle pump islands or fueling areas shall have 3 years from the date of enactment of this management plan to comply with this action. All new construction shall comply at the time of construction.	2	DEQ-REM County Enf = DEQ-REM	Private, County, DEQ-REM
6. The project manager shall coordinate an inventory of existing UST and AST tanks in the Priest Lake watershed and assist owners with compliance and planning.	3	PLPM-DEQ, DEQ-REM	PLMP-DEQ, DEQ-REM
7. Conduct a public I&E program (focusing on assisting commercial projects with compliance) regarding HM, USTs, and ASTs.	2	PLPM-DEQ, DEQ-REM, County, EPA	PLMP-DEQ, County, EPA
8. To build awareness of water quality protection, the project manager shall conduct public I&E programs on: hazardous materials, solvents, paints and stains; and on herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, and alternate methods which could avoid their use.	3	PLPM-DEQ, DEQ-REM, DEQ-M&TS	PLMP-DEQ, Federal
9. There shall be no point source discharge of pollutants into Priest Lake or its tributaries.	2	DEQ-P&C, EPA Enf = DEQ-P&C	DEQ-P&C

HM, USTs and ASTs continued	Priority	Lead	Funding Sources
10. Road dust abatement materials shall be applied only according to current DEQ and county guidelines covering approved materials and methods of application.	3	DEQ-REM, County, Private Enf = DEQ-REM	DEQ-REM, County, Private
11. The use of arsenic-treated, creosote-treated, or Penta-treated lumber in or over the surface waters of the Priest Lake watershed shall be prohibited.	1	IDL, DEQ-M&TS, DEQ-P&C Enf = IDL, DEQ-M&TS	IDL, DEQ Private
12. The sale or use of detergents and soaps in the Priest Lake watershed that contain phosphates shall be prohibited.	3	DEQ-M&TS, County Enf=DEQ-M&TS	DEQ, County, Private

Notes and Explanations:

Item 2. Aquifer sensitive areas are being identified through groundwater studies of the PLP, and a groundwater atlas developed through contract with the UofI. Lake sensitive areas would include bays where lake water is extracted for potable purposes. This is quite common around Priest Lake.

Item 3. Secondary containment is a method to assure that leaks or ruptures of storage tanks do not contaminate ground or surface waters. A typical example is a doubled walled fiberglass tank. Secondary containment of new installations is not a federal regulation, but it is a Kootenai County requirement. Leak detection systems will be a federal requirement by 1988.

Item 5. Secondary containment of fueling areas requires the construction of a system to collect, hold, and treat fuel spills. Such containment is required by Kootenai County over the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

Item 6. DEQ currently has an inventory of regulated storage tanks (over 1,100 gallons) for the Priest Lake area. To assess the potential impact to ground and surface waters in the basin, efforts would be made to expand the inventory to include exempt tanks (less than 1,100 gallons) and non-compliance regulated tanks. It is known that there are many private underground and above ground tanks less than 1,100 gallons used to supply fuel for boats. A rupture of such tanks could threatened drinking water wells supplies, and impact the environment.