

## Elaine Maneck

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**From:** Kayleen Richter <KRichter@idl.idaho.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 3:13 PM  
**To:** Elaine Maneck  
**Subject:** Kootenai County Sheriff Comments on (FW: IDL)

Hi Elaine,

I'm not sure whether anyone from IDL has forwarded the below comments to you for inclusion in the record for IDL Case No. PH-2026-NAV-22-003 / OAH Case No. 26-320-05. Since the hearing is tonight, I figured it would be quicker if I just sent you a copy rather than routing through staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from me!

Best,



**Kayleen Richter**  
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**From:** Mike Ahmer <mahmer@idl.idaho.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2026 9:25 AM  
**To:** Kayleen Richter <KRichter@idl.idaho.gov>; Marde Mensinger <MMensinger@idl.idaho.gov>; Rachel King <RKing@idl.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: IDL

fyi

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**From:** Christopher Fresh <[cfresh@kcgov.us](mailto:cfresh@kcgov.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 4:06 PM  
**To:** Mike Ahmer <[mahmer@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mahmer@idl.idaho.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IDL

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Mike, here is the memo that I drafted up to address the issue. Do you need that on letterhead or will this work?

## Public Comment – Navigable Waterway Concerns

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office does not support any project that would reduce the navigable width of the waterway in an already narrow section of the river.

This stretch of river is actively used by a variety of vessels, and maintaining adequate space for safe navigation is critical. Constricting the channel increases the likelihood of congestion, reduces maneuverability, and elevates the risk of collisions and other safety hazards—particularly during periods of high recreational use or emergency response.

Additionally, narrowing the waterway may trigger no wake restrictions under existing county ordinances, which would further limit how the public can use and enjoy this area.

From a public safety and enforcement perspective, preserving the full navigable width is essential to ensure boaters can operate safely and responsibly, and that emergency vessels retain the access and space necessary to respond effectively.

For these reasons, KCSO would not support any proposal that further narrows this portion of the waterway.

**From:** Mike Ahmer <[mahmer@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mahmer@idl.idaho.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2026 1:35 PM

**To:** Christopher Fresh <[cfresh@kcgov.us](mailto:cfresh@kcgov.us)>

**Subject:** IDL

Here is a quick screenshot from KC Earth showing the distances from shore to piling or encroachments across the river from the proposed community dock system. If you look around the Spokane River on the 2025 aerial image that is being used, you can tell the water is lower than the summer pool elevation (2128'). Meaning the water in the aerial image actually needs to come up more to accurately reflect the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) where the docks will originate from. Each of the 4 docks are different in their proposed lengths, starting at the far west moving southeast, the docks would be 40' long, 36' long, 56' long, and 70' long. So you would need to subtract those dock lengths from the distances below to see how much space would remain if the docks were to be approved.

As noted on the phone, some of the measurements are to old remnant piling from the logging days that could be removed. As we discussed, some of those piling are a hazard to navigation and don't serve a purpose anymore. The log boom protecting the swimming areas at Atlas Mill park are permitted encroachments that serve the public, so those appear to be more locked in place.

When I did my measurements, I zoomed into the south shore as best I could to try and determine where the OHWM was and then measured out to the north until I could see the shadows of pilings or the log boom. Also, I reviewed the application materials to try and determine where the proposed docks would be located on each parcel.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.



**Mike Ahmer**  
**Resource Supervisor – Navigable Waters**  
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