



United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Coeur d'Alene Field Office
 3815 Schreiber Way
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815
<http://blm.gov/id>



Amidy Fuson
 Lands Resource Specialist Sr.
 Idaho Department of Lands
 Mica Supervisory Area
 3258 W. Industrial Loop
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

MAY - 6 2020

Dear Ms. Fuson:

Thank you for sending a courtesy notification to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding North Idaho Maritime's (NIM) Application for Encroachment, ERL95S1378B. The BLM does manage the public land directly to the west of NIM's proposed lakefront commercial operation. The BLM operates the Mineral Ridge Boat Launch, a very popular recreational public boat launch facility on the adjacent public land.

The BLM has been informed by numerous members of the public as well as by Mr. John Condon, owner of NIM, of the proposal to develop and conduct commercial operations on the adjacent parcel. We have been asked to submit comments regarding the pros and cons of this proposal; however, due to our limited jurisdiction, our comments only address the issues where BLM has responsibility.

Mineral Ridge Boat Launch is a very popular recreational public boat launch on a heavily traveled state highway. The boat launch was designed and constructed as a recreational boat launch for public use. The BLM must continue to provide the public the opportunity to safely launch and recover recreational boats at this site and public safety for recreational boaters is a concern at Mineral Ridge. It is due to that concern that our comments are primarily from a public safety perspective.

It is our understanding that if NIM's application were to be approved, there would be commercial heavy truck traffic generated from this operation and that the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has limited heavy trucks to right turns only from NIM's property. Mr. Condon has stated that he would like to use Mineral Ridge Boat Launch as a turnaround for those heavy trucks. The safety issues resulting from such heavy truck traffic is a critical issue that must be addressed should this encroachment permit be approved, and the property subsequently developed as proposed.

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BLM is concerned about the expected increase in commercial/industrial boating traffic on Lake Coeur d'Alene resulting from the proposed development of NIM's property. Currently, Wolf Lodge Bay is almost exclusively utilized by recreational boating pursuits (e.g. fishing, sight-seeing, skiing, wildlife viewing, etc.). Commercial usage in Wolf Lodge Bay during the peak recreational season will provide the recreational public additional impediments to safely enjoy their pursuits on the lake.

BLM is not opposed to commercial activities. In fact, as a multiple use land management agency, the commercial use of our public lands in a wise and thoughtful manner is part of our mission. To also provide safe access to public lands and waterways for the recreating public is also part of our mission. I do hope our comments are helpful in your deliberations of this application.

Sincerely,



Kurt Pavlat
Field Manager

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