

2725 W. Carder Ln.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
July 20, 2020
208-651-6484

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

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

Dear Ms. Fuson,

I am writing to object to North Idaho Maritime/John Condon's application for a Commercial Navigational Encroachment Permit on Wolf Lodge Bay (ERL 95S1378B). Please enter my comments into the public record.

The remaining natural attributes of Lake Coeur d'Alene need preservation. Virtually all the lake's bays are surrounded by homes and occupied by docks and accompanying boat traffic. This is not the case in Cougar Bay and Wolf Lodge Bay. Cougar Bay's shoreline is permanently barred from further development and, except at its mouth, the bay's water provides undisturbed wildlife and fish habitat. Wolf Lodge Bay's shore and waters are also largely undeveloped, but this undeveloped condition is more precarious. A commercial dock and associated work area will permanently damage Wolf Lodge Bay's fish habitat, public recreation assets, and the local tourist economy that depends on returning bald eagles.

I have nothing against the operation of a commercial dock, but this is the wrong area to locate a commercial dock building and storage facility for a number of reasons.

First, Wolf Lodge Bay's shallow water provides undisturbed salmon spawning beds. These spawning areas will disappear when propellers, barge scouring and other traffic stir them into suspension. This negative effect will be compounded by the disturbance of heavy-metal contaminated sediment.

Moreover, in reality this so-called "commercial" operation is really an industrial operation with its accompanying noise and use of heavy equipment and petroleum products. What is going to prevent petroleum and other waste from entering public water?

If built, this operation will permanently occupy the end of Wolf Lodge Bay and in effect impound public water and lake bed for private use. I believe the Idaho Department of Lands has an obligation to protect the lake for general public use under Idaho's Public Trust Doctrine.

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RE: ERL 95S1378B
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Second, recreation opportunities will be permanently diminished. Fishing in this "commercial" area will be barred and the bay's fishery jeopardized due to spawning bed destruction. Wildlife will avoid the area because of noise and activity. Bird activity and bird watching will plummet.

Finally, this project threatens the local economy. When you disturb spawning beds, young fish are not born. The number of adult fish declines. With this decline, bald eagles will disappear. When they disappear, tourists will not come to Wolf Lodge Bay to observe them. When this happens, local businesses will lose a significant amount of money which they have come to depend on. It turns out that preserving Lake Coeur d'Alene's natural attributes provides a dependable economic windfall.

This widespread local economic benefit should not be sacrificed by granting a permit for a commercial encroachment into the publicly owned water and lakebed of Wolf Lodge Bay.

I ask you to deny a Commercial Navigational Encroachment Permit to North Idaho Maritime/John Condon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Theresa Shaffer

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