



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **ROBERT B. NORRIS**

UNDERSHERIFF **BRETT A. NELSON**

July 31, 2025

Idaho Department of Lands
Attn: Mike Ahmer and Amidy Fuson
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Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
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This letter is being submitted to oppose the community docks at Rivers Edge on the Spokane River. The Spokane River has been congested for many years; the addition of these docks will increase the risk of injury and/or death to users and impact all recreators of the Spokane River. This will likely cause this portion of the river to ultimately become a 'no wake zone'.

Active portions of the river, being as narrow and shallow as they are, can be unsafe for boaters passing through. There are many obstructions in the waterways that boaters have to be mindful of and some that become additional hazards. These include animals, dead heads (floating logs), other debris, kayaks, paddleboards, water toys, and swimmers. These obstructions, coupled with tubers, skiers, and surfers in the same area with the additional boat docks, will force boaters closer to the center of the river. This would result in this area being reduced to only allow one vessel to pass to avoid a collision. Since there is no ordinance preventing towing on the Spokane River, no more community docks should be allowed to be constructed, unless already part of a 'no wake zone'.

Previously this year, Marina 33 (formerly Templins Resort and Marina) was granted an application for in excess of 100 new boat slips. The Sheriff's Office did not object to this application. Marina 33 is in an existing 'No Wake Zone' that is located at a wider (most of the marina is in wider section) section of river. River's Edge is in an active wake zone at a narrower section of the river.

Another previous dock/marina approval over the past few years was inside the 'no wake zone' of the Spokane River to the east of the Highway 95 bridge commonly referred to as the Harbor Center. This too was not opposed as it was within the 'no wake zone'. What was not known at the time was who the tenants would be and what their potential impact on the river would be. Both tenants of the Harbor Center are rental companies of which many of their clients lack boating education, especially an understanding and knowledge of local laws and ordinances pertaining to the narrower tributaries of the area. Marine Patrol units commonly stop vessels, educate occupants, and enforce laws on rental boats and personal watercraft along the Spokane River. This is just another hazard we are faced with on this narrow passage of the river.

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For the safety of the existing boaters and other recreators within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office, we adamantly oppose the addition of this community dock project.

Respectfully,



Robert B. Norris
Sheriff