

Kootenai Environmental Alliance Fact Sheet

Blackwell Island Marina Expansion

The Proposal

Marina Yacht Club, LLC (a Hagadone company) is proposing a major renovation and expansion of the Blackwell Island Marina, located just off of the Hwy 95 Bridge across the Spokane River. The project proposes a renovated and re-located fuel station, a large boat-lift facility, and additional slip capacity for more boats, for larger boats and for jet skis. The re-construction of the facility will also deepen the channel. To do so, the marina will be de-watered in stages, and the bottom sediments -- many of which are highly toxic -- will be removed and stored permanently in containment facilities on the Island. The project is scheduled to take up to six years to complete.

The Environmental Concerns

The safe removal and permanent storage of toxic sediments from the marina's basin is a difficult and risky endeavor. The applicant is proposing to permanently store this material on the Island, in the floodplain adjacent to the Spokane River and downtown Coeur d'Alene.

- Sediments containing elevated levels of heavy metals should be stored in a suitable location. Without more protections and better monitoring, it isn't clear that disturbing heavily contaminated lake bottom sediments and dumping them in a flood plain is sufficiently safe as a permanent disposal solution.
- Independent monitoring and oversight of all phases of the project is needed to assure not only permit compliance, but the long-term safety and reliability of the proposal.
- If contaminated sediments ARE allowed to be stored on the Island, strict long-term controls are required, including water quality monitoring, engineering inspection, and deed restrictions.

Public Safety and Access Concerns

The proposal would further privatize the Lake's surface by approximately four acres, extending the marina to build large docks to accommodate 50 to 60 foot yachts.

- Congestion will be created when large boats travel to and from the marina's fuel depot and boat lift facilities located at the northern end, affecting not only motorized craft but people canoeing and kayaking from the BLM Recreation Site through the marina to the lake and back. The facility should include a segregated 15-foot wide paddlers' lane to provide safe passage through the 70-foot wide fairway by all motorized and non-motorized boats.
- The public should be compensated for the privatization of Lake resources with additional access

What You Can Do:

The Idaho Department of Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are taking comments on the proposal at a public hearing, June 4th, 6pm, at the Department of Lands offices, 3780 Industrial Ave. in Coeur d'Alene. The Corps of Engineers has extended its deadline for written comments until June 15.

- attend the public hearing June 4th to express your concerns
- send comments to be received by June 15th at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District Regulatory Office, 210 N. Third Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362
- for more info and updates, contact us in the office or check our website at www.kealliance.org