



Spirit Lake Report

Periodic Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION** • March, 2019 • Vol.4

SLPOA Mission: *To develop the capacity within our community to provide a sustainable lake habitat that will allow all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal North Idaho experience.*

Spirit Lake Dam/Weir Project UPDATE *by: Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Member*

Halfway to our goal with \$20,252.00 in donations to date.

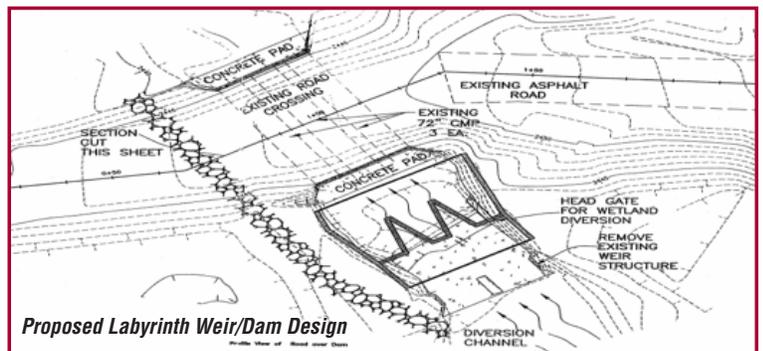
As of March 15th we had received \$18,520 in donations for the “Dam Replacement Project”. In the last week we received a generous \$2,000 donation from one of our members which brings us to \$20,520, over half the expected \$35,000 needed to make this water control project “Shovel Ready”. Thanks to these donations, Tate Engineering has now been contracted to complete the engineering phase of this project.

The scope of their services will include:

- Review existing plans.
- Detailed concrete structure plans.
- Diversion channel & temporary dam designs (*contingencies needed for the permitting process*)
- Final weir calculations for water flow.
- Total construction estimate.
- Construction site staking.
- Construction review (4 trips to site)

The next phase towards “Shovel Ready” will be acquiring permits and we are planning on again hiring Tate Engineering to perform and/or assist in this process, since they are experienced and have good relationships with the required Governmental Permitting Agencies.

“Thank you to all that have donated.”



If you have not donated yet, please give as much as you can and as soon as you can....Remember:

“WIIFM (what’s in it for me)”... There’s a lot in it for you!

This project is desperately needed to safely and precisely control our high water level to provide the maximum recreational season, improve the fishery and retain future property values.

Please Donate Today! ...make checks payable to:

SLPOA-Dam Project

P.O. Box 363

(501c3 Tax Deductable)

Spirit Lake, ID 83869

...or donate online at: friendsofspiritlake.com

Lake Update and Fishing Report

by: Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board Member

It’s been an interesting winter at the lake. After a warm fall, the lake finally iced over in late January-much later than usual. February brought 41 inches of snow and very cold temperatures. The solid ice brought many ice fishers out, but they report that the kokanee are not biting as consistently as in recent years. Those with fish finders say that the silvers are not schooled up as in past years, and they are marking many larger fish. The larger fish are the fall chinook salmon which Idaho Fish and Game planted over the last 3 years. A few were caught which were over the 20 inch minimum keeper limit, but most were 16 to 18 inches and had to be returned to the lake.

Angler reaction has been mixed. Many don’t like the slower fishing, but all do appreciate the fact that most of the kokanees are about 10 inches long this winter and should be 11 or 12 inches by late summer. It looks like the Chinook planting project is working just as planned by Fish and Game

The few anglers who concentrate on trout are having an average year and catching 12 to 18 inch trout off Fish Creek (Bronze Bay) and Brick Creek.

Lake level is within normal range for this time of year and the lake should fill completely after the snow melts. That is not as certain as it may seem, given all the snow. The snow was almost all very light and dry. The moisture content (snow water equivalent-SWE) at the Mt. Spokane snow tel station was about 99 percent of normal. A very slow melt with water seeping into the soil rather than into the small feeder creeks could result in very little water over the top of the weir at the outlet



Spirit Lake War on Milfoil

by: Doug Freeland, Ace Diving and SLPOA Board Member



As we all know Spirit Lake has been infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil for at least the past 20 years. For the most part this infestation has been under control for at least 5 years. Very little milfoil has been removed due to two major factors. 1, There isn't very much milfoil in the lake. 2, The milfoil is getting increasingly difficult to find. The known milfoil is primarily found in areas of the lake where there is heavy growth of native plant life. The milfoil grows for nearly 2 years before it emerges through the native plants and is discovered and removed. In this 2 year period it frags out a couple of times and starts new plants under the native plants.

These facts are the primary reasons milfoil is virtually impossible to completely eradicate, so we opt for a "very well controlled infestation of milfoil". This is the present status of our infestation. Over the previous 5 years only a few pounds (about 15 pounds per year) of milfoil have been removed. Last season, however, was a little different. We finally had good visibility in late September when the milfoil becomes the most visible. This allowed us to search out and find nearly 50 pounds of milfoil in 2018.

We continue to feel very confident that the infestation is well under control. The Department of Agriculture even did a lake survey for milfoil in October 2018 with another "no findings" results for milfoil growth. These findings will allow us to continue our milfoil control plan as is. All lake users need to continue to be diligent in looking for more growth of milfoil. Please do your homework. Know what milfoil looks like and let us (SLPOA) know if you think you have seen any in our lake.

Friends of Spirit lake

Spirit Lake Property Owners Association
PO Box 363
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Help Us Fund The Spirit Lake Dam Project by Making a Donation at: www.friendsofspiritlake.com

Brickel Creek - Our Final Grant Report

by: Karen Winston, SLPOA President

The Brickel Creek project is complete, and we will wait for spring to reap the benefits of our labors. The grant for our work on the Brickel Creek project came from Innovia, formerly Inland Northwest Community Foundation. They have been wonderful to work with and thanks to them we were able to save \$1233.18 in expenses that we would have needed to draw from our general funds. Thanks also to Jerry Peterson for getting us the best deal on materials and labor for this project. This project was a labor intense one that could only be accomplished at a certain time of the year – namely in the fall. We had a number of dedicated volunteers from our board and others who worked hard to accomplish the plantings. Thank you to all of them. A special thank you to Karen Cowan for writing the grant initially and then doing all of the follow-up reports. She also scheduled plantings and so many other parts of this project. It could not have been a successful venture without her hard work. The Grants Project Assistant, Alicia Heiser, wrote...*thanks for taking the time to put together such a detailed final report. I enjoyed reading about how the Brickel Creek Improvement Project went!*"

SLPOA LAKE CLEAN UP - Saturday, May 18th, 9:00 am to 3pm at the Public Access

In an effort to maintain a safe and beautiful lake for all to enjoy "The Friends of Spirit Lake" have scheduled a lake cleanup. Property owners will be responsible for arranging for the towing any old docks, logs and other unsightly and dangerous floating items to the North side of the Public Access (next to the causeway behind the Rec. Center) for proper disposal.

There is no cost to the Property Owners for the disposal of docks (deconstructed), dead heads and other wood debris. There will be a fee for full docks and large platforms that need to be deconstructed or are larger than 150 square feet. We cannot accept any dock foam, float barrels or other non-wood items. *Additional information is available at our web site and donations to the SLPOA are always welcome at... friendsofspiritlake.com ...or email us at: spiritlakePOA@gmail.com*