

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.*

Conservation Spotlight

Ospreys feed on live fish and are commonly seen soaring over rivers and waterways or standing on huge nests. Like most raptors, Ospreys are facing several human-caused threats that can increase mortality, reduce reproduction, and jeopardize long-term population health.

One such threat is the result of Osprey's bad habit of collecting baling twine and fishing line to adorn their nests, but it often ensnares the birds, killing an estimated 10% of nestlings each year.

Monofilament fishing line is incredibly strong, durable, and long lasting, making it an ideal tool to catch everything from small pan fish to 180-pound halibut. It is estimated that monofilament line takes 600 years to break down once discarded! This means that **monofilament line can cause problems throughout the environment** when it is lost during fishing (e.g., when cutting loose a snagged lure) or improperly discarded overboard—<https://raptorview.org/ospreys/> and <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/animals/2016/07/16/watch-baby-osprey-saved-netting-nest/87138244/>.



Ben Wurst, of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, frees a baby osprey entangled in netting in its nest as the mother osprey flies overhead. The baby was electrocuted a few weeks later. *Bonni Mysza*

When cut, or left in nature, strands of monofilament line can get wrapped around a fish's gills or a bird's beak and cause amputation, or even death. Balls of tangled strands and smaller clipping of lines, by contrast, can be consumed by a variety of animals, taking up valuable space in the stomach and limiting intake of food. In time, monofilament blockages lead to malnutrition, weakness, and even death.

Fishing line can also be hazardous to people recreating in and around the water. Monofilament fishing line is difficult to see and swimmers and people playing in the water can be tangled or cut by improperly discarded fishing line; fishing line tangled around branches or rocks poses a tripping hazard to people walking along waterways; and fishing line wrapped around the prop shaft of an engine can damage seals and lead to hefty repair bills.

Wildlife entanglement in fishing line is a global concern for animal conservation. However, awareness of the issue, and steps to address the problem, begin at the local level. In early 2013, the Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership identified monofilament entanglement as 1 of the top 5 pressing issues impacting birds in Idaho. The partnership developed an action plan for the issue which called for developing fishing line recovery and recycling programs at key fishing sites in Idaho (<https://idfg.idaho.gov/old-web/docs/media/windowsWildlife/2014Fall.pdf>).

A Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program builds, installs, and maintains monofilament recycling bins throughout Washington State. The program, initiated in 2016, has helped place over 140 recycling receptacles at freshwater and marine fishing locations across the state (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/monofilament-recovery>).

(continues on page 2)

One-click weblinks in this newsletter are in the online version posted on the SLPOA website www.friendsofspiritlake.com

(Conservation Highlight continued from page 1)

What You Can Do:

- **Dispose of lures, bait, and other trash in garbage cans**, and remind others to do the same.
- **Pick up monofilament line that you find and dispose of it in a bin, or a garbage can if a bin is not available.** A little time picking up line and litter could save a life.
- **Report tangled animals immediately.** Find a park ranger or call your regional Department of Fish and Game office to report an entangled animal. IDFG Contact information <https://idfg.idaho.gov/contact>.
- **Replace your monofilament line regularly**, as it can become damaged or brittle over time and have a greater chance of breaking. Switching to biodegradable line instead of monofilament would be a huge step towards eliminating this problem.
- **Volunteer to install, monitor, and/or maintain a bin**, emptying it of line on a monthly basis. Contact your local park or marina to see if they are interested in installing a bin. BoatU.S. Foundation provides information for building and managing fishing line recycling bins (<https://www.boatus.org/reel-in>).



Discarded fishing line at City Boat Launch, West Spirit Lake Road

On another important note, it was recently reported that **THE INVASIVE CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL**



(*Cipangopaludina chinensis*) is on a rapid increase in Spirit Lake. A property owner recently collected over 120 in one day. Doug Freeland, who monitors our lake for invasives, reported a 200% increase in these invasive snails from his count last year.

IF YOU SEE THEM DESTROY THEM! Don't just throw them on the beach. They can live out of water for about 4 days. Check out <https://cdapress.com/news/2025/jan/04/chinese-mystery-snails-carry-into-2025/>

Group Aims to Improve Spirit Lake

There is a powerful new movement taking shape in Spirit Lake—one built on collaboration, local pride, and the voices of the people who call this community home.

Fueled by the positive cooperation of dedicated local nonprofits, the Spirit Lake Community Coalition ([SLCC](#)) has embraced the [Community Heart & Soul®](#) approach, a nationally recognized program designed to strengthen small towns from the inside out. With support and training from the [Innovia Foundation](#), SLCC is implementing this community-driven model to ensure that Spirit Lake's future reflects the hopes, values, and priorities of the people who live here.



The Community Heart & Soul process helps rural communities build deeper connections, celebrate their unique identities, and take meaningful action on what matters most to residents. By listening to stories, engaging all voices (especially those often left out of community conversations), and uncovering shared values, Heart & Soul builds a stronger, more unified foundation for lasting change. In Spirit Lake, this movement is already bringing neighbors together, inspiring ideas, and laying the groundwork for a vibrant and inclusive future—one built by the people, for the people.

For more information or to share your ideas and stories to help shape the future of Spirit Lake, contact SLCC! The SLCC website is <https://www.spiritlakecc.org/home>.

2025 Annual Meeting

CHANGING IT UP

The next SLPOA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2025. It will be held again at Timberlake High School in Spirit Lake.

This year we are planning to try something new. Since our mission is clearly focused on lake and watershed conservation, we have invited some special guests to form a panel discussion about the conservation issues potentially impacting Spirit Lake.

To that end we are asking members to submit questions for the panel to consider. The questions may focus on such things as:

- Brickel Creek restoration and surrounding wetlands
- Sediment accumulation
- Nutrient migration into the lake
- Hazardous algae blooms
- Sealed lake bottom
- Impact of large boat wakes
- Whatever is on your mind about the quality of Spirit Lake



Scan Me

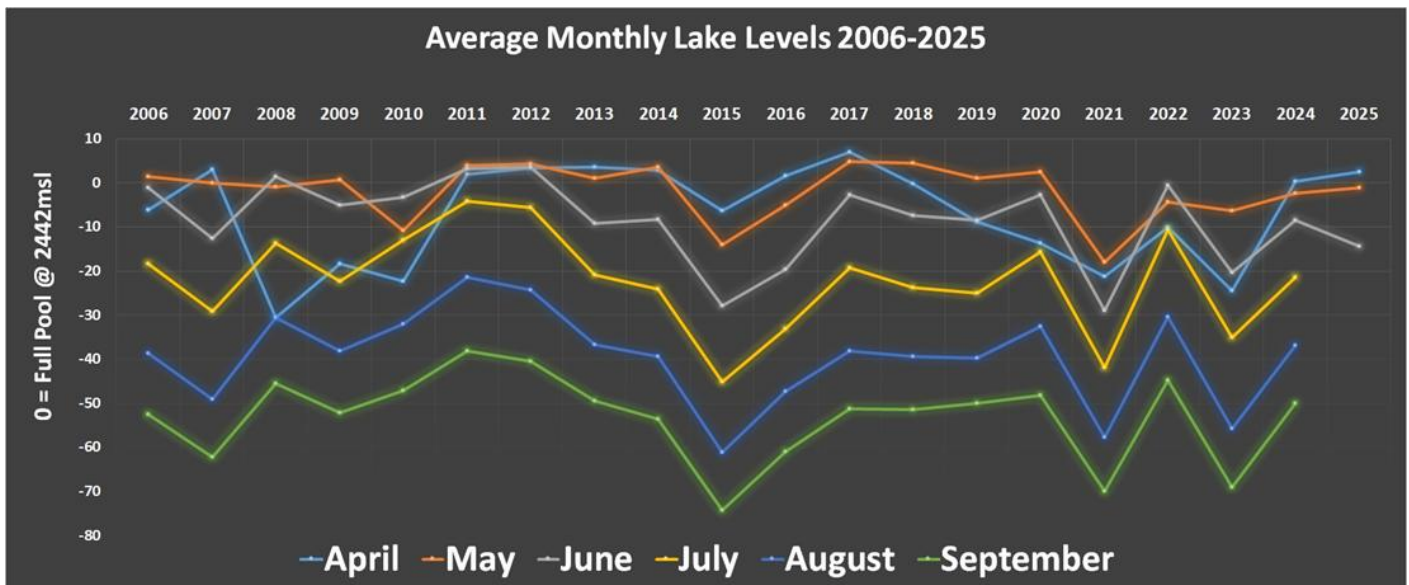


Please submit questions in advance via the website at <https://friendsofspiritlake.com/contact-spirit-lake>. In the interest of time we won't be able to take questions from the floor.

You can also email us at spiritlakepoa@gmail.com. We want to have a gathering that is relevant to you and we plan to have some fun in the process. Of course, we do have business to attend to, as well.

Historic Lake Levels

April & May lake levels are on par with historic averages, but in June the level is slightly below the “curve” for the season. If dry weather persists, we can expect this trend to continue throughout the summer. Watch for shallow water hazards in the later summer and fall. Remember, prop wash increases sediment suspension and disturbs aquatic habitat in shallow waters.





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

2025 Annual Meeting

Annual Members Meeting

August 9, 2025

Timberlake High School

Sign-in and Social 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

General Meeting and Presentations 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Special Panel Discussion

Bickel Creek and Lake Conservation

Business Meeting 11:00 AM – Noon