

The Lake Osoyoos Association has previously over the last six years written and obtained two different Washington Department of Ecology grants totaling \$50,000 to help to eradicate Eurasian Milfoil within the lake's boundary. The LOA has utilized monthly newsletters, posted signage at public boat ramps, created brochures for recreational users, and created a website to inform and educate lakeshore owners and users on a variety of issues concerning the lake.

At this time we are proposing a Lake Management District under (Title 36 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 36.61) to create the funding mechanism necessary to implement ongoing surveying, monitoring of water quality and aquatic invasive weeds and control by creating the Lake Osoyoos Management District.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed aquatic noxious weed that proliferates to form dense mats of vegetation in the littoral zone of lakes and reservoirs. It was introduced in the 1970's into the Okanagan watershed in Canada. It reproduces by fragmentation, and is often spread as fragments that float down and through the watershed or "hitchhike" on boat trailers from one lake to another. Additionally, ski and wake board boats who may go through dense milfoil patches on the lake also fragment the milfoil as does the continuing practice of mechanical harvesting of EWM on the Canadian side of the lake. This all further degrades the ecological integrity of Lake Osoyoos and continues to spread milfoil into dense stands of milfoil that crowd out native aquatic vegetation, which in turn alters predator-prey relationships among fish and other aquatic animals. EWM can also reduce dissolved oxygen – first by inhibiting water mixing in areas where it grows, and then as oxygen is consumed by bacteria during decomposition of dead plant material which creates a negative and unhealthy environment for salmon which come through the lake. Decomposition of EWM also adds nutrients to the water that could contribute to increased algal growth and related water quality problems. Further, dense mats of EWM can increase the water temperature by absorbing sunlight, create mosquito-breeding areas,

and negatively effect recreational activities such as swimming, fishing and boating.

We will never be able to eradicate all milfoil in Lake Osoyoos. At best we can hope to reduce its impact and get to a maintenance phase of reducing Milfoil. The LOA wants to look toward creating a more sustainable funding source for continuing to reclaim the lake from the ravages of Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed which would improve overall water quality, recreational uses, salmon habitat, and improve property values of lake shore residences.

Other lakes in Washington State that are dealing with similar issues have created Lake Management Districts (Title 36 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 36.61). Such a program would create a long term term program that would provide necessary funding for Milfoil and other invasive aquatic weeds eradication throughout the lake for years to come. In addition, such funding would allow the LOA to initiate additional improvements in water quality and sustainability of the lake through public education efforts such as phosphorous reduction, septic maintaince, and lake shore improvements.

As witnessed over the last thirty-two years a variety of influences have started to affect Lake Osoyoos. These include but are not limited to the following: Larger homes replacing smaller cabins which has increased demands on available property boundaries; potential septic system failure now and in coming years; continued mechanical harvesting on the Canadian side of the lake which creates large milfoil fragment pods that drift to the US side of the border that quickly begin laying roots down along the littoral zone along the US side creating dense mats of milfoil.

The Lake Management District's goal would be to control noxious aquatic weeds in Lake Osoyoos in a manner that allows sustainable native plant and animal communities to thrive, maintains acceptable water quality conditions, facilitates recreational enjoyment of the lake and protects the surrounding property values.

The proposed plan includes:

1. Inform and involve the community in each phase of management process;

(a) the nature of the lake improvement district maintenance activities would be to monitor and control Eurasian Milfoil and any other state-listed aquatic and/or riparian noxious weed infestation at the lake using scientific and environmentally safe methods which avoid adverse impacts on humans, fish and wildlife as well as agriculture.

(b) monitor lake water quality in terms water clarity, Oxygen levels, Ph, and temperature. In addition, to educate and advise the community of lake users as to the effects of human actions on the lake's water quality.

(c) special assessments are to be imposed annually for the duration of the LMD in the amount of \$175 for primary lake shore owners and \$75 for secondary owners (those who have access to the lake).

(d) the amount of special assessments proposed to be raised by the LMD is \$240,000 over 5 years.

(e) the proposed duration of the lake management district is five years which includes the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.

3. Review the effectiveness of management actions annually or more frequently if acquired data shows a potential area of concern; and,

4. Adjust the management strategy as necessary to achieve our overall goal based on the previous objectives.

The LOA made up of property owners along Lake Osoyoos who recognize that this is the beginning of this process which may be new for Okanogan County. It is a learning process for us as well.

We want to offer our complete cooperation with this process. Our goal is to create a sustainable mechanism for funding to reclaim the lake from the ravages of invasive aquatic weeds in the lake and to increase the overall water quality of the lake.

This is not our formal resolution at this time but an outline of what our resolution will include. We appreciate your cooperation with this process.