

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2018 Black Lake Update
For Lake Home Owners, Local Watershed Advisory Group,
Area Residents, And Other Interested Parties

Management Year 1 Review (Has Dave been behaving since last year?):

- Remove Vinyl fence
- Manage Water Levels
- Establish public access points, parking, and signage
- Interim Water Quality improvement measures with DEQ
- Environmental assessments and data collection
- Cooperative farming may continue to manage vegetation and property
- Brainstorming restoration opportunities

On 9-13-17 representative staff from DEQ, EPA, CDAT, and IDFG met at IDFG's new Black Lake property to tour it together and share and discuss both short-term and long-term ideas, concerns, and hopes for remedy, restoration, management, and use of the property. IDPR was invited but unable to attend. This is a brief bulleted summary of the tour.

1. Topics addressed for the property included water quality improvement, infra-structure removal and developments, remediation of contaminated soils, restoration of wetland habitats, and public access/recreation on the site.
2. Extremely high spring water and excessive flooding of the fields last spring made access difficult through the summer. An early (late June) blue-green algae bloom lead IDFG to voluntarily turn off the pumps early to help address and not exacerbate water quality issues in Black Lake. Consequently water remained on the fields through the summer and IDFG lost much of its first field season.
3. IDFG has begun removal of both wire fencing that poses an entanglement threat to wildlife and the white vinyl fencing that will interfere with remediation and restoration. IDFG put the group on notice that, now with the cooler fall weather and decreased risk of blue-green algae blooms, it will begin pumping again to facilitate equipment and personnel access for fence removal. IDFG requested DEQ pass this information on to their contacts through the WAG and Lake Home Owners groups.
4. DEQ pointed out that the Kootenai Electric transformers associated with the pumping stations may be an older PCB containing type and encouraged replacement. IDFG followed-up with KEC who conducted a site visit and confirmed these older transformers do NOT contain PCBs.
5. Water quality dominated discussions. IDFG expressed a desire to both actively (pumping) and passively (gravity) pass water directly from the fields to the river instead through Black Lake as one means to reduce impacts to Black Lake. The group was generally supportive of the concept with a few caveat/cautions. It would be important to coordinate with the State/Tribe LMP teams to estimate Lake CDA impacts in the near and long term. Timing could be an issue. As agricultural activities cease (decreasing loads) and wetlands are restored (filtering and uptaking nutrients) water quality is expected to improve. It may be that routing water directly to the river at this time is not advisable but would be acceptable in the future as water quality improves. DEQ committed to taking a closer look at impacts and options and working collaboratively with IDFG on the concept.

6. DEQ recommended installing barley straw hay bale gully plugs in the field's lateral ditches as a short-term BMP to improve water quality until more permanent solutions are developed. IDFG agreed to investigate and pursue implementation of this recommendation. Barley straw has been purchased and implementation of this BMP is being coordinated with DEQ.

7. There is a need to assemble or conduct basic information on the site especially hydrological modeling, better characterization of contaminated soils (depth, extent, and degree), and a basic 1-foot or finer scale topographic survey to facilitate remediation and restoration planning. EPA or its contractors may have some applicable data to share with IDFG. EPA and IDFG will work together to begin filling this data gap.

8. Everyone agreed that public recreation was an important element to consider and facilitate moving forward. It was suggested that IDFG accompany Kathleen Durfee from IDPR and Andy Helkey from PHD on their October Trail Inspection as a good chance discuss both concerns and opportunities. Some ideas included trailside developments that would facilitate and "direct" public access from the trail to the property, and if it would be similarly important to develop trail/riverside access points to the same end.

9. IDFG gave a brief overview of plans to develop some dispersed parking/access points at locations that formerly provided equipment access for ag operations. It also discussed plans to develop a larger central parking area near but before the wooden bridge over the Black Lake outflow. This is envisioned to include a primitive boat launch suitable for canoes, kayaks, and car top boats but not larger power boats and trailers. The group was generally supportive with only a reminder of designing with public health and recontamination in mind. Ensure that the site was clean and could be maintained clean and did not become an attractive nuisance.

10. The group agreed that this was a valuable format to update one another and that perhaps we would convene again in the spring after some additional progress and planning had occurred.

Management Year 2

- Continue agricultural infrastructure removal
- Complete initial public access developments
- Begin Data Collection
- Manage Water Levels and Water Quality Monitoring (DEQ)
- Contingent on \$6.25 million in EPA/RP funding begin Remediation/Restoration Planning and Preliminary Designs. You can Help!

