

April 11, 2024



Mr. Mike Ahmer  
Idaho Department of Lands  
3284 W. Industrial Loop  
Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83835

Dear Mr. Ahmer,

The Hayden Lake Watershed Association is a 501(c)3 organization representing over 300 member families and individuals deeply concerned about the welfare of Hayden Lake and its watershed. We are dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability and scenic beauty of the Hayden Lake Basin. We are particularly concerned about illegal development and building practices that will adversely impact the lake and its aesthetics. We have communicated our observations and concerns to you several times on a variety of issues in the past.


Over the past six months, we have had both phone and email conversations with you about our concerns relating to the construction of what appears to be a living space on the stationary raised dock near the Zimmerman property located at 3270 E. Hayden Lake Rd. You have indicated that this project began as an IDL permitted boat garage. The Association perceives that a permitted "Boat Garage" is a structure used to shelter boats. Since the structure in question is 10-15 feet above the water surface on a stationary dock and has doors that would not admit a boat, it is clear to the Association that instead of a boat garage, the owner is constructing a living unit of some type over lakebed managed by the IDL for the public. In addition, the offending owner appears to have added permanent walkways to the dock, exterior to its perimeter, essentially adding dock square footage beyond that prescribed for private docks.

The Association is deeply concerned that if allowed to stand unchallenged by the state, a precedent will be set, and we will see a proliferation of similar living units constructed over the public's lakebed to the detriment of other lake users. We believe that lakefront owners should be afforded a reasonable dock for boat moorage, for the use and enjoyment of the lake as prescribed in IDL's rules. This owner has clearly deviated from the structure allowed under the permit regulations.

Ignoring this violation sends a message to the larger public that IDL regulations are not uniformly enforced. It will be a serious disappointment to the majority of dock permittees that adhere to IDL regulations.

I have mentioned in previous conversations that I have had several calls regarding this matter from our constituents. Please let us know what IDL's actions will be so that we can plan and communicate accordingly.

Sincerely,

  
Jan G. Wilkins  
President, Hayden Lake Watershed Association  
P.O.Box 3583  
Hayden, ID. 83835