

ODF&W Commission
Mary Wahl, Chairperson
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
Via email at odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

Dear Chair Wahl:

Devils Lake is a public lake located in Lincoln County. It is an integral part of my neighborhood and the communities of Lincoln City, Otis, Neotsu and all of the central coast of Oregon. This beautiful lake needs your help.

Over the last year, the situation in Devils Lake has become dire with the explosive growth of Elodea. In little over a year's time, this invasive weed has covered a significant portion of the lakebed. Given the shallowness of the lake, Elodea is greatly impacting all beneficial uses of Devils Lake, including the migration of native coho salmon into Rock Creek. Native freshwater clam beds have disappeared in some areas of the lake, impacting otters. Limited visibility is impacting the use of Devils Lake as a nesting and feeding ground for bald eagle, osprey, egrets, herons and migratory birds. Many areas of the lake have become unnavigable to boats and unsafe for swimming. This invasive species is likely being introduced into other water bodies throughout the Pacific Northwest through direct transmittal on watercraft.

The Devils Lake Water Improvement District (DLWID), which is tasked with maintaining the water quality in Devils Lake, filed with ODF&W in August 2013, an application for an exception under OAR 635-056-0075(1)(a)(O) to allow the restocking of grass carp into Devils Lake. While a multi-pronged approach to eradicating Elodea is necessary, it is the general consensus that the re-introduction of grass carp into Devils Lake is vital to a long-term solution to this problem.

Please acknowledge this catastrophe by directing ODF&W staff to work with DLWID to modify DLWID's pending exception application to set stocking levels appropriate to current situation and to bring this matter before the Commission at its September 15, 2022 meeting. Further delay in addressing DLWID's application will only result in further damage to the unique environment that Devils Lake provides for all users – whether fish, fowl or human. Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Governor Kate Brown, Attn: Constituent Services, 900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047
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