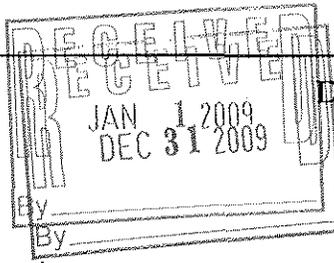




# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mid Coast Fish District Office

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David Hawker  
Lincoln City Manager

December 28, 2009

Dear David

I would like to provide Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) support for the efforts by Lincoln City and the Devils Lake Water Improvement District (DLWID) to address failing septic systems around Devils Lake. This will improve water quality and overall conditions in Devils Lake both for fish and wildlife resources, and the people that use the lake. The lake has numerous resources of interest to ODFW including a unique run of wild coho salmon, and a fishery for stocked trout, as well as habitat for a variety of waterfowl, bald eagles and other wildlife.

Devils Lake suffers from excess nutrients both of natural and anthropogenic origin. These excess nutrients may cause a variety of undesirable outcomes including large scale blooms of toxic microbes that are detrimental to both people and natural resources. The excess nutrients also enhance the re-establishment of exotic macrophytes (Eurasian milfoil and Brazilian elodea) when grass carp are no longer able to suppress these plants. Exotic macrophytes will be especially troublesome in Devils Lake with the addition of the highly available nutrients from failing septic systems. These weeds will reduce recreational use in the lake including fishing, and likely shift the balance in the lake away from native species like coho salmon.

Bringing septic systems up to standards is an essential step in the right direction for Devils Lake. The ODFW recognizes this alone will not solve nutrient issues and associated weed and toxic algae problems in Devils Lake, but it is a key action to bring about long-term improvements in lake conditions. The ODFW commends Lincoln City and the DLWID for leading this effort and offers its full support.

Sincerely

Robert Buckman  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Mid Coast District Fish Biologist