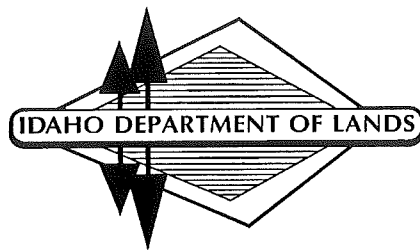


**MICA SUPERVISORY
AREA**
3258 West Industrial Loop
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815
Phone (208) 769-1577
Fax (208) 769-1597



TOM SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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March 28, 2014

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Floating Things on Kootenai County Lakes

Buoys

The Idaho Department of Lands is charged by the Idaho Lake Protection Act, Idaho Code 58-13, to regulate and permit encroachments on all navigable lakes in the State of Idaho. According to the Act, all waterfront property owners have the right to an aid to navigation. Aids to navigation include piers, docks, boat lifts and **a single mooring buoy** per upland ownership. Mooring buoys in Kootenai County are required to be U.S. Coast Guard approved and are a white background with a blue stripe. It is important to note the permitting process for a mooring buoy is the same the permitting process for a dock. These mooring buoys **cannot** be installed out past the existing dock line.

The counties are charged to regulate boating safety. Boating safety includes navigational buoys. The Department of Lands will only accept navigational buoy applications from Kootenai County. An example of navigational buoys include: hazard buoys, channel markers and no wake zone buoys.

Toys and Floaties

Idaho currently has no specific laws pertaining to toys and other floaties except when they become hazards to navigation. Toys and floaties are things like trampolines, floating islands, cubes and the like. However, you should check with the Kootenai County Sheriff Marine Division to inquire if they have rules regarding these structures.

The Department of Lands, and most likely the county, hope people use common sense with these devices so no one gets injured. The Department strongly recommends that these devices only be out past the docks when they are being used, are brought in and securely tied to a fixed structure so as not to get blown away when not being used and especially not left out past the docks at night. Some of these devices could cause significant damage to a boat if a collision with one were to occur.

The Idaho Department of Lands would be happy to answer any questions regarding any encroachment on the lake.

If you have further questions, please contact :

Jim Brady, Resource Supervisor – Lands & Waterways
(208) 769-1577