

September 21, 2009

To: Kootenai County Commissioners
Subject: BAYVIEW/SCENIC BAY NO WAKE ZONE

My wife and I currently keep our boat at JD's Marina. We have spent almost ten years on Scenic Bay and are quite familiar with the No Wake Zone, its benefits to the community and ramifications when its spirit is violated

As far as the length of time to travel thru the NO WAKE ZONE, we timed ourselves from our slip, located at the extreme end of the NWZ to its end. The total elapsed time was thirteen minutes at idle speed with no wake. Obviously, it would be crazy to change the zone just save 13 minutes. Have we reached a point that we cannot take thirteen minutes out of our hectic lives to enjoy the serenity of Scenic Bay? You can answer this question in the affirmative by maintaining the existing NWZ boundaries and reinstalling the missing buoys.

The issue with the change of the NWZ most likely is because the county wants to save the dollars to replace and maintain the buoys. If cost is the issue, let us come up with a way to raise the dollars necessary; the benefits of the currently defined NWZ and its boundaries for outweigh any potential gained by any restructuring.

Ironically, we were just getting ready to address having the missing buoys replaced. We have spent many weekends at the Vista Bay Marina where we will relocate next spring. It is amazing the number of boaters that speed past Vista Bay headed into Bayview. Due to the faded no wake sign and missing buoys, some boaters have no clue this is a no wake zone. As the waves pound the dock, beach, and any thing in its way, this makes for a very unsafe environment.

Boat wakes as stated in the Northwest boating publication, have a sinister side. When other vessels encounter them, they can hurt people. They can make people angry and they can bring the wrath of law enforcement, for good reason.

The Boat Owners Association of the United States recently looked into the issue of boat wakes by combing through insurance claim case files, where swamping, broken teeth, and back injuries along with other injuries were found.

You avoid injuries to people, damage to docks and the erosion to land by maintaining the current NOW WAKE ZONE as is.

Sincerely,

John and Sandy Beaunax
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho