



Recreational Aviation Foundation

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June LeTarte, Oregon State Marine Board
P.O. Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

Subject: Waldo Lake

Dear Ms LeTarte:

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is a national non-profit organization with supporters in 35 states, including Oregon. The RAF's mission statement is: *The mission of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is to provide leadership, private financial support, and expertise for preserving and enhancing recreational aviation resources on both public and private lands throughout the United States for present and future generations.*

The RAF considers aquatic landing areas and their associated beaching and docking sites to be just as important as terrestrial landing sites. We all know that there are competing uses and values on public lands and waterways. However, as long as the functioning ecosystem is not compromised, all means of access to non-wilderness areas should be given equal consideration.

In the case of Waldo Lake, the lake is over five miles long, has at least four vehicle access sites and is only seven miles from Oregon state highway 58. (see Google Earth for reference). Seaplane pilots should have equal access to these public waters. All users need to be tolerant of each other. The Marine Board should recognize the legitimate use of Waldo Lake by seaplanes.

Because of Waldo Lake's altitude (which decreases aircraft performance), most seaplane operations would only occur during cooler weather, or in the mornings. Landing seaplanes have a low sound signature and take-off sound lasts for but a minute. Seaplanes are not used as "tour boats". If they were, the air-cooled engines would heat up since the aircraft are not designed for prolonged slow speed operation.

Pilots are the most highly trained of all user groups. (Please see the attached information.) In my 5200+ hours of flight time over a span of 50 years, most of which has been in the mountains to recreational landing sites both on land and on the water, I have never had anyone object to my being there.

Public lands managers usually raise the issue of liability. This is a smoke screen. Please see the attached information obtained by the RAF on the liability issue. The RAF has more documentation on file, including state statutes and case law, for your review if desired. There is no reason why our liability research, which focuses on terrestrial landing sites, would not also apply to water landing sites.

The RAF supports the continued use of Waldo Lake by seaplanes.

Sincerely,

Chuck Jarecki