

--- CSPA January eBull-a-Ton ---

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Update on Waldo Lake

CSPA Members and Friends,

As the New Year begins we are still not out of the woods on Waldo Lake. As reported earlier there has been a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Forest Service and State officials, as directed by the Governor, to implement the exact same rule outlawing internal combustion outboards and seaplanes that was overturned in Federal court. In November and December there were two Public Hearings held one in Eugene and one in Bend respectively.

The Eugene Meeting was attended by a majority favoring the rule with only about 5-6 people speaking in support of floatplanes and outboards. Out of the larger group favoring the rule, none actually suggested that they had a problem with seaplanes. Most of the testimony related to pollution fears or an exclusionary point of view where the commenter just didn't want to see or hear outboard motors.

From the report that we have received the Bend meeting had a very different tenor. About 40 people showed up and out of those 40 only 4 supported the rule. After the participants had said their piece it is reported the 2 of those 4 changed their position based on the reasoned comments from the people who opposed the rule.

CSPA has made a request for disclosure of the comments received by the OSMB during the comment period, which closed December 15th. Initially we have learned that there have been nearly 600 comments received by snail mail and email. **Of those, it was reported, that 400 were the same email letter sent over and over – whether by one person or many we don't know.** Those forwarded emails with no personal message get counted as one comment pointing up the importance of the type of comments submitted by you members who put a personal touch on your comments.

The next step in the process will be a meeting by the Marine Board to be held in Portland at the EXPO Center on January 14th. The last word that we had was that they will vote on whether the proposed rule will be adopted or not at that meeting. The agenda hasn't been published yet but Waldo is said to be second on the list. Whether or not public comment will be allowed will be announced the day of the meeting. When the agenda is available we will post it on the website www.c-spa.org The particulars of the meeting are:

January 14, 2010 at 9 AM

Portland Expo Center - Room D 204
2060 N. Marine Drive
Portland, OR 97217

If you can attend please do. It was our show of force that turned the Vancouver City Council around when they were trying to close Vancouver Lake to seaplanes.

During the comment period we were supported in our efforts by both the Seaplane Pilots Association and the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF). Chuck Jerecki, RAF Co-Director and CSPA member wrote a letter to the Governor and Marine Board in support of our position. Apparently Chuck's letter struck a chord since the Governor asked the Executive director to respond on his behalf as opposed to the canned response that the rest of us got. I have attached the letter that he sent to the Marine Board, the letter to the Governor was worded the same. The Seaplane Pilots Association put notifications on their website and we got letters of support from Jim McManus, Executive Director, and other SPA members.

Additionally, on the Waldo front, with the win of the Federal law suit CSPA, as a non profit, is entitled to petition for our attorneys fees to be paid back. We have made this application but have yet to hear any feedback as to whether our request will be granted. In the mean time it is expected that there is another legal battle looming and CSPA would like to be in the forefront in State Court. We expect that we would win but until that time, as you can well imagine, the attorneys don't work for free.

Thanks for all your comment letters and support through your legal fund donations,

Your Board of Directors

www.C-SPA.org

A call to action forwarded from WSPA for you Washington pilots

Hello Everyone,

The following message was forwarded to WSPA by John Dobson, president of the WPA. Please read the following and respond if you can directly to Senator Pflug Pflug.Cheryl@leg.wa.gov and/or forward this to anyone you think can provide her with some good information.

To all WPA members

We received a call for help from Senator Pflug. The issue is an excise tax increase. If you will follow the Senators notes below she is looking for information regarding the impacts to GA.

We are on a short window so let me or John Townsley know your thoughts. I know there will be some duplication but do send us your thoughts. Thank You

John F. Dobson, President

Washington Pilots Association.

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johnsmutny@gmail.com

Hi All,

I write today from an hearing in Olympia where we have just received a report from the Citizens' Commission's review of tax preferences. This is part of the majority party's plan to address the "revenue shortfall" by "closing loopholes." As regards the excise

tax on general aviation, they recommend that the legislature RAISE THOSE FEES TO 1% of value. They see this as a “revenue opportunity.”

I need some help to stop this. Can you get some folks together to present the value of the volunteer work that you all contribute in maintaining the state-owned airfields? The jobs impacted by further assault on general aviation in Washington? Etc....

Thanks,

Cheryl

Cheryl Pflug
State Senator, 5th Legislative District
Ranking Member, Senate Health and Long Term Care
Vice Chair, Republican Caucus

360-786-7608