

Sagle landowners tangling with milfoil

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Sagle

Waterfront landowners at Comback Bay and Fry Creek are meeting Thursday to grapple with the growing problem of milfoil and consider ways of bridling its spread.

The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. at the Sagle Senior Center on Monarch Road. Noxious weed officials from Bonner County have been invited to attend and advise landowners of what can be done to control aquatic weed growth and restore recreational value to Fry Creek and Comeback Bay.

The important thing for now is to gather together as property owners, share ideas, discover the commitment level on the part of all concerned to address the problem, and then find out what can be done at what cost," said organizer Bob Story.

Approximately 50 landowners who live in the affected area recently held an informal meeting where it was agreed the problem has been steadily escalating for the past 10 years. Come late summer, much of the waterway is so choked with weeds it is unusable for boating or fishing. The infestations also present a swimming hazard.

Native and Eurasian milfoils appear to be the main culprits, the landowners say. Although no decisions have been made regarding how to deal with the problem, there is consensus that something needs to be done.

Landowners and other concerned citizens at Cocolalla Lake are meeting at Southside Elementary School on Tuesday to take up the issue of milfoil control. The 7 p.m. meeting is being hosted by the Cocolalla Lake Association.

Noxious weed officials and members of the Idaho Milfoil Task force are slated to give presentations. A question-and-answer session is also planned.

Cary Poston, a member of the Cocolalla Lake Association's milfoil committee, estimates 50-60 acres of the 800-acre lake are infested with Eurasian milfoil.

No decisions have been made regarding how to do battle with the infestations in Cocolalla Lake. Poston said both chemical and non-chemical methods are up for consideration.

The association and the county are identifying grant funding options and the group hopes landowners will be willing to donate some of their own money to the cause.