



PRIEST LAKE'S THOROFARE

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BREAKWATER COMMITTEE

2092 Reeder Bay Road
Nordman, Idaho 83848

Funding for Priest Lake Management Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Governor Otter,

In February of 2015 the Priest Lake Breakwater Committee, as an advisory committee to Bonner County Parks and Recreation, met for the purpose of finding a solution to the deterioration of the Thorofare Breakwater and the resulting difficulties in accessing the Upper Priest Lake. It was obvious that if there was no action taken this rare and valuable recreational asset would end its original purpose of being available to all. The Thorofare provides access for literally thousands every spring, summer and fall. Generations of tourists, locals, and seasonal residents have traveled the Thorofare and consider it an annual pilgrimage demanded by its primitive and serene experience. It would be difficult to find a boat, a canoe or kayak that has not made multiple trips to the Upper Lake. As "Old Faithful" is to Yellowstone Park, our Upper Lake and Thorofare are to Priest Lake and its community.

It was clear to our committee that the loss of this waterway would be a serious blow to our lake's attraction power to tourists as well as the residents. All are here because of the lake! It is what supports the resorts, marinas, docks, contractors, real estate, hotels, motels, grocery stores and gas stations. If the Thorofare becomes impassable to powered watercrafts it diminishes all of the above. With the economic component of waterways for Bonner County being \$35 Million, the Priest Lake contribution to that component would be significantly shrunken should we lose the Thorofare and Upper Lake. It would be a permanent loss never to be recovered.

The Breakwater Committee is made up of 8 Priest Lake volunteers. It consists of a wide cross-section of backgrounds but they all call themselves "Priest Lakers". We have contractors, resort owners, an attorney, an Idaho State employee, a couple of insurance people and all are either residents or summer residents.

The 2015 Committee recognized that the need for repairing or replacing the Breakwater would require meaningful resources beyond what our community could provide but, we could do our

best to demonstrate the critical need to "Save the Thorofare". We decided to initiate a project to get as much financial support as we could from everyone possible. Priest Lake is the home of a very successful Charitable 501 C-3 organization, "Priest Lake People Helping People, Inc." (PLPHL). We partnered with PLPHL who set up a totally segregated account to receive tax deductible donations from any source we could find. All donations were identified individually and should we fail to rescue the Thorofare we would be able to refund their support or redirect it as they choose.

We set up a website, hired a social media manager and began an aggressive approach process including phone and personal solicitation. We have been more successful than we anticipated for the size of our community. To date we have received cash and pledges totaling \$61,841. Our project has pledged \$20,000 to Bonner County as a part of the allocated dredging cost of \$110,000. The incurred expenses of our project has an expense ratio of less than .5%. We have had very nice donations from all of the resorts. We have strong help from a wide range of developments i.e. Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad, The Idaho Forest Group and the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund. Attached is a page from our Facebook page listing both our business and personal supporters.

Our funds will be a small part of what the overall budget that "Saving the Thorofare" requires but, it does vividly demonstrate how important this destination resource is to our entire community. Through our social media and regular updates on our progress we have always promised our supporters that their contributions will be used as part of funding from other sources. We have, since the beginning, kept strict accounting on every individual cash donation and pledge. As one generous local business person commented at the time of their pledge. "We will write the check when we see dirt being moved!" Our committee and every supporter of our project is committed to putting our funds to work to "Save the Thorofare". Hopefully we can be a partner with the State and other resources to preserve access to our jewel, Upper Priest Lake.

Sincerely,

Fred Cox,

Spokesman
208-443-2520

The Breakwater Committee: Ken Hagman, Randy Ramey, Kim Impecoven, Tyler Wilson, Eric Anderson, Craig Hill, Bob Davis, and Fred Cox

cc: Senator Shawn Keough
Representative Sage Dixon
Representative Heather Scott
Idaho Water Resources Board - Chairman Roger Chase



Photo Credit – Tom Weitz

Ron and Mary Taylor, Bob and Amy Adams, Scott Axworthy, Fred and Pecky Cox, Fred (Fritz) and Karla Cox, Lana Cruse, Janet Davis, Roger Gregory, Frank and Barb O'Neill, Ken and Allison Hagman, Lois Hill, Doug and Veronica Tefft, Jodi Haire, Teri Hill, David Helsby, Keith & Heidi Kopf, Craig and Missy Hill, Jon Lehmann, Richard Lyman, Leo Malantis, Robert & Sandra Mansfield, Jamie McLean, Mike and Tracie Szybnski, Dick and Robyn Hay, Edward Naranjo, Bill and Cheryl Papesh, John and Lori Moloney, Valerie Peterson, George Manos, Alicia Barbieri, Kammy and Shyla Gail Cox, Amanda Peterson, Nancy Pool, David and Teri Pool, Alfred Roberg, Lowell and Kathleen Ruen,, Mike and Carol Rydbom, Jim and Patricia Skiffington, Victoria Smith, Allan Songstad, Carrie Songstad, Jacqueline Songstad, Joel & Karen Spencer, Dyck & Nancy Stiles, Scott Strongin, Stephanie Swinehart, Rick and Margie Walther, Kristen Winn, William Wolf, Tom and Eileen Barbieri, Jane and Jim Brausen, Jeff and Kae Johnson, Sonja Rosenthal, Jaz Malone "The Hat Lady", Jack and Irma Robinson, Brent and Doni Anderson Guyer, Marie Duncan, Lisa Thaler, Matt and Joan Howarth, Michael Matthews, Kim and Margie Impecoven, Gail and James Stobie, Julie and Steve Rice, Richard Rogers, Donald Schultz, Ray Koefod, Randy and Lola Ramey, James Perry, Scott and Vicki Jones, Empey and Willis Families.

Let's keep above list growing!



Photo Credit – Tom Weitz

Priest Lake Marina	Ace Hardware Priest River
Blue Diamond Marina	Hill's Resort
Copper Bay Construction	Elkins Resort on Priest Lake
Selkirk Ace Hardware	Eagle Electric
As The Lake Churns	Sundance Community
Huckleberry Bay Company	Idaho Forest Group
Priest River Glass	Tapping Grandmas
Viewpoint Publishing, LLC	Sheri's Home Interiors
Priest Lake Search & Rescue Inc.	Heartland Payments Systems
Smith - Barbieri Progressive Fund	Priest Lake Yacht Club
Huckleberry Bay Yoga Community	Lifestyle Real Estate
The Property Shoppe	
Priest Lake National Forest Cabin Permittees	
Priest Lake Invitational Golf Tournament	
Sandpiper Shores Homeowners Assoc.	
Priest Lake Kaniksu - Coolin Lions Club	

Thank You!

“Save The Thorofare” for all.