

Gardom Lake Planning Process

Public Input - May 14 public meeting and online survey

Background

The Gardom Lake Management planning process began in October 2014. The purpose of the process was to address issues raised by the public at a meeting held in November 2014. The purpose of the May 14, 2015 public meeting was to present the draft Gardom Lake Management Plan that the Gardom Lake Planning Committee (GLPC) had completed over the winter.

The GLPC followed a consensus based decision making process and successfully developed eight goals and related objectives and action items; however, the Committee was unable to come to consensus on the issue of trailered boat access. As a result, the need or lack thereof for trailered boat access was brought to the broader public for feedback. See the Gardom Lake Planning Committee Terms of Reference at www.gardomlakeplan.ca.

Boat access and several related issues were raised at the first public meeting and online survey of the Gardom Lake planning process in November 2014. Issues related to people and recreation recorded at the 2014 Gardom Lake public meeting and online survey include the following:

- noise from firearms, fireworks, snowmobiles and ATVs on ice
- congestion, parking
- lack of facilities (bathrooms)
- garbage/cigarette butts
- lack/location of access points
- lack of boat launches for trailers
- conflict between uses
- dogs on beach
- traffic on lake
- safety in and around parked vehicles on road sides

This formed the precedent for including it in the lake management planning process.

Public Meeting

Approximately 85 people attended the public meeting on the evening of May 14 at the Rancho – Deep Creek Fire Hall. Participants showed up early to set up the chairs and stayed right until the end. The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft Gardom Lake Management Plan and to encourage community members to provide feedback (via feedback form at the meeting or via online survey – both of which asked the same two questions). Mike Simpson, Tracy Thomas, Joy deVos, and Marge Sidney delivered presentations.

Online Survey

An online survey was open from May 4th to 19th to collect public feedback regarding trailered boat access; 411 surveys were completed online, in hardcopy form, and via email. In the survey 51% of the respondents indicated that a safe, trailered boat launch and infrastructure is needed and 49% indicated that it isn't. The comments provided in the survey by respondents gave suggestions regarding lake access, feedback on the draft Plan, and a few misconceptions.

Survey suggestions on lake access combined with previous input from the Gardom Lake Planning Committee have provided the foundation for recommendations in the Gardom Lake Management Plan. The feedback on the draft Plan will be used to draft the final version of the Plan; misconceptions and respective clarifications are listed below.

Misconceptions and clarifications (the latter indicated in parentheses):

- access to Gardom Lake may be restricted or a boat launch closed (**there will be no restriction to lake access**)
- a decision has already been made regarding lake access (**no decisions have been made regarding lake access**)
- boat access was added to the plan unnecessarily (**issues of boat access were raised by members of the public in November 2014**)
- any boat launch improvements would be major and would only serve big motor boats (**the scope of boat launch improvements have not been determined**)
- the CSRD has jurisdiction at Teal Road (**the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction at Teal Road**)
- all motorized boats are currently restricted from the lake (**there is a gas motor restriction in place at Gardom Lake; electric motors are allowed**)
- a planning group is able to provide habitat/species protection (**habitat and species protection is the responsibility and jurisdiction of the provincial and federal governments**)

Next Steps

The input collected from the public will be included in the recommendations around boat access in the Gardom Lake Management Plan. The Plan will be presented to the CSRD and the CSRD Board will determine how to move forward.

Thank you to everyone that provided input to the online survey.