

# Update

NOVEMBER 2009



## What is the Lake Management Plan?

The Lake Management Plan will contain policies and recommendations to guide decision-making by the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) and District of Invermere (DOI) with respect to the future use and development of Lake Windermere. The plan will seek to find a balance among the recreational, social, economic and environmental values associated with the lake. The goal is to develop a Plan that contains policies that are practical, enforceable and realistic.

## What has happened since Summer 2009?

In total, 607 individual comment forms were received by the RDEK. The results have now been tabulated by the Consultant. The feedback received on these forms will assist in guiding the policy direction of the Lake Management Plan. An Advisory Group meeting was held in mid-November to review the comment form responses and discuss ideas and options for moving forward.

## What happens next?

The consultant, Catherine Berris Associates Inc., will now begin drafting the Lake Windermere Management Plan. The draft plan will be reviewed by RDEK and DOI staff and the Advisory Group in January 2010. An initial draft of the Lake Management Plan is anticipated to be available for public review in February.

## What were the responses?

The responses represented a range of lake users and primary interests. Common themes were evident throughout the responses particularly with respect to the valued aspects of the lake and concerns about the lake. The most valued aspects of the lake are its recreation opportunities, clean water, healthy environment, social connections, and its role as the economic base for the region. Common concerns are the impacts of activities and upland uses on water quality, safety in the water, public access, and the challenges related to management and enforcement.



# LAKE WINDERMERE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## *Update (November 2009) — Continued*

Respondents were also asked to identify their level of support for a range of potential management options that could be applied to the lake.

The following are the most supported and least supported options.

### **Most Support (in order of percentage of responses in support)**

- Continue water quality monitoring and analysis
- Monitor and manage weed growth
- Continue new community sewer systems
- Community sewer required for any new development over 5 lots
- Public education program
- Enforce requirement for all foreshore works to obtain approval
- Construct a new public boat launch
- Require all marinas to adopt and publicize best management practices regulations
- Develop environmental management guidelines for agricultural land
- Better lake access and more public beaches – part of negotiation for any new developments

### **Least Support (in order of percentage of responses in opposition)**

- Prohibit water skiing or similar towing
- Limiting power driven vessels to electric battery motors
- Keep boats out of the water as much as possible, e.g. at night, storage
- Fuel boats only on land, not on the lake
- Limit engine power, e.g. maximum needed for water skiing
- No new structures of any kind
- Daily designated times for no motors or slow no-wake (e.g. 7:30 pm to 11:00 am)
- Maximum size boat motor (e.g. what's needed to water ski)
- Limit wake height
- No personal watercraft (jet skis)

### **How do I get more information?**

For more information on the Lake Management Plan, please visit the Regional District of East Kootenay website at [www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca) or contact Planner Karen MacLeod at 250-489-2791 or toll free 1-888-478-7335.

