

Iwamoto, Robert I. “Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Managing Recreation Use on Waldo Lake: Environmental Assessment.” Willamette National Forest, 2001. (Reviewed by Jessica Bliss)

The Willamette National Forest homepage has links to several PDF files detailing recent management decisions regarding Waldo Lake. According to the Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Waldo Lake area was classified under the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) as “Roaded Natural” until recently. This classification has changed; the surface of the lake is now managed as “Semi-primitive Nonmotorized” (SPN). The implementation of this change was expected to take 5 years, allowing for a gradual transition for recreation enthusiasts at the lake.

Implications for an SPN area are that all non-electric boat motors are prohibited, except for law enforcement, search and rescue, fire suppression, and research programs. Other aspects include a visitor education program to promote Leave No Trace behavior, rehabilitation of camping sites, and continual monitoring of camper-use and recreation activities.

Critique

What is most interesting about this resource is the summary of concerns and suggestions made by lake users. The dominant concern is for the protection of Waldo Lake from “the damaging effects of public use” (p 4). Other concerns fall within this theme, such as to ban fish stocking, to require more intense restrictions on campers and other recreationists, and a desire to keep the lake “pristine.”

An accompanying report outlines the percentage of people who responded to a survey about the management and use of Waldo Lake; it's quite interesting to see a breakdown of concerns coming from a wide range of lake users. Since the area is used by such a variety of people—hikers, campers, anglers, boaters, horseback riders, snowmobilers, and bikers, to name a few—the impact that a single decision may have on lake use is highly variable.

This resource is one of the more useful, since it is more recent, easily accessed, and highly relevant to my topic. Unfortunately, it doesn't have any sort of index or table of contents, which makes it difficult to find and re-find information. I do recommend this source to those interested in the management of Waldo Lake or simply those who spend time at the lake.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/manage/waldolake/planningdocs/waldo_dn.pdf

[return to info sources page](#)

[return to home page](#)