

Spokesman Marc Stewart of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe responds to comments by HMOffsuite re: docks on Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe part of Lake Coeur d'Alene:

I wanted to address some of the concerns about the tribal dock program yesterday. I spoke with the person responsible for the dock permits and he was not aware of the scenario described here.

The Tribe has been collecting dock fees for the last 10 years. It is not a new development. The majority of shoreline homeowners with docks in tribal waters are compliance with the tribe's regulations and fees.

Spring flooding is the reason most docks break free. It's very rare for a shoreline homeowner to cut loose a dock simply because they don't want to pay the dock fee or comply with safety regulations.

The Tribe has record of only one dock owner removing his dock as a result of not wanting to pay encroachment lease fees for tribal owner submerged lands.

The Tribe recognizes the expense of replacing a dock, so when a dock breaks loose during high lake levels and the lake management department finds it, the first thing the tribe does is attempts to return it to its rightful owner.

The Tribe does not charge a homeowner for removing a dock that just happened to wash up on his property.

When a dock replacement occurs on Tribal waters the Tribe's Lake Management Department insures that the old dock is properly disposed of as part of the permit process.

The Tribe has funded a debris removal program the last three years. In 2010, the Tribe and Avista worked together to remove debris and make Coeur d'Alene Lake safer for everyone. A similar effort is slated for this year.

If anyone has any questions about the tribe's dock program, feel free to call me at 686-2023.