

Bullheads in Kinney Lake slated for termination

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

While most people think of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as protectors of wildlife, that role of protector can turn into that of terminator if one species threatens the existence of another. In this case, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is planning to poison the 210-acre Kinney Lake in an effort to reduce the lake's bullhead population for the benefit of trout.



Rob Ruth/Chieftain

Kinney Lake in August 2014, when the water level had already fallen nearly to its yearly low.

Bullheads are a type of catfish, and edible, but the competition for food with the lake's trout is having negative impacts on both species. Consequently, the ODFW plans to poison the bullhead this fall when lake water level is low and relatively fished out of trout.

Kinney Lake is approximately 12 miles from Enterprise and is a popular fishing hole. The lake is privately owned although the ODFW worked out a 1965 agreement with the landowner and the irrigation district to maintain the lake and keep it stocked with fish. The lake is fed by an irrigation canal belonging to Wallowa Valley Improvement District #1. The outlet flows into a continuation of the canal.

At a May 6 meeting at Cloverleaf Hall, ODFW employees Kyle Bratcher and Jeff Yanke presented an outline of the ODFW plan to about a half-dozen attendees.

Bratcher said the bullhead are non-native and during a

recent count of 38 bullhead currently in the lake, the largest fish was only 8 inches long and did not even weigh four ounces. The ODFW interpreted this as a sign that food sources were already low. Bratcher explained that the removal of bullheads would improve catch rates and improve fish health while allowing for the possibility of "holdover" trout to survive the winter and low water levels.

The ODFW stocks the lake with "triploids, or sterile fish, because the lake water levels are generally too low to accommodate a self-sustaining trout population during the late summer and winter months. Triploids grow faster as well.

The method used to rid the lake of bullheads is the application of a certified organic-base poison called Rotenone. It is a toxicant composed of plant leaves, seeds and roots. It works on a cel-

lular level by prohibiting the exchange of oxygen between cells. Bratcher stressed it is not harmful to land-based wildlife and breaks down in about two to three weeks with no harmful byproducts. As it is immobile in soils, it has no danger of seeping into ground water.

Bratcher said the ODFW used Rotenone treatment in other Oregon lakes with a great deal of success. The plan is to stock the lake with 5,000 rainbow trout and 500 trophy-sized trout over the summer. It will also lift fishing restrictions from July through September to leave as few trout in the lake as possible. In October the ODFW will spray the lake with Rotenone, a process that will take about two hours. "It's a real small project," Bratcher said.

After the Rotenone application, the lake is checked every few days for dead fish, which are collected and buried. After

2-3 weeks, a small number of trout are brought to the lake and kept in a water cage to determine if the poison has broken down.

During the public comment phase of the presentation, local rancher Todd Nash questioned the removal of the bullheads because they're easier to catch and many children who fish the lake are happy to catch anything. "We talk about bigger and better trout, but for a little kid, a bullhead is kind of a nice thing," Nash said. He also expressed concern about stocking trophy fish in the lake. "We get a lot of tourists in town, and once word gets out, you could have that lake filling up with tourists instead of local kids," Nash said.

"You have to pick one over the other, and that's what we're here for, to see where we're at," Bratcher said. Yanke added that the ODFW had spent years trying to establish a children's fishing pond at Knight's Pond at the Iwetemlaykin state heritage site without success, although he didn't rule out the idea's implementation in the future. "It's not our goal to create a high falutin' trophy fishery for locals — and some tourists," Yanke said.

The implementation of the plan is dependent on the approval of board of the irrigation district. Bratcher and Yanke presented their plan to the board on May 12 and expect a decision sometime in June.

OBITUARY

William DeGroff Jr.
Aug. 2, 1923 – May 11, 2015

William M. "Bill" DeGroff Jr. of Wallowa passed away in Hermiston on May 11, 2015. He was 91 years of age.

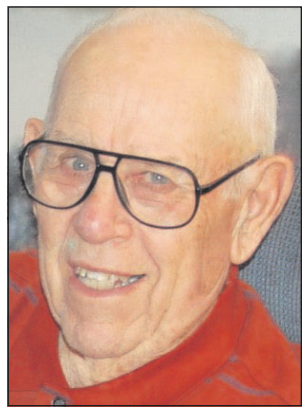
Bill was born Aug. 2, 1923, in Denver, Colo., to William M. DeGroff, Sr. and Florence L. Dau. He started elementary school in Idaho, and then graduated from Nyssa High School. In Baker City, he met Colleen Howell, and they were married in 1946. In 1948 the DeGroff families moved to Wallowa where they ranched until 1956. That same year, Bill and Colleen purchased Wallowa Hardware, which they operated for 22 years. After selling the hardware store, Bill sold automobiles for Summit Ford in Enterprise. Bill and Colleen enjoyed a happy retirement, visiting friends and family while traveling all over the United States in their RV.

Bill was drafted into the US Army, and served in 1946 and 1947 with the Occupation Forces in Japan. He was a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Wallowa Methodist Church. He was an active community volunteer, having served as a volunteer fireman and a driver for the Community Connection meal delivery program.

He is survived by his wife Colleen, four daughters, Diane (Bob) Alexander of Redmond, Marilyn (Gary) Hulse of Wallowa, Susan (Don) Daggett of Hermiston, and Nancy (Craig) Creel of Corvallis. His surviving grandchildren Mary, Tricia, Wayne, Andrew, Mitchell and Hana, and six adorable great-grandchildren will miss him. He is also survived by his nephew Dr. Darrel DeGroff and niece Lynda Kooch. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Hollis DeGroff and nephew Duane DeGroff.

Suggested memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, the Wallowa Methodist Church Memorial Fund, Community Connection or a charity of your choice.

Services for Mr. DeGroff will be held at a later date.



DEATH NOTICE

Jack Coleman

Jack Coleman, 87, formerly of Wallowa, died Sunday, May 17, 2015, in Jacksonville. Arrangements are by Conger-Morris Central Point Chapel.

SERVICE NOTICES

Harold Chitwood

A Celebration of Life and potluck in memory of Harold Chitwood, 74, who died Feb. 26, 2015, will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Chitwood home on Sheep Creek. No dogs, please.

Donald Hammack

Donald Lee "Don" Hammack Sr. passed away Jan. 8, 2010. Don will be laid to rest at the Lostine cemetery on May 24, 2015 at 2 p.m. with a short graveside service. A full obituary was published last week.

Winding Waters Clinic



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High and Low Temperatures

According to data sent to MesoWest: www.mesowest.utah.edu

Enterprise			Lostine		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
May 13	n/a	n/a	May 13	38	60
May 14	n/a	n/a	May 14	33	65
May 15	n/a	n/a	May 15	45	n/a
May 16	n/a	n/a	May 16	45	n/a
May 17	n/a	n/a	May 17	48	62
May 18	n/a	n/a	May 18	42	67
May 19	n/a	n/a	May 19	46	n/a

Joseph			Wallowa		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
May 13	37	57	May 13	39	60
May 14	34	61	May 14	33	65
May 15	46	50	May 15	43	56
May 16	45	57	May 16	48	n/a
May 17	45	57	May 17	47	64
May 18	41	63	May 18	40	70
May 19	48	n/a	May 19	48	69

Imnaha			Troy		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
May 13	47	66	May 13	44	60
May 14	43	73	May 14	42	70
May 15	50	n/a	May 15	46	n/a
May 16	53	n/a	May 16	53	n/a
May 17	54	70	May 17	53	74
May 18	48	74	May 18	48	75
May 19	52	n/a	May 19	54	n/a

Six-day forecast

May 20 – May 25

Source: National Weather Service

May 20		H: 69 L: 44	Chance of showers
May 21		H: 69 L: 44	Chance of showers
May 22		H: 68 L: 42	Chance of showers
May 23		H: 64 L: 40	Chance of showers
May 24		H: 64 L: 37	Chance of showers
May 25		H: 66 L: n/a	Chance of showers

Phases of the moon

May 25	June 2	June 9	June 16
1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon

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DOLLAR DAY\$

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Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – Monday, May 25, 2015

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO THIS EVENT, WE'VE EXTENDED DOLLAR DAY\$ THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

We have the best selection of inventory that we've had all year. With over 150 new Toyotas, Highlanders, Tacomas, 4Runners, Camrys, Corollas, Venzas and Prius; and over a hundred used vehicles starting as low as \$999.*** This is one of the biggest sales events we've ever had!

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*Not valid with any other offers. In-stock vehicles only. No Payments until August 2015 for Tier 1-3 New Toyota buyers up to 60 months. On approved credit. Must finance through Toyota Financial Services.

**The largest incentive is \$2,000 on a New 2015 Toyota Venza V6 AWD XLE. Stock Number 32509. Customers do not have to finance through Toyota Financial Services to take advantage of the Selected model New Toyota vehicle incentives. Actual vehicle prices and payments may vary for various reasons, including, but not limited to, applicable manufacturer rebates, special limited time offers, dealer incentives, taxes, document fees of \$150, title fees, any emission inspection or other testing fees, government fees and buyer's credit qualifications. All price specifications and availability subject to change without notice. Rebates offered by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Featured 0% APR offers valid only with approved credit and must finance through Toyota Financial Services. No security deposit required OR includes refundable security deposit. Event offers run Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – Monday, May 25, 2015 ONLY.

***\$999 price is based off of a 1997 Ford Taurus. Stock Number 32547A.

****College Graduate Finance Program is valid on the lease or finance (including preferred option) of select new unutilized Toyota models or on Toyota Certified Used Vehicles. College Graduate Rebate is only available on new unutilized Toyota Camry GAS (excl. Hybrid), Corolla, Prius c, RAV4 (Gas only), Tacoma and Yaris vehicles. (TCUVs are not eligible for the Rebate Program). The College Graduate Rebate Program and College Graduate Finance Program are available upon credit approval from and execution of a finance or lease contract through a participating Toyota dealer and Toyota Financial Services (TFS). Not all applicants will qualify. See store for details.

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