



***Our Mission: Preserve, protect, and enhance our lake chain for future generations through projects, education, and activities.***

To: Lake Association Members/Lake Community  
From: Lake Association President

2/27/24

It has recently come to my attention that there has been some discussion, in our community, about the Proposed Fish Passage Project. Discussion is good and certainly our Lake Association Board and I welcome the opportunity to discuss this Proposed Project by the Federal Forest Service. So on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM I will be leading our third listening session about the Proposed Fish Passage Project. The listening session will be held at the Fire Hall on Shady Knoll Road. Forest Service Project Manager Nick will be in attendance at this listening session and will present an over view about this project. He also will answer any questions that our community has about the project. Please consider attending this listening session and bring your questions. Now let me address some concerns that have been recently voiced in our lake community.

Q. Who gets to vote on this Proposed Fish Passage?

A. Only Lake Association members will be allowed to vote on the project. Therefore if you want to vote **please** join the Lake Association.

Q. Does the Lake Association Board have to affirm this project before it's voted on?

A. No. The Board might or might not make a recommendation to the membership, but the Lake Association membership will make the decision to endorse or reject the Fish Ladder Project.

Q. Can the Forest Service go ahead and build a Fish Passage on Round Lake without the Lake Associations endorsement?

A. Yes. The Forest Service owns the log structure spillway and the land around it. Because the spillway is on the Historical Registry it can't be altered but certainly the FS can build a Fish Passage around it.

Q. If the Forest Service can build a Fish Passage without the support of the Lake Association why do they want the Lake Association to vote on the project?

A. The Forest Service does not have the financing for the project and is dependent upon a Federal Grant to obtain the financing. If the Forest Service has the support of the Lake Association the Forest Service has a greater chance of getting their financial grant. If the Forest Service does not have the support of the Lake Association their chances of getting a grant for the funding are reduced.

Q. It has been stated that if a Fish Passage is built on Round it will lower the current lake level by six inches, is that true?

A. No. The Forest Service has never stated that a Fish Passage will lower the water level six inches on our chain. The Forest Service has stated that if a Fish Passage is built it will be engineered with the **attempt to keep** our average water level the same.

Q. Can people who do not want to join the Lake Association voice their opinions or concerns about the Proposed Fish Passage?

A. Of Course, your opinions and concerns, as non-members of the Lake Association matter to me as President and to our Board. Please address your concerns to me at [president@pikelakechain.net](mailto:president@pikelakechain.net). Our Lake Association listening sessions are always open to members and non-members alike. Non-members have attended all of our listening sessions. Our Lake

Association Board meetings are also open to non-members to express their concerns. Your concerns or opinions can also be addressed directly to the Federal Forest Service as well.

Q. If the Fish Passage Project is endorsed by the membership of the Lake Association and if the Federal Forest Service does get a grant to fund this project when will the Fish Passage be built?

A. If funding is obtained, the Forest Service will then go through a lengthy process of getting permits, and approval from other governmental partners associated with the Forest Service. Architectural plans will also need to be engineered, drawn up and approved by the DNR and Forest Service. At best the Forest Service has estimated that it will take about 5 years from its initial approval to actually build the Fish Passage.

My friends, I hope that my answers have been helpful in clarifying our current situation with regards to the Fish Passage. Once again please consider attending the May 11<sup>th</sup> Listening Session with me and Forest Service Project Manager Nick at 9 AM. I also invite you to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ida". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Ida  
Lake Association Board President