Sample Letter to Oregon State Aviation Board

Subject: No Float Planes on Waldo Lake

Dear Members Oregon State Aviation Board,

The Marine Board upheld the ban on gas motor boats on Waldo Lake in April, 2012. This decision recognized not only the overwhelming will of Oregonians to protect Waldo Lake, but importantly the unique status of Waldo Lake as a jewel of Oregon. As the Bend Bulletin editorial of March 28, 2012 stated, "Let Waldo Lake stay quiet. We don't believe Oregon has other lakes comparable to Waldo, beautiful, deep, pure and relatively easy to reach."

The Aviation Board's temporary rulemaking in May, 2012 allowing seaplanes on Waldo Lake granted usage to a small minority of users, while ignoring the will of the vast majority of traditional recreation users. I urge the Board to revert to its longstanding policy of prohibiting seaplanes on water bodies where motorized boats are banned, to more closely align with the Forest Service's emphasis on quiet recreation for Waldo Lake. Take into consideration:

- Waldo Lake is arguably the purest lake in the world. This is a stunning value in favor of special protection and ban on all motorized craft.
- The overriding context of hiking, camping or paddling at Waldo Lake is tranquility and quietude. With wilderness on three sides and old growth forest on the fourth, the lake provides a highly prized semi-primitive nature experience not available on lakes with noisy, motorized craft of any kind.
- Seaplane access creates a substantial risk of water and air pollution from usage, accidents and fuel spills. An oil slick on Waldo Lake would be an incalculable loss.
- Introducing invasive species attached to plane surfaces is a real threat. Practically speaking, seaplanes with multiple water-body flight plans will not be screened and cleaned prior to landing on Waldo Lake. With the state undertaking a campaign to safeguard Oregon's water bodies from invasive species, allowing seaplanes on Waldo Lake is contraindicated.
- The noise and fumes of seaplanes landing and taking off will impact not only people, but wildlife and waterfowl who claim that wild area as home.
- Canoeists and kayakers use Waldo Lake extensively as one of the few lakes free of motorized craft. Seaplane access disrupts their quiet exploration and creates a potential of intimidation, fear and collision.
- There is significant difference between using autos or trucks for transportation to Waldo Lake versus seaplanes. Designated as a scenic waterway, Waldo Lake's use is limited to recreation, not a landing/takeoff strip. Seaplane landings and take-offs would disturb the quiet enjoyment of the entire visitor population.
- Allowing high power taxi such as plow taxi, even under emergency circumstances, is an unacceptable use of Waldo Lake.
- Future generations would be deprived of the priceless opportunity to escape civilization's presence while paddling, hiking or relaxing with a book at lakeside. Your decision will affect not
just visitors in 2013, but visitors in 2053 and so on. It is incumbent upon the present generation of decision-makers to not take lightly their duty to protect such unique natural heritage as we have in Waldo Lake, for great-great grandchildren and into the centuries ahead.

For these and reasons compelling to other current and future users, I ask the Aviation Board to ban seaplanes on Waldo Lake. Consider the trust the people of Oregon have placed in you as a state agency to honor our long-held value of safeguarding our very special places, in the interest of all citizens. Please ban seaplanes on Waldo Lake.

Sincerely,