January 24, 2013

Mr. Mark Gardiner, Chair
Oregon Aviation Board
3040 25th St SE
Salem, OR 97302-1125

Re: Waldo Lake Rulemaking

Dear Mr. Gardiner,

As the state’s agency responsible for administering Oregon’s Scenic Waterways system, I would encourage you and your board to act in concert with the recent rulemaking of the Oregon Marine Board in banning internal combustion engines from use on Waldo Lake. With certain exceptions for emergencies, banning float planes will preserve the values the state legislature acknowledged when it adopted Waldo Lake into the scenic waterway system.

Waldo Lake is the only lake designated as a scenic waterway. There is reason for that distinction. It possesses a natural, pristine condition that is largely unfettered by development and provides an outdoor recreation experience unparalleled on other water bodies of the state. The noise and distraction introduced by internal combustion engines infringes upon the quiet, contemplative atmosphere and enjoyment of those seeking the peace and solitude that brings a respite to people’s lives.

Without reservation, the greater public interest, both present and future, will be served by retaining Waldo Lake free of the noise and distraction caused by float plane operations on the lake and thus protecting the outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, historic, archeologic, and outdoor recreation values it possesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Wood
Director

Cc: Mr. Richard M. Whitman, Governor’s Office
Mr. Scott Brewen, Director, Oregon Marine Board
Mr. Mitch Swecker, Director, Oregon Aviation Board