

Staff Report

for the Maintenance & Resource Management Committee Meeting
of January 26, 2021

TO: Maintenance & Resource Management Committee

FROM: Monica Reyes, Recreation Manager

DATE: January 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Quiet Hours on Campground Lakes

RECREATION

RECOMMENDATION ACTION:

Review and discuss quiet hours on campground lakes.

BACKGROUND:

Campground lakes opened for the 2020 season on May 29. Due to COVID-19, the hours were restricted from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm with an additional “no-wake/5MPH” limit from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. These restrictions encouraged social distancing guidelines while at the same time giving different lake users time on the lake.

On July 3, our campground lakes resumed to regular boating hours of dawn to dusk with no other restrictions or limitations on the speed or wake.

When the limitations were lifted, the District received letters and public comment from non-motor users, swimmers, and neighbors requesting the “no-wake/5MPH” limit on boats with motors continue to be imposed from sunrise to 8:00 am. While at the same time NID staff received letters and public comment from boaters, neighbors, and campers requesting no change to the lake hours.

In staff’s research of other lakes in our area, we found lake hours to be dawn to dusk/sunrise to sunset, and lakes with boat-in campgrounds have no boating hour restrictions at all.

Staff’s recommendation is to leave the campground lake boating hours as they stand, dawn to dusk. NID campgrounds lakes follow the California State Boating Law hours of dawn to dusk/sunrise to sunset. Scotts Flat, Rollins, and Jackson Meadows lakes are all motor lakes. Further, NID does not have an efficient &

effective way to enforce a no-motor restriction. Campground gates are not staffed during the winter seasons (end of October to end of May), and during the summer season, gate staff starts at 7:30 am, and at Cascade Shores, our camp host works Wednesday to Sunday 9:30 am to 6 pm.

Included with this staff report is a copy of an internal survey and its results conducted by the Cascade Shores Homeowners Association. They conclude that 60% of those surveyed do not want to restrict the lake boating hours.

2020 Boat Passes Sold – Scotts Flat and Rollins

Boat Passes are valid from January 1 – December 31; use of the recreational area is from dawn to dusk

2020 Boat Passes

	Boat	Kayak/Paddle Boards
Cascade Shores	107	65
Scotts Flat	109	66
Rollins	222	7
Multi Lakes	31	2
TOTALS	469	140

2020 Motor/Non-Motor Counts For Scotts Flat Lake

MONTH	Motor Campers	Non-Motor Campers	Motor Day Use	Non-Motor Day Use	Cascade Motor	Cascade Non-Motor
January	0	1	14	1	0	0
February	5	10	30	7	0	0
March	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
April	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
May	CLOSED	CLOSED	22	29	4	23
June	CLOSED	CLOSED	315	410	46	219
July	264	155	503	477	104	346
August	190	138	401	301	123	302
September	67	37	219	162	68	154

(The above numbers do not include our boat pass users; we do not track that usage)

Totals For Daily Motor/Non-Motor Use

Campground Motor	Campground Non-Motor
2,030	1,728

Cascade Motor	Cascade Non-Motor
345	1,044

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Budgetary impact at this time is unknown.

Attachments:

- Cascade Shores Homeowners Association Survey

September 13, 2020

Dear NID Maintenance and Resources Management Committee:

We are writing to share the results of the Cascade Shores Homeowners Association, 2021 Scotts Flat Lake Boating Hours survey, that was emailed to all 160 members in August 2020. 67 members responded to a short 4 question survey to find out whether or not they supported keeping the power boat hours on Scotts Flat Lake from sunrise to sunset, or limiting them from 8 am to sunset (to possibly begin in 2021). We have attached the detailed responses but to summarize:

60% of those surveyed do not want the power boat hours to be reduced to 8 am to sunset.

67% of those surveyed want equal access for all users on Scotts Flat Lake.

71% of those surveyed do not feel boat noise is a problem for residents of Cascade Shores.

The percentages represented of those surveyed identified primarily as homeowners: 28%

Kayakers: 18%

Swimmers: 17%

Fishermen: 15%

Waterskiers/Wakeboarders: 11%

Pontoon Boaters: 6%

Paddle boarders: 3%

Scullers: 2%

We also asked for comments and 29 people responded. Comments were quite varied but the majority saw no reason for changing the hours and wondered how this change would be enforced, given that NID employees did not start working until 9 am on the Cascade Shores side of the lake and the Sheriff's boat was rarely on the lake. Safety concerns were mentioned stating that early morning swimmers and scullers should have a power boat available in case of emergency. Loss of revenue for many of the homes being rented (if boating hours were curtailed) was mentioned, as the majority of people renting homes in Cascade Shores bring power boats with them. Many homeowners stated they bought a home near a recreational lake expecting power boats to be on it. Several of the swimmers, kayakers and paddle boarders stated they would prefer no power boats at all, but this option is already available to them at Lower Scotts Flat Lake, where no power boats are allowed. One person mentioned that the scullers on the campground side of the lake wanted the early morning flat water to better teach beginning sculling lessons. A few commented that power boats should have mufflers required to keep the noise levels low.

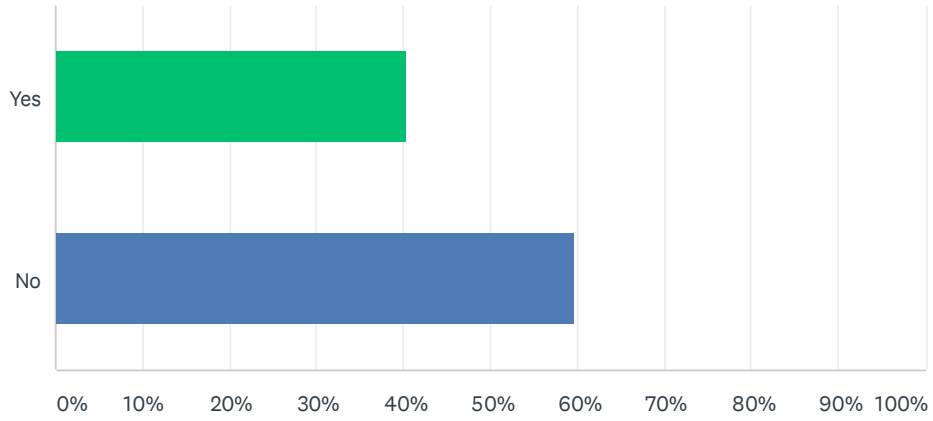
In summary, the majority of the Cascade Homeowners Association do not want the power boat hours to be changed from the California State Boating Laws of sunrise to sunset. We urge the board to abide by this recommendation and keep the power boat hours on Scotts Flat Lake from sunrise to sunset.

Thank you,

Sue and Robert Caslava
Cascade Shores Homeowners Association Members

Q1 Do you want the power boat hours of use on Scotts Flat Lake to be reduced beginning in 2021 to 8 am to sunset?

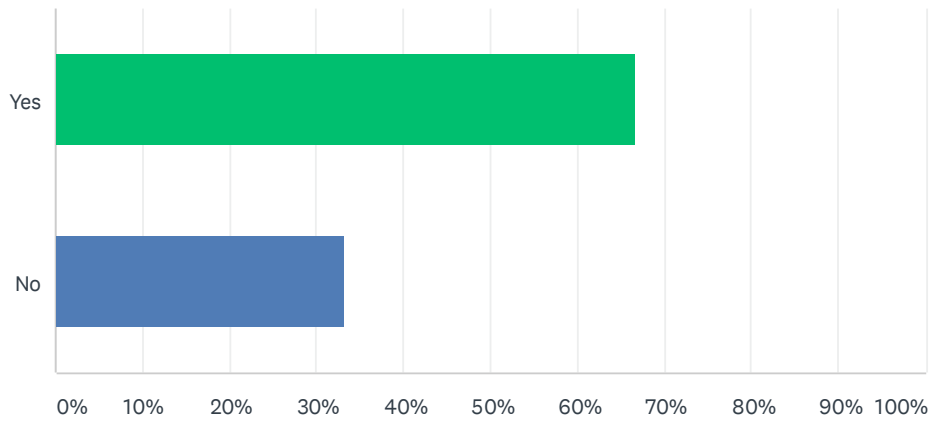
Answered: 67 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.30%	27
No	59.70%	40
TOTAL		67

Q2 Do you feel that Scotts Flat Lake should have equal access for all users from sunrise to sunset?

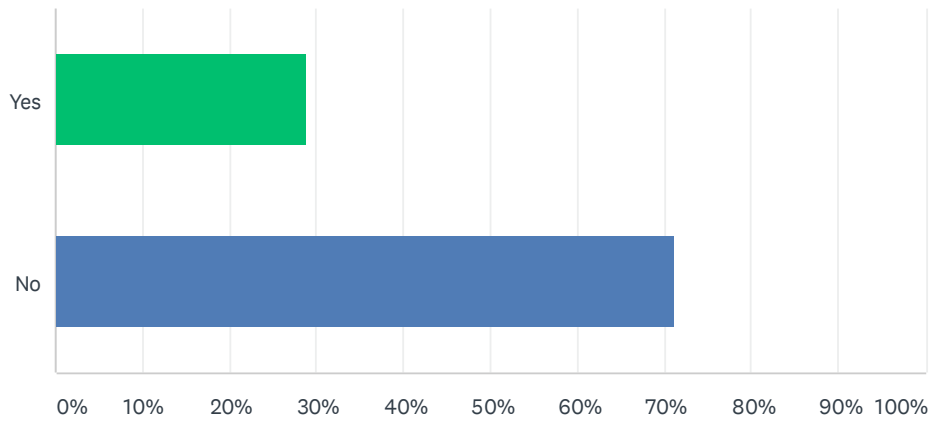
Answered: 63 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.67%	42
No	33.33%	21
TOTAL		63

Q3 Do you feel power boat noise on the lake is a problem for you living in Cascade Shores?

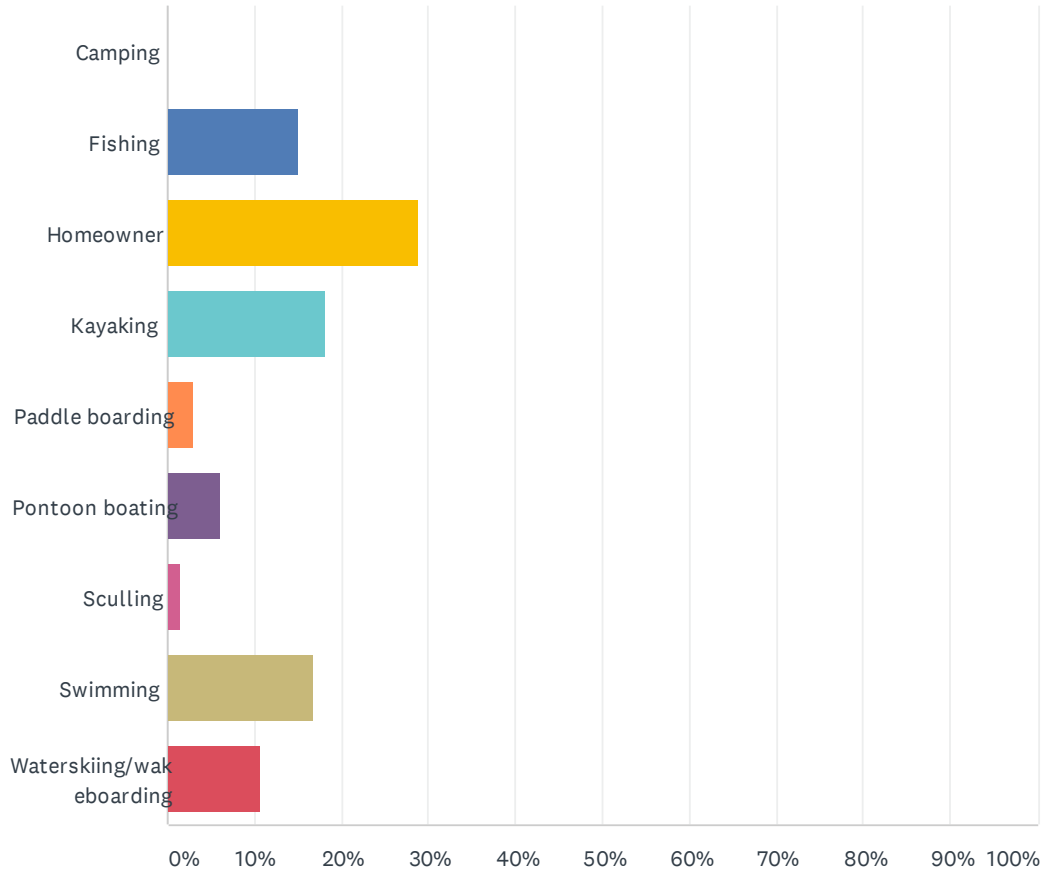
Answered: 66 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	28.79%	19
No	71.21%	47
TOTAL		66

Q4 What is your primary use of Scotts Flat Lake?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Camping	0.00%	0
Fishing	15.15%	10
Homeowner	28.79%	19
Kayaking	18.18%	12
Paddle boarding	3.03%	2
Pontoon boating	6.06%	4
Sculling	1.52%	1
Swimming	16.67%	11
Waterskiing/wakeboarding	10.61%	7
TOTAL		66

Q5 Additional Comments

Answered: 29 Skipped: 38

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Some boats are way too loud	9/2/2020 6:02 PM
2	Would be good with the time change only if residents can still access starting at sunrise	9/1/2020 4:15 PM
3	Swimmers need to stay away from the boat ramp. They need a separate area	9/1/2020 6:57 AM
4	Thank you for this great recreational resource!	8/31/2020 10:27 PM
5	We are homeowners that also wake board, kayak, paddle board and swim	8/31/2020 8:57 PM
6	We own several boats and make use of the lake quite often and lately has been frustrating. My family follows boating rules of the lake like it's the Bible but more and more lately The kayakers and paddle boarders make up their own rules and disobey etiquette. We moved to cascade shores for the lake access and always respect everyone and everything around us . Lately My husband and I have found ourselves traveling out of cascade shores to boat not wanting to deal with it . What you'll find as a business is a loss in revenue when people choose to go elsewhere. And that's Sad	8/31/2020 8:56 PM
7	I think a big problem is that there appears to be no muffler requirements on the lake. You have a muffler requirement on your automobile and truck, why not your ski boat? I have been able to hear boats ripping up and down the reservoir from a mile away in the forest. Not acceptable.?	8/23/2020 7:08 PM
8	As a Cascade Shores homeowner that has used Scotts Flat Lake for Waterskiing since 1978. I find it ridiculous that any one group of individuals want to demand the use of the lake over any others that have the right to use it. It seems very self serving that someone would be so bold and rude as to try to exclude others for the use of the lake. Over the decades of being at this lake, I have observed individuals sneaking around gates and fences to avoid paying for lake use but I have never heard of or seen any individuals trying to exclude others to dominate the use of the lake. As a waterskier that enjoys being on the water in the early morning hours, I have always enjoyed the company of all the users of Scotts Flat Lake and would never demand to remove one group of people so as to have more space for myself or my group. I also use the lake for other activities such as Kayaking, sailing and swimming during different hours of the day. Having others telling me when I can or can not use the lake is ridiculous. I see no need or logical reason to change rules or regulations that have worked for decades for regulations that would be unenforceable and would only serve a small group of selfish individuals. I would never support this type of rule/regulation change. I do not understand why NID would even consider this demand.	8/20/2020 8:49 PM
9	thank you!	8/20/2020 1:54 PM
10	"Noisy" / excessively loud boats, engines OR music should be prohibited or fined by sheriff or NID staff. Otherwise Scott's Flat is a Gem and my favorite pool.	8/19/2020 11:13 AM
11	Preserving our neighborhood should be at the top of your list as we are the ones that hear load vehicles towing in an out of the shores disrupting the peaceful setting that we so dearly treasure here	8/18/2020 8:09 PM
12	Limit lake speed to 5 mph before 8 AM and after Sunset.	8/18/2020 7:22 PM
13	Access to the lake should be the same for everyone. It is unreasonable and unjustified to take away the ability to enjoy the lake from one group of users and give it another group. Everyone should be able to share use of the lake equally. A 200' no wake zone from the shore has already been established by County Ordinance to provide an area for rowers. Additionally Lower Scotts flat lake is a max 5mph lake for rowers. Sunrise to sunset is the State , County and Federal standard please keep it that way. Changing to launch time to 8:00 effectively ruins any change of waterskiing on flat water.	8/18/2020 5:58 PM
14	The extremely aggressive sculling folks from the campground side of the lake are selling sculling lessons on Scott's Flat. That is why they instigated this petition to reduce hours - it hurts their bottom line to share the lake, and they have gotten their students/clients to pose as residents and complain about powerboats. These same people have intimidated other residents including my retired mother. In my opinion, you need to take care to avoid being bamboozled by someone with a financial interest in clearing powered boats from the lake.	8/18/2020 4:07 PM
15	As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?". This push to change the lake hours of use for only power boats is not needed. Scotts Flat Lake has been open to all users since it was established in the 1940's. Other than jet skis, all users are welcome to enjoy the lake and have	8/18/2020 2:09 PM

been doing so. The county codes and ordinances have been established and follow the California Boating Laws of recreation use from sunrise to sunset. Now, a few people want the rules changed for their benefit so they can enjoy the early morning flat water by excluding all power boats. The fact is that most of the early morning swimmers are using the lake without paying to do so while power boats must pay to gain access. Why are we considering restricting paying customers over non paying ones? Who will be enforcing these possible new hours when NID employees don't work until 9 am? Why establish a rule that is unenforceable as the Sheriff's Department will not be able to be here daily? Everyone who pays should have equal access to Scotts Flat Lake. California Boating Laws were established for a reason, why aren't we following them? Do not restrict the boating hours for power boats. We love the flat water before 8 am and we bought our home here to enjoy using the lake. No user group should have greater access to the lake than another.

16	I love the idea of mornings being able to stand up paddle board in safety.	8/18/2020 1:06 PM
17	don't try to solve a problem when none exists	8/18/2020 9:42 AM
18	I would prefer 5mph at all times. The street traffic (sometimes dangerous), the congestion and noise are tiresome for those that live here. Making it a paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing lake would make it very successful. These types of water sports enthusiasts would come from all over to camp here.	8/18/2020 7:53 AM
19	personally i like the no motor until 8am but in fairness to all....	8/18/2020 7:08 AM
20	We enjoy sailing on the lake and wish there were few wakeboard boats	8/17/2020 10:32 PM
21	The pass rate for one person with a kayak should NOT be the same a a family with a large boat and other water craft. I would like to see rates to be rated with the use. I am a kayak user and a swimmer. I feel I do not need to pay the same as a family with 2 cars and a motor boat.	8/17/2020 7:52 PM
22	The launch ramp at Cascade Shores should only be available to home owners in Cascade Shores Association	8/17/2020 7:28 PM
23	I am a home owner and resident for about 38 years.....I love the area, WHY can't people just get along....It seems the weathy move to a place like this and want to change all the rules.....What is going on in this country today.....I like to Kyack and have aski boat too.....BUT I am respectful to others.....Why not just allow locals to use it.....	8/17/2020 7:21 PM
24	I am a homeowner, but we scull, swim, paddle board and powerboat on the lake. Powerboats in the early morning provide a safety net for early morning exercisers. If there is an emergency on the water, swimmers and scullers are out of luck if there is no motorboater to provide emergency support. Since age is the biggest risk factor for heart attacks and strokes, and the swimmers and rowers are on the older side, motorboaters play a vital role as lake users. As for "quiet hours," the 6 am noise from cars, conversations, car alarms, battery operated pumps for paddle boards, and releasing the air from paddleboards is anything but quiet. The early morning group along Lake Lane are the worst offenders of noise. At least the boats are a good distance from homes along the lake. The road noise is much worse than the motorboat noise. May quiet hour signage would help.	8/17/2020 7:14 PM
25	Nevada County businesses thrive from the tourists that love coming here to get away and have fun. As the owner of a house cleaning business in Cascade Shores, I can tell you that a lot of people that rent cabins here, bring boats with them, and spend money in our restaurants and shops. Many of them pay a thousand dollars a week, to stay in a beautiful cabin in the woods and enjoy our lake. When I bought my home here, fifteen years ago, I knew it was a recreation area and there would be boats on that lake, and I would like to see the tourists come back to enjoy it again and again.eautiful	8/17/2020 7:00 PM
26	For question 4, I recommend allowing more than one answer. As a CS homeowner, we would choose several as having equal rankings of our primary use of the lake.	8/17/2020 6:23 PM
27	Please do not allow the group of people to make changes to the hours of boats on the lake, there is absolutely NO REASON why they need a path in the center of the lake to swim when there are many avenues for Them to swim so that they do not intercept the boats and the boats do not intercept them with their swim	8/17/2020 5:45 PM
28	Could have no power boat days, say once a month.	8/17/2020 5:28 PM
29	We have paid property taxes and high sewer fees on our property for years. We live a block from the lake. We do not want our fishing and boating rights taken away by tourists and people	8/17/2020 4:39 PM

who are newer to the area. We like to ski early while the lake is smooth. Plus if we don't launch early the kayakers hold the boaters up on the boat ramp. There may be a line of people waiting to launch their boats, and they don't care to hurry. Many times they place their kayaks on the ramp and leave them there while they park. We kayak, swim, and paddle board also, but we have manners. There are many that want to come up here and change everything with little or no regard for anyone but themselves. We like hearing the boats early in the morning. They are having fun, an many times we wish we would have gotten out there earlier as well. Thank you very much!!
