

Protect and Preserve Big Wood Lake

For over 70 years, Big Wood Lake has been home to faith-based, nonprofit youth camps. These camps provide educational programming and spiritual development to kids, their counselors, and staff from Burnett County and the surrounding region. The impact of these camps on the lake is modest. Campers come primarily in the summertime for on-site programming that includes swimming, canoeing, and campfires.

What do these camps generally have in common?

- They are licensed as Recreational & Educational (Rec-Ed) camps
- Staff and counselors typically submit to background checks
- Religiously-affiliated camps have daily worship and prayer
- Fishing boats and pontoons are not available to rent
- Alcohol is not available for purchase on-site
- Traffic is mostly cars and small trucks dropping off and picking up youth a couple times a week
- They have clear mission statements and are registered with the IRS as 501(c)(3) nonprofits



“Wood Lake Camp and RV, LLC” is seeking to convert the former Wood Lake Bible Camp, over 234 acres of land on and adjoining Big Wood Lake, into a high-density, for-profit commercial recreational campground.

A commercial recreational campground is not a licensed Rec-Ed camp.

The first 23 acres of this project, less than 10% of the total land, is proposed to include 25 tent and RV lots, a trailer park with 27 rental units, existing cabins available to rent, fishing boat rentals, and pontoon rentals.

This project would be the largest ever of its kind in Burnett County. It would convert land zoned for forestry (F-1) and historically used lightly as a summer camp into a high-intensity commercial use. As currently proposed, this kind of project has not historically been allowed on forestry land or shore land parcels and is prohibited in the Town of Wood River.

If you fish on Big Wood Lake, if you visit the sand bar on Big Wood Lake, if you send your kids to camp on Big Wood Lake, and if you live on Big Wood Lake or own property on Big Wood Lake, you have a lot to lose with this project:

- This commercial project is not consistent with Burnett County’s 2010 comprehensive land use plan.
- The year-round population on the lake could more than double (there are 163 residences currently).
- The value of homes and cabins on the lake would decline, offsetting any tax revenue from the campground.
- The impact on the lake, adjacent wetlands, and surrounding roads will be significant.
- The cost of providing emergency services to the area (police, fire, and other first responders) will increase.
- The campground noise on the south end of the lake would disturb residents and wildlife.

Please join over 682 anglers, local business owners, friends, neighbors, residents, and taxpayers to protect the economy and ecology of Big Wood Lake from this high-density, high-intensity commercial project.

Attend the public meeting March 5th, 9 a.m. Burnett County Govt Center
WWW.PROTECTBIGWOODLAKE.ORG

PAID FOR BY CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BIG WOOD LAKE

John & Anna Anderson, Renee Anderson, Shannon Arndt, Dave & Kathy Baker, Megan Beatty, Sheila Blanda, Sarah Brewster, Gary & Jill Bulman, Margie & Steve Champlin, Bonie Choate, Julie Dahlberg, Glen & Kirsten Dawson, Don & Lindy Deye, Michelle & Brian Doolittle, Carol & Steve Downhour, Jennie Epland, Miriam Epland, Brandon Epland, Kristen Epland, Jeff Finch, Paul Folkens, Laura Gautsch, Jon Giswold, Allen & Pat Glander, Jennifer Glander, Jacob Gonsior, Jon Giswold, Patrick & Cynthia Hansen, Nathan & Beth Ireland, Brian Jenks, Bryan & Cindy Jensen, Kjirsten Johnson, Brian & Debra Kaslow, Tim Landro, Kevin Lysdahl, Annie & Bruce McPheeters, Linnea Myers, Brian Nelson, Diane Nelson, Jamison Noye, Felix Papadakis, Eugene & Rose Picha, Mike & Pam Plasch, Kathryn Pobuda, Shelly Richard, Barb Rippberger, Michael Salwasser, Brent Sabin, Kristina Sakaria, Blaise & Suzanne Vitale, Chris Witzany