**December 12, 2021 - President’s Message**

**EDH HOA Members**

Well, 2021 is coming to a close and it has been a most interesting year - to say the least! Since my last President's Message in September, a lot has happened and I will try to touch on the most important here.

**Christmas Bird Count**

Before I dive into what has happened, let me talk about something that is coming up very soon – the annual Christmas Bird Count. This year’s count will happen on Saturday (December 18). I mentioned this briefly at the May Annual Meeting. During this event, members of the Last Chance Audubon Society have again asked for permission to drive through our neighborhood to specific locations where they stop for a brief period of time and look and listen for birds. This annual count is a national effort and contributes to the Audubon Society’s bird population trend data. As in the past, LCAS folks will be driving Favorite Gulch and Huotari Lane and will also be walking around the Lake Recreation Area. So, if you see some strange cars on Saturday, they are likely birdwatchers from LCAS. If you have an interest in helping with the Christmas Bird Count, please reach out to Janice Miller at jan2854@gmail.com.  Also, if you have some active bird feeders available and wouldn’t mind a little birdwatching company on Saturday – please let Jan know.

**Road Work**

This year's road work was completed and there is marked improvement in the areas that were worked.  I wish we had been able to afford more work, but we will work on that next year.  A special thanks to Jason for his leadership in organizing and overseeing this year's work.  Also, we owe a big THANK YOU to Neil Hurni for donating all of the road mix material for the work.

**Survey Work on Huotari Lane and Mine Recreation Area**

We also were able to get some survey work done this fall that will help us better identify the HOA property lines along Huotari Lane and between us and the Spokane Bar mine area.  A special thanks to Debbie and Vince Cargile for their support of this effort.  If you drive to the Lake Recreation Area, you will see some orange markers that delineate the property lines.  It is important to understand that these are not "new" markers.  We had a professional survey crew simply relocate existing boundary markers.  Then Vince took on the task of making these markers more visible.

**Hunting Season**

Hunting season is behind us - for the most part.  There is a new muzzleloader season that runs from December 11 - 19.  In my opinion, the signage that we installed last year and the persistence of our members to help educate non-members on the restrictions related to Huotari Lane (it is a private road) continue to reduce road driving and shooting (I refuse to call it hunting) that we had seen in past years.  We will need to stay on this in future years, but I think we have turned the corner on reminding folks where the legal access to the public lands is in our neighborhood.  Thanks to all who helped in that effort.

**Huotari Lane Gate**

Gating Huotari Lane remains "unfinished business."  We had a few issues (like the survey work) that needed to be addressed before we could get that done.  I'm hopeful that this will be a project for next spring.

**Lake Recreation Area Upgrades**

Lake Recreation Area upgrades also are still on our "to do" list.  For a variety of reasons, we were unable to get an early start this past season which has delayed the work till next year.  We have all the permits we need and we have received an extension into next year.  We have also obtained used floating boat docks from the Gates of the Mountain Marina.  Mike Daw will be refurbishing those early next year and we hope to get them in the water next season.  This will provide additional boat slips for the neighborhood.  Mike has also refurbished the smaller floating platforms that have been at the LRA for several years.  When we get them in the water, they should be great for tying up smaller personal water crafts - thereby expanding options available to our members.

**Next Open Board Meeting – March 2022**

Open Board Meetings have been suspended until March 2022.  This was mentioned in the November Board Workshop Notes.  The primary reason is Board Member travel and the heating and phone connectivity issues with our primary meeting location (the Zimmerman Fire Station).  As those of you who have attended the open Board Meetings know, it is very difficult (if not impossible) to hear anyone calling in to the meeting - especially when the heater kicks on in the fire station.  As someone who has called in, I can attest that hearing the discussions in the meeting (especially from the audience) is equally challenging.  Therefore, the Board will continue with our monthly workshops / conference calls and a summary of those calls, along with the monthly financial statements will be available on the HOA website.

**Happy Holidays**

Lastly, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday Season and I hope you have a fun-filled New Year celebration!

Mitch