



**City of McCall  
City Council**

**AGENDA  
Special Meeting  
July 20, 2022 at 5:30 PM  
Legion Hall – Below City Hall  
216 East Park Street  
McCall, ID  
AND MS TEAMS Virtual**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

As the City continues to monitor the Covid-19 numbers and recommendations from the CDC, the 6-foot social distancing and mask requirements are now a recommendation. The Legion Hall's Occupancy Capacity is 32. The Council Members and staff who are anticipated to be in attendance is 8. The first 24 persons who appear will be allowed to be present in the meeting location. All other persons may be in attendance virtually. Council Meetings will be available for in person and virtual attendance. Any member of the public can join and listen only to the meeting at 5:30 p.m. by calling in as follows:

Dial 208-634-8900 when asked for the Conference ID enter: 388397967#

Or you may watch live by clicking this link: <https://youtu.be/KEjWtkF7yQU>

**OPEN SESSION ROLL CALL**

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

Request to Approve the mayor to sign a letter to Idaho Department of Lands regarding Cougar Island

Request to Approve the mayor to sign a letter to Valley County Board of Commissioners regarding Cougar Island

**ADJOURN**

*American with Disabilities Act Notice: The City Council Meeting room is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need assistance, please contact City Hall at 634-7142 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*



# City of McCall

[www.mccall.id.us](http://www.mccall.id.us)

July 20, 2022

Idaho State Land Board

Re: Cougar Island of the Payette Endowment Lands

Dear Governor Little, Attorney General Wasden, Secretary of State Denney, Controller Woolf, and Superintendent Ybarra;

As we expressed to you in February 2021, the future of land development and conservation around Big Payette Lake is a primary concern for our community and will impact Idaho for generations. We therefore strongly urge you to consider the following when evaluating the fate of Cougar Island which we understand will be auctioned in whole or in parts in September of this year:

**Big Payette Lake is the sole source of drinking water for our community.** It is a critical resource for our community that must be protected. Cougar Island is in Payette Lake and in the McCall Area of Impact which is subject to county ordinances regulating development on the shoreline of the lake. As you know from the decades of efforts to transfer all cottage sites around the lake to the Payette Lakes Recreational Water and Sewer District sewer system, all development on the perimeter of Payette Lake is required to be served by a DEQ regulated and approved sewer system, not septic. Extending sewer lines to the Island will be difficult and extremely expensive. IDL's "perc testing" of the Island as part of the appraisal process causes great alarm as it indicates the intent for septic systems to be installed. This should not be allowed for the same reasons septic systems are not allowed on any other shoreline property of Payette Lake. The city is therefore strongly encouraging Valley County to adopt an emergency ordinance prohibiting development on islands in their jurisdiction until a county code can be adopted regulating wastewater systems on islands in order to protect our drinking water source. Likewise, the city strongly encourages the Land Board to not accept bids for the Island, in whole or in part, that intend to develop the lot(s) with any kind of infrastructure requiring septic systems as you cannot make any representations this will be approved.

**Prioritize the use of conservation easements which will protect the most sensitive parcels adjacent to the Lake and allow for recreational uses.** The city implores the Land Board to only consider awarding the sale of the Island lots to purchasers who incorporate conservation easements into their proposals. Our community, and all of Idaho, does not want to lose access to public lands that contribute to the fundamental character of Idaho.

In the long run, what is best for Big Payette Lake and the drinking water source for the City of McCall will improve the value of all the endowment lands around McCall. We urge you to refrain from taking action involving Cougar Island that will compromise McCall's drinking water and thereby devalue the other endowment lands that remain in your stewardship.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Giles  
Mayor

216 East Park Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Phone 208-634-7142  
Fax 208-634-3038



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July 20, 2022

Valley County Board of Commissioners

Re: Cougar Island of the Payette Endowment Lands

Dear Commissioners Hasbrouck, Maupin, and Allen;

The city shares your concerns about the protection of Cougar Island for both recreational enjoyment and for protection of the drinking water quality of Payette Lake.

As you know from the decades of efforts to transfer all cottage sites around the lake to the PLRWSD sewer system, all development on the perimeter of Payette Lake is required to be served by a DEQ regulated and approved sewer system, not septic. Extending sewer lines to the island will be difficult and extremely expensive. IDL's "perc testing" of the island as part of the appraisal process causes us great alarm because it indicates the intent for septic systems to be installed, which should not be allowed for the same reasons septic systems are not allowed on any other shoreline property of Payette Lake.

As Cougar Island is in Payette Lake and in the McCall Area of Impact, it is subject to your county ordinances regulating development. The city strongly encourages you to consider two approaches to protecting the Island that are within your authority to enact.

1. Adopt a resolution prior to the state auction declaring the islands within Payette Lake as an "Area of Critical Concern" which then triggers environmental impact assessment requirements for your review prior to any proposed development applications. You can find the authority for this in your Subdivision and Development codes.
2. The city also strongly encourages Valley County to consider adopting an emergency ordinance prohibiting development on the islands in Payette Lake. The basis for the emergency is the need for wastewater disposal regulations in the county code specific to islands. If the County wishes to pursue the creation of new wastewater disposal regulations for the islands, city planning staff is available to assist county planning staff with the development of code language for presentation to the McCall Area Planning and Zoning Commission and public hearing/adoption by the County Commission upon your request.

We have submitted the attached letter to the state Land Board. The City Council does not have the legal authority to adopt regulations that apply to property outside of city limits. We hope you will consider using your legal authority to do so in this matter. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Giles  
Mayor

Att: Letter to State Land Board dated July 20, 2022