



DOCKS & BUOYS REGULATIONS



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Columbia Lake is a cherished natural treasure in British Columbia, renowned for its pristine waters and ecological significance. The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) is dedicated to preserving the lake's health and beauty for future generations. This brochure provides an overview of the regulations governing docks and buoys, aiming to inform and guide lake users in sustainable and compliant practices.

For detailed information and resources, please visit the CLSS website:



Key Environmental Concerns

- **Shoreline Habitat Disruption** – Docks can damage fragile shoreline ecosystems, especially during installation and removal.
- **Aquatic Habitat Loss** – Improper placement affects fish spawning areas and aquatic plant life.
- **Water Pollution from Materials** – Use of untreated wood, Styrofoam, or old tires can leach toxins into the lake.
- **Erosion and Sedimentation** – Poor dock design or placement increases shoreline erosion and sediment runoff.
- **Anchor Drag and Buoy Drift** – Unsecured or improperly anchored buoys can disturb lake beds and sensitive areas.

DOCKS



Permits & Approvals:

Construction or placement of docks requires authorization under the BC Land Act, and may also be subject to federal review under the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

BC Land Act:

While upland areas next to waterbodies may be privately owned, the Province of BC owns nearly all land between the high and low watermarks. Building or developing on this aquatic Crown land requires provincial authorization, even for adjacent or upland landowners. Proposal to construct permanent small boat moorage works may require a licence or lease from Land and Water BC Inc., and if you don't own the adjacent upland, you'll likely also need written consent from its owner.

RDEK Zoning

Zone CL-1 (Recreation): ❌ Not permitted.

Zone: CL-2 (Community Amenity): ✅ Permitted.

Zone: CL-3 (Group Moorage): ✅ Permitted.



Village of Canal Flats Zoning

Water Resource 1: ❌ Not permitted

Water Resource 2 (Community): ✅ Recreational permitted

Water Resource 3 (Residential): ✅ Permitted

Water Resource 4 (Eagles Nest): ❌ Not permitted

Water Resource 5 (painted Ridge): ❌ Not permitted

BUOYS



Compliance Requirements:

Buoys must adhere to Private Buoy Regulations under the Canada Shipping Act, including size, colour, and identification markings.

RDEK Zoning

Zone CL-1 (Recreation):  Not permitted

Zone CL-2 (Community Amenity):  Not permitted

Zone CL-3 (Group Moorage):  Permitted



Village of Canal Flats Zoning

Water Resource 1:  Not mentioned

Water Resource 2 (Community):  Not mentioned

Water Resource 3 (Residential):  Not permitted

Water Resource 4 (Eagles Nest):  Not permitted

Water Resource 5 (Painted Ridge):  Not permitted

Private Buoy Regulations

Physical Properties



A light is not required. If a light is placed the light remains lit throughout the night and meets the requirements



The proper style of a buoy for mooring is coloured white and orange with the orange colour covering the top one-third of the buoy above the waterline.



The buoy displays, on opposite sides, the capital letters "PRIV" that are
(i) as large as is practical for the size of the buoy, and
(ii) white when the background colour is red, green or black;
(iii) black when the background colour is white or yellow;



In a conspicuous location and in a permanent and legible manner, the name, address and telephone number of its owner



The part of the buoy that shows above the surface of the water is at least 15.25 cm wide and at least 30.5 cm high;

15.25cm

30.5cm

Mooring Anchors

A mooring anchor must be heavy enough to hold the boat securely in place and withstand movement in high winds.

Dried concrete loses about 42% of its weight when fully submerged.

Lighter chain on top

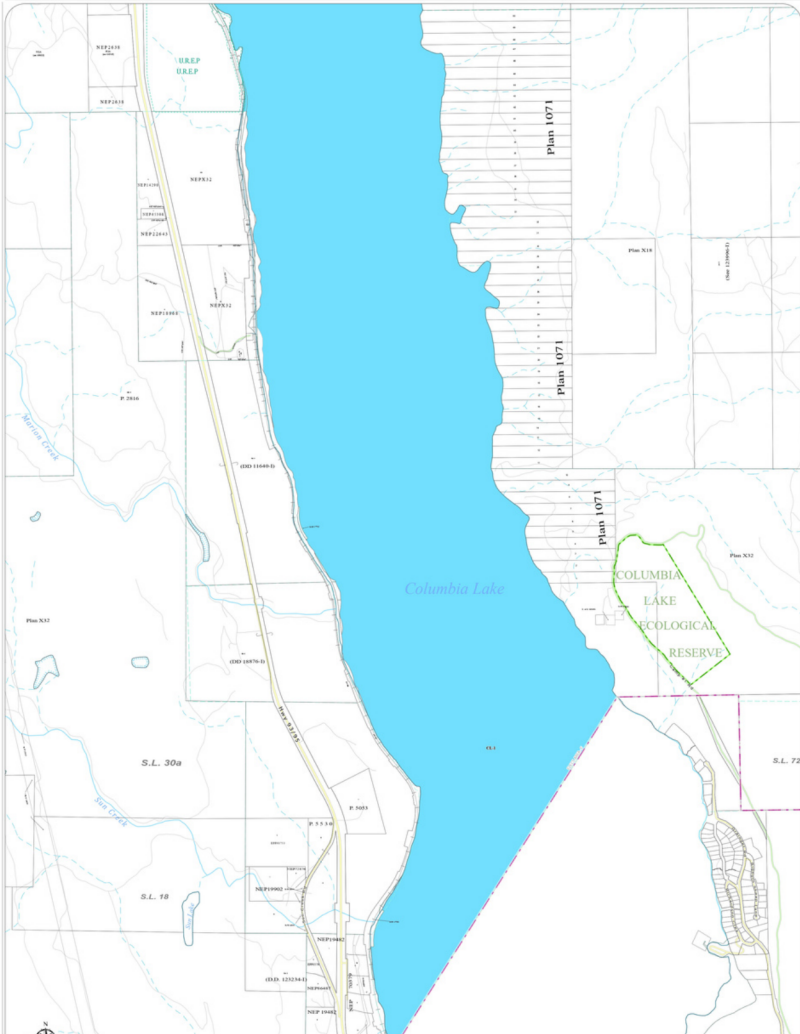
Ensure the chain is not excessively long because it can rub against the bottom of the lake and have negative effects on aquatic life living in the sea bed.

Heavier chain on bottom

Mushroom anchor. Screw anchors and pyramid anchors work by embedding themselves into the bottom with the right substrate conditions.

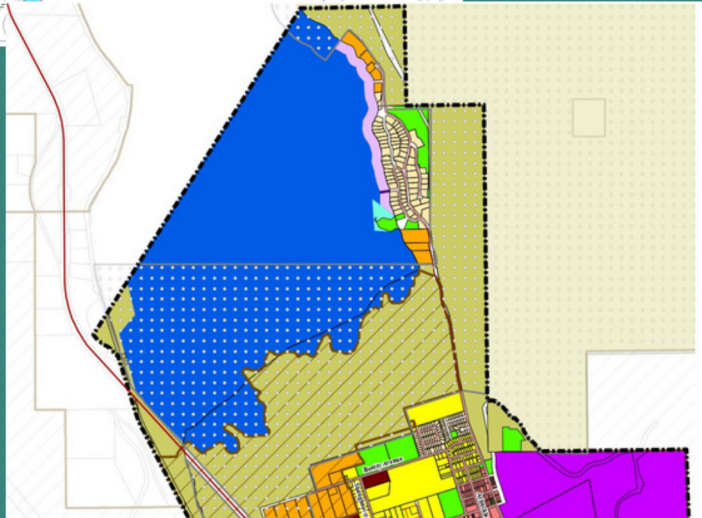


South Columbia Lake Zoning (RDEK)



South Columbia Lake Zoning (City of Canal Flats)

- WR-1 Water Resource
- WR-2 Water Resource Community
- WR-3 Water Residential Zone
- WR-4 (PR) Water Resource Community - Painted Ridge
- WR-5 (EN) Water Resource Community - Eagles Nest



Additional Resources

Questions, concerns, complaints on docks or buoys

- ➔ FrontCounter BC
- ➔ Natural resource violation officer
- ➔ Complaint to the RDEK bylaw enforcement officer within respective area.

Permit information & applications for crown land use

- ➔ FrontCounter BC

Can NEW mooring buoys be placed?

In 2012, the RDEK led a grandfathering process and inventory on mooring buoys in Columbia Lake. Any new buoys placed after the grandfathering process are subject to the bylaws.

The placement of new mooring buoys is generally not supported, except as may be accommodated by the applicable surface water zoning.

Can a buoy be homemade?

Yes, you can make your own buoy as long as the buoys meet the requirements.

**Let's protect Columbia Lake together. Know the rules.
Share them. Keep our waters safe for everyone.**