

Guidelines for Lakeshore, Reservoir and Streamside permitting for the Lewis & Clark Conservation District

On August 11, 1999, at the regular meeting of the Lewis & Clark Conservation District the following guidelines were adopted by unanimous vote. The guidelines were presented by Steve Dalbey of Fish, Wildlife & Parks to assist in the team inspections for the 310 permitting process. Guidelines adopted are as follow:

- Retaining walls can only be constructed where active erosion is occurring.
- Bank stabilization work should consider using riprap as the primary option.
- Incorporate vegetation and shrubs in retaining wall.
- Slope of retaining walls must be 2:1 or flatter (45 degree slope).
- Slope of retaining walls must follow natural contour of land.
- If concrete retaining walls are the last option, these walls must be faced to within six inches of the water surface with rock.
- Reclamation of lost property can only occur to what was lost in the last 12 months. There can be no net gain of property.
- Landowner must prove where property boundaries are. (For example, do they extend to the high or low water mark?)
- No treated materials are allowed as retaining wall material.
- Any concrete retaining walls should be back-filled with drain rock. Weep or drain holes should be provided through retaining walls.

These guidelines were developed by Flathead County in a document entitled, Flathead County Lake and Lakeshore Protection Regulations (1992). The basis for these guidelines is that much like streambank stabilization, lakeshore stabilization can affect neighbors. Artificial retaining walls will not dissipate wave energy as a natural shoreline would. This wave energy can significantly alter shoreline erosion patterns. Lastly, aesthetics of lake shores must be a consideration. The cumulative effects of retaining walls (principally un-faced concrete) will greatly decrease the natural beauty of the lake shoreline.