

Clearwater River Watershed District Bog Removal Policy Summary

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) has developed a policy that allows it to undertake bog removal from Clearwater Lake. However, any bog removal undertaken by the CRWD is done only when the bog is determined to impede or threaten to impede the flow of water in the Clearwater River and threatens to elevate the water level of Clearwater Lake. In order to fund this process, the CRWD has established a funded account via special assessments.

Should residents of the lake feel a bog(s) is threatening to impede water flow, they should report their concerns to the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO). The CLPO can then elect one of three options:

1. Move the bog to the shore of a willing landowner, where the bogs are either staked to the shore or removed or properly disposed. The CRWD is not involved in this operation and the CLPO will be responsible for funding the removal and for obtaining the necessary DNR permits to remove the bog.
2. The CLPO can request the CRWD to remove the bog by contacting the CRWD office by phone or by email.
3. The CLPO can elect to do nothing.

If the CLPO elects to do nothing, the residents can request the CRWD review the situation by calling the CRWD office or by emailing the CRWD. Please note that any request from a resident must have first been submitted and rejected by the CLPO Board.

If there is a request for the CRWD to remove a bog by either the CLPO or by a resident, the CRWD staff will conduct an onsite review to determine if the removal of the bog meets the standards of its policy. If the bog is determined to impede the flow of water in the Clearwater River and threatens to elevate the level of Clearwater Lake, the CRWD will work with the CLPO and/or its residents to set up a removal action. The CRWD will reimburse the costs of the removal of the bog. However, the CRWD will not be responsible for any costs incurred while pushing the bogs to removal locations.

It is generally illegal to cut established bogs loose or to remove bogs from the lake without following strict rules from the DNR via a permit.