

Claim# 95-16393

**From:** Ann McAlister [amcalister@campfireinc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2007 11:23 AM  
**To:** 'Peggy Clark'  
**Subject:** FYI  
From the Spokesman-Review:

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## Camp Sweyolakan: Worth a fortune, but memories more so



My column Sunday was about [Camp Sweyolakan](#) on Lake Coeur d'Alene. It's been there since 1922. It's 300 acres, with a mile of waterfront, and it's stunningly beautiful.

It's not for sale. No one at Inland Northwest Council of Camp Fire USA has even uttered the "S" word. But my fear on a recent writer-in-residence stint out there is that someday, the camp will be sold,

because it's worth a bundle. [Marshall Mend](#), a Coeur d'Alene real estate guru, estimated that a developer who bought it and put condos and homes on it would have property worth about \$160 million.>Wow.

There are other camps on Coeur d'Alene, too, including: [Camp Cross](#). [Camp Four Echoes](#). [Camp Lutherhaven](#). [Camp Easton](#). All are worth small fortunes. But my premise is they need to be preserved for use by multitudes of young people and community groups, rather than sold for development for use by those who can afford the expensive homes that would be built on these former camp properties.

Sweyolakan's counselors-in-training wrote how they'd feel if Sweyolakan were ever sold for development. See their photo here and read the thoughts of these 16-year-old future camp counselors by clicking on "read the rest of this entry" below.

Here's a sneak preview by Alex Tebbs: "Sweyolakan would be completely different. Condos are not as amazing as pine trees."

(Rebecca Nappi photos)



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**Alex Tebbs:** Sweyolakan would be completely different. Condos are not as amazing as pine trees. I would feel that selling the property would be a selfish thing to do,

especially since it has been used to benefit youth for so long.

**Elizabeth Margaret Kirsten:** No longer would this place be Sweyolakan, but instead it would be a piece of land with a good view to all; all except me. This place would still hold all my memories of my childhood summers. I would be devastated and would attempt to tear it down.

**Carol Zinke:** If they ever sold Sweyolakan and built a bunch of condos with big windows and beautiful frames I think I might go crazy. I love Sweyolakan and I would miss all the beautiful scenery, people and fun.

**Rebecca Heflick:** If they sold camp and built condos, the mountain/hill would seem very bare and way too modern. I would be depressed because camp is a very pretty place with all its little trails, trees and other scenery. It would also be sad, because other kids wouldn't get the same experiences I get at Sweyolakan.

**Elsa Chambers:** If Camp Sweyolakan was sold, I'm not sure what I would do. I would probably go to the Enchanted Forest and get all the fairies I could to fight for our camp. If that didn't work, I would make sure to keep my memories of camp close to me and let Camp Sweyolakan continue to live in my heart.

Posted by Rebecca Nappi | [20 Aug 2:30 PM](#)

There are 4 comments on this post.

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Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the article. I am a past camper and counselor and my girls are both campers too. Magen my youngest is in Trees this last week of camp.

You expressed the feelings of many of us and how we still till this day treasure Camp Sweyolakan.

Posted by Anne | [20 Aug 4:57 PM](#)

I really enjoyed your editorial about Camp Sweyolaken. I was an 8-year veteran at Camp Waskowitz (over in North Bend, right at the base of the Cascades), and this was the first year in many that I was unable to attend/volunteer/visit. It was nice to read it and remember the memories and experiences that I still carry. You hit the nail on the head with many of your descriptions...what a great way to remind adults in the area of the value of places like Camp Sweyolaken (and Waskowitz)!

ANNE  
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Posted by Dena | [20 Aug 4:58 PM](#)

Both of my daughters are on staff - Kelly is the Water Front Director and Lindsay (Miss Giggles) works in the Health Cottage with the nurses. Lindsay received her 15 year award last year and Kelly will receive her 15 year award at Gypsy banquet on Thursday.

We moved to Spokane 17 years ago when Lindsay was in 2nd grade and Kelly was in Kindergarten. Lindsay joined Camp Fire and the next summer decided she wanted to go to camp. Her dad & I thought it was a fine idea and I got ready to sign her up for Dart-lo, the day camp. No, Lindsay said, she wanted to go to Sweyolakan. I asked her if she was sure, did she know that she would be away from home for 7 days. Yes, she was very sure and here we are 17 years later (she did miss one year due to the job she had at the time). When Kelly was in 2nd grade she followed Lindsay to camp.

I am so appreciative of the growth and support that Camp Sweyolakan has given my girls. When they were campers they had to sell,sell,sell candy in order to help pay for camp. Then when they were old enough they washed dishes one week each summer so they could spend 2 weeks at camp. I truly believe the reason they both stayed in Camp Fire through high school was so that they could go through the CIT (Counselor In Training) program. They had such great experiences with their counselors and being out at camp through the years that they decided they wanted to be counselors, too.

As I was leaving camp on the Carbon Copy I looked back and thought how sad it would be if this was the last time I was to see Camp Sweyolakan. Between the overnights with the Camp Fire groups, Women's Retreat, and a couple of Sweep & Sweats I have a lot of fond memories myself. Both girls are contemplating job/school endeavors that would make this their last year at camp. Of course, I told myself, we will still be involved with camp. The girls have made life-long friends and will make time to go out to camp and visit and I enjoy the little bit of volunteering I do out there.

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When we got to the Landing this morning there was a group of people waiting to go back over to camp on the Carbon. These were former campers on their way to a Legacy luncheon. As part of the luncheon they were going to celebrate the 95th birthday of one of the older women. Can you imagine being able to celebrate you 95th birthday at such a special place?

Posted by Jan | [22 Aug 3:33 PM](#)

I am a 13-(and counting)-year veteran of camp Sweyolakan. My 10-year camper career culminated with the 2-summer CIT program, and I have now been on staff for 3 years. This past summer, I had to leave Camp early for the first time, so that I could return to my university in Austin, Texas, for R.A. training. I received your article in the mail today (my mother, who still resides in Spokane, sent it to me) and was moved to tears in the short walk from the post office to my residence hall (during this time I tripped twice because I refused to stop reading). I just wanted to say thank you for supporting Sweyolakan and the other camps that provide similar societal escapes for innumerable children. And I just wanted to say thank you, thanks so much, for sharing this haven with readers who've never been able to experience its wonders themselves.

Posted by Amanda Rose | [28 Aug 2:00 PM](#)

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# Camp Sweyolokan Water Distribution System.

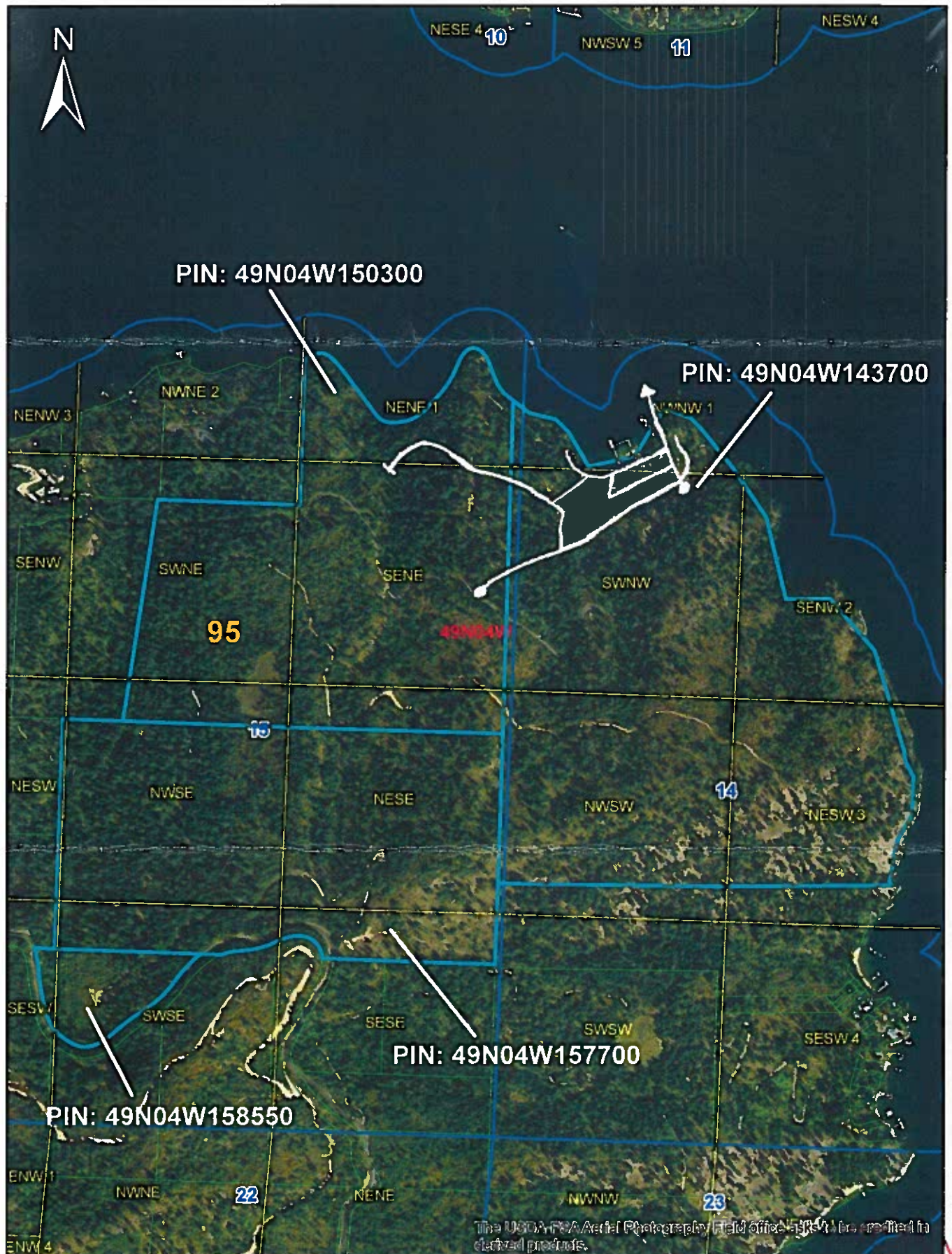
Main line Hydrant layout



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# PARCEL LOCATIONS FOR CSRBA WATER RIGHT CLAIM 95-16393



RED  
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