

Keen, Shelley

From: Keen, Shelley
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 9:46 AM
To: 'Poole,Walt'
Cc: Franklin, Keith
Subject: RE: Day Finally Dawns for New Deyo Reservoir (Lewiston Tribune 7-08)

Thanks Walt. It's nice to know we can make a difference. I'm forwarding this to Keith Franklin in our Northern Region office, since the application (84-12232) was mostly processed there.

Shelley

From: Poole,Walt [<mailto:walt.poole@idfg.idaho.gov>]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:59 AM
To: Keen, Shelley
Cc: Robertson,Cindy
Subject: FW: Day Finally Dawns for New Deyo Reservoir (Lewiston Tribune 7-08)

Hi Shelley:

This is a project you helped me with a few years ago. Without your advice and support, it might not have happened. I thought you might like to see a happy ending for once.

Walt

From: Coleman,Melissa
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:18 AM
To: Coleman,Melissa
Subject: Day Finally Dawns for New Deyo Reservoir (Lewiston Tribune 7-08)

Day Finally Dawns for New Deyo Reservoir

By KATHY HEDBERG of the Tribune | Posted: Friday, July 8, 2011 12:00 am

WEIPPE - A couple of deer stood in the lush green grass of the old Schmidt mill pond Thursday morning, never realizing the changes about to take place.

But the 80 or so people gathered at the mill site on the ledge above knew. With the first few shovels full of dirt turned over, construction of the long-awaited Deyo Reservoir began.

"We've gone through a lot of ups and downs to get here," said Joe DuPont, regional fisheries manager for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He addressed the crowd at the official groundbreaking of the \$1.5 million project expected to result in a nearly 60-acre reservoir on about 100 acres of land. The project will provide

fishing, hiking, camping, boating, wildlife viewing, exploring and many other outdoor activities for the public when it is completed.

DuPont, who said he was raised between Moscow and Troy, said the Deyo Reservoir will be much like Spring Valley Reservoir east of Troy that "certainly influenced my career path." He said it is his hope other boys and girls will find the same inspiration from Deyo.

It has taken nearly 20 years for construction to get underway, DuPont said, marked by "lots of disappointments" and dashed expectations.

In March 1994, the Fish and Game department decided constructing a reservoir at the old Schmidt mill site, located a few miles southeast of Weippe, would be feasible and even more desirable than Deer Creek Reservoir on the other side of Weippe, because of the creek that fed the former mill pond.

But in June 1996, it was found the soils at the old mill site were contaminated and it would cost anywhere from \$500 to \$500,000 to clean it up. The department didn't have that kind of money, DuPont said, so the project was temporarily scrapped. Instead the department put its efforts into developing Deer Creek Reservoir.

In November 2001, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality retested the soils at the Schmidt mill site and decided the contaminant levels were down and did not pose a health risk. Deyo, DuPont said, was back in the picture.

In September 2003, Mary Lou Deyo and her family, who had acquired the mill land, donated the 92 1/2 acres for the reservoir. The late Howard and Joyce Bird donated another 9 acres of adjacent wetlands for the project.

Also in 2003, the Friends of Deyo Reservoir fundraising group formed and began soliciting corporate and personal donations, as well as seeking grants to begin the work.

In 2009, the group was awarded a \$200,000 grant through the Idaho Parks and Recreation project, but progress was again halted in 2010 when the site had to be retested for contaminants and possible cultural significance.

Finally, in April of this year, the project got the nod from the Nez Perce Tribe, the site was declared not to be a health risk and a contract was signed with Motley and Motley Construction of Pullman to begin work.

Several of the key players attended Thursday's groundbreaking, including Mary Lou Deyo and her sons.

"It's a great day," Deyo said. "I just want to thank everybody for keeping the faith."

Wally Schmidt, former owner of the Schmidt mill, recalled when he and others were able to catch catfish in the creek that fills the mill pond and expressed enthusiasm for developing the fisheries at the reservoir.

Dave Cadwallader, regional supervisor of the Fish and Game department, commended the fundraising efforts of the volunteers.

"This is how we've got to think in the future," Cadwallader said. "Government isn't going to do these things."

And Marge Kuchynka, head of the Friends of the Deyo Reservoir Committee, talked about the many uses that will be made of the site and the potential economic boost to the area.

"We hope that it will bring jobs here that you can't even imagine yet," Kuchynka said.

A local group of musicians performed a song written especially for the occasion, and 9-year-old Addi Thomson of Weippe served fish-shaped sugar cookies she baked for the ceremony.

She did it, she said, "for fun and for the town."

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