

PRWD Permits Relating to Winter Ice Action

Over the last few months some lakeshore property owners have been confronted with the results of ice-movements. In the most common case, sand and other bottom materials have been pushed shoreward to form a ridge. *Natural ice-ridges are normal and important features of the shoreline of lakes; they serve as a component of the shoreline habitat for birds, and other animals and plants. They also help to prevent shoreline runoff from reaching the lake. In other words, ice-ridges are good, and should be preserved whenever possible.*

In addition to producing ice-ridges, ice can cause damage to ice-ridges, or to structures that have been placed close to the shoreline. Ice also may damage rip-rap that has been placed to prevent shoreline erosion.

The Pelican River Watershed District requires a permit for the alteration of ice-ridges or for any other work in the shore impact zone (generally within 40-50 feet of the water's edge). Such permits are not issued for work that will increase runoff to a lake, or disturb natural vegetation.

District Authorizes General Permit

Given the very large number of property owners that are affected by ice movements this year, ***effective April 1, 2007 the District has issued a general permit*** to all property owners to "fix" shorelines under the following circumstances:

1. work is done by hand, using hand tools (shovel, rake, wheelbarrow, bucket)
2. no shoreline vegetation is disturbed
3. material is not placed in the lake
4. dead aquatic plants and other vegetation debris must be removed from the shore area.

This general permit expires on August 31, 2007. ***No application for this general permit is required.***

Here are some examples of beaches that are considered candidates for inclusion under the District's General Permit program.



Hand tools can easily smooth out the sand piles in these examples. Vegetation debris should be removed.

Permits Still Required for Some Types of Work

For projects where machinery is required, a permit is necessary. ***The District will issue a permit at no charge under the following circumstances:***

1. machinery is used to redistribute sand along the shore
2. a ridge of no less than eight inches is maintained parallel to the shore, to promote infiltration of runoff from the shore.
3. any material returned to the lake may not contain organic material, soil, or muck.
4. the work is related to ice activity occurring within the last 6 months.

The free permit may be issued for repairs to more than one adjacent property-owner, though the permit must specify the addresses of all such repairs.



These are examples of ice-ridge accumulations that may be fixed by owners using machinery under the permit fee-waiver. An application is required; forms may be downloaded from the District's web-site (PRWD.org).



Remember, a minimum of an eight-inch berm parallel to the water's edge is required in order to prevent shoreline runoff to the lake.

Regular District Permits are *Required* for Other Ice-Ridge Related Activities

Actions contemplated to address the results of recent winter ice conditions failing to meet the criteria described above require an inspection by District staff, and a permit, if issued, will require a fee. In particular, a fee-permit is required in the following cases:

1. machine-aided repairs to structures
2. machine-aided repairs to rip-rap
3. removal of vegetation.
4. work on "old" ice ridges (more than 12 months old).

Here are some examples of damage, repair of which requires a regular District permit (which may be downloaded from the District's website (PRWD.org)).



Damage to rip-rap.



Damage to landscaping, boathouse, and rip-rap

The preservation of ice-ridges is the lake-friendly way to go. Ice-ridges help prevent shoreline erosion during episodes of high water, and they reduce nutrient runoff to lakes. It is in everybody's best interest to promote and preserve ice-ridges and stabilize them with native vegetation. See the District's website (PRWD.org) for information concerning the importance & protection of ice-ridges.