

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Raises Concerns over Okanogan County Weed Control Board, Pest Control Plans

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According to reports, Okanogan County Weed Control Board has applied to use an aquatic herbicide referred to as 'Triclopyr' to handle the infestation of Eurasian water milfoil at the south end of Osoyoos Lake, as the Okanogan Basin Water Board have raised concerns about its effects on the Canadian side of the lake.

Board Chairman and Osoyoos Mayor Stu Wells said: "The Americans don't currently have a method to deal with water milfoil and cottage owners have asked the county to get rid of the weed, which keeps them from using their beaches, and the Okanogan's chemical-free method works just as well".

He also, expressed that the treatment cost \$1000 dollars a year, though it will not present any permanent solution as well as the lakes being important for drinking water, agriculture, tourism and he is concerned about the effects of using the method.

Moreover, the B. C. Ministry of Environment, is reported to have sent a letter urging the Weed Control Board to investigate other alternatives and engage in a 'full consultation' on both sides of the border, while the OBWB has sent a letter requesting for the herbicide not be used as well as stating that the probable risks that may go against the Boundary Waters Treaty.