

Lake study underway

By Karen Havaland - Castlegar News

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A five-year recreational study of the Arrow Lakes Reservoir is now underway.

“The study will gather information on all types of recreation both on the water and recreational use of the reservoir shoreline through both face-to-face surveys with recreational reservoirs users and online surveys,” said Rachel Hamilton, stakeholder engagement advisor for BC Hydro. Hamilton said the study is exciting in that she is often approached by residents and visitors who are interested in the reservoir levels and how it might impact their recreational plans.

The Recreation Demand Study will help determine whether there is a link between Arrow Lake Reservoir levels and recreational demand. If so, it’s hope the study will further help Hydro to understand how those changes affect recreational use of the reservoir.

The study will be conducted by LEES and Associates and will continue periodically until the end of 2013.

LEES surveyors will be approaching recreationalists in and around the Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Hydro is hoping people will participate.

Under the Columbia River Water Use Plan, Hydro is implementing several other studies to better understand its impact on non-power interests such as wildlife, fish, vegetation, and recreation.

Information gathered from all the studies will help Hydro when making decisions regarding future water use planning processes.

The area studied will range from Revelstoke all the way to the Hugh Keenleyside Dam.

That study will include installation of a magnetically activated traffic counter at the Nakusp boat launch and others installed throughout the reservoir, including at Syringa Creek.

Those who are interested can access the online version of the survey later this fall at www.arrow-lakes-survey.ca.