



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 3, 2013 (2 pages)**

PRESS CONTACT: KYLA SAWYER, (208) 890-3868

**U.S. COAST GUARD DENIES JET BOAT RACE NECESSARY PERMIT
TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EVENT**

At approximately 16:00 hours yesterday the Race the Joe! 2013 Jet Boat Committee received a telephone call and subsequent email letter notifying race organizers the United States Coast Guard would not authorize a permit for racing on the St. Joe River for the event, May 17-19. The race is hosted by the St. Maries Chamber of Commerce and Epic Motorsports Consulting Group, L.L.C.

This devastating decision comes after almost a year's worth of volunteer time, effort and commitment, as well as the approval from the City of St. Maries, Benewah and Shoshone County authorities.

"We are asking for everyone's help to try and reverse the Coast Guard's decision and authorize this permit," Race the Joe spokesperson Kyla Sawyer said.

"Without this permit our race is not in compliance with our insurance and sanctioning from the American Power Boat Association and we cannot hold a race without insurance. After receiving approval from all local authorities for the race we are stunned by the Coast Guard's decision."

Please call the numbers listed below to show your support for Race the Joe! Jet boat Race, the people of St. Maries, Calder and surrounding areas to have this economic opportunity.

USCG Lt. Commander Meridena Kauffman (206) 217 - 6051
USCG Captain S. J. Ferguson (206) 217-6051
Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter (208) 334-2100
Idaho Lt. Gov. Brad Little (208) 334-2200
U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo (208) 664-5490
U.S. Sen. James E. Risch (208) 667-6130
U.S. Congressman Raul Labrador (208) 888-3188
U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson (208) 334-1953

The St. Joe River was the first leg of the 2012 USA World Jet Boat Marathon race last year. For two-days jet boat race teams raced on the St. Joe River from IFI Landing to Calder without incident to the delight of approximately 5,000 fans.

Our understanding of the sequence of events that brought the USCG to this decision are as follows:

March 28

With all permits acquired from Benewah County authorities, Race Committee members attend and present its application to Shoshone County Commissioners at a public hearing for the special use permit to extend the racecourse to Calder.

The same day David Dahms with the Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation receives a complaint from a citizen regarding concerns over the presence of eagles and eagle nests on the St. Joe River. The USCG states it received an email from Dahms regarding the environmental concerns and is deferring to the Coast Guard under the memorandum of understanding that states the USCG controls all waterways in the State of Idaho.

April 2

Shoshone County Commissioners, 3-0 unanimously approved the Race the Joe! 2013 permit to run the racecourse to Calder.

April 15

USCG notifies members of the Race Committee that a permit is needed under the MOU that all Idaho waterways fall under the jurisdiction of the USCG should an environmental concern exist.

Race Committee members prepare the permit application and overnight this to USCG and United State Fish and Wildlife Service as instructed along with monetary required amounts.

April 25 USFWS requests additional information from the Regional USFSW office and Race Committee and that information is emailed the same day.

May 2 USCG notified Race the Joe Committee members the Coast Guard is not able to permit the event at this time. The USCG stated it feels it must conduct an Environmental Assessment to address the concerns and this requires a minimum of 135 days to complete. As there is not enough time to complete an EA prior to the race dates of May 18 & 19 the USCG will not grant a permit.

May 3

American Power Boat Association informs Race the Joe Committee members without the USCG permit the race will not be sanctioned and will not be granted insurance through APBA.