

Lake Tapps | planning together for tomorrow

Collaborative Community Plan for Managing Lake Tapps



This page left intentionally blank

Executive summary

Lake Tapps is located in Pierce County, Washington, approximately 30 miles southeast of Seattle. The lake lies just below the Pierce County northern border and to the northwest of Mt. Rainier, Washington's largest mountain. Lake Tapps is bordered by the City of Bonney Lake to the south and unincorporated Pierce County to the east, with the Cities of Auburn and Sumner immediately to the west. Lake Tapps, which serves residential and recreational purposes, is an important asset to nearby cities and counties and is enjoyed by thousands of people each year.

In December 2009, Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) purchased Lake Tapps from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and became the new owner of PSE's former White River project, including the lake. Since then, Cascade has continued to operate and maintain Lake Tapps.

To ensure that Lake Tapps remains a safe, clean and enjoyable resource well into the future Pierce County, Cascade Water Alliance, the Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner, and other key governments and jurisdictions who share responsibility for Lake Tapps, began a neutrally-convened public process with the Lake Tapps community in November 2010 to develop the Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps (Plan).

Common issues in, on, and around Lake Tapps identified during the public process included:

- Alcohol consumption and partying
- Boat noise (engines, music, stereos, people)
- Boat speed and number of boats on the lake
- Education for lake users and residents
- Enforcement
- Fishing
- Growth management and shoreline damage
- Lake level
- Maintaining property values and property owner rights
- Milfoil, weed, and algae control
- Noise
- Parking
- Pedestrian safety

- Property owners not belonging to an HOA often have less of a voice than those that do belong to an HOA
- Public parks, usage and access
- Quality of life
- Regulating boat size and size of the wake
- Safety
- Stumps and stump removal
- Tacoma Point is a gathering place for fireworks and encourages trespassing on private property
- Understanding roles and responsibilities
- User enjoyment – making sure issues are managed in such a way that ensures people's right to enjoy the lake is upheld
- Water level
- Water quality
- Wildlife, animal, and habitat control including geese, nutria, eagles, and osprey

During January and February 2011, a working group brainstormed potential strategies and funding mechanisms to address common issues surrounding the lake in order to create the framework of the Plan. Participants in the working group represented a broad range of stakeholder interests, including Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Pierce County Parks Department, Pierce County Council, Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner, Cascade, Valley Regional Fire Authority, East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Lake Tapps Community Council, Lake Tapps homeowners associations (HOAs) and nearby businesses.

The end of the five month process culminated with the development this Plan that includes an overview of the lake's history, physical characteristics and current conditions, and provides information regarding existing rules and regulations. As part of the process, a list of roles and responsibilities was also developed and is outlined in Appendix I of the Plan.

The Plan, which is inclusive of real concerns presently faced on and around the lake, includes realistic and implementable strategies for addressing many, but not all of those concerns.

Issue	Strategy
Lake Levels	
Lake level management	Inform Lake Tapps community about the agreement signed between Cascade Water Alliance and the Lake Tapps Community Council regarding lake levels and how levels are determined and managed.
Fish and Wildlife	
Education on exotic species and their impacts on fish and wildlife	Involve clubs (i.e. fishing, boating, etc.) and HOAs to provide them with information and education about milfoil, exotic species (i.e. zebra mussels), and enlist their assistance in educating their members about protecting fish and wildlife while enjoying Lake Tapps.
Enforcement	
Noise on and around the lake	Focus on noise control in the evening and late night hours, as that is when the noise is most disruptive. Establish random, “emphasis” evening patrols by Pierce County Sheriff Marine Unit to focus on enforcing existing noise ordinances. In order to cite boat operators, Sheriff personnel must witness the noise infraction.
Education about current rules and regulations on Lake Tapps	Post noise ordinance and speed limit information at public access points.
Public Access	
Access to the dikes for recreational purposes and to diminish number of trespassing incidents	Cascade Water Alliance, owner of the dikes, is willing to consider entering into an agreement with an entity capable of full operation, maintenance, security, etc., for public recreation on some of the dikes as long as the integrity of the dikes would not be compromised.
Safety	
Swimming safety	Post signs and educate park users about lake temperatures, hypothermia, and drowning risks.
Boating safety	Sheriff’s Department to maintain at least 2011 level of marine patrols on the lake; aim to return to 2008 funding levels when funding was at its greatest.
Recreational Usage	
Boating navigation	Clearly mark hazardous or hidden stumps and shallow points near the islands, as needed for safety.
Education of Property Owners and Visitors	
Personal responsibility in, on, and around Lake Tapps	Conduct education about boating safety, swimming, alcohol use, and lake usage practices and reinforce personal responsibility for abiding by current rules and regulations and contributing to a healthy and safe lake.
Roles and responsibilities	Clearly identify who is responsible for key activities in the Plan. Distribute the Plan or make it widely available.
Current rules and regulations	Clearly identify existing rules and regulations including boating rules and noise ordinance.
Cascade operation of Lake Tapps and community involvement in the decision process	Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. Cascade makes decisions regarding operation and other ownership issues with respect to the lake.
Non-Pierce County Park pass policy	Non-Pierce County residents are not paying the non-resident fees for use of the County boat launch. Educate property owners around Lake Tapps of the consequences of supporting circumvention of non-Pierce County resident user fees.
Coordination Regarding Lake Tapps Operation and Enforcement	
Avoiding duplication of efforts concerning existing regulations on Lake Tapps	Ensure consistency between regulating bodies to prevent problems from moving from one area of the lake to another. Educate users on existing processes in place, including Boating Advisory Commission, Pierce County Council, Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings and the City of Bonney Lake.
Duplication of efforts – new regulations	Be aware of what rules and regulations exist before writing new ones. Provide list of existing rules and regulations in the Plan. Encourage planning and enforcing entities to review existing ordinances and rules and regulations before contemplating new ones.

Issue	Strategy
Lake Levels	
Long-term flexibility of lake levels	Work with US Army Corps of Engineers to expand management of Mud Mountain Dam to include multipurpose operations such as supporting necessary water levels year-round, flood control, instream flow and fish habitat enhancement.
Long-term stability of lake levels	Replace barrier dam to extend reliability and security in the future and to protect fish and salmon habitat.
Fish and Wildlife	
Managing and monitoring of fish and wildlife	Support new or existing private organizations to provide “eyes and hands on the lake.” Could undertake education role, provide positive reinforcement for positive behaviors, monitoring of activities that support healthy fish and wildlife, lake-wide cleanup work parties, and other activities.
Public Access	
Boats on the lake	In keeping with the recommendations in the 2005 Boat Management Plan, maintain the current level of capacity for boats on the lake, as determined by available boat trailer parking spaces.
Parking at the lake	Increase non-boat trailer parking around the lake to encourage more access to the lake and its shores to non-boat users.
Access to Lake Tapps and surrounding communities	Recommend to County and city councils that the community supports finishing transportation projects related to the lake that will reduce traffic, and improve access and pedestrian safety around the lake.
Safety	
Swimming safety	Seek to provide lifeguards at public parks to provide education and life-saving services to beach users and swimmers.
Recreational Usage	
Boating rafting on the lake	Consider changing current rules and regulations regarding rafting on the lake to allow it in multiple locations.
Boating log booms	Create a log boom for rafting. Currently, the only location rafting will be allowed in Lake Tapps is near Dike 4 pursuant to existing ordinance generally prohibiting rafting. Dike 4 is an open area and a log boom at this location was deemed unsafe and not a viable solution per a study conducted by Pierce County.
Park annual passes	The current process for determining whether an annual boat launch pass purchaser is a Pierce County or non-Pierce County resident seems ineffective, since no non-county passes are being sold. Assess practice and determine a more effective way to recover non-county fees.
Education of Property Owners and Visitors	
Volunteers to share information about Lake Tapps	Develop a volunteer group to educate and inform lake users and residents about safe and healthy lake behaviors.
Coordination Regarding Lake Tapps Operation and Enforcement	
Avoiding duplication of efforts concerning existing regulations on Lake Tapps	Ensure consistency between regulating bodies to prevent problems from moving from one area of the lake to another. Educate users on existing processes in place, including Boating Advisory Commission, Pierce County Council, Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings, and the City of Bonney Lake.
Coordination and communication to keep the Lake Management Plan current and useful to the community	Develop a Lake Tapps coordination group to meet on a regular basis (annually) and on an as-needed basis to monitor and support progress towards the recommendations in the Boat Management Plan and the Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps to revise issues and strategies as needed, and to address changing or emerging issues.

As a result of limited resources or the inability to identify a lead, some issues and strategies within this Plan would be difficult to implement by the 2011 recreational season. The Lake Tapps community should view this as an opportunity to get involved and invest in their community to make it a safer and more enjoyable place to live and recreate. This Plan is a working document and is a first step towards improving management of the lake. Future endeavors that aim to build or expand upon this document to make future changes on and around Lake Tapps are highly encouraged by all those involved in the Plan's development.

This page left intentionally blank

Table of Contents

	Executive Summary	i
	List of Common Acronyms	1
	Acknowledgements	2
	Introduction	4
	Planning for the future.....	4
	Purpose and goals.....	5
	Overview of management plan process.....	5
	Inside the Plan.....	5
	The community's role in the decision making process.....	5
	Stakeholder Participation	6
	Issues of Concern – Short-Term and Long-Term	9
	Inventory of Existing Conditions	11
	Location.....	11
	Historic use.....	12
	Physical characteristics of the lake.....	13
	Land use and land ownership.....	15
	Demographics and social usage.....	16
	Roles and Responsibilities On and Around the Lake	18
	Inventory of existing ordinances, rules and regulations.....	18
	Short-Term priority issues, management strategies, implementation plan, funding needs and approaches	24
	Long-Term priority issues, management strategies, implementation plan, funding needs and approaches.....	29
	Funding and the Economic Climate	33
	Conclusion	36
	List of Appendices	37

List of Common Acronyms

- Boating Advisory Commission (BAC)
- Bonney Lake Police Department (BLPD)
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Homeowner Associations (HOAs)
- Lake Tapps Community Council (LTCC)
- Marine Service Unit on Lake Tapps (MSU)
- Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD)
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE)
- Reports of Examination (ROEs)

Acknowledgments

The success reached with the final Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps (Plan) and the collaborative nature of the development process for this Plan could not have been accomplished without valuable participation from key organizations, agencies, and individuals. The dedication to a shared vision for improving life on and around Lake Tapps will help maintain the same character of the lake that people have come to know and enjoy.

Special thanks and appreciation should be extended to the many people involved in developing this Plan, who volunteered their valuable time, effort, and expertise to this important process.

Pierce County

- Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive
- Dan Roach, Pierce County Council District 1
- Sgt. Roger Toles, Pierce County Sheriff's Department
- Kathy Kravit-Smith, Pierce County Parks Department
- Keri Rooney, Pierce County Executive's Office
- Greg Stonack, Pierce County Sheriff's Department
- Jake Greger, Pierce County Sheriff's Department
- Larry Minturn, Pierce County Sheriff's Department
- Sean Kadow, Pierce County Sheriff's Department

City of Auburn

- Mayor Peter Lewis
- Carolyn Robertson, Government Relations Manager

City of Bonney Lake

- Mayor Neil Johnson
- Dan Grigsby, Public Works Director

City of Buckley

- Mayor Pat Johnson

City of Sumner

- Mayor Dave Enslow

Cascade Water Alliance

- Lloyd Warren, Board Chair
- John Marchione, Board Vice Chair
- John Ault, Board Director
- Jon Shimada, Capital Projects Director
- Penny Sweet, Board Director
- Chuck Clarke, CEO
- Elaine Kraft, Intergovernmental and Communications Director
- Joe Mickelson, Lake Tapps Operations Manager
- Denice Trimble, Legal Counsel
- TC Richmond, Legal Counsel

East Pierce Fire and Rescue

- Jerry Thorson, Fire Chief
- Karlyne McGinnis, Fire Commissioner
- Rick Kuss, Fire Commissioner

Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Stan Laatsch, Fire Chief
- Eric Robertson, Administrator

Homeowner Associations and Community Representatives

- James Premo, Tacoma Point and Top Foods
- Jason Carroll, Tacoma Point
- John Clarke, Tapps Island Association
- Justin Nimick, Driftwood Point
- Kim Stallcop, Driftwood Point
- Rick Fardig, Homeowner

Lake Tapps Community Council

- Leon Stucki, Vice President
- Ralph Mason, Member

This page left intentionally blank

Introduction

Planning for the Future

Lake Tapps is a community jewel enjoyed by thousands of people each year. The lake, which serves residential and recreational purposes, is an important asset to nearby cities and counties.

In December 2009, Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) purchased Lake Tapps from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and became the new owner of PSE's former White River project, including the lake. Since then, Cascade has continued to operate and maintain Lake Tapps. The lake will be used as a drinking water source in the future.

To ensure that Lake Tapps remains a safe, clean and enjoyable resource well into the future Pierce County, Cascade Water Alliance, the Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner, and other key governments and jurisdictions who share responsibility for Lake Tapps, convened a public process with members of the Lake Tapps community to develop a Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps (Plan).

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Plan is to form a coherent and shared understanding of the lake and its surrounding environment and the interconnection and coordination required between the many entities that have responsibilities for regulation and management in, on, and around the lake. Because there is not a planning document capable of anticipating all future events, this Plan is meant to be a dynamic tool, serving as a guide to overall lake management. Developed in a collaborative process, the Plan aims to jointly develop recommendations to allow Pierce County, Tribes, Cascade, the Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner, state agencies and the community that lives, visits, boats, fishes and plays on or near the lake the flexibility to address short- and long- term concerns as well as providing a method for responding to new challenges as they arise.

The broad goals of the Plan are to:

- Provide background information about the history and natural resources of Lake Tapps.
- Provide a summary of existing conditions, agreements, facilities, recreational uses and management.
- Provide a basic framework for addressing current issues and future use, protection and management of the natural and recreational resources of Lake Tapps to best meet the needs of all involved with the lake.
- Ensure maximum effectiveness by outlining ways in which Pierce County, Cascade, Tribes, local cities and the community can work cooperatively and synergistically to better coordinate efforts and decisions pertaining to issues in, on, and around the lake, as well as to ensure that policies are consistent, complementary, and designed to protect the recreational and natural resources of the lake.
- Serve as an educational resource for the Lake Tapps community to better understand how management occurs in, on, and around the lake.

Specifically, the Plan provides or clarifies management guidelines for:

- The protection of the residential quality of life at Lake Tapps.
- The continued recreational enjoyment of Lake Tapps.
- The protection of Lake Tapps' water quality.
- The protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife.
- The protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

Overview of the Lake Management Plan Process

In an effort to address current issues surrounding Lake Tapps and to achieve the purpose and goals of the Plan, a public process was initiated in November 2010 that encouraged and solicited community involvement. The public process was managed and facilitated by EnviroIssues, a public involvement consulting firm, tasked with providing a neutrally-convened process to the Lake Tapps community.

Introduction

The goal of the public process was to recognize issues on and around the lake, develop potential solutions to those issues, and identify means of funding those solutions to ensure long-term safety and security for Lake Tapps.

A Lake Tapps survey, made available to the public via email, web, mailings and newspaper, initiated the public process. Information gleaned from the survey included: what activities are enjoyed on and around the Lake, what issues are experienced while using the lake, and what main issues the public feels should be addressed in a lake management plan.

Following the survey, a Community Forum was held to collect additional feedback from the community concerning issues around Lake Tapps and possible solutions for addressing these issues.

During January and February, key governmental and community partners continued to work with residents, recreational users and the various jurisdictions around the lake to develop a draft of the Plan that would ensure enjoyment of the lake while also maintaining a healthy and safe environment. All meetings were led by a trained EnviroIssues facilitator to ensure neutrality throughout the management plan process.

A draft of the Plan was made available to the public on March 11th, 2011, and was presented at a Community Meeting on March 16. The purpose of the Community Meeting was to convey all of the effort put forth by the working group and to provide community members with an opportunity to comment on the draft Plan.

Input from the community played a major role in the creation of the Plan; priorities and values of those who live, work, and play near the lake are reflected throughout. For more information about the Plan process, see page 6.

The Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps was finalized in March 2011. The Plan will be shared with the Pierce County Executive, city councils, Tribes, and Cascade Board of Directors.

Inside the Plan

The Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps:

- ▶ Provides an overview of the history, physical characteristics, and current conditions and demographics on and around Lake Tapps.
- ▶ Educates residents and lake enthusiasts about current rules and regulations on and around Lake Tapps.
- ▶ Identifies roles and responsibilities for lake management.
- ▶ Identifies safety, security, water quality and other issues currently present on and around the lake.
- ▶ Identifies potential solutions to address current issues, including funding constraints.
- ▶ Provides proposed mechanisms to assess and improve the plan over time.
- ▶ Respects taxpayers and ratepayers, and is sensitive to budgetary pressures presently faced by local governments.

The Community's Role in the Decision Making Process

The Lake Tapps community has always had a voice in the way their recreational environment is governed, and existing ordinances and regulations have sometimes been implemented because of grass-roots community action and lobbying for change. Community members who see a need for amendments to existing regulations should seek to collaborate with the appropriate authority, including, but not limited to, Pierce County Council, surrounding city councils, the Lake Tapps Community Council, and the Boating Advisory Commission.

Stakeholder Participation

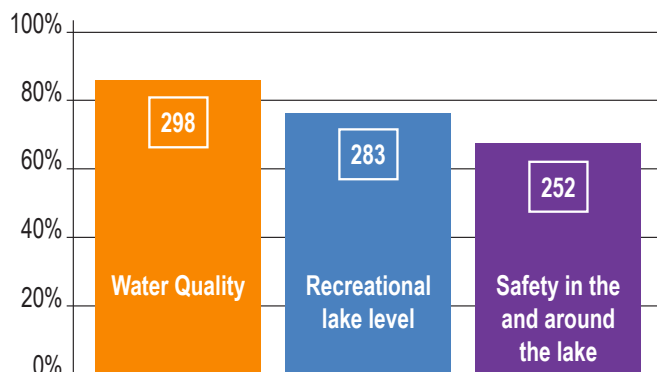
Meeting the Community's Needs through a Collaborative Process

The lake management plan process was initiated in November 2010 with a Lake Tapps survey. The survey asked participants to identify how they interact with the lake, where they live in relation to the lake, what issues they experience on and around the lake and which of those issues they hoped to see addressed in a lake management plan. The survey was made available via email, web and newspaper and received an exceptionally robust response from the community. Survey responses shed light on what residents and lake users value most about Lake Tapps and helped prioritize topics of concern. See Appendix I for a full summary report of the survey results.

Survey results at-a-glance:

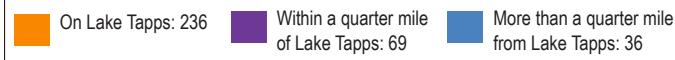
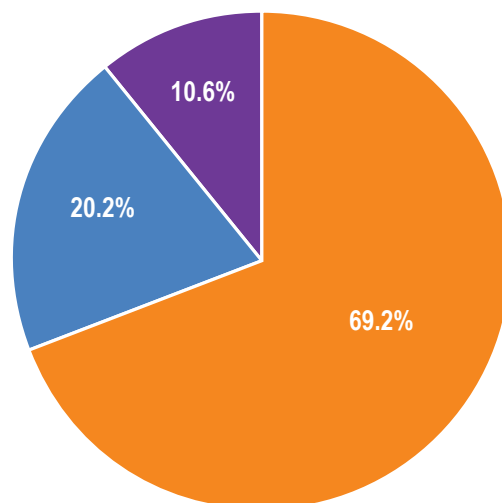
- 368 people started the survey with 333 people completing the survey (90.5%).
- Over 60% of survey takers boat, swim, and/or play on Lake Tapps.
- The top three issues most important to survey takers concerning how Lake Tapps is managed were (in no particular order):
 - ♦ Water quality
 - ♦ Recreational lake level
 - ♦ Safety in and around the lake
- Survey takers, in general, thought the county, cities, Cascade, property owners, and lake users should share management responsibilities for the lake and should help fund the requirements identified in the final Plan.

What issues are important to you about how Lake Tapps is managed?



(Source: Lake Management Plan Survey Results)

Where do you live in relation to Lake Tapps?



(Source: Lake Management Plan Survey Results)

- Nearly 70% of survey takers live on Lake Tapps.
- Since the survey was completed in December 2010, an additional 50 responses were submitted to Cascade. All answers submitted past the deadline were consistent with the final survey results summary.

Following the survey, a Community Forum was held to introduce the public process to agency representatives and community stakeholders on and around Lake Tapps, and to present the final survey results to the public. In addition, the Community Forum was held to collect additional feedback from residents and lake users concerning issues around Lake Tapps. A key piece to the Community Forum was a brainstorming session; attendees were asked to not only identify issues they experience on and around the lake, but to suggest potential strategies for addressing or solving those issues. Feedback that was collected from the survey and the Community Forum was used to inform the initial framework of the lake management plan.

Stakeholder Participation

Due to the jurisdictional complexities of Lake Tapps, agency representatives with responsibilities on and around Lake Tapps were invited to attend the Community Forum and briefly explain their roles as they pertain to Lake Tapps. Approximately 55 people attended the Community Forum.

During January and February 2011, a working group was created to continue the conversation about Lake Tapps issues. The working group suggested additional strategies and began brainstorming potential funding needs necessary for solving specific issues. The working group was made up of governmental entities, Cascade, residents, and recreational users. Approximately 20 working group members assessed each issue and spoke candidly with one another about the wants and needs of the Lake Tapps community. The group worked collaboratively during meetings and in between working sessions, focusing on developing a plan that was realistically implementable and could ultimately be used as a resource to the community.

Participants in the working group represented a broad range of stakeholder interests, including Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Pierce County Parks Department, Pierce County Council, the Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner, Cascade, Valley Regional Fire Authority, East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Lake Tapps Community Council, Lake Tapps homeowners associations (HOAs), and nearby businesses. This diverse representation allowed the development process to remain



Community Forum, January 13, 2011

unbiased and assisted in developing a plan that is not only sensitive to ratepayers and the needs of the community, but recognizes budgetary pressures local governments and jurisdictions presently face. For more information about current funding constraints, see page 33.

Following development and review of the draft Plan in early March, it was presented to the community at a Community Meeting on March 16. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Plan to the community and solicit additional feedback on the Plan. Oral and written comments were collected during the meeting and accepted via email and mail through March 25, 2011.

Comments submitted on the draft Plan were carefully reviewed and considered. Most public comments were incorporated into the final version of the Plan. Comments that were not incorporated had been previously discussed by the working group and were related to strategies not carried forward in the Plan (see Appendix I), or because the issues raised fell outside the scope and purview of the Plan.

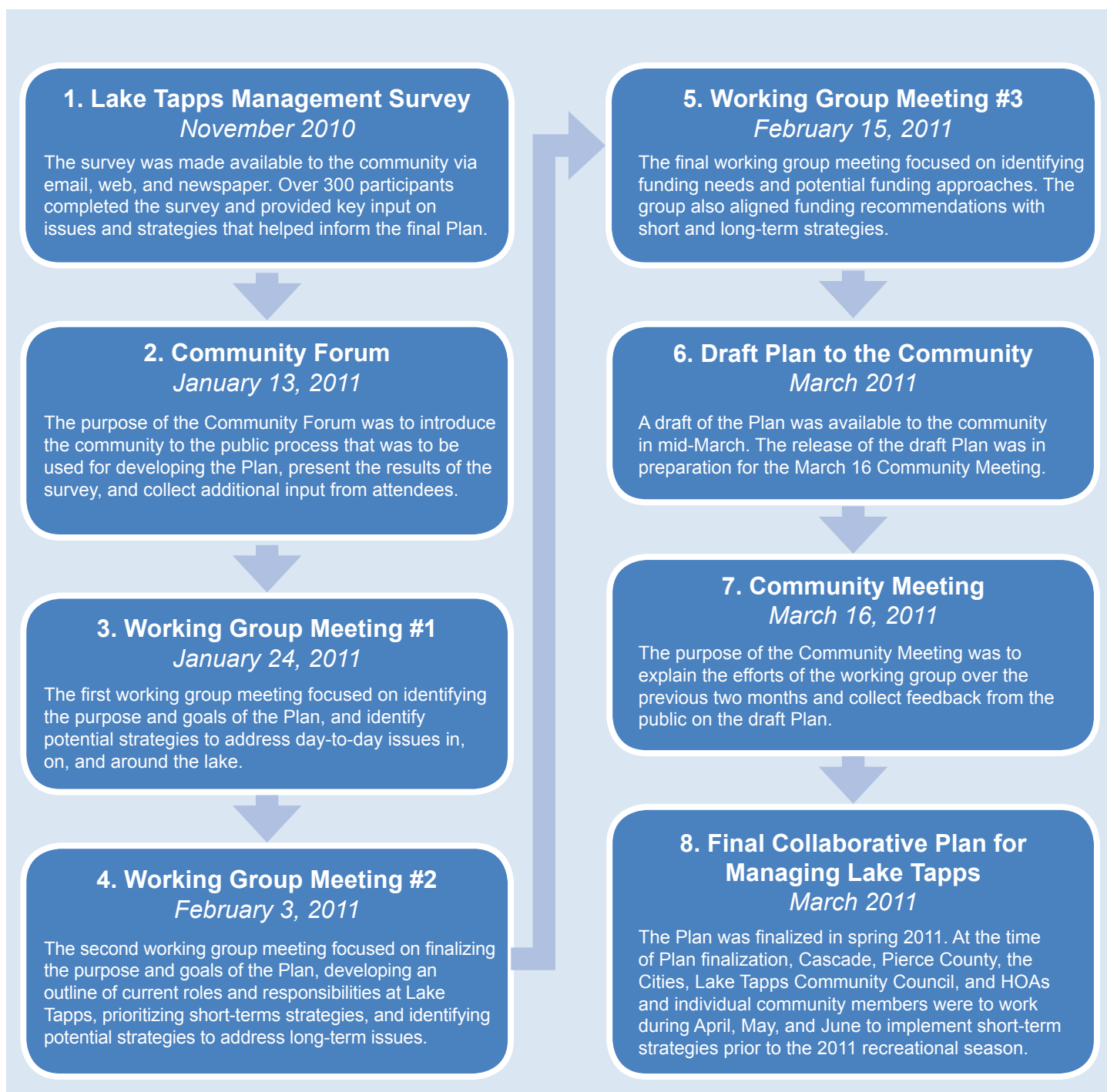
The Plan was finalized in spring 2011. To view all documents, materials and summaries developed as part of the public process, see Appendix I.



Community Forum, January 13, 2011

Public Process Timeline

The public process to develop the Plan was conducted in just a few short months to ensure that implementable short-term strategies identified in the final Plan could be put into practice in time for the 2011 recreational season.



Issues of Concern In, On, and Around Lake Tapps

Over the course of the public process from November 2010 to February 2011, a wide range of issues specific to Lake Tapps were brought to the table, either via the Management Plan survey, the Community Forum, or working group meetings. In order to tackle the key issues on Lake Tapps and identify those that have the greatest impact on the largest number of people or the lake, it was important to first acknowledge all topics of concern.

Below is a comprehensive list of all issues identified:

- Alcohol consumption and partying
- Boat noise (engines, music, stereos, people)
- Boat speed and number of boats on the lake
- Education for lake users and residents
- Enforcement
- Fishing
- Growth management and shoreline damage
- Lake level
- Maintaining property values and property owner rights
- Milfoil, weed, and algae control
- Noise
- Parking
- Pedestrian safety
- Property owners not belonging to an HOA often have less of a voice than those that do belong to an HOA
- Public parks, usage and access
- Quality of life
- Regulating boat size and size of the wake
- Safety
- Stumps and stump removal
- Tacoma Point is a gathering place for fireworks and



Lake Tapps North Park.

Issues of Concern In, On, and Around Lake Tapps

encourages trespassing on private property

- Understanding roles and responsibilities
- User enjoyment – making sure issues are managed in such a way that ensures people's right to enjoy the lake is upheld
- Water level
- Water quality
- Wildlife, animal, and habitat control including geese, nutria, eagles, and osprey

Following acknowledgement of all Lake Tapps issues, the working group focused their efforts on expanding upon both issues and strategies that were suggested during the Community Forum and worked to appropriately match the two together. Prioritization of issues and strategies was necessary to develop the central focus of the Plan, and as such, the working group was tasked with tackling a list of difficult questions – Which issues could be realistically considered as part of the Plan? Were there issues that could be addressed in the short-term? Were some issues so broad in scope and funding requirements, or require changes to existing laws, that they could only be addressed in the long-term? Did some issues, in general, fall outside the scope of this Plan? What strategies could adequately address existing issues? Which issues and strategies required funding and was funding currently available? If not, was obtaining funding a realistic objective? Who should take on the responsibility of implementing a strategy identified in the final Plan?

Throughout the development process, working group participants gained additional insight into how Lake Tapps is operated and managed. Information concerning current rules and regulations in existence on Lake Tapps, various jurisdictional rules and responsibilities on the lake, funding constraints the cities and county were facing, city and county council decision making processes, HOA management of private parks, and management of Lake

Tapps' public parks are just a few examples of the breadth of topics covered during the working group meetings. In order to develop a management plan that met the needs of the community and everyone involved, it was important for the working group to truly understand the complexities and convoluted nature of managing a lake of this size and with this much community importance.

For a full list of issues and strategy recommendations put forward in this Plan, see page 24. To learn more issues and strategies that were ultimately deemed too broad or complex for the scope of this Plan, please see Appendix I.

Inventory of Existing Conditions

Location

Lake Tapps is located in Pierce County, Washington, approximately 30 miles southeast of Seattle. The lake lies southwest of the Pierce County northern border where Pierce and King Counties meet, and just to the northwest of Mt. Rainier, Washington's largest mountain. Lake Tapps is bordered by the City of Bonney Lake to the south and unincorporated Pierce County to the east, with the Cities of Auburn and Sumner immediately to the west. Part of a plateau created during the glacial period, Lake Tapps used to be four separate natural lakes prior to damming in 1911 creating the Lake Tapps reservoir. Fed by the White River, Lake Tapps has an irregular shoreline and contains several small islands scattered throughout.

The largest public access area on Lake Tapps is Lake Tapps North Park, located on the northern shore. Operated by Pierce County, it is an 80-acre park with 10,000 feet of waterfront access to the lake. A second public access area is located at the southern end of the lake, managed by the City of Bonney Lake. This park, known as Allan Yorke Park, is a 32-acre facility with 600 feet of waterfront access to the lake. More detailed information regarding the public parks is available in the Roles and Responsibilities section, located on page 18. The east side of the lake has the largest concentration of small islands and snags, making it a somewhat isolated in-water area due to its unique characteristics.

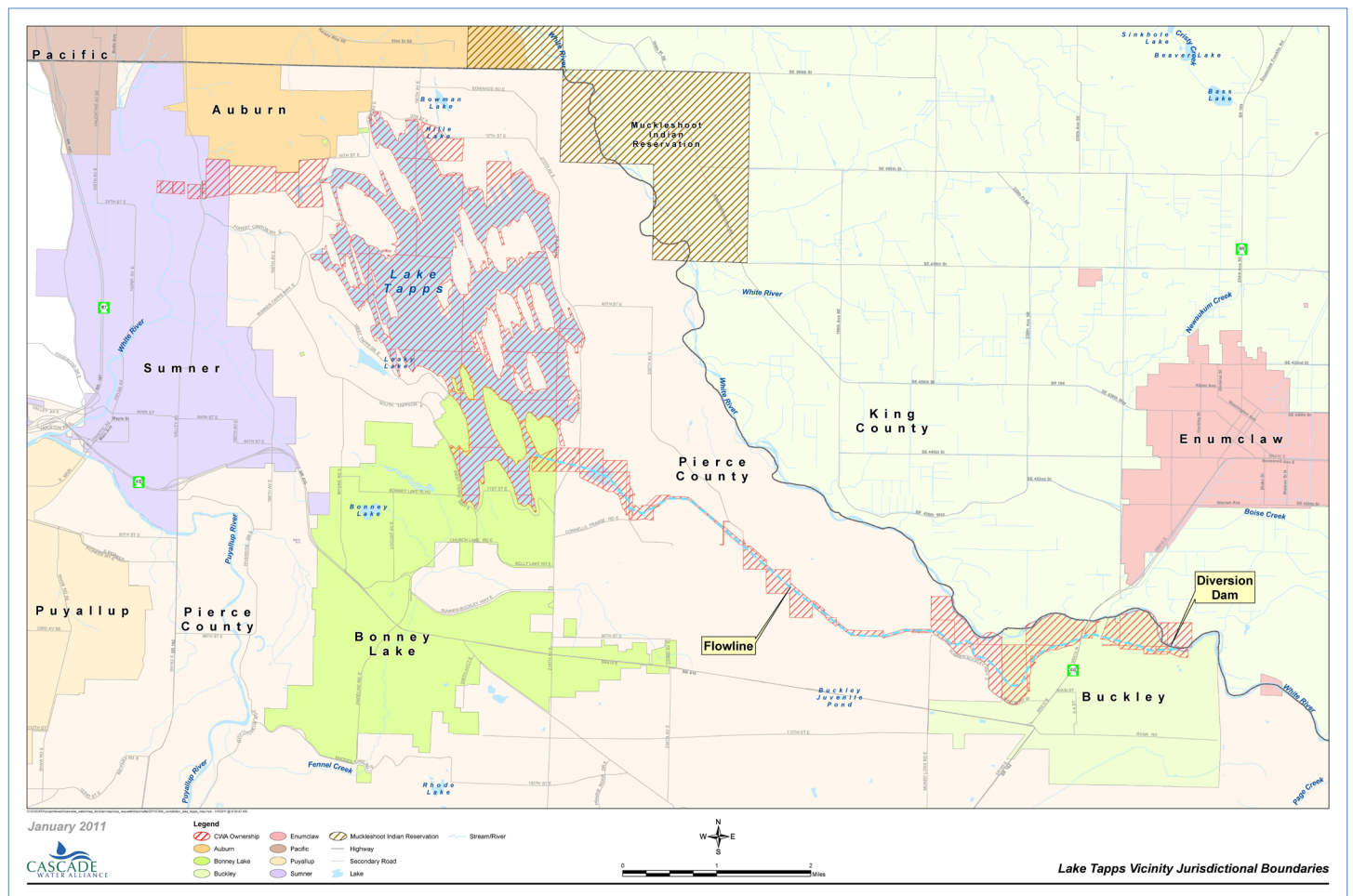


Figure 1. Lake Tapps in Pierce County, WA



Diversion Dam Construction, 1910

Historic Use

The Pacific Coast Power Company constructed the White River Power Plant, a hydroelectric facility on the White River, from 1909 to 1911. Its water storage capacity was achieved by diking around four lakes on the Lake Tapps plateau, a product of the glacial period. The White River's proximity to Mt. Rainier, along with the moist climate, makes for a nearly constant flow of water, attracting the attention of early 20th century power engineers. There was a demand for additional electricity generation in the Puget Sound area in order to run the Interurban Railroad from Tacoma to Seattle. The White River Power Plant merged the four natural lakes into the Lake Tapps reservoir, used for hydroelectric power generation under PSE, until January 2004. PSE voluntarily ceased operations in 2004 due to revised requirements for the hydroelectric project operating license with stronger

environmental regulations from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that would have made the operation more expensive than alternative power sources.

While much of Lake Tapps' history of use lies in its supply of energy to the region, it has also provided an abundance of recreational opportunity to the surrounding and nearby communities. As the largest lake in Pierce County and a popular summer boating destination, an estimated 250,000 people visit the lake each year for recreational pursuits, coming from nearby cities such as Tacoma and Seattle. Recreational opportunities available at the lake include boating, water skiing, wake boarding, swimming, golfing, picnicking, and fishing. Most of these activities are open to the public, and attendance numbers have seen a significant increase over the past decade.

Inventory of Existing Conditions

In December 2009, the multi-year purchase transaction process closed and Cascade became the owner of Lake Tapps and the White River property. Cascade continued with its comprehensive, collaborative planning process with community stakeholders and local governments to ensure that Lake Tapps will be a significant component for the region's water supply system over the next four to six decades and beyond. Lake Tapps will continue to be an integral resource to the region as a hub of recreation, restoration of endangered fisheries, and in the future, a key water supply source to help the region meet its water needs over the next several decades.

Physical Characteristics

Lake Tapps is approximately 4.5 square miles (2,296 acres) in size with 45 miles of shoreline, designating it as a Shoreline of Statewide Significance in Washington. Lake Tapps is located within the White River sub basin, and has a maximum depth of approximately 89 feet and a mean depth of approximately 25 feet. There are significant wetland areas surrounding Lake Tapps, with wetlands covering 8 percent of the shoreline. Lake levels of Lake Tapps are in constant flux throughout the year, depending on the season. The gage height during February 2011 was between 536-537 feet, although summer lake levels are typically around 542-543 feet,



Aerial of Lake Tapps with Mt. Rainier in the background.

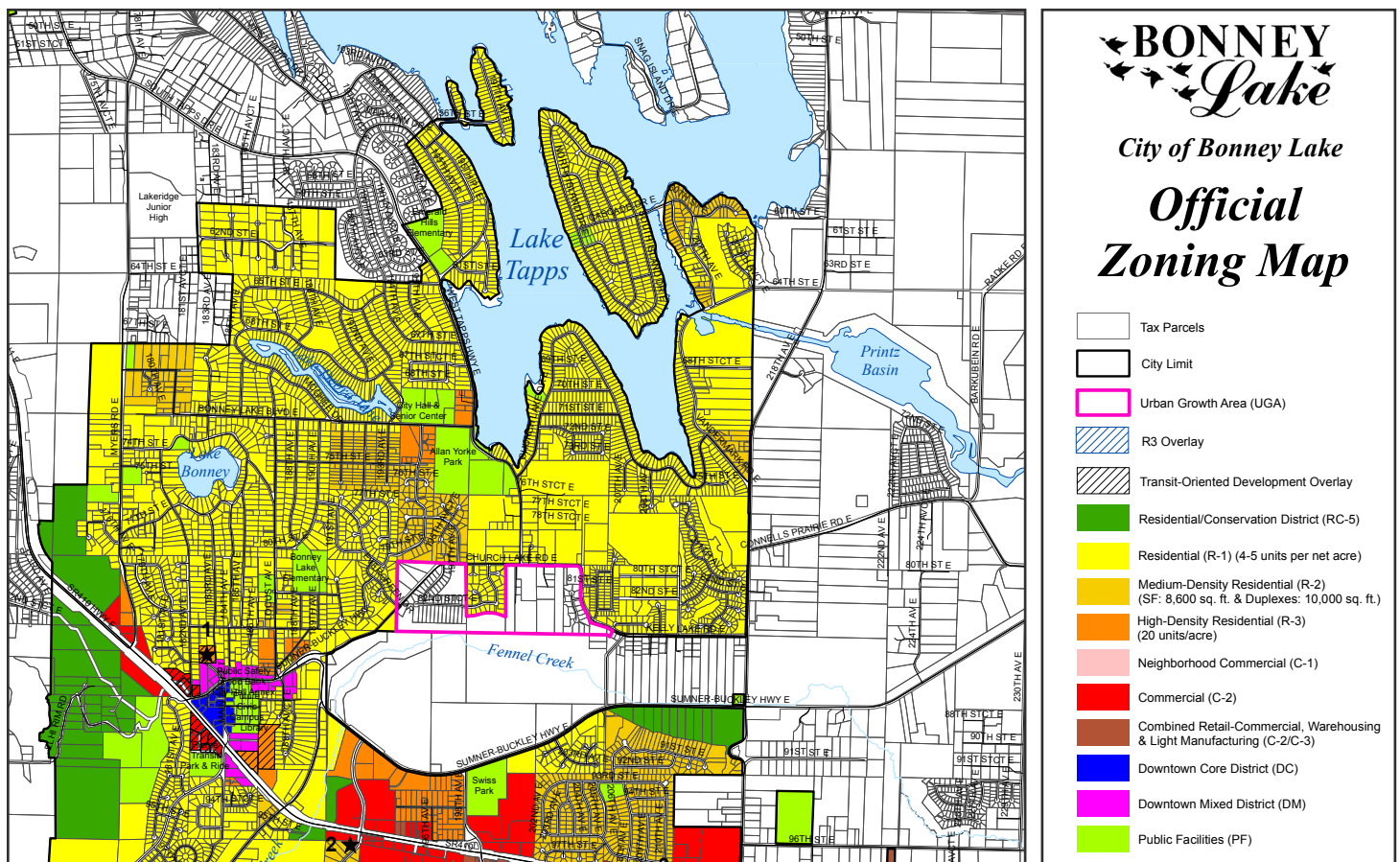
Inventory of Existing Conditions

with a full recreational pool level of 541.5 feet (US Geological Survey, 2001).

Formed during the glacial period and situated in a geologically active region, hazards facing Lake Tapps include flooding, seismic activity and landslides, similar to the surrounding region. The slopes of Lake Tapps are classified as steep slopes and therefore present the potential for erosion (Pierce County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report, 2007). In the City of Bonney Lake, approximately 29 percent of residential lots are in a geologically hazardous area, while 10 percent are in the floodplain. (City of Bonney Lake Shoreline Analysis Report). Please see Appendix IV for more detailed information on the Shoreline Analysis Report.

Residential development around Lake Tapps over the past half century has caused shoreline modifications,

with many residential parcels having private docks and retaining walls. The lake has a very high shoreline development index, which is the ratio of the lake's shoreline length to that of a circle within the same area. In addition, several of the island roadways are connected with bridges and causeways. There are several narrow water passages across which it is easy to connect land masses. In the jurisdiction of Bonney Lake, there are residential boat ramps on 11 percent of waterfront lots, with boat canopies on 18 percent of the lots. In total, more than 90 percent of residential lots are armored with bulkhead. This significant shoreline modification and high shoreline development index usually indicates that a lake is more susceptible to eutrophication, a process where bodies of water receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth. Water quality and habitat issues are discussed in greater detail in the Roles and Responsibilities section (see page 18).



City of Bonney Lake Zoning Map



The land around Lake Tapps was undeveloped for decades, operating solely as a hydroelectric plant for energy needs outside of the immediate area. It was an area of abundant wildlife with only a few vacation cabins until development started occurring after an investment group purchased Puget Power property around the lake in 1954. By the early 1990s, more than 78 percent of the shoreline and islands were developed for residential purposes and the property values around the lake reflected the prized opportunity for waterfront living. In May 1998, PSE conducted a survey indicating that the number of occupied waterfront lots had increased to 1,572, approximately 96 percent of the total platted waterfront lots. Boat use on the lake has followed a similar trend with increased usage throughout the past decade, with a similar survey in 2003 estimating that there are 2,604 total boats on the lake.

The majority of Lake Tapps shoreline is under the jurisdiction of Pierce County Zoning. Zoning is mostly moderate density single family (MSF) and agricultural resource land (ARS).

Demographics and Social Usage

Communities at a glance

Located in an area of abundant natural beauty, Lake Tapps is an area known for prime waterfront real estate. The land around the lake is predominately zoned for moderate to high density single-family residential use. The islands on Lake Tapps are also mostly used for large-lot single family homes. There are several communities and HOAs located around the lake that offer private access.

Auburn

The City of Auburn is located in King County, with the southern portion of the city located in Pierce County. The city plays a significant role in lake management because of its proximity to Lake Tapps. Auburn is one of the four cities to sign an agreement with Cascade that ensures water needs of the next 50 years. To see the agreement, see Appendix IV.

Bonney Lake

The City of Bonney Lake was established in 1946 and has seen a population increase over the past decade from 9,687 in 2000 to a population of 17,374 in 2010. Based on the 2010 Shoreline Analysis Report released by the City of Bonney Lake, there are 465 residential waterfront parcels in Bonney Lake located on Lake Tapps and approximately 28 vacant parcels. Allan Yorke Park provides public access to the lake, while there are two private parks, Church Lake Park and Inlet Island Park. The City has a total of 211 acres of shoreline jurisdiction on Lake Tapps.

To view the 2010 Bonney Lake Shoreline Analysis Report, see Appendix IV.

Buckley

Located to the southeast of Lake Tapps, the City of Buckley is home to 4,354 residents as of 2010, a slight increase from 4,145 in 2000. With the diversion dam located along the White River in Buckley, the city's stake in Lake Tapps is substantial. Like Bonney Lake

and Auburn, the Buckley community was invited to participate in the public process toward creating the lake management plan and Cascade will work closely with the city to ensure continued involvement in issues regarding Lake Tapps.

Cascade Water Alliance

Cascade Water Alliance is a non-profit corporation comprised of eight municipalities (the Cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah and Tukwila; Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer district, Covington Water District, and Skyway Water and Sewer District) in the Puget Sound region. Cascade's mission is "to provide water supply to meet current and future needs in a cost effective and environmentally sensitive manner by purchasing wholesale water from other suppliers; coordinating conservation and supply management; acquiring, constructing and managing water supply infrastructure and fostering regional water planning to provide water for people, fish and fun." Cascade does not expect to develop its municipal water supply system within the next two decades.

Since purchasing the lake from PSE in December of 2009, Cascade owns the lake up to an elevation of 545 feet. Cascade is committed to working with its neighbors in the White River basin to ensure continued stewardship and regional cooperation in the community. Page 11 shows the jurisdictions surrounding the lake, including Cascade's land ownership. As part of this cooperation, Cascade entered into a Lake Tapps Area Water Resources Agreement with the above cities on the 5th of February, 2010.

Lake Tapps Community Council (LTCC)

The Lake Tapps Community Council, which focuses their efforts on addressing community challenges and works collaboratively with jurisdictional entities that have responsibilities on and around Lake Tapps, is made up of seven homeowners associations that represent specific areas around the lake. They are:

- Church Lake Maintenance Co.
- Driftwood Point Association
- Inlet Island Maintenance Co.

Inventory of Existing Conditions

- Snag Island Maintenance Association
- Tacoma Point Improvement Club
- Tapps Island Association
- West Tapps Maintenance Co.

To learn more about the LTCC or to find out ways to get involved with this organization, please visit <http://www.laketappsnews.org/index.htm>

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, like the Puyallup Tribe, is assisting with monitoring water quality on Lake Tapps and in the White River under an agreement with Cascade. The Muckleshoot reservation has a 2010 population of 3,850 and is located between the White and Green rivers southeast of Auburn near Lake Tapps.

The White River Management Agreement between the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe, and Cascade was signed on August 6, 2008 aiming to improve the health of the White River and its habitat, including salmon and other fishery resources. Both Tribes wish to protect the flow in the White River from further appropriation by others. For the complete agreement, see Appendix IV.

Pierce County

The second most populous county in the state of Washington, Pierce County has seen a significant population increase from 700,819 in 2000, up to 795,225 in 2010. Lake Tapps is located completely within Pierce County, which oversees the overall health and management of the lake. The Lake Tapps North County Park is operated by the Pierce County Parks Department. The main enforcement team on the lake is operated by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Marine Services Unit. The involvement of Pierce County in the public process was therefore crucial to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to the management plan.

Puyallup Tribe of Indians

The Puyallup Tribe is part of the cooperative monitoring team made up of Cascade, Pierce County and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe that tests the water quality in Lake Tapps. The Puyallup Reservation had a population of 41,341 in 2000, with an increase to 46,813 in 2010, making it the most populous tribe in the state.

Sumner

Lying to the northwest of Lake Tapps in Pierce County, Sumner has a population of 9,451 up from 8,504 in 2000, signifying a growth trend along with other cities surrounding Lake Tapps. Along with Auburn, Buckley and Bonney Lake, Sumner is part of the Four Cities Agreement with Cascade and an important stakeholder in the public process to ensure that water needs are met in the next 50 years and that Lake Tapps continues to be a source of enjoyment for the community.

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

Existing Ordinances, Rules and Regulations

Caring for and managing Pierce County's largest lake has taken collaboration between several agencies, communities, and jurisdictions throughout the past few decades as its role of providing hydroelectric energy waned and residential development and recreational demands increased. One of the main purposes of the Plan is to provide clear and detailed information regarding the roles and responsibilities on and around Lake Tapps, as it exists under current law and/or agreements, ensuring effective enforcement and cooperation between multiple users and authorities. With its multifaceted history and numerous opportunities for the future, Lake Tapps is one of the region's greatest resources, requiring teamwork and support in order for it to remain a beneficial asset to the broader community.

During working group meetings, participants identified various issues on and around Lake Tapps and identified the roles and responsibilities amongst vested agencies, jurisdictions and organizations associated with the issues. Below are some of the most common issues arising on the lake and the corresponding ordinances, rules, and regulations that govern them.

For more information about roles and responsibilities specific to Lake Tapps, see Appendix I or visit http://www.cascadewater.org/lake_tapps_management.php.

Access and Capacity

Access to Lake Tapps is available to the public at two parks on the shoreline, Allan Yorke Park on the southern shore and Lake Tapps North Park on the northwest shore. Access to these two parks is limited mostly by parking capacity, entrance fees and a security gate at Allan Yorke Park. In addition, many of the HOAs offer access through purchase of a membership to a private, secured park within their community. Homeowners' must adhere to the regulations of their respective private park membership regarding lake access. It is the responsibility of surrounding jurisdictions to administer parking and trespassing violations.

Allan Yorke Park

Allan Yorke Park is one of two public access boat launch areas for Lake Tapps. The issues of increased attendance and parking overflow have been reported for several years. In 2005, The Lake Tapps Boat Management Plan team listed suggestions for improvements at the park regarding access. Since then, the City of Bonney Lake installed a security gate in order to manage and monitor the number of launches on the lake. The gate, open from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., was reported to be prone to malfunction. At the time of the Plan's finalization, steps were planned to ensure it is in proper working order for the 2011 season. The boat launch fee at the park for non-residents is \$17.00 per daily round-trip, up from \$10.00 in 2004. Bonney Lake residents have the option of purchasing a launch card for \$25.00 per year. Bonney Lake Municipal Code Chapter 12.12.051 addresses the boat launch fee regulation and can be found at the website listed below. For more information about boat access from Allan Yorke Park, please visit: http://www.citybonneylake.org/section_community/parks_recreation/city_parks.shtml

Enforcement in Allan Yorke Park is handled by the City of Bonney Lake Police Department. This includes trespassing violations, which are addressed under Bonney Lake Ordinance #1377, passed January 25, 2011.



Rules and regulations signage at Lake Tapps North Park.

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

Lake Tapps North Park

Lake Tapps North Park is operated by Pierce County Parks and Recreation and is under the enforcement of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. The park is a highly popular swimming and boat launch area. Problems of overcrowding and parking issues are addressed in the 2005 Boat Management Plan. A variety of improvements have been implemented since 2005, including an improved boat trailer parking area, two new boat landing docks, and adjustments to improve traffic flow around the boat launch area. Regular park hours during the recreational season are 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Per ordinance number 2010-85 that was passed November 9, 2010, the park will be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays from April 1 through September 30, 2011. The park is closed October 1 through March 31.

Per Ordinance No. 2008-93, parking and launch fees went into effect on May 16, 2009. A \$7.00 vehicle parking fee and \$15.00 boat launch fee are charged per daily visit. A combined annual boat launch and parking pass can be purchased for \$75.00 (Pierce County residents) or \$150.00 (non-residents). Please see the following Pierce County Parks and Recreation website for more information: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/services/recreate/LakeTapps.htm>

Issues of inappropriate or illegal behavior at the park are handled by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.



Entrance to Lake Tapps North Park.

Dikes

The roles and responsibilities regarding dikes on Lake Tapps are spread across multiple authorities and jurisdictions. Regulation of the structural integrity of the dikes is the responsibility of the Washington State Department of Ecology Dam Safety Office (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/Contacts.html>), and falls under the State Dam Safety regulation. As the owner of the dikes, Cascade plays the lead role in structural maintenance and is also charged with determining uses for the dikes. This is consistent with the 1954 Deed and 1958 Easement. Policing and security of the dikes is enforced by either the Pierce County Sheriff's Department or the Bonney Lake Police Department, with each jurisdiction having its own criminal code.

Legally authorized access to the dikes, all of which are owned by Cascade, is limited only to users and uses authorized by easement and licenses. Cascade is reviewing its policies on leases and licenses for the dikes and on signage and trespass enforcement.

As owner of the dikes, Cascade is willing to enter into an agreement with an entity for the use of the dikes for public recreation so long as such entity is capable of fulfilling operational, maintenance and security responsibilities, and can ensure that the structural integrity of the dike would not be compromised. The dikes offer opportunity for increased public access and therefore are a potential asset to the surrounding communities.

Boat Speed

The Pierce County Watercraft Regulations were amended under Pierce County Code 8.88.460 to make it unlawful to operate any vessel in excess of 60 mph on Lake Tapps. Enforcement of the Pierce County Watercraft Regulations falls under the jurisdiction of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Marine Services Unit (PCSD-MSU) and the Bonney Lake Police Department Marine Services Unit (BLPD-MSU).

To report speed violators, call the Pierce County MSU's Boating Hotline, (253) 798-3300.

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

Floating Debris

Tree stumps and snags on the bottom of Lake Tapps and debris on the surface are an ongoing issue with complexity surrounding which authority is responsible for its clean up. The 2005 Boat Management Plan (Appendix IV) stated that a Lake Watch Program should be set up in order to monitor and manage the issue of floating debris on Lake Tapps. At the time of this Plan's finalization, there were no jurisdictions or authorities responsible for floating debris management. The existence of floating debris is a reminder that boating safety should remain the top priority, especially during the summer season when activity on the lake is at its highest level. Exceeding the speed limit is not only prohibited by law, but is recommended to reduce risk of damage to water vessels from floating debris in the lake.

The issue of floating debris can cause boating navigation issues and may complicate rescue and recovery operations on the lake. Individuals are encouraged to take caution and personal responsibility while boating and swimming in Lake Tapps.

Habitat

Fish and wildlife habitat in and around Lake Tapps is under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Existing regulations include federal law such as the Endangered Species Act and the State Wildlife statutes. The National Marine Fisheries Service is responsible for salmon habitat in the White River. Cascade's water rights proposal had to demonstrate that conservation restrictions would be placed on streamside and adjacent lands in the White River watershed to support salmon and other wildlife. Necessary mitigation strategies were part of the agreements settled with the Tribes, the Lake Tapps Community, and other interested parties to ensure adequate White River flows and habitat protection.

Lake Levels

An agreement between Cascade and the Lake Tapps community council regarding recreational lake levels

was signed in 2009. The agreement states that Cascade will maintain a Normal Full Pool (542.2 – 543.7 feet) during the Annual Recreational Period from April 15 to September 15. In 30 years, or the start of Cascade's use of Lake Tapps for municipal water supply, whichever comes later, Normal Full Pool will be extended until September 30. See Appendix IV to review Cascade's lake level agreement.

Mandatory Boater Education

The 2005 Boat Management Plan suggested that Pierce County Council, Bonney Lake city council and Lake Tapps Community Council support a statewide mandatory boater education requirement. The Washington State Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law went into effect January 1, 2008. Boaters are now required to pass a boating safety course or equivalent exam and to obtain a Boater Education Card before operating vessels with 15 horsepower (hp) or greater. The law is being phased in according to the table below:

January 1, 2011	All boat operators 35 years old and younger
January 1, 2012	All boat operators 40 years old and younger
January 1, 2013	All boat operators 50 years old and younger
January 1, 2014	All boat operators 60 years old and younger
January 1, 2015	All boat operators 70 years old and younger
January 1, 2016	All boat operators

Enforcement of the Washington State Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law is the responsibility of Marine Service Units (MSU) on Lake Tapps; including the PCSD-MSU and the BLPD-MSU.

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

Noise

The problem of excessive noise in, on, and around the lake is an issue to be addressed according to location and jurisdiction. For noise complaints on the lake, the PCSD-MSU and BLPD-MSU are responsible for enforcing the Pierce County Nuisance Code amended by Ordinance 2005-35s to include “vessel” to the existing code, per suggestion of the 2005 Boat Management Plan. In addition, boats are required by Pierce County Code to have proper muffler systems in order to avoid loud noise when operating. For more information on noise ordinances, see Appendix II.

Disruptive noise in the areas surrounding Lake Tapps is enforced according to specific location by the City of Bonney Lake Police Department, City of Buckley Police Department, City of Sumner Police Department, City of Auburn Police Department, or the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department. Each city is responsible for enforcing its own ordinance regarding noise and for maintaining regulations that meet State standards, although implementing a more stringent noise ordinance is up to the individual cities. For example, the City of Bonney Lake passed ordinance 1366 (BLMC 16.16.025), effective November 25, 2010, that reduces legal noise levels in the southern part of Lake Tapps that is within the city limits. Page 11 depicts the various jurisdictions and their boundaries.

To report noise violators, call the Pierce County MSU’s Boating Hotline, (253) 798-3300.

Rafting

Rafting in Lake Tapps, which is defined as connecting or tying two or more boats together, was identified during this process and cited in the Boat Management Plan as one of the most contentious issues facing Lake Tapps residents and regulators. Sometimes occurring just off the shore of homeowners’ property, rafting parties were potential hubs of lewd and destructive behavior creating safety, enforcement, and noise issues. Over the past six years, laws have been enacted in order to legalize rafting in only one designated area, which is along Dike 4 near the Lake Tapps North Park. The language of the Pierce County Code under Ordinance No. 2009-

60s reads: “Pierce County Code 8.88.460 B. 1. f. – It shall be unlawful to raft two or more vessels together in any cover or channel or within 500 feet of shore on Lake Tapps, except in a designated area along Dike 4 near the Pierce County Park, and, Pierce County Code 8.88.460 B. A violation of any provision of this Section constitutes a Class IV civil infraction under chapter 1.16 Pierce County Code.” Pierce County is currently working on the necessary agreements to outline the rights and responsibilities of the County with respect to placing mooring buoys on Cascade property (bed of Lake Tapps).

It was suggested during the public process that current rafting regulations do not entirely or accurately reflect the community’s perspective on rafting. Those seeking to amend current rafting ordinances need to work directly with the Pierce County Council. The Pierce County Council is made up of seven individual Council Districts with authority over specific areas of the county, with District 1 covering Lake Tapps and surrounding communities. In addition, the County’s Boating Advisory Commission (BAC), which is a commission that reports directly to the Pierce County Council regarding boating issues and provides ordinance recommendations, should also be involved in discussions concerning rafting on Lake Tapps. For the most recent ordinance on rafting see Appendix II.

For more information about how to contact your District’s Councilmember, visit <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/council/contactus.htm> or call (253) 798-7777.

Swimming/Drowning Emergencies

Swimming in Lake Tapps, which is a glacier-fed lake with water temperatures averaging a chilly 50°F in the summer, is done at the assumed risk of the swimmer and responsible guardians. Like many activities on the lake, swimming is an act that should be undertaken with extreme caution and personal responsibility.

In the case of emergency, PCSD-MSU or the PCSD Metro Dive Team will be dispatched. In addition, East Pierce Fire and Rescue also maintains a Dive Team that can respond to emergencies on the lake. Divers hold a

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

minimum of Open Water, Dive Rescue 1 and emergency medical technician (EMT) Certification and train regularly in Pierce County bodies of water, including Lake Tapps. A full-time crew is not designated specifically for water rescue incidents. Crew and staff are dispatched as needed from a station less than half a mile away from northwest Lake Tapps. Station 4-6 staff will launch Marine 4-6 to all water rescue incidents on Lake Tapps.

Valley Regional Fire Authority, which primarily provides emergency services to the City of Auburn, has a mutual aid agreement with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and can provide backup if necessary. In case of an emergency, dial 911.



East Pierce Fire and Rescue marine unit, the Osprey, at the Lake Tapps North Park.

Water Quality

The Washington State Department of Health oversees all water quality issues for Lake Tapps. Cascade purchased Lake Tapps from PSE to use as a municipal water supply source in the future. While the State oversees water quality in general, it will be the responsibility of Cascade to ensure safe and clean water of the highest quality when it begins using Lake Tapps for drinking water, which is not projected to be for decades.

During this Plan's public involvement process, participants listed water quality as a key issue facing the

lake and its community. The State Department of Health monitors Lake Tapps on a regular basis. The cities and counties are required by the Clean Water Act to also ensure a healthy lake. In the future, when Cascade produces drinking water, it is committed to meet or exceed federal, state, and local quality standards, and will conduct extensive monitoring before the water treatment facility is designed and built – likely in the 2060s or later. In general, although not required, Cascade has been working with the community to determine activities that may have a negative impact on Lake Tapps in the short-term, and how those activities and behaviors can be changed to ensure the best water quality for the lake in the long-term.

Detailed water quality studies have been conducted by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) throughout the last half of the century, with basic water quality data collected in 1974 and 1981 and additional samplings conducted under the Lake Monitoring Program from 1997 through 2000 (Quality Assurance Project Plan: Lake Tapps Monitoring, 2004). Most recently, Aspect Consulting, LLC, a consultant for Ecology, prepared, "Water Quantity and Water Quality Analyses for the Lake Tapps Water Rights Application" in May 2010 as a component of the Reports of Examination (ROEs) for the Cascade Water Supply Project. After reviewing the report and other current information, Ecology approved Cascade's water rights package in December 2010, allowing Cascade the authority to use a portion of water in Lake Tapps as a future drinking water source.

As owner of the lake, Cascade also has an obligation to monitor and manage milfoil, which is categorized by Ecology as a noxious weed and poses environmental and maintenance challenges for healthy lakes. Cascade works with the community and regularly conducts monitoring studies. In addition, under an Ecology permit, Cascade is treating milfoil over several years to reduce its presence in Lake Tapps.

Roles and Responsibilities On and Around Lake Tapps

Water Rights

Following a long chronology of water quality and quantity investigations in December 2010, the Department of Ecology granted Cascade four new water rights and one water right change. This allows Cascade to store water in Lake Tapps, divert water from the White River into Lake Tapps, and allows Cascade to withdraw water from Lake Tapps for municipal water supply purposes. Specific agreements regarding Cascade's purchase of Lake Tapps include:

- Asset Purchase Agreement (PSE and Cascade)
- White River Management Agreement (Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Cascade)
- Homeowners Agreement (Lake Tapps Community and Cascade)
- Lake Tapps Area Water Resources Agreement (Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner and Cascade)
- Memorandum of Understanding (Pierce County and Cascade)

For more information regarding water rights and agreements visit: http://www.cascadewater.org/lake_tapps_agreements.php

Short-Term Issues and Strategies

During January and February, the working group expanded upon the issues and strategies suggested by the public. Their efforts were focused initially on what issues were most important to the community and how they should be addressed in a lake management plan. Once issues and strategies were prioritized, the working group began brainstorming necessary levels of funding, if any, to implement their recommended strategies. By understanding the funding needs, the working group was able to develop funding approaches and assign a lead to take on responsibility.

A key goal of the working group was to develop a plan that would be a useful resource for many years to come. In order to accomplish this, the working group centered their attention on providing realistic recommendations and identifying which person, organization, or entity could be responsible for putting the recommendation in motion.

It is important to note that the working group was not able to identify a lead for all strategies included in this Plan. The strategies that do not currently have a lead in place should not be seen as un-implementable, but should be viewed as opportunities for community members to participate in improving their community by volunteering their time. If you would like to participate in implementing the strategies identified in the Plan, please contact Elaine Kraft at Cascade Water Alliance, (425) 453-0930.

Described below are issues and strategies the working group decided were central to Lake Tapps management.

For a full list of issues and strategies that were recommended, discussed and considered, but ultimately not included in the Plan, see Appendix I.

Lake levels

Issue: *Lake level management*

Strategy: Inform Lake Tapps community about the agreement signed between Cascade Water Alliance and the Lake Tapps Community Council regarding lake levels and how levels are determined and managed.

Implementation: See Appendix IV to view the lake level agreement between Cascade Water Alliance and the Lake Tapps community. Cascade Water Alliance and the Lake Tapps Community Council will educate the community about the lake level agreement in conjunction with education about the final Plan.

Funding needs: None

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance and Lake Tapps Community Council

Fish and wildlife

Issue: *Education on exotic species and their impacts on fish and wildlife*

Strategy: Involve clubs (i.e. fishing, boating, etc.) and HOAs to provide them with information and education about milfoil, exotic species (i.e. zebra mussels) and enlist their assistance in educating their members about protecting fish and wildlife while enjoying Lake Tapps.

Implementation: Explore existing resources for education (See Appendix IV to view the State of Washington brochure on exotic species) and provide copies to interested clubs. Requires identifying contact people and conducting educational sessions to ensure they are presenting accurate information to their memberships.

Funding needs: Yes; printing costs

Potential funding approach: Homeowner Associations to educate and require gate attendants to check incoming and outgoing boats for exotic species. Request that the Lake Tapps Community Council post links to the Department of Fish and Wildlife brochure concerning exotic species on their website. Provide clubs on the lake with information about exotic species. Lastly, request that Parks Departments and HOAs install brochure stands near boat launches and public or private parks to stock educational information about exotic species.

Lead: Needs a lead

Short-Term Issues and Strategies

Enforcement

Issue: *Noise on and around the lake*

Strategy: Focus on noise control in the evening and late night hours, as that is when the noise is most disruptive. Establish random, “emphasis” evening patrols by Pierce County Sheriff Marine Unit to focus on enforcing existing noise ordinances. In order to cite boat operators, Sheriff personnel must witness the noise infraction.

Recommend to the City of Bonney Lake that they adjust the Allan Yorke Park boat launch closing time to be consistent with the county park’s boat launch hours and to help address night time noise and safety concerns.

Implementation: Current funding (2011) for the Pierce County Sheriff’s Marine Service Unit is confined to safety activities and enforcement only. This is because their funding source is provided by a state parks grant, which contains those restrictions. Monitoring noise through sporadic night patrols would require a different funding source.

Funding needs: Yes; cost per night patrol* = \$650; cost for four to five patrols per summer = approximately \$3,000

**One night patrol includes a five hour shift with two officers on duty.*

Potential funding approach: : Raise additional funding through HOA fees and designate that those funds be used to address noise and safety issues instead of taking money from current MSU operations. Most boat operators violating noise ordinances on Lake Tapps either live near the lake or are visiting a resident of the lake. Provide Plan to City of Bonney Lake Community Services Department and city council.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Issue: *Education about current rules and regulations on Lake Tapps*

Strategy: Post noise ordinance and speed limit information at public access points. (See Education strategies).

Implementation: Prior to developing or posting new signage, conduct an assessment of current signage and its effectiveness, and develop a strategy for signage based on the results of the assessment. Consider prioritizing information and develop standard signage for the entire lake.

Pierce County will review signage throughout the park to determine if changes are needed.

Funding needs: Yes; necessary funding not yet identified

Potential funding approach: Request HOAs to evaluate signage at private parks, request City of Bonney Lake and Pierce County Parks Departments to assess signage at public parks.

Lead: Pierce County Parks will evaluate signage at Lake Tapps North Park; other areas of the lake need a lead.

Public access

Issue: *Access to the dikes for recreational purposes and to diminish number of trespassing incidents*

Strategy: Cascade Water Alliance, owner of the dikes, is willing to consider entering into an agreement with an entity capable of full operation, maintenance, security, etc., for public recreation on some of the dikes as long as the integrity of the dikes would not be compromised.

Implementation: Cascade is in discussions to grant rights to the City of Bonney Lake to Dike 13 next to Allan Yorke Park for City use as an expanded park to increase access to the lake. Legally authorized access to the dikes, all of which are owned by Cascade, is limited only to users and uses authorized by easement and licenses. Cascade is reviewing its policies on leases and licenses for the dikes and on signage and trespass enforcement.

Funding needs: Yes; necessary funding not yet identified

Potential funding approach: Cascade Water Alliance

Short-Term Issues and Strategies

is willing to grant rights to the City of Bonney Lake to Dike 13 to expand Allan Yorke Park; City of Bonney Lake is willing to fund expansion and maintenance of park areas on Dike 13; however, maintenance of the structural elements of the dike such as the bulkhead/seawall remain the responsibility of Cascade. Development of this joint use agreement is a work in process by the two organizations in spring/summer 2011.

Lead: City of Bonney Lake and Cascade Water Alliance. Any other licensed and insured entity that would like to operate and maintain a dike on Lake Tapps for recreational purposes should contact Cascade Water Alliance.

Safety

Issue: *Swimming*

Working Group Strategy: Post signs and educate park users about lake temperatures, hypothermia, and drowning risks.

Implementation: Prior to developing or posting new signage, conduct an assessment of current signage and its effectiveness, and develop a strategy for signage based on the results of the assessment. Consider prioritizing information and develop standard signage for the entire lake. Pierce County Parks currently updates water/hypothermia signage at the beginning of each season. Pierce County will review signage throughout the park to determine if changes are needed.

Funding needs: Yes; necessary funding not yet identified

Potential funding approach: Request HOAs to evaluate signage at private parks, request City of Bonney Lake and Pierce County Parks Departments to assess signage at public parks.

Lead: Pierce County Parks will evaluate signage at Lake Tapps North Park; other areas of the lake need a lead.

Issue: *Boating*

Strategy: Sheriff's Department to maintain at least 2011 level of marine patrols on the lake (Total Marine Services Unit Overtime Budget allocated to Lake Tapps Patrol Shifts: \$48,360*); aim to return to 2008 funding levels (Total Marine Services Unit Overtime Budget allocated to Lake Tapps Patrol Shifts: \$80,300*) when funding was at its greatest.

**Scheduled shifts, actual amount spent and amount of hours may be different as the weather causes shifts to be added and subtracted throughout the summer.*

City of Bonney Lake also provides marine patrols in the south end of Lake Tapps within the City limits, referred to as Church Lake. When requested, the COBL Marine Patrol provides support to PCSD-MSU in other parts of Lake Tapps. Bonney Lake spends approximately \$50,000 each year on park and marine patrols.

Implementation: Requires additional funding.

Funding needs: Yes.

Potential funding approach: Encourage and remind boat owners to register their boats; identify potential grants or funding sources.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Recreational usage

Issue: *Boating navigation*

Strategy: Clearly mark hazardous or hidden stumps and shallow points near the islands, as needed for safety.

Implementation: Prior to developing or posting new signage, conduct an assessment of current signage, its effectiveness, and develop a strategy for signage based on the results of the assessment. Cascade will continue to assess the need for safety signage in the lake on an on-going basis.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance.

Short-Term Issues and Strategies

Education of property owners and visitors

Issue: *Personal responsibility in, on, and around Lake Tapps*

Strategy: Conduct education about boating safety, swimming, boating and alcohol use, and lake usage practices and reinforce personal responsibility for abiding by current rules and regulations and contributing to a healthy and safe lake.

Implementation: Requires education program and someone to fund and implement. Cascade Water Alliance will include education about personal responsibility in all outreach materials pertaining to the Plan.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance and HOAs will assist in disseminating information included in the final Plan.

Issue: *Roles and responsibilities*

Strategy: Clearly identify who is responsible for key activities. Include this information in the Plan. Distribute the Plan or make it widely available.

Implementation: Provide information about roles and responsibilities in, on, and around the lake in a user friendly and useful format. This should include contact information for all entities so the public knows who to call for what. Cascade, Lake Tapps Community Council, Pierce County Parks and HOAs will post this information on their websites. Cascade has reserved space in local papers to provide information about the Lake Management Plan later in the spring of 2011.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance and HOAs will assist in disseminating information included in the final Plan.

Issue: *Current rules and regulations*

Strategy: Clearly identify existing rules and regulations including boating rules and noise ordinance. See page 18 of this Plan for more information.

Implementation: Cascade, Lake Tapps Community Council, Pierce County Parks and HOAs publicize the

Plan and its contents via web and local papers. Develop a brief Lake Tapps Users' Guide to print and distribute to lake users.

Funding needs: Yes; printing costs.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance to develop the Users' Guide; TOP Food and Drug Store (Auburn) to fund printing of the guide.

Issue: *Cascade operation of Lake Tapps and community involvement in the decision process*

Strategy: Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. Cascade makes decisions regarding operation and other ownership issues with respect to the lake.

Implementation: Currently, Cascade provides announcements of all Board meetings to the Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs around the lake and on its website.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Any interested members of the Lake Tapps community.

Issue: *Non-Pierce County Park pass policy*

Strategy: Non-Pierce County residents are not paying the non-resident fees for use of the County boat launch. Some are circumventing the fee with the help of Pierce County residents, who are allowing non-residents to use or purchase their resident passes. This means Pierce County budget and Pierce County park user fees bear unequal burden of providing park services to non-County residents.

Implementation: Educate property owners around Lake Tapps through the Lake Tapps Users' Guide of the local consequences of supporting circumvention of non-Pierce County resident user fees. Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs can also provide this education through their organizations.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Pierce County Parks, Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs.

Coordination regarding Lake Tapps operation and enforcement

Issue: *Avoiding duplication of efforts concerning existing regulations on Lake Tapps*

Strategy: Ensure consistency between regulating bodies to prevent problems from moving from one area of the lake to another. Educate users on existing processes in place, including Boat Advisory Commission, Pierce County Council, Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings, and City of Bonney Lake.

Implementation: Provide narrative in the Lake Management Plan (located on page 5) about how rules, regulations, and ordinances are developed and implemented. Cascade will provide information on their website about these processes. Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs share this information with their organizations.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs.

Issue: *Duplication of efforts – new regulations*

Strategy: Be aware of what rules and regulations exist before writing new ones. Provide list of existing rules and regulations in the Plan. Encourage planning and enforcing entities to review existing ordinances and rules and regulations before contemplating new ones.

Implementation: Provide Plan to County and city councils and planning entities.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: County and cities.

Long-Term Issues and Strategies

Due to the wide-range of issues on and around Lake Tapps, some strategies were categorized by the working group as long-term; meaning that although the issue cannot be solved immediately or in the near future, it is still a topic of concern that is important to the Lake Tapps community. Strategies were deemed long-term for a multitude of reasons including limited resources, scope of the issue, or necessary level of coordination. In addition, many of the long-term strategies simply require a longer timeline and can only be addressed over an extended period of time.

As with some short-term strategies, there are also long-term strategies that still require a lead to take on responsibility. In order for the community to function in a safe and productive manner long into the future, it is important for those with a stake in the health and well-being of Lake Tapps to participate in decision processes and work collaboratively with responsible governing bodies.

Lake levels

Issue: Long-term flexibility of lake levels

Strategy: Work with US Army Corps of Engineers to expand management of Mud Mountain Dam to include multipurpose operations such as supporting necessary water levels year-round, flood control, instream flows, and fish habitat enhancement.

Implementation: Requires federal rule changes and will need community and political support. Educate and inform Lake Tapps community and regional elected officials about the purpose and need to gain support for this change.

Funding needs: Federal funds.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance, Lake Tapps Community Council, Tribes, Pierce County, Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner.

Issue: Long-term stability of lake levels

Strategy: Replace barrier dam to extend reliability and security in the future and to protect fish and salmon habitat.

Implementation: Requires federal funds. Educate and inform Lake Tapps community and regional elected officials about the purpose and need to gain support for this funding.

Funding needs: Federal funds.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance, Lake Tapps Community Council, Tribes, Pierce County, Cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner .

Fish and wildlife

Issue: Managing and monitoring of fish and wildlife

Strategy: Support new or existing private organizations to provide “eyes and hands on the lake.” Could undertake education role, provide positive reinforcement for positive behaviors, monitoring of activities that support healthy fish and wildlife, lake-wide cleanup work parties, and other activities.

Implementation: Requires support from local entities and tribes to encourage the development and recruitment of members; assistance with setting up non-profit corporation if requested, information and tools for education.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Long-Term Issues and Strategies

Public access

Issue: Boats on the lake

Strategy: In keeping with the recommendations in the 2005 Boat Management Plan, maintain the current level of capacity for boats on the lake, as determined by available boat trailer parking spaces.

Implementation: Inform Pierce County Parks Department, Pierce County Council, and City of Bonney Lake about the desire not to increase boat trailer parking.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Issue: Parking at the lake

Strategy: Increase non-boat trailer parking around the lake to encourage more access to the lake and its shores to non-boat users.

Implementation: Inform Pierce County Parks Department, Pierce County Council, and City of Bonney Lake about the desire to increase both park land and vehicle parking to encourage more legal access to the lake and its shores to non-boat users.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Issue: Access to Lake Tapps and surrounding communities

Strategy: Recommend to county and city councils that the community supports finishing transportation projects related to the lake that will reduce traffic and improve access around the lake. Transportation improvements should also include pedestrian safety improvements around the lake including sidewalks, crosswalks and other measures such as No Parking signs and fog line striping that support law enforcement's ability to issue citations.

Implementation: Provide Lake Management Plan, which includes the above recommendation concerning

community support of transportation projects and pedestrian improvements, to County and city councils and planning entities.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance.

Safety

Issue: Swimming

Strategy: Seek to provide lifeguards at public parks to provide education and life-saving services to beach users and swimmers.

Implementation: Lifeguards are not currently provided due to lack of funding. Seek to find a funding source that could provide this safety service to the community.

Funding needs: Yes; staffing and training costs.

Potential funding approach: Seek additional funding sources for the county, increase park user fees.

Lead: Needs a lead.

Recreational usage

Issue: Boating rafting on the lake

Strategy: Consider changing current rules and regulations regarding rafting on the lake to allow it in multiple locations. Pierce County Parks is currently pursuing obtaining the necessary rights and approvals to install buoys in Lake Tapps near Dike 4, as dictated in the 2008 Boat Management Plan ordinance. Dike 4 will be the only location available for rafting. Inform Pierce County Council that some believe a robust public process did not provide input into the existing ordinance and request working with the public in general and the BAC specifically to address the current rules.

Implementation: Requires informing City or County Council if changes are recommended to current path forward. Those seeking to amend current rafting ordinances should work directly with the Pierce County

Long-Term Issues and Strategies

Council and the BAC, which reports directly to the Pierce County Council regarding boating issues and ordinance recommendations. Visit <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/council/contactus.htm> or call (253) 798-7777 to learn more about how to contact Pierce County Council members.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: James Premo and Justin Nimick, Lake Tapps community members.

Issue: *Boating log booms*

Strategy: Create a log boom for rafting. Currently, the only location rafting will be allowed in Lake Tapps is near Dike 4 pursuant to existing ordinance generally prohibiting rafting. Dike 4 is an open area and a log boom at this location was deemed unsafe and not a viable solution per a study that was conducted by Pierce County.

Implementation: Requires informing City or County Council if changes are recommended to current path forward. Those seeking to install a log boom should work directly with the Pierce County Council and the BAC, which reports directly to the Pierce County Council regarding boating issues and ordinance recommendations. Visit <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/council/contactus.htm> or call (253) 798-7777 to learn more about how to contact Pierce County Council members.

Funding needs: Yes.

Potential funding approach: Not identified.

Lead: James Premo and Justin Nimick, Lake Tapps community members.

Issue: *Park annual passes*

Strategy: The current process for determining whether an annual boat launch pass purchaser is a Pierce County or non-Pierce County resident seems ineffective, since no non-county passes are being sold. Assess practice and determine a more effective way to recover non-county fees.

Implementation: Recommend that Pierce County Parks Department assess current practices and explore more enforceable sales practices. Encourage Pierce County Parks to develop a better way of proving residency. Educate the public that by allowing non-county residents to use county resident passes they are undermining revenue support for the lake.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Pierce County Parks.

Education of property owners and visitors

Issue: *Volunteers to share information about Lake Tapps*

Strategy: Develop a volunteer group to educate and inform lake users and residents about safe and healthy lake behaviors.

Implementation: Either work with existing Lake Tapps Community Council to take on this responsibility or support development of a new volunteer organization.

Funding needs: Not identified

Potential funding approach: Not identified

Lead: Needs a lead.

Coordination regarding Lake Tapps operation and enforcement

Issue: *Avoiding duplication of efforts concerning existing regulations on Lake Tapps*

Strategy: Ensure consistency between regulating bodies to prevent problems from moving from one area of the lake to another. Educate users on existing processes in place, including Boat Advisory Commission, Pierce County Council, Cascade Water Alliance Board meetings, and City of Bonney Lake.

Implementation: Provide narrative in the Lake Management Plan about how rules, regulations and ordinances are developed and implemented (see page 5). Cascade will provide information on their website about

Long-Term Issues and Strategies

these processes. Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs will share this information with their organizations.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Lake Tapps Community Council and HOAs.

Issue: *Coordination and communication to keep the Lake Management Plan current and useful to the community*

Strategy: Develop a Lake Tapps coordination group to meet on a regular basis (annually) and on an as-needed basis to monitor and support progress towards the recommendations in the Boat Management Plan and the Collaborative Plan for Managing Lake Tapps, to revise issues and strategies as needed and to address changing or emerging issues. Group would include the entities represented in the working group for the original Plan and be augmented by other representatives as needed. (i.e. state agencies, Tribes, etc.).

Implementation: Needs agreement among entities to participate in this “Lake Tapps Coordinating Group.” Develop a better understanding of how HOAs regulate their parks and how they address noise and safety concerns on the lake as a way to further coordination efforts.

Funding needs: None.

Lead: Cascade Water Alliance, Lake Tapps Community Council and representatives from the lake management plan working group.

Funding

Economic Climate and its Impacts on Funding Availability

Since 2008, local, regional, and state funding revenues have been steadily declining, adding widespread budgetary pressures to not only the city and county's pockets but citizens' pockets as well. Because of this, local jurisdictions with responsibilities on and around Lake Tapps have faced a challenging couple of years. As with almost all other public agencies in the region, Pierce County and the nearby cities have been forced to make difficult financial decisions including; cutting public services, reducing funds allocated for community programs, raising user fees, and increasing taxes.

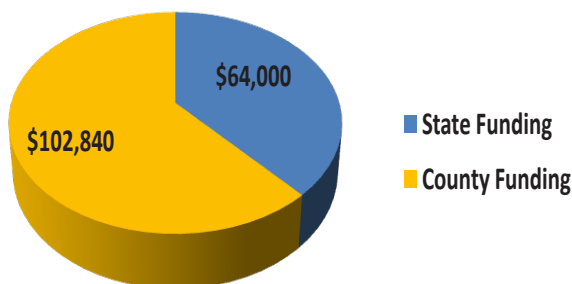
There are widespread examples of how city and county governments around the nation are being severely constrained. This national trend of decreased budget flexibility has hit Washington State locally at both the city and county levels. Budget cuts for both the PCSD-MSU and Pierce County Parks Department are leading representations of how limited resources can make significant impacts, specifically to the management of Lake Tapps.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department – Marine Services Unit

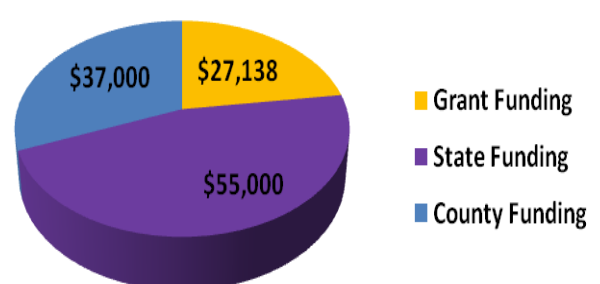
The PCSD-MSU budget is comprised of two different sources, funds obtained from the Washington State Parks, and funding from Pierce County. Vessel registration fees make up the majority of state funding, while Pierce County funding is received from the General Fund. Since 2008, both funding sources have steadily decreased due to separate reasons. Vessel registration numbers are down, leaving the Washington State Parks with limited resources as boat owners seek to keep their own personal finances steady. Boating hobbies are often sustained by disposable income and the past few years have seen disposable income spending shrinking significantly.

The following graphs represent how the Pierce County Sheriff's Department has funded the Marine Services Unit budget in years 2008 and 2011.

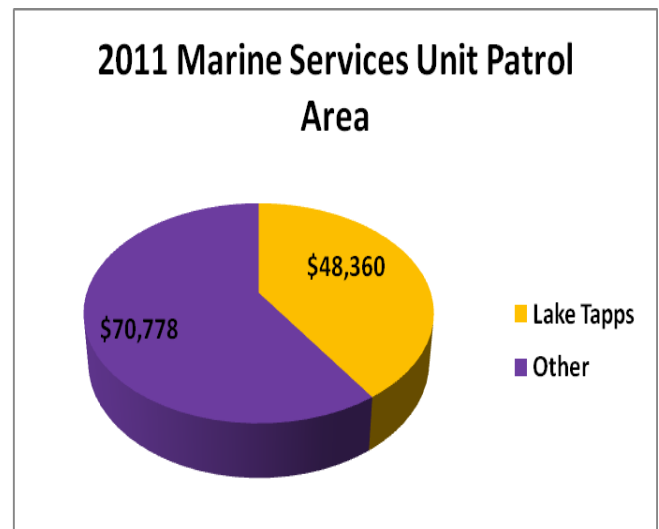
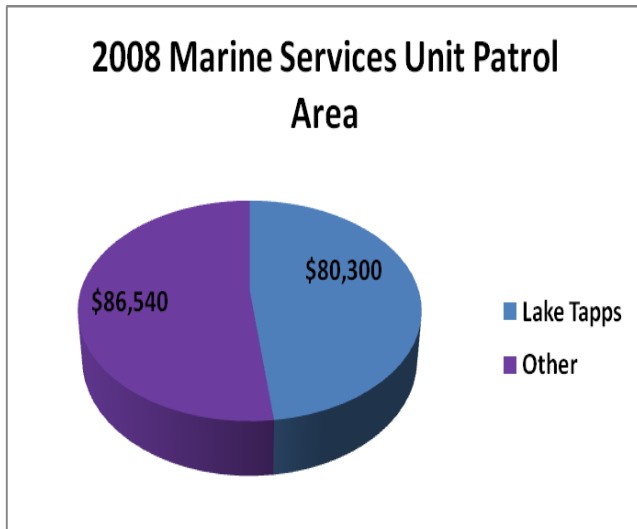
**2008 Marine Services Unit
Overtime Budget**



**2011 Marine Services Unit
Overtime**



(Source: Pierce County Sheriff's Department)



(Source: Pierce County Sheriff's Department)

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department reports that it maintains primary responsibility to patrol and investigations, and the Marine Services Unit is a specialized unit that comes secondary. The Sheriff's Department reports that budget allocations and current staffing levels have made it difficult to meet even basic responsibilities, and staffing specialized units with full-time deputies was not a possibility during the writing of this Plan. With the Sheriff's Department focusing its resources on primary responsibilities, enforcement is not always available to regulate trespassing violations on the dikes, an ongoing problem at Lake Tapps. Increased patrol hours at Lake Tapps would only be possible with increased or reallocated funding by a minimum of \$32,000 to the 2008 amount.

Pierce County Parks Department

Similar funding constraints are visible within the Pierce County Parks Department. To meet 2011 budget cuts, the Lake Tapps North Park will be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays for the 2011 season. The Parks Department has seen a decrease in number of annual launch passes sold, with nearly all of the passes being purchased by Pierce County residents, who buy the

pass at a 50 percent discount over non-County residents. It is assumed that non-county residents are borrowing or purchasing annual passes from county residents to avoid paying the non-resident price. The park would see increased revenues if annual passes sold reflected the actual use of Lake Tapps North Park by residents and non-residents.

As owners of the lake, Cascade Water Alliance has not received immunity from the poor economic climate. Since Cascade activities are funded by collecting rates and charges from its member, they have been sensitive to rate increase. Cascade's responsibilities specific to Lake Tapps include operations, maintenance, planning, and infrastructure improvements needed for Cascade's water transmission and supply system. Because Cascade is a non-profit corporation that collects revenue from its members, it is important to note that Cascade cannot serve as a source for general government funds.

In the economic climate present during finalization of the Plan, it is important to acknowledge that not all issues pertaining to Lake Tapps could and would be solved through additional monetary resources, simply because

the resources were not available. In an effort to make a lake management plan that was realistic in scope and implementation, the working group kept this notion at the forefront of their discussions. They worked collaboratively with one another to develop creative solutions that required minimal public funds and encouraged volunteer partnerships to ensure a safe and healthy Lake Tapps environment.

Partnership between homeowners, HOAs, lake users and the various jurisdictions are expected to become increasingly more important if the level of funding remains status quo or continues to decline; being creative with funding is important; understanding the difficulties of managing budgets and allocating funds to what is most important to the community is a difficult, but an achievable task with teamwork and collaboration between multiple interested parties.

For a more detailed breakdown of Pierce County and City of Bonney Lake budgets, see Appendix III.

Potential Funding Sources

During the public process, funding sources were a point of robust discussion. While no new funding sources were specifically identified or deemed feasible in the current economic climate, the working group looked at a variety of mechanisms for either acquiring new funding or taking advantage of existing funding opportunities.

The working group looked at several possibilities, including federal, state, county and city-wide mechanisms that could be used to support the strategies put forth in this plan. For example, implementation of access fees, expanding licensing to encompass all watercraft vessels, or increasing HOA and lake user fees could be used to fund signage improvements on and around Lake Tapps, or to establish lifeguard presence at public parks.

Another funding mechanism that was suggested by the working group to improve conditions around Lake Tapps was to establish a Lake Tapps Park District. The Park District, which would be made of cross jurisdictional

entities and would seek to provide recreational opportunities to the community and protect the natural qualities of Lake Tapps, would be funded by those within closest proximity to Lake Tapps e.g., homeowners on the shoreline. Although the goal of establishing a Park District as a funding mechanism is broad in scope, some members of the working group felt it is something for which the Lake Tapps community should strive.

There was an overall agreement and acknowledgement from the working group that additional funding sources were needed in order to implement all strategies identified in the Plan. However, in light of the existing economic situation facing counties and communities across the state, there was a general unwillingness to actively seek new funding sources at the time.

Although the existing funding climate looked gloomy, the working group felt it was important to keep the discussion at the forefront, as funding opportunities may become available as economies begin to recover.

Conclusion

The lake management plan process was neutrally-convened with the goal of bringing relevant authorities, local jurisdictions, residents, and lake users together to develop a balanced perspective on management of Lake Tapps. The end of the five month process culminated with the development of this Plan – inclusive of real concerns presently faced on and around the lake with realistic and implementable solutions for addressing those concerns.

The top concerns represented in this Plan were informed by the public process including lake levels, fish and wildlife, enforcement, public access, safety, recreational usage, education of residents and lake users, and coordination amongst entities with responsibilities around the lake. Each of those categories encompassed a number of issues that the working group felt were most important to address in the Plan in order to improve lake management and preserve the unique character of Lake Tapps.

Education of lake users and reinforced awareness about existing rules and regulations was generally agreed upon as the main strategy and need in the Plan. As Pierce County's largest lake, Lake Tapps has several areas of public and private access that lend themselves as controllers of capacity on and around the lake. Creating greater awareness through improved or additional signage on and around the lake was deemed crucial for maintaining a healthy, safe, and fun environment. In addition, publicizing this Plan as a way to inform lake users was identified as another chief strategy for addressing a lack of education on Lake Tapps. Outreach materials were being developed in conjunction with the final Plan to educate lake users and encourage personal responsibility.

In the end, the working group reached the conclusion that implementing new rules and regulations was not necessarily what is needed for a better functioning lake, but instead a greater attentiveness by lake users as a whole. It was the hope of the working group that a more alert, informed and educated public would result in lake

users heeding safety warnings, abiding by existing rules and regulations, and assist in laying the foundation for an improved lake environment for the 2011 recreational season and beyond.

As a result of limited resources or the inability to identify a lead, some issues and strategies within this Plan would be difficult to implement by the 2011 recreational season. The Lake Tapps community should not be discouraged by this notion, but should view this as a call to action – an opportunity for individuals to get involved and invest in their community to make it a safer and more enjoyable place to live and recreate. This Plan, which is a working document, is just a first step towards improving management of the lake. Any and all future endeavors that aim to build or expand upon this document to make future changes on and around Lake Tapps are not only allowed but highly encouraged by all those involved in the lake management plan process.



Boat launch at Allan Yorke Park.

Appendices

Appendix I. Public Process Documents

- a. Lake Management Plan Survey Results – November 2010 – January 2011
- b. Community Forum Agenda – January 13, 2011
- c. Community Forum Summary – January 13, 2011
- d. Working Group Meeting #1 Agenda
- e. Working Group Meeting #1 Summary
- f. Working Group Meeting #2 Agenda
- g. Working Group Meeting #2 Summary
- h. Working Group Meeting #3 Agenda
- i. Working Group Meeting #3 Summary
- j. Community Meeting Agenda – March 16, 2011
- k. Community Meeting Summary – March 16, 2011
- l. Strategies not included
- m. Roles and Responsibilities Matrix
- n. Community Links for Lake Tapps

Appendix II. Rules, Regulations and Ordinances

- a. City of Bonney Lake Boating Regulations
- b. City of Bonney Lake Watercraft Regulations
- c. City of Bonney Lake Shoreline Management
- d. City of Bonney Lake Ordinance 1366 – Lake Tapps Boat Noise
- e. City of Bonney Lake Ordinance 1377 – Criminal Trespass
- f. Pierce County Ordinance 2010-64 – Rafting

Appendix III. Funding

- a. Pierce County Budget in Brief
- b. Pierce County Lake Tapps North Park Revenue Information
- c. City of Bonney Lake 2011-2012 Biennial Budget
- d. City of Bonney Lake Revenue Expenses for Allan Yorke Park

Appendix IV. References

- a. Lake Tapps Boat Management Plan
- b. White River Management Agreement
- c. Overview of Cascade Water Alliance Agreements
- d. 1954 Deed
- e. 1958 Easement
- f. Shoreline Analysis Report for City of Bonney Lake's Shorelines: Lake Tapps and Fennel Creek
- g. Aquatic Invasive Species Brochure
- h. Community Links for Lake Tapps