



For Immediate Release

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Lake Tapps at Full Recreational Level (541.5 feet)

April 26, 2010 - Cascade Water Alliance announced today that the levels in Lake Tapps have officially reached full recreational pool of 541.5 feet.

The lake levels will remain between 542 and 543 feet throughout the summer months. While the lake has been drawn down in the winter to allow for dike repair, dock maintenance and milfoil control, refilling the lake this year became more difficult as nature did not cooperate, says Cascade Board Chair Lloyd Warren.

“March 2010 was one of the driest Marches on record — about 20 percent below the lowest recorded levels” said Warren. “The refill level of Lake Tapps flattened out at about 535.5 feet in mid-March, and we really pushed to fill the lake since then. We had expected to be at full levels by the first week of May but were able to get the levels up by April 26.

Cascade's 2009 agreement with the Lake Tapps Community Council (LTCC) states that Cascade will begin filling the lake in February, which it did, aiming for a full lake by April 15. The 2010 refill began on February 15 in coordination with the LTCC and consistent with the White River Management Agreement (WRMA) with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Cascade's refill was proceeding on target until March 17 when the White River flows slowed dramatically to a level less than the minimum. Minimum in-stream flows allowed for in the WRMA by

other agreements were not met by stream flows so there was no water available for diversion into the lake. The refill level of Lake Tapps flattened out at about 535.5 feet in mid-March. Once precipitation began again at the end of March, lake levels rose. For the most up to the minute levels, visit [USGS's Lake Tapps Real Time Lake Levels](#) page.

"Rest assured that Cascade is committed to full recreational lake levels," says CEO Chuck Clarke. "Lake Tapps is a wonderful regional asset and we share with you the desire to have it always at its best."

Cascade Water Alliance is a non-profit corporation, comprised of the cities of Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah, Tukwila, the Covington Water District and the Sammamish Plateau and Skyway Water and Sewer Districts to provide safe, clean and reliable water to its 370,000 residents and 22,000 businesses. Cascade purchased Lake Tapps from Puget Sound Energy in December, 2009. Puget had operated the lake for hydroelectric power generation for almost a century and stopped power production in 2004.

For more information on Cascade Water Alliance, visit www.cascadewater.org.