



Washington State Lake Protection Association
P. O. Box 4245
Seattle, WA 98104
1-800-607-5498

Dear Lake Users and Advocates:

The Washington Lake Protection Association (WALPA) is comprised of a diverse group of individuals that share the common goal of protecting and enhancing Washington lakes. Over the years, WALPA has found that the most effective way to achieve this goal is through public outreach and education. Through our annual lake conference and public speaking appearances, our organization facilitates a statewide forum to educate the public on lake issues. Many of the issues concerning lakes are complex and changing. Yet, for effective management decisions to be made, a clear understanding is necessary. So that WALPA can better serve Washington's lake communities, we are interested in your opinions regarding lake issues.

The next 3 pages contain a survey. The intent of this survey is to better understand the views of lake association members, and lakeside property owners, regarding the conservation and stewardship of Washington lakes. The results of this survey will then be used by WALPA to develop informational conference sessions, scientific presentations, and to inform state and county natural resource management agencies.

The survey uses a ranking system from 1 to 5 (1 is of least importance and 5 of greatest importance). While each of the items on this survey may appear to be important, please attempt to distinguish the issues as they pertain to your lake. (A completed survey with a response of 5 for all of the issues [all very important] will be of limited use to us.) For example, if your lake does not currently have a problem with Eurasian watermilfoil infestation (a type of aquatic weed) and you do not have reason to suspect it will be invaded by milfoil in the foreseeable future please answer 1 (unimportant). This does not mean that you are uninterested in milfoil infestations, it merely means that at this time it is not an important concern for your lake.

Once you have answered each of the 50 questions, please list the 5 issues (from the list) that concern you the most. You may also list 3 items of particular concern that may not have been included on this survey.

Your participation with the survey is greatly appreciated, and you can be assured that this information will help WALPA better advocate for lakes in Washington. If you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at 206-616-3447 and (preferably) by e-mail at mtbrett@u.washington.edu.

Sincerely,

Mike Brett
President, WALPA

May 2001

WASHINGTON LAKE USER SURVEY — 2001

	Not Concerned/important			Very Concerned/important		
AQUATIC PLANTS						
1. Invasive aquatic plants (Eurasian watermilfoil, Brazilian Elodea, Hydrilla)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
2. Use of herbicides to control aquatic plants	1	2	3	4	5	NA
3. Use of mechanical and other plant control methods	1	2	3	4	5	NA
4. Aquatic plant control regulations	1	2	3	4	5	NA
5. Native aquatic plant enhancement						
LAKE WATER QUALITY						
6. Nuisance algal blooms	1	2	3	4	5	NA
7. Toxic algal blooms	1	2	3	4	5	NA
8. Use of copper and other algae controls	1	2	3	4	5	NA
9. Nutrient Pollution (eutrophication)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
10. Water clarity	1	2	3	4	5	NA
11. Odors	1	2	3	4	5	NA
12. Bacterial/fecal contamination	1	2	3	4	5	NA
13. Sedimentation/muck accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	NA
14. Lack of water quality regulations and enforcement	1	2	3	4	5	NA
15. Swimmers itch	1	2	3	4	5	NA
WATERSHED AND SHORELINE ACTIVITIES						
16. Impact of new development on shorelines and wetlands	1	2	3	4	5	NA
17. Enforcement of shoreline and development regulations (e.g., setbacks and buffers)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
18. Septic systems (onsite waste disposal)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
19. Farm runoff entering lakes	1	2	3	4	5	NA
20. Pet wastes in runoff	1	2	3	4	5	NA
21. Stormwater runoff entering lakes	1	2	3	4	5	NA
22. Shoreline restoration	1	2	3	4	5	NA
23. Responsible pesticide and fertilizer usage on lake shores and watersheds	1	2	3	4	5	NA
24. Construction and removal of piers	1	2	3	4	5	NA
25. Bulk-heading and armoring of shorelines	1	2	3	4	5	NA
RECREATION						
26. Public access and non-resident lake use	1	2	3	4	5	NA
27. Noise pollution from personal watercraft (jetskis)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
28. Water pollution from motorized boats	1	2	3	4	5	NA
29. Motorcraft impacts on shorelines, wetlands, and waterfowl	1	2	3	4	5	NA
30. Boating safety	1	2	3	4	5	NA
31. Placement and maintenance of buoys	1	2	3	4	5	NA
32. Swimming safety	1	2	3	4	5	NA
33. Beach and boat launch maintenance	1	2	3	4	5	NA
LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT						
34. Flooding of the lake and shoreline	1	2	3	4	5	NA
35. Extreme low water	1	2	3	4	5	NA
36. Lake drawdown/refill procedures	1	2	3	4	5	NA

	Not			Very		
	Concerned/important			Concerned/important		
ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNDING ISSUES						
37. Finding funding for lake projects/clean-up	1	2	3	4	5	NA
38. Working with government agencies on lake issues	1	2	3	4	5	NA
39. Lack of community participation and cooperation	1	2	3	4	5	NA
40. How to organize a lake association	1	2	3	4	5	NA
41. Forming lake management districts	1	2	3	4	5	NA

	Not			Very		
	Concerned/important			Concerned/important		
FISHERIES						
42. Fishing regulations	1	2	3	4	5	NA
43. Fisheries management and stocking	1	2	3	4	5	NA
44. Maintenance of suitable fish habitat	1	2	3	4	5	NA
45. Native fish versus introduced fish	1	2	3	4	5	NA
46. Effect of Endangered Species Act regulations on lake management	1	2	3	4	5	NA
47. Loss of cold-water fishery habitat (e.g. trout/salmon) due to oxygen depletion or high temperatures	1	2	3	4	5	NA

	Not			Very		
	Concerned/important			Concerned/important		
WATERFOWL AND WILDLIFE						
48. Controlling nuisance waterfowl (1 if you oppose and 5 if you favor control)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
49. Beaver problems	1	2	3	4	5	NA
50. Conservation of waterfowl and wildlife habitat						

Your five most important concerns (listed above) in ranked order (1 being most important):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please list any important issues not addressed in this survey:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Respondent Information. Please circle responses.

Are you a member of WALPA? Yes No

Which best describes you?

Lake Association Member

Lake Consultant

Academic interested in lakes/streams

Agency Biologist

Other _____

Name of lake you live on or are most concerned with:

County in which the above lake is located: _____

Thanks for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please mail the survey to: WALPA, P.O. Box 4245, Seattle, WA 98104. Survey results when complete will be posted on our Web site at www.nalms.org/walpa/