# LAKE MANAGEMENT



Control of the aquatic weeds (Eurasian watermilfoil and Brazilian elodea) in Big Lake and Lake McMurray has been challenging. These exotic weeds grow in dense stands and can exclude native vegetation. Their presence results in localized deterioration of water quality (including decreased dissolved oxygen) and the loss of habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. The dense stands also decrease the usable area of the lake, making it dangerous for swimmers and inaccessible to boaters. The County developed Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Plans for both lakes in the late 1990's. In 1998, the County formed the Big Lake Lake Management District to assess funds and pay for treatments identified in the plan. In 2000, the County completed the formation process for Lake McMurray. Salmonids are present at times in both lakes.

### Benefits

- Controls or eradicates the invasive aquatic plants, Eurasian watermilfoil and Brazilian elodea, in two county lakes.
- Prevents the spread of non-native, invasive weeds to other lakes.
- Educates and involves the public to prevent spread of milfoil and to financially support control efforts.

## POLLUTION AWARENESS

## Water Quality, OSS Program and Best Management Practices addressing nonpoint pollution awareness

State mandates such as the Centennial Clean Water Act require that shellfish and anadromous fish areas be maintained at healthy, safe levels. Correctly functioning on-site septic systems (OSS) and the use of agricultural best management practices that reduce contaminated runoff to waters are key components of water quality cleanup through this act. Funding from grants established through this act allows the two County departments, Health and Planning and Permit Center, to jointly oversee the septic process with permits, monitoring, repairs, regulations, complaint follow-up, and OSS public education. State Revolving Loan funds are also provided for repair, installation, and agricultural improvements. Clean up has occurred in the towns of Edison and Blanchard, both estuarine tidal communities, in addition to 557 individual residents, small commercial businesses and agricultural sites countywide.

### Benefits

- Increased public awareness through state mandated OSS Monitoring and Operations program.
- Enhanced and monitored water quality conditions.
- Countywide local loan programs for OSS repairs and BMP implementation.
- · Improved partnership between county programs.
- Improved fish habitat.

#### Watershed:

Skagit River (WRIA 03)

#### Cost

\$20,000 Big Lake \$20,000 Lake McMurray

#### Revenue

50%	Washington Department of Ecology-
	Aquatic Weeds Program
33%	Skagit County
50%	Big Lake Lake Management District

#### Partners

Skagit County Big Lake Citizens Lake McMurray Citizens Washington Department of Ecology

Completion Date Ongoing

Watershed: Skagit River (WRIA 2,3 and 4)

## Cost:

\$3,956,000

#### Revenue

φι.οινι	washington Revolving Loan Fund
\$266,000	Sanitary Onsite Septic Grant
\$435,000	Edison State Revolving Fund
\$500,000	Community Development Block Grant
\$1.2M	Referendum 39
	Renslaarville Loan
\$55,000	Washington Department of Ecology-
	Centennial Clean Water Fund

#### Partners

Skagit Conservation District Skagit County Planning and Permit Center Skagit County Health Department Washington Department of Health Washington Department of Ecology Washington Commercial Shellfish Growers Blanchard and Edison Community Volunteers