

Lake Sutherland News



This old beaver's friends spread Eurasian milfoil around in our lake. [Photo at [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)]

Busy beavers keep dragging milfoil around in our lake

“When there’s a condition that changes unexpectedly,” Cathy Lucero said, it underscores the importance of having a maintenance program for Lake Sutherland that’s running efficiently.

For Lucero, administrator of the Lake Sutherland Management District, the unexpected change was the spread of beaver activity in the lake the past two years.

Divers now find beaver scat all around the lake and she said the creature’s effect on the underwater plant growth has given the lake a “new plant community.”

She admits she does not know enough to be sure what to blame on the beavers, but “I think they just drag [milfoil] plants along when they drag their sticks around.”

Still, she said, the lake’s milfoil control program continues to be in good shape so long as the work on pulling plants keeps up..

Water level cleanup fund contributions

Several lake residents led by Matt Downing won emergency action approval from state Fish and Wildlife in late winter to clean up the lake outlet at Indian Creek and minimize damage from a swollen lake that submerged many docks.

Similar action nearly 10 years ago was spearheaded by Mike Price, who has since maintained a special bank account for such work. Donations are still being taken to pay for a new log boom to protect the outlet from floating debris. So far, Price said, 40 donors have raised the fund to about \$3,000.

The Lake Sutherland Management District Steering Committee decided at its latest meeting in early May that the district would not try to expand its work to deal with the lake’s water levels.

The district was created by lake property owners only for the control of invasive weeds. Members of the committee agreed that the district has been given no other mission.

NEXT LAKE WORKDAY SEPT. 10

The next community weed pull has been set for Saturday, Sept. 10. The steering committee will meet Sept. 6 at 4:30.

E-mail lists available for newsletter & emergencies

The Lake Sutherland Management District Steering Committee recently decided to make this newsletter available by e-mail for property owners who want to receive it in digital form rather than by mail.

To do so, property owners need only contact administrator Cathy Lucero with a proper address at clucero@co.clallam.wa.us and specify that they wish to be added to the Friends of Lake Sutherland e-mail list for the newsletter and emergency notifications. Addresses provided will not be used for any private business or solicitation.

This newsletter is published every June and at other times as needed.

Property owners who request the newsletter by e-mail will receive it as a PDF document. It will have the same design and content as the printed version.

Lake preparedness meeting set June 16

Lake Sutherland residents will have an opportunity for education and coordination regarding preparedness for natural disasters at a June 16 meeting.

The meeting will be 6-8 p.m. at the County Courthouse Emergency Operations Center Training Room on 4th Street in Port Angeles.

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