

Lake Sutherland Newsletter

Lake Sutherland Management District 2 Steering Committee

June 2012

Sutherland weed program a success among state's lakes

The state's Department of Ecology web site lists 32 lakes in Washington with milfoil-control programs and at least 12 of those include hand pulling by divers, the primary technique that has been used so successfully at Lake Sutherland.

Success in Lake Sutherland is marked by the reduced population of milfoil found each year during diving programs. The program netted fewer plants than ever before last summer, but still removed 559 plants in four canvasses of the lake. According to management district administrator Cathy Lucero, 38 volunteers donated a total of 437 hours last year to help keep the eurasian milfoil invasion in check.

She pointed out that this means good results in fewer hours than in the past, but volunteer Jan Snyder pointed out, "There's absolutely no way we can quit." Snyder donated more than 200 hours by himself last year, mostly as a spotter for divers during community weed pulls and during control dives that targeted trouble spots.

Lucero said she gets calls from other areas in search of tips on how to control milfoil.

Diver Theresa Schmid recalls how bad it was in the beginning: "When we started, some of those plants, when you were standing, were over your head -- fourteen feet tall. I told Cathy, "We'll never get these under control." She is happy to report now that she was wrong about that.

As a comparison, here's a report of what's happening in Mason County, taken from the state web site, ecy.wa.gov/programs:

The residents on Mason Lake in Mason County, Washington have developed an innovative idea to lower

herbicide use and more effectively target small populations of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) along the lake shoreline. Homeowners on Mason Lake have struggled with finding a good chemical control tool for an early invasion of Eurasian watermilfoil. Mason Lake (over 1,000-acres) has a number of springs and currents and coupled with small patches of milfoil growing along the shorelines, liquid herbicides have not been effective because there isn't enough contact time between the plants and herbicides. Although residents and their contractors are also hand pulling milfoil, residents found that in spite of thorough attempts to remove all plants and fragments, milfoil keeps returning to the same locations year after year.

The residents came up with the idea of creating plastic "tents," which are deployed into the water and placed over small clumps of milfoil. They then inject minute (22 ml/100 ft²) amounts of fast-acting selective herbicide (triclopyr TEA - Renovate) into the tents, and leave the tents in place for 24 hours. The tents hold the herbicide in contact with the plants for sufficient time to ensure good kill of the milfoil. ...

In Lake Sutherland, in addition to hand pulling, many trouble spots have been controlled by laying down barriers to block sunlight from reaching the milfoil. Lucero said these barriers have worked well and that, in most cases, other plants grow over them and they become invisible. Schmid said you can't even find them unless you know where to look. The program also has avoided the use of herbicides.

At its last meeting, April 26, members of the Lake Sutherland Management District Steering Committee said they still hope to expand the district's volunteer base and to involve more lake residents. Anyone can attend steering committee meetings, held in the old county courthouse (see schedule, other side). And on July 19, committee members will host a community potluck at 5 p.m. at Wares Bear Cove on Fisher Cove Road at the west end of the lake. Please call 457-1579 to RSVP.

Lake Management Steering Committee

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Lake Calendar

Schedule for 2012:

Lake potluck, Wares' Bear Cove, 5 p.m.,
July 19. (RSVP 457-1579)

Steering Committee meets, Aug. 7.

Community weed pull, Aug. 11.

Steering Committee, Sept. 4.

Community weed pull, Sept. 8.

Addressee

LAKE SUTHERLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2
STEERING COMMITTEE
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Jan Snyder shows a milfoil site stake. If anyone finds these loose in the lake, please report to Cathy Lucero, 417-2442.

It's a lake potluck!

Members of the Lake Sutherland Management District Steering Committee are inviting all Lake Sutherland landowners to a community potluck on Thursday, July 19, at Bobby and Judy Ware's Bear Cove, on Fisher Cove Rd. at the west end of the lake.

Call 457-1579 to RSVP. If no one answers, please leave a message.

The steering committee eagerly accepted Judy's invitation to host an event to help all lake residents to get to know each other.