

Lake Sammamish ShoreScore Update

March 2015

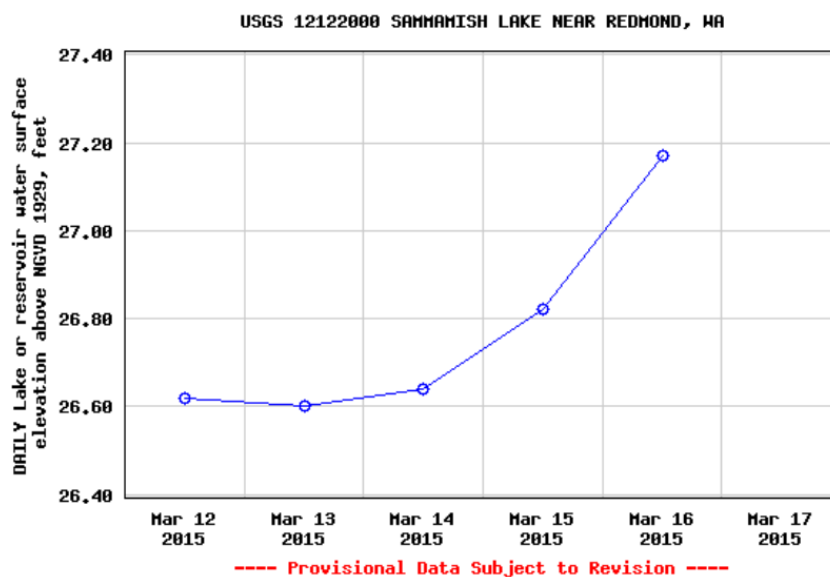


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"Sunday's soaking sets rainfall record"

That's the headline of the Seattle Times' [article](#) last Sunday. But what did it mean to Lake Sammamish shoreline residents? **The lake rose nearly 7 inches!**

Lake or reservoir water surface elevation above NGVD 1929, feet



This underlines the importance of keeping the lake below 27 ft. as many days as possible in winter, wet weather months. If allowed to stay over 27 ft., such events will put docks under water very quickly.

But, the **Seattle Times is incorrect** in contending this was a rare event; at least for Lake Sammamish!

We only have to look back to Nov. 28th last year and Sept. 28th of 2013 to find similar events. Nov. 28th had a rainfall equal to Sunday's of 2.36 inches. The Sept. 28th event dumped 2.59 inches.

In the two earlier rain events, lake water level rise was similar last weekend. But, Sept. 2013 experience had an added twist. It was followed by two more rainy days, each over 1 inch. This resulted in a **9 inch lake rise**.

Bottom line - completing **removal of the remaining sediment and other obstructions** in the Transition Zone (aka the "Slough") as soon as possible is imperative. And, the County's Willowmoor project must, in the future, assure annual maintenance. We hope you will register this point as part of your input to the Willowmoor project. Read on, if you will.

"County Willowmoor Project Meeting"

More than 50 people attended last Saturday's open house for this project. County staff spent an hour describing the project objectives and the proposed alternatives. Then, over more than an hour, speakers plied staff for more information and registered their concerns. (We encourage you to go to their website for more detailed information on the proposed alternatives.)

Our position? Review WSSA's January position paper on Willowmoor by [Clicking Here](#).

For Saturday's meeting WSSA had prepared a summary of findings from our recent survey of shoreline property owners. While time was not allowed for presentation of this information, we provide it below and also will submit it to the County.

Your Input - We encourage you to read on and provide input to the County regarding Willowmoor.

The comment period is open for the next two weeks. To do so, go to this link ([Click Here](#)), and once at that site, click on the picture of the slough (similar to that shown below).



Click these links to view - [Alternative 1](#) | [Alternative 4](#) | [Alternative 5](#) | [Composite Cross Section](#)
Sorry - we asked the County if their cost and performance data from the meeting is available. It's not.

Deferred Maintenance Costs Us Millions

More than 200 property owners responded to WSSA's recent survey. 8 out of 10 reported damages to their docks and shoreline improvements during raised lake levels. Of those reporting, 60% were able to provide dollar figures for these damages. **The average amount per parcel was nearly \$15,000** suffered during the last 15 years. This is the period in which the County placed willows in the flood channel and failed to conduct agreed annual maintenance in the river at Marymoor Park.

With some 950 residential parcels on Lake Sammamish, damages may have totaled to more than \$12,000,000!

This information added to our previous position, WSSA now lists the following as critical for the County to achieve approval of the project. Please advocate for these actions/items in your submissions to the County.

- 1. Maintenance must be carried out now and until the project to restore historic lake levels**
- 2. Routine inspection and annual maintenance must be part of the project**
- 3. Modernization of the weir should be considered**
- 4. Corps of Engineers must certify the project will lead to reactivation of flood control**
- 5. Environmental changes must be scientifically and economically justified**
- 6. Environmental improvements must "pay forward" future mitigation charges and be dedicated ONLY to this area**

Pop-Quiz

Our recent survey of lake shore residents included the following True - False questions. How did you do? As a refresher, and for those who did not take the quiz, here are the questions again, plus a new one. True or False. ([Answers](#) are on the next page)

1. The Sammamish River Flood Control Project was built by the Corps of Engineers but is maintained by King County.
2. The lake's Ordinary High Water Level (OHWM) is FEMA's 100 year floodplain.
3. Bear Creek, at SR 520 in Redmond, can backup the river and cause raised lake levels.
4. Kokanee have been declared an endangered species by the federal government.
5. The Sammamish Flood Control Project is no longer recognized by the Corps as an active, adequate flood control system.

How You Can Help

- Make a tax deductible contribution to WSSA at P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue 98008
- Write your City Council members and King County Council (council@kingcounty.gov)

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Pop Quiz answers follow, below.

Pop Quiz Answers (Percent of respondents getting it correct in WSSA's online survey)

1. TRUE. The County agreed to maintain what the Corps constructed back in 1965. (97%)
2. FALSE. The OHWM is a level below the level a rare, once in 100 years storm would produce. The elevation of Lake Sammamish would rise above the OHWM by some 6 ft. (42%)
3. TRUE. According to the County, flow from Bear Creek has increased over time and, in their opinion, this restricts flow from Lake Sammamish and thereby raises the lake. (73%)
4. FALSE. Kokanee were denied an "Endangered Species" status several years ago on the grounds there are sufficient of them outside the Lake Sammamish basin to jeopardize their survival. (54%)
5. TRUE. The Corps of Engineers notified King County in 2008 that it found numerous changes and deficiencies along the length of the river that would prevent it from providing flood protection. The Corps considers it deficient. This leaves the liability on the County, and lake residents even more vulnerable than most understand. (This was not a survey question, but a test of what you noted earlier in this ShoreScore Update!)

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