

Join Today!

I would like to join People for Lake Whatcom and can donate the following amount:

\$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, other _____

I would like to volunteer my time and skills to help protect Lake Whatcom.

Name: _____

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Email: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: People for Lake Whatcom
PO Box 2242, Bellingham, WA 98227

***Protect Lake Whatcom
- it's our drinking water!***

SPEAK UP FOR THE LAKE! Join our email list today

Send an email to "owner-pflw-list@onenw.org" with "subscribe" in the subject line.

We send infrequent action alerts at key decision points so that your time speaking up on behalf of Lake Whatcom is effective and focused. Give it a try; you can unsubscribe at any time.

People for Lake Whatcom
PO Box 2242, Bellingham, WA 98227
info@pflw.org, www.pflw.org
360.676.1254



People for Lake Whatcom is a group concerned about the current water quality of the lake and about the long-term viability of Lake Whatcom as our drinking water resource. We advocate for a comprehensive program that addresses land use issues, landowner property rights, stormwater management, education, scientific study, residential stewardship and public awareness. Only a comprehensive program can provide the basis for the long-term protection of our drinking water source.

PFLW proactively engages the public, elected leaders, and governmental staff, finding workable solutions to the threats to Lake Whatcom. PFLW helped provide expert and legal consultation to county leaders. After orchestrating a presentation by TDR expert Rick Pruetz we successfully worked to have the county hire a full time staff person to revamp the existing TDR program. Members of our outreach committee continue to table and use the media to help educate the public on the latest issues affecting Lake Whatcom.

PFLW looks forward to building constructive relationships with all parties affected by lake management decisions. Join us!

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***Protect Lake Whatcom-
it's our drinking water!***

Development is a major threat to Lake Whatcom, yet home building continues unabated.

The time for action is now!

Protect Lake Whatcom -it's our drinking water!

Why Is Lake Whatcom Important?

Lake Whatcom is the source of drinking water for approximately 85,000 people. Keeping Lake Whatcom clean and healthy is necessary to ensure a reliable source of drinking water for future generations.

It is the only economically feasible and readily available drinking water source for Bellingham and much of Whatcom County.

Water Quality in Decline

In addition to being listed as an impaired water body by the state Department of Ecology under section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act, the 2001/2002 Lake Whatcom Monitoring Report found water quality continuing to decline.

The report found:

- Water quality in basin 2, where the city draws its water, has further declined and is now as bad as in basin 1, the basin with the most development.
- 75% of the water entering the lake is from runoff.
- The time water stays in the lake has increased from 7 to 15 years since GP closed.
- Performance of stormwater treatment ponds has been erratic and ineffective in removing nutrients.



Sprawling urban development in the Lake Whatcom Watershed. Lake photos by Tore Oftness

What Are the Primary Threats to Lake Whatcom?

There are many individual sources of pollution; however, there is broad scientific and community agreement that residential development is the most significant threat to future water quality.

What Can We Do to Protect Our Drinking Water Supply?

Are Existing Programs and Proposals Enough? NO!

The construction of a new sewer line by Water District 10 has significantly increased new development in sensitive areas of the watershed prior to studies being completed and prior to programs to control stormwater runoff being designed, much less funded and built. Land Acquisition programs are an integral part of a comprehensive plan. While downzoning is also an integral part, these are only pieces of a comprehensive approach that must be taken if we are to preserve Lake Whatcom as our drinking water resource for future generations.

A comprehensive watershed protection plan includes:

- A working Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program
- Strict stormwater standards for new development
- Stormwater retrofits of current development
- Watershed land acquisition
- Strict limitations on conversion of forest land to other uses, and sustainable forestry guidelines for those areas where forestry is practiced
- Density reductions (rezoning and tax incentives)
- Strict enforcement of existing regulations
- Formation of a single administrative entity to oversee all watershed management functions