

LAKE WISE

January
2000

NEWSLETTER OF THE PSU LAKES AND RESERVOIRS PROGRAM
AND THE OREGON LAKES ASSOCIATION



Lake Watch News

As most Lake Watch volunteers should know by now, the Program was not funded in 1999. Many volunteers continued to send in data cards, and PSU and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are discussing how to continue supporting the Program. Many avenues are being investigated, however, at this point volunteers are encouraged to share their work with local watershed councils. Volunteers interested in continuing to monitor their lake can contact the ODEQ Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, Karen Williams at (503)-229-5983 or williams.karen@deq.state.or.us for information on local watershed council contacts. Thanks to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to this project over the years.

The final report on the project is just back from the printers, and volunteers can expect to see a copy in their mail in the next week or so. Thanks again for all your hard work. ♦

Zebra Mussel Prevention

As they spread westward across the continental United States, zebra mussels pose a serious economic and ecological threat to West Coast freshwater ecosystems and agricultural, navigation, boating, fishing, industrial, and hydroelectric operations. The Columbia River Basin with its hydropower, agricultural, shipping and fish resources is especially vulnerable to the zebra mussel menace. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), recognizing the potential impact to its operations, recently funded the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to carry out an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention program in collaboration with Portland State University.

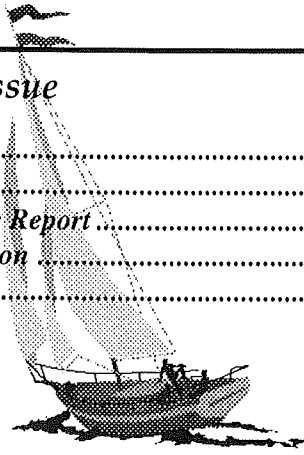
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Center for Lakes and Reservoirs Update

The Center for Lakes and Reservoirs was identified by the Oregon legislature as a priority for funding with moneys accumulated as interest on Ballot Measure 66 (the Parks and Salmon initiative that voters approved in November 1998). At this time, very limited funds have accumulated in the interest account. PSU continues to investigate alternative funding methods for the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs. For additional information on the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs contact Mark Sytsma at 503-725-3833 or sytsmam@pdx.edu. ♦

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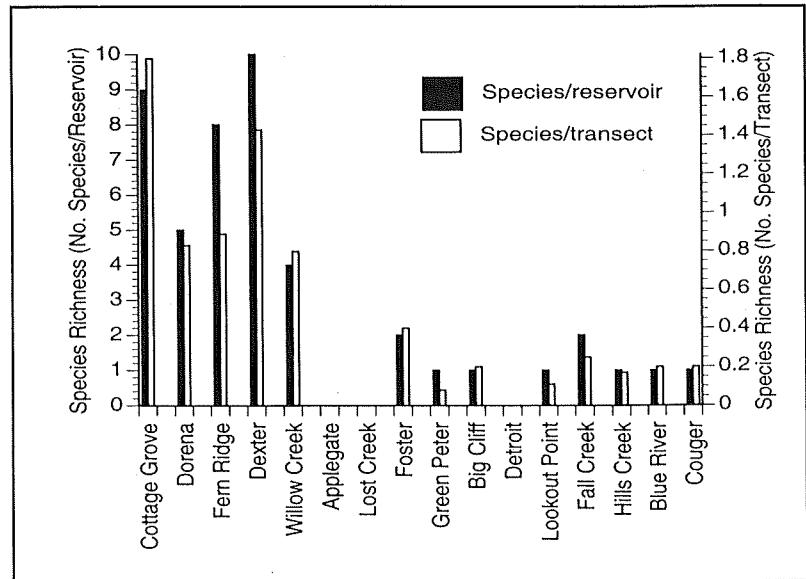
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Survey of Aquatic Plants Completed

Kim Walker, a graduate student at PSU, recently conducted a survey of all aquatic plants found in seventeen Army Corp reservoirs in Oregon. Information on the species diversity and relative abundance of plants was collected. Five of these reservoirs had advanced states of invasion by non-indigenous aquatic plants, however, most of the lakes surveyed have not yet developed a serious aquatic plant problem. This data will be used by the Corp to develop plans to manage the reservoirs that have significant problems with nuisance species and to establish preventive measures to protect those aquatic systems that are relatively healthy. ♦

Species Richness in Reservoirs



Zebra Mussels continued from page 1

One of goals of this regional program will be to develop an ANS plan for the Columbia River Basin. The ANS plan, which will be developed in the coming year, will include the following tasks: Identification of current ANS program actions being undertaken by state, federal, and private entities (including expenditures by program activity); identification of additional prevention actions needed to be undertaken on Columbia River Basin; and perhaps most importantly, identification of other potential funding sources to implement needed actions.

It is well recognized that immediate measures are needed to slow the westward movement of zebra mussels. Therefore, the PSU/BPA program will seek to initiate preventative actions for keeping ANS species out of the Columbia River

Basin. This program will begin the process of developing a highway inspection program on interstate highways for boats and trailers and other highway transportation vectors of ANS. Initially, inspections of large commercially trailered boats for zebra mussels will be pursued at established highway weigh stations, building on ongoing efforts and experiences whenever possible.

The feasibility of establishing private watercraft inspection programs in likely zebra mussel pathways will also be investigated. Private watercraft (i.e. trailered boats) inspections will likely be a much larger challenge because of higher associated costs among other things. Once again cooperation with other agencies' efforts will be an important element of a successful inspection program. For example, through their 100th

Meridian Initiative, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the University of Texas at Arlington, have been conducting zebra mussel boater surveys in Texas.

Except for Washington, there is a paucity of state funded ANS programs in the Columbia River Basin. Therefore, the PSMFC and PSU will also act to inform state (primarily western states) and federal government decision-makers as to the critical nature of the zebra mussel threat and promote the need for immediate creation, expansion, and funding at the state and federal level. These efforts will aim to build on preventative actions initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (100th Meridian Initiative), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ♦

OREGON LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWS

Notes From The President: Activities for 1999

by Andy Schaedel, OLA Past President

No, you are not going to get one of those discussions about OLA's accomplishments within the last millennium or great proclamations for the new millennium. Sorry, we have all been through too much hype lately. What I would rather do is highlight what the Board has targeted for this coming year. During our Board Meetings in November and December, we laid out our common priorities for the coming year. These include:

- Getting the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs off to a good start.
- Continuing a high quality newsletter.
- Continuing to hold a Fall Conference.
- Updating and Expanding the Website.
- Getting the Lake Report Card off the Ground.
- Interacting more with the Citizen Lake Watch Program.

Oregon Lakes Association

POB 345, Portland OR 97207

<http://www.esr.pdx.edu/pub/ola/index.htm>

Work Plan for 2000

We then focused our work plan towards these priority activities. We will be putting the new work plan on the web site shortly. Here are the dates for the next board meetings and a list of topics we will discuss. Please let me know if you are interested in participating. We do meetings both in person and by phone and connect you either way and we would love to have others included.

- Hold Bi-Monthly Board Meetings and post the minutes on the website.
- Finalize 2000 Work Plan
- Determine the Newsletter Schedule

February 15, 2000

- Decide on an Annual Conference Location (contact: Jim Carpenter)
- Provide a Spring Conference Update
- Website Enhancements and Location (contact: Jim Carpenter)
- Improve Membership Options (contact: Andy Schaedel)
- Provide Regular Updates on the Formation of Center for Oregon Lakes and Reservoirs and its Activities (contact: Mark Sytsma)

- Send OLA Report to the NALMS for Possible Presentation at WALPA Regional Lake Conference which is scheduled for April 12-15, 2000

April 18, 2000

- Develop a Prototype of Lake Report Card (contact: Roger Edwards)
- Prepare a Draft Agenda for Annual Conference (contact: Jim Carpenter)
- Provide an Update of Lake Appreciation Week which is scheduled for June 20, 2000 (contact: Jim Carpenter)

Ongoing Activities

- Nominations for 2001 Officers and Board
- Provide Regular Updates on the Fall Conference
- Review Status of Lake Report Cards by August 15, 2000
- Release Election Results by October 2000 (at the annual Conference) and establish a New Board
- Have Regular Review of Progress of Meeting 2000 Work Plan Objectives
- Identify Priorities for 2001 Board and Work Plan

The Oregon Lakes Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to lake protection and management in Oregon. For additional information on OLA, to get involved, or to obtain a membership application form write to:

OLA, PO Box 345, Portland, OR 97207 or visit our web site at <http://www.ola.pdx.edu/>

OREGON LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWS

OLA Meeting Report

The OLA annual meeting was held at Southern Oregon University on October 1-2 1999. Over 70 people attended the meeting where a variety of lake-related issues and OLA business was discussed.

Dr. Jacob Kann kicked off the meeting with a seminar that summarized 12 years of study of Klamath Lake. Jake described the complex interactions between lake level, nutrient loading, and trophic dynamics in the lake, with special consideration of the two endangered sucker species. He also discussed the interaction between the lake and fringing wetlands, and described on-going efforts to restore wetlands and

stream channels.

The meeting included two panel discussions. The first discussed the state of non-point-pollution in Oregon. The second panel focused on non-indigenous species with a focus on the use of grass carp for vegetation management in Oregon.

The current status of the Diamond Tui Chub management plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Tenmile Lake, Taylor Lake, Fairview Lake, and Roslyn Lake were also discussed. Jim Carpenter described the activities of the Upper Klamath Working Group, which is bringing together various stakeholders to address

wetland restoration and water rights issues.

The finale of the meeting was the unanimous election of Jim Carpenter as President-elect and Roger Edwards as Secretary. The meeting was informative collegial and fun. Many thanks to Michael Parker and Jacob Kann for local arrangements and to all the speakers for excellent presentations. ♦



Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment Leads to Increased Drinking Water Protection in Oregon

Recent amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) provided new resources to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Health Division (OHD) to provide drinking water protection assistance to public water systems and communities. Developing a management plan will remain voluntary in Oregon, however, the 1996 SDWA Amendments mandated that states agencies conduct "source water assessments" for every public water system. This means that DEQ and OHD must delineate

the groundwater and surface water source areas which supply public water systems, inventory each of those areas to determine potential sources of contamination, and determine the most susceptible areas at risk for contamination. To achieve these goals, Oregon DEQ has assembled a statewide citizen's advisory committee (Drinking Water Protection Advisory Committee (DWPAC)) to assist in the expansion of the former wellhead protection program. A four-year plan, "The Source Water Assessment Plan" was developed and

and approved by the EPA in July 1999.

The program will address 2,634 existing public water systems (including streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wells) over the next three years. Of those, 1140 will receive full assessments and the 1494 transient non-community water systems (and small schools) will receive limited assessments assistance.

DEQ will be responsible for the surface water delineations and

Safe Drinking Water continued from page 4

inventories for all 1140 systems. To meet these objectives, DEQ and OHD have added 9 new federally-funded staff positions to implement the requirements, including program coordination, computer database development, GIS development, technical assistance, contamination source inventories, surface water delineations, groundwater delineations, and susceptibility analyses.

DEQ will also provide increased direct technical assistance to communities that choose to move beyond the assessments and develop a Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP). Developing a DWPP facilitates local decision-making as the community determines how to protect their own drinking water sources. ♦

Commonly Asked Questions About the Developing a Drinking Water Protection Plan

How do you develop a Drinking Water Protection Plan ?

STEP 1: A "Source Water Assessment" must be conducted to determine (or "delineate") the land surface area where the drinking water originates, identify what kind and how many potential contamination sources are within that area, and then decide where the most sensitive areas that exist within water source. These assessments will be performed by the state for the community in the next few years.

In some cases, DEQ and OHD will delegate tasks to communities that want the opportunity to do their own assessments.

STEP 2: The local community then voluntarily develops a management approach to reduce the risks of groundwater contamination from those sources. DEQ recommends that the management approach be developed trying to minimize any burdens on individual property owners, while maximizing the equity in responsibility for reducing the risks of future contamination.

What are the benefits of implementing a drinking water protection plan?

The primary incentive for local communities to voluntarily implement drinking water protection is the benefit of a more secure source of high quality water. Other (perhaps more tangible) incentives include lower costs to the public by: a) a reduction in OHD public water supply monitoring requirements, and b) reduced likelihood of costs for replacement and/or treatment of contaminated drinking water. Long-term assurances of a safe and adequate drinking water supply also helps to protect property values and preserve the local and regional economic growth potential for the area.

What resources are available to communities interested in developing a plan?

DEQ and OHD will provide limited technical assistance and are available to guide communities as they work through the process of developing a protection plan. Other agencies will also be involved in providing technical assistance as protection plans are developed. For example, on farmlands, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, will provide assistance as indicated for under Senate Bill 1010. In developing recommendations for protecting drinking water source areas, DEQ has tried to maximize the use of existing programs in Oregon such as pollution prevention technical assistance (DEQ), sanitary survey results (OHD), household hazardous waste collection (DEQ), agricultural water-quality protection (ODA), water conservation education (WRD), rural water quality outreach (OSU Extension Service), etc.

Where can I get more information?

To obtain a copy of the brochure of Oregon's "Source Water Assessment Plan", or to arrange a presentation on drinking water protection, contact Sheree Stewart, Drinking Water Protection Program Coordinator, Oregon DEQ, (503) 229-5413 or Dennis Nelson, Groundwater Coordinator, Oregon Health Division, (503) 731-4010.

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North American Lake Management Society Meetings

Regional Conference

**April 13-15, 2000
DoubleTree Inn
SeaTac, Washington**

For more information contact
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