

Summer 2018

Honeymoon Lake Wildlife Committee Bulletin



A commitment to keeping our habitat healthy protects not only our wild neighbors and our own health, it insures that our financial investment in our homes and property is also protected.

Honeymoon Lake Habitat

Honeymoon Lake is a rich habitat directly supporting an amazing variety of wildlife: turtles, beavers, otters, geese, many dabbler and diving duck species, eagles, osprey, swallows, stocked trout, salamanders, frogs, bats, aquatic insects and plants. Indirectly, many other mammals, birds, insects and plants are also reliant on our lake habitat. In turn, this habitat is what makes living here such a rich and wonderful experience. A commitment to keeping our habitat healthy, protects not only our wild neighbors and our own health, it insures that our financial investment in our homes and property is also protected. It is with this in mind that the Wildlife Committee was formed and hopes to keep you informed and committed to preserving these great resources.

What you can do to keep our lake habitat safe for wildlife and humans

- Maintain and check your septic system in accordance with Island County requirements: www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WastewaterManagement/SepticSystem/CaringforYourSystem
- Pick up dog poop and dispose in your Island Disposal garbage pick-up container.
- Wash your car or boat at a car wash site or well away from any water body.

What you can do ...

- Avoid pesticides, and herbicides. Try non-chemical alternatives such as diatomaceous earth instead of pesticides to kill insects, and homemade non-toxic herbicide of: 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup of salt, 1 Tbsp of dish soap.
- Avoid fertilizers. Fertilizers not only make your plants grow, they leach into the lake and greatly increase the growth of algae. Too much algae is harmful to humans and wildlife. As you know, the lake was closed to recreational use this year due to harmful algae blooms. Use compost instead of fertilizer or use fertilizer judiciously in flower pots or in very small targeted areas that will not affect the lake.
- If you find it necessary to use chemicals such as fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides, look for the "Safer Choice." Use them minimally where it will not leach into water bodies.
- Avoid paint, fuel, or chemicals spills and never rinse these products down the drain. Dispose of these hazardous materials at the Island County Hazardous Waste site in Coupeville.
- Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by properly cleaning, draining, and drying your watercraft after every use. Aquatic invasive species and proper watercraft cleaning information: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/>
- Ensure that your fence or hedge is at least fifteen feet from the lakeshore to provide wildlife with a corridor.

Our Resident Geese

We know that the resident geese have been highly controversial in the past and continue to be a point of concern for some. Some homeowners enjoy the geese while others find their behavior and prolific pooping detrimental. What we can do to accommodate everyone:

- You may legally deter geese on their own property.
- You may not deter geese from your neighbor's property, HLCC community property, or the lake.
- The Wildlife Committee will work to limit the resident goose population to eighteen. The Wildlife Committee will count the resident goose population each spring. If the population is at or exceeds eighteen, the appropriate authorities and permits will be obtained to legally addle or terminate viable eggs in nesting areas in order to meet the population limit.
- More information on living with Canada Geese and conflict prevention:
https://wdfw.wa.gov/living/canada_geese.html#conflicts



Our Beaver Colony



Just like the geese, our beavers are both cherished and reviled. The Wildlife Committee strives to make their presence understood and to find reasonable methods to mitigate problems.

Beavers will maintain their population based on habitat conditions. Young beavers will venture several miles seeking mates and new habitats. Removing beavers is challenging and is not a lasting solution since others will soon resettle the area. Therefore, **the Wildlife Committee recommends finding ways to live with our current beaver colony rather removing them.**

Beavers eat twigs, leaves, and the inner bark of deciduous trees and shrubs, but occasionally eat or use coniferous trees and shrubs for their building projects. **Wrapping plants with chicken wire, three feet high, will protect plants.**

The Beavers have built two lodges on the Northwest shore. They have built a dam in front of the culvert that must be regularly monitored and cleared. HLCC members are exploring ways to protect the culvert and minimize their dam building activity.

More information on living with beavers and how to minimize conflicts:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/living/beavers.html>

Wildlife Committee policies and recommendations are founded in the HLCC Covenants and Restrictions.

- *Article 2, Section 2.2: "No land clearing or land use shall damage or threaten to damage the ecology of Honeymoon Lake or the water courses entering Honeymoon Lake."*
- *Article 2, Section 2.10: "Fences and hedges shall approach no closer than fifteen feet to the shore of Honeymoon Lake to permit free movement of wildlife"*
- *Article 2, Section 2.19: "The Board of Directors forbids the use of fertilizers, herbicides or poisons where natural drainage would in time carry such nutrients or biocides into Honeymoon Lake"*
- *Article 3, Sections 3.2 and 3.4: Both of these sections refer to specifications for Honeymoon Lake in accordance with the Department of Ecology of Washington State.*

Wildlife Committee: Chair - CJ Tomlinson, Members - Mike Stropki, Nancy Long, Butch Carber, Sarah Dore. Please feel free to contact us with questions, suggestions, and information.