

Lake Tapps | planning together for tomorrow



January 13, 2011

Lake Management Plan Survey Results

Cascade Water Alliance, Pierce County, Bonney Lake, and other key governments and jurisdictions with responsibilities for the Lake are dedicated to working with the community to identify issues, develop solutions and identify means of funding those solutions to ensure long-term safety and security for Lake Tapps.

To achieve this goal, a collaborative and creative public process began in December 2010 with a Lake Tapps Management Plan survey. This was the community's first chance to provide input to Cascade and its partners to help inform the development of a Lake Tapps Management Plan that will ensure a safe and healthy lake for residents and users.

After completing the survey, participants were invited to attend the Lake Tapps Management Plan Community Forum scheduled to take place at North Tapps Middle School on Thursday, January 13, 2011. This is an opportunity for interested community members to continue their participation in the development of the plan and keep the discussion moving forward.

The results of the survey, open from November 24, 2010 to January 3, 2011, are summarized below. A total of 368 participants began the survey, with over 90% of them finishing and submitting comments to the project team.

Survey results at-a-glance:

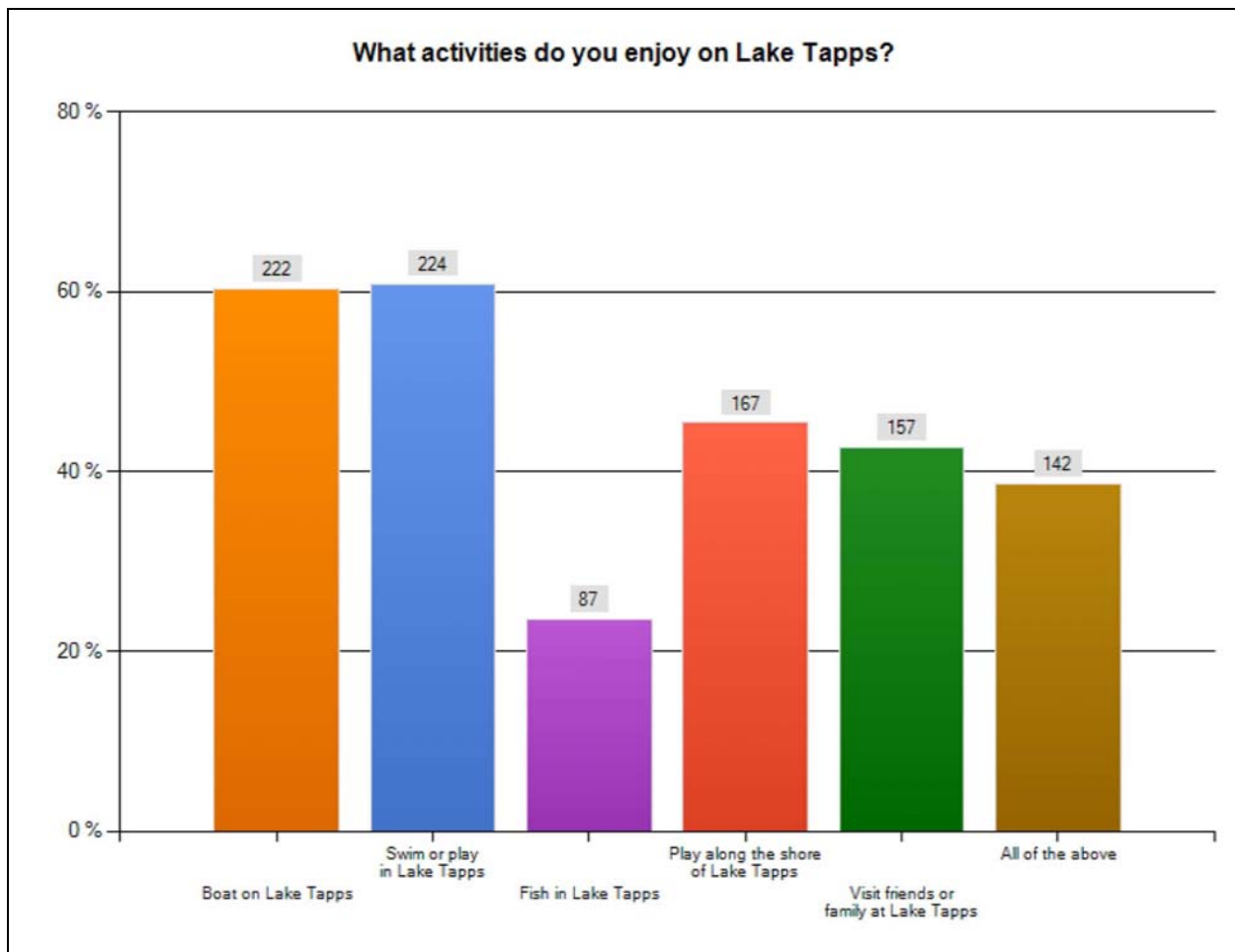
- 368 people started the survey with 333 people completing the survey (90.5%)
 - Over 60% of survey takers boat, swim and/or play on Lake Tapps.
 - The top 3 issues most important to survey takers concerning how Lake Tapps is managed were (in no particular order):
 - Water quality
 - Recreational lake level
 - Safety in and around the lake
 - Survey takers, in general, thought the County, cities, Cascade Water Alliance, property owners and lake users should share management responsibilities for the lake and should help fund the requirements identified in the final Lake Tapps Management Plan.
 - Nearly 70% of survey takers live on Lake Tapps.
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1. What activities do you enjoy on Lake Tapps? Select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Swim or play in Lake Tapps	60.9%	224
Boat on Lake Tapps	60.3%	222
Play along the shore of Lake Tapps	45.4%	167
Visit friends or family at Lake Tapps	42.7%	157
All of the above	38.6%	142
Fish in Lake Tapps	23.6%	87
Other (as specified by survey taker)	16.6%	61
Answered Question		368
Skipped Question		0

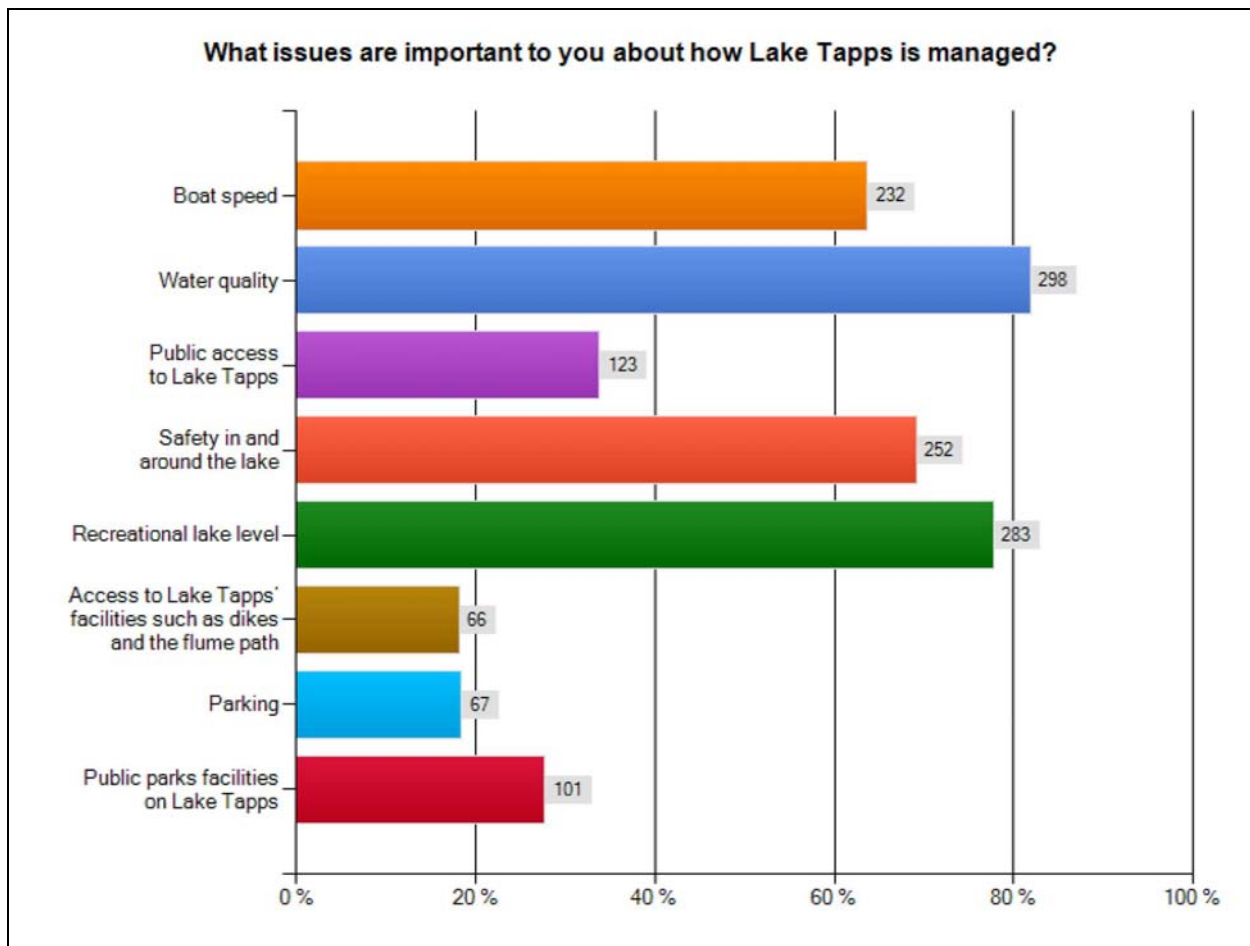
Other activities identified by survey takers:

- Enjoy the view
- Wildlife viewing
- Live on Lake Tapps
- Celebrate with family and friends
- Golf
- Kayak, windsurf, paddle board, etc
- Hold business meetings
- Take pictures
- Picnic in the parks
- Ice skate



2. What issues are important to you about how Lake Tapps is managed? Select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Water quality	81.9%	298
Recreational lake level	77.7%	283
Safety in and around the lake	69.2%	252
Boat speed	63.7%	232
Public access to Lake Tapps	33.8%	123
Public parks facilities on Lake Tapps	27.7%	101
Parking	18.4%	67
Access to Lake Tapps' facilities such as dikes and the flume path	18.1%	66
Other (as specified by survey taker)		
Boat noise (engines, music, stereos, people)	14.8%	54
Excessive drinking and/or partying	3.3%	12
Milfoil	2.2%	8
Littering	1.1%	4
Property values	0.1%	2
Quality of life	0.1%	2
Answered Question		364
Skipped Question		4



Specific issues expressed by survey takers:

- “Boat Noise from jet with the above board engine blocks, drinking, music, profane language etc. are a noise nuisance.”
- “Jet ski prohibition.”
- “I've noticed a significant decrease in water quality since Puget Power sold the lake. Even at this year's Bonney Lake Triathlon, the Allen Yorke beach area water quality did not meet safe levels. Yuk!”
- “I would like sidewalks to Jenks Park so we can safely walk there and I don't feel like kids are at risk.”
- “Enforcement of laws; noise, public nudity, littering.”
- “Limit amount of boats on lake from county parks, people that live on the lake can't use the lake because of boat traffic on weekends.”
- “Need much more public access for swimming/ picnics. Boat traffic is at capacity so more isn't feasible.”
- “People who DON'T live on the Lake causing problems on the Lake ---and then just leaving all of us with their problems/mess.”
- “Increase police presence.”
- “Public education to respect the boating rules around parks is essential so that recreation respects the rights of property owners, and safe boating is encouraged.”
- “Winter flood control for people affected by a lake overflow to surrounding property and lives.”

3. *Who do you think is responsible for...

*(*See appendix I for more information)*

Safety on the lake?

1. Pierce County sheriff
2. Local police
3. Pierce County

Public access to the lake?

1. Pierce County
2. Local governments and cities
3. Cascade Water Alliance

Water quality of the lake?

1. Cascade Water Alliance
2. Tax Payers, property owners, and/or home owners associations (HOA)
3. All lake users

Access to Lake Tapps facilities such as dikes or the flume path?

1. Cascade Water Alliance
2. Pierce County
3. Local governments and cities

Dealing with trespassing around the lake?

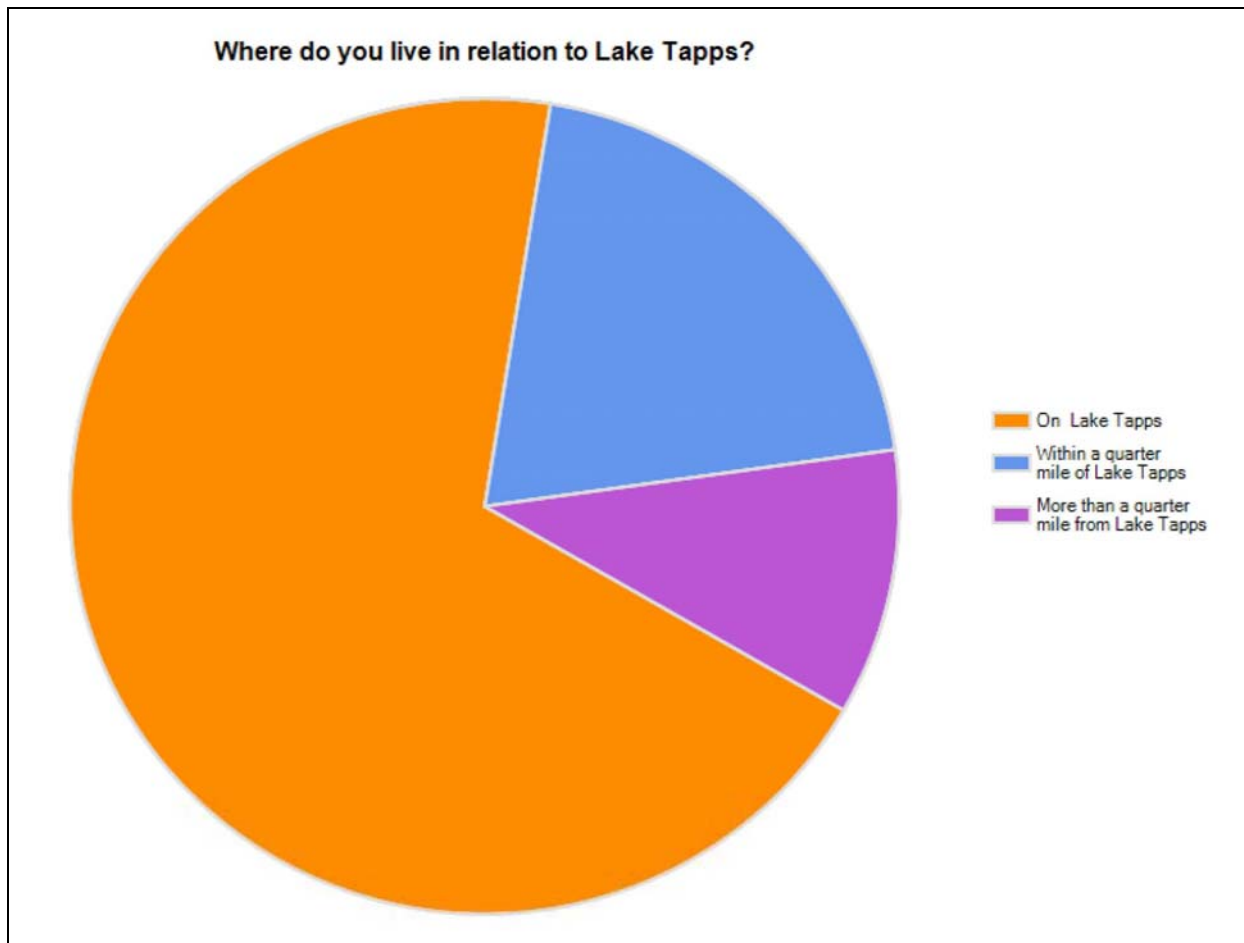
1. Pierce County
2. Local police
3. Cascade Water Alliance

Public parks on the lake?

1. Pierce County
2. Local governments and cities
3. City of Bonney Lake

4. Where do you live in relation to Lake Tapps?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
On Lake Tapps	69.2%	236
Within a quarter mile of Lake Tapps	20.2%	69
More than a quarter mile from Lake Tapps	10.6%	36
Answered Question		341
Skipped Question		27

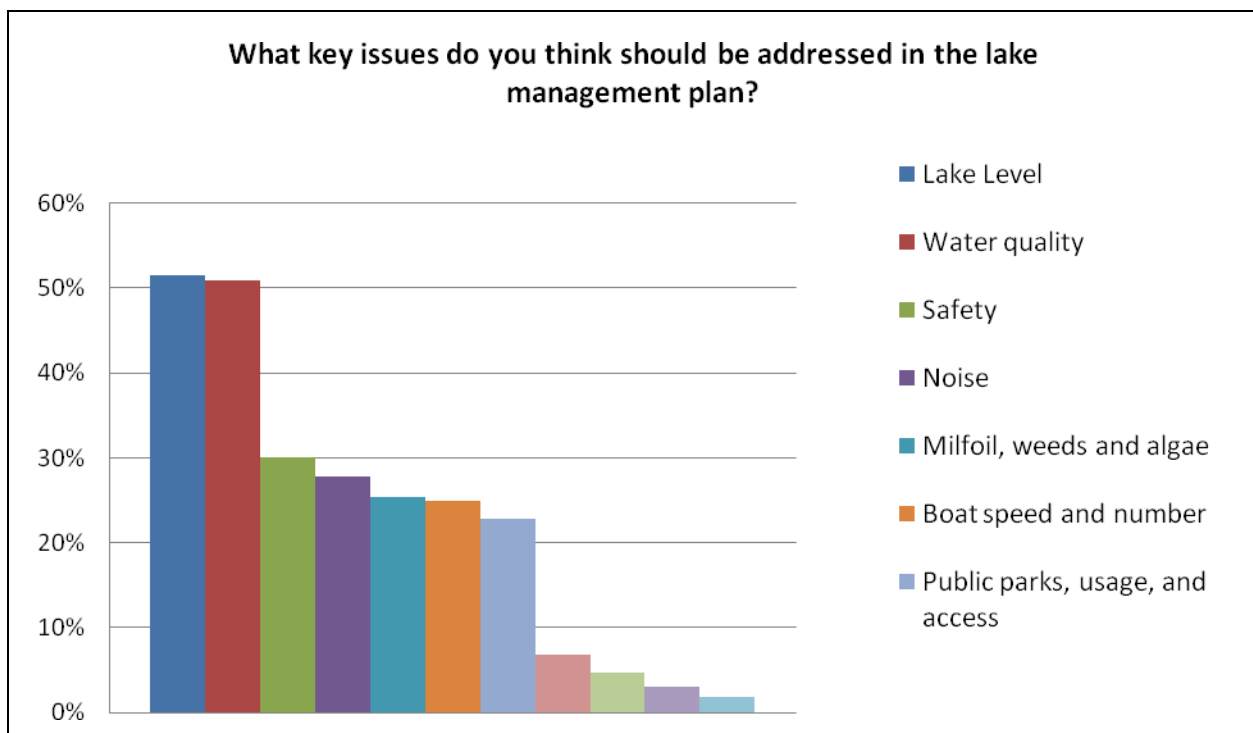


5. What key issues do you think should be addressed in the lake management plan? Please list your top three.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Lake Level	51.5%	174
Water quality	50.9%	172
Safety	30.0%	101
Noise	27.8%	94
Milfoil, weed and algae control	25.4%	86
Boat speed and number of boats	24.9%	84
Public parks, usage, and access (including trails, dikes, dam and flume)	22.8%	77
Enforcement	6.8%	23
Alcohol consumption and partying	4.7%	16
Parking	3.0%	10
Education for lake users and residents	1.8%	6
Answered Question		338
Skipped Question		30

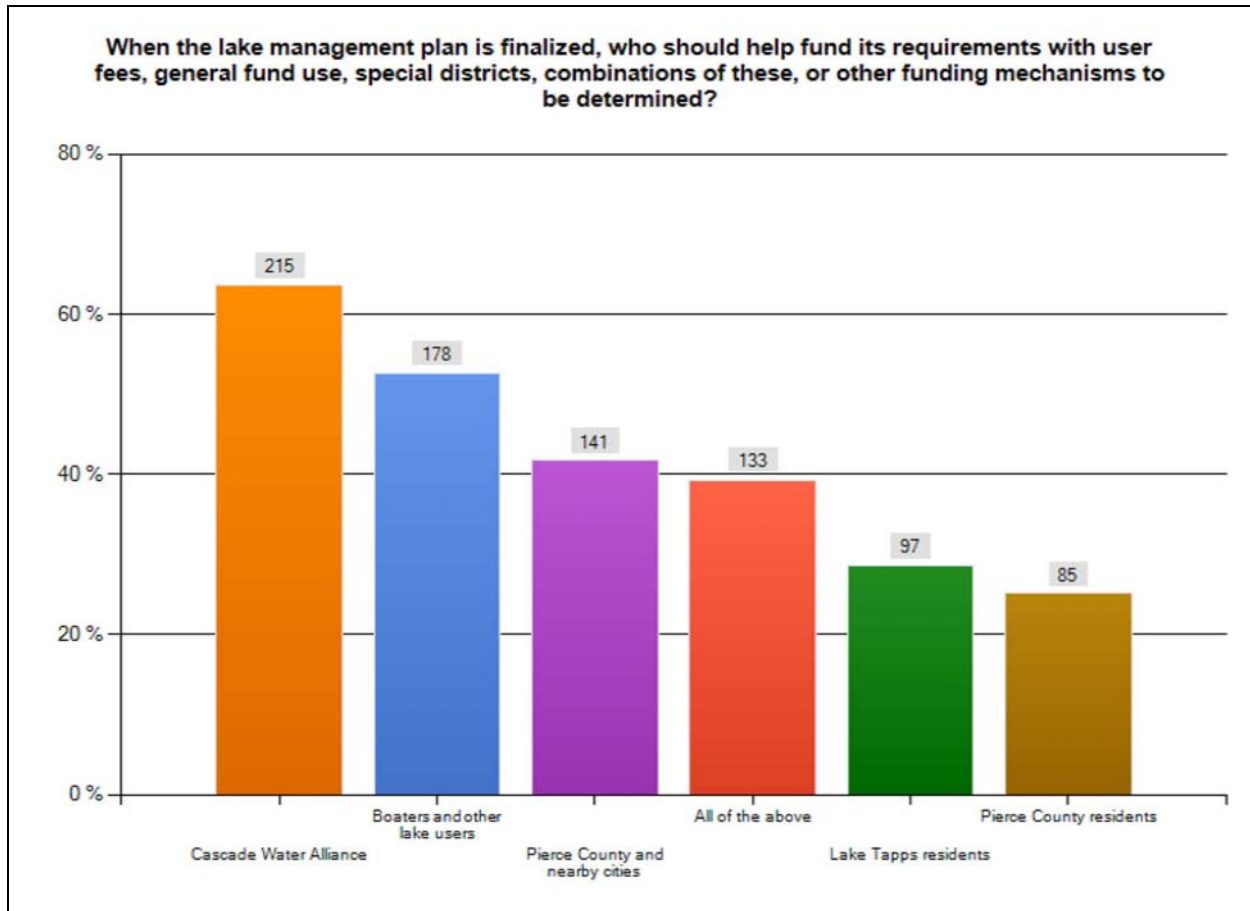
Other issues identified by survey takers:

- Growth management and shoreline damage
- Roles and responsibilities
- Septic tanks
- Enjoyment and quality of life
- Fishing
- Balancing water use
- Sidewalks and pedestrian safety
- Littering
- Stump removal
- Debris control from the dam
- Diversion dam maintenance
- Maintaining property values and property owner rights



6. When the lake management plan is finalized, who should help fund its requirements with user fees, general fund use, special districts, combinations of these, or other funding mechanisms to be determined? Select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Cascade Water Alliance	63.6%	215
Boaters and other lake users	52.7%	178
Pierce County and nearby cities	41.7%	141
All of the above	39.3%	133
Lake Tapps residents	28.7%	97
Pierce County residents	25.1%	85
Other (please specify)		
Park access, boat launch and/or other user fees	4.4%	15
Current taxes (i.e. do not raise taxes)	2.4%	8
King County residents	2.1%	7
Water purchasers	1.8%	6
State of Washington	1.2%	4
Depends on the outcome of the public process	0.1%	3
City of Bonney Lake	0.1%	2
Answered Question		338
Skipped Question		30



Specific funding comments and suggestions expressed by survey takers:

- “All users should contribute to the costs.”
- “Combinations of all entities listed above.”
- “Current taxes for waterfront are already excessive.”
- “More non-residence use the lake on weekends than residents.”
- “If Lake Tapps is the 3rd busiest lake in the state, the funding should reflect that.”
- “Those that use and benefit from the lake should pay.”
- “Lake Tapps residents already share a huge burden with elevated taxes and are involved in maintaining their waterfront areas. We do not need more government controls in this area. I would however change this position if there was a Lake Tapps owners group that funded a program whereby the public parks were closed and lake access was restricted to waterfront owners only.”

Conclusion

The Lake Tapps Management Plan survey received a remarkable response from the community, who submitted more than 300 responses and comments. This feedback will play a key role in assisting Cascade Water Alliance and its partners during the Lake Tapps Management Plan development process, which aims to be collaborative and transparent.

It is easy to see that the local community values Lake Tapps and the benefits it brings to the area. Survey takers showed that they most importantly value a clean and healthy lake, and one that provides a wide range of recreational opportunities. In general, survey takers also felt that the responsibility of managing Lake Tapps should not rest on one entity’s shoulders but should be spread across a wide range of stakeholders, organizations and agencies. As a result of the survey, Cascade is able to see that the community prefers a management plan that is collaborative and addresses both day-to-day issues (boat speed, lake safety and public access) and long-term issues (water quality, lake levels, land use and development).

Appendix I. – Lake Tapps Management Plan Survey Question #3 – statistical information

3. Who do you think is responsible for...

	State Gov.	Pierce County	Pierce County Sherriff	Cascade Water Alliance	All Lake Users	Boaters	Local Police	City and County Parks Depts.	Local Govs. & Cities	City of Bonney Lake	Tax Payers, Property Owners, and/or HOAs	Dept. of Ecology and/or EPA
Safety on the lake?	5	70	130	23	66	17	79	0	10	32	19	0
Public access to the lake?	4	172	7	57	3	0	9	27	67	49	9	0
Water quality of the lake?	9	43	0	220	46	4	0	2	2	5	49	5
Access to Lake Tapps facilities such as dikes or the flume path?	2	63	7	190	4	0	8	2	15	4	14	0
Dealing with trespassing around the lake?	0	149	8	57	4	0	102	4	14	19	35	0
Public parks on the lake?	9	183	10	35	5	0	18	26	63	49	18	0