

David Johanson

From: Knight, Katie M (DFW) [Katie.Knight@dfw.wa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Fritzen, Bob (ECY); Lakey, Kirk A (DFW); David Johanson
Cc: Anderson, Christopher D (DFW)
Subject: FW: Lake Burien Wildlife

Hi all, Thought you all might be interested in this exchange between myself and a Lake Burien citizen regarding the SMP update. I have not addressed the public access concerns, but focused our response on whether or not the Lake contains priority species. We do not believe it does. Thank you, Katie

From: Knight, Katie M (DFW)
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 3:48 PM
To: 'Robbie Howell'
Cc: Director (DFW); Habitat Program (DFW); Anderson, Christopher D (DFW)
Subject: RE: Lake Burien Wildlife

Robbie,

Thank you for the information regarding fish and wildlife presence in Lake Burien. I am excited to know the citizens at Lake Burien are interested in fish and wildlife. WDFW Wildlife biologist, Chris Anderson has corresponded with Ms. Christine Edgar, who also provided the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) with documentation of wildlife use at Lake Burien. Ms. Edgar has done a great job documenting use, however, none of the species identified by Ms. Edgar in the Herrera report, reported by Ms. Cooke, or documented in your email are considered Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) by WDFW.

We have rather strict guidelines for considering a species or habitat a priority. Priority species include state listed (Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive) as well as Candidate species (at-risk of being listed). Priority species also include vulnerable aggregations and species of recreational, commercial and/or tribal importance. I reviewed the species documented at the lake using our PHS listing protocol as well as consultation with wildlife biologist, Chris Anderson. We found the following:

- 1) *Osprey* – Although Osprey are not a PHS species, our department does monitor this species. We map their nest sites and some local municipalities give consideration to these occurrences (e.g. Bellevue). However, Burien does not, and WDFW does not currently recommend them for management consideration per PHS. We do appreciate being alerted to any documentation of nest sites.
- 2) *Great Blue Heron* – Breeding areas are a PHS priority, but not feeding as documented at Lake Burien.
- 3) *Bald eagles* – Bald Eagles are a state-listed Sensitive species and priority areas include breeding, communal roosts and regular concentrations. Biologically, the use of Lake Burien by area eagles for feeding is mostly in a general sense. A few transitory, non-breeding individuals and possibly one nearby territorial pair will use the lake for a feeding resource, at times. It is not a primary source for these animals, but offers feeding opportunity similar to many lowland lakes in the Puget Trough. It is not, biologically, considered a “regular concentration,” per PHS criteria. An example of a regular concentration would be an area where annual spawned out salmon attract large numbers of migratory and resident eagles congregating to feed.
- 4) *Cavity nesting ducks* – Cavity nesting ducks, such as Barrows Golden Eye, Common Golden Eye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, etc. are a PHS priority, but only their breeding areas are considered vulnerable. These species use the lake for migratory staging and breed elsewhere.
- 5) *Kingfisher* – Not considered a PHS species.
- 6) *Painted Turtle* – listed incorrectly as an endangered species in the Herrera report. Painted Turtle is not considered a PHS species.
- 7) *Cascade and Bull Frog* – Not considered a PHS species.

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8) *Warm water fish* – None of the warm water fish listed in the report are considered a PHS species.

We are grateful the lake is available for wildlife use and the residents are committed to protecting water quality. If you or your neighbors find any species or habitat occurrences recommended for management by the WDFW PHS program, please contact myself or wildlife biologist, Chris Anderson. We want to ensure appropriate occurrences are mapped by WDFW.

For more information on our PHS program, please visit: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phslist.htm>.

Thank you,

Katie

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From: Robbie Howell [<mailto:robbieh@windermere.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 6:17 PM
To: Knight, Katie M (DFW)
Subject: Lake Burien Wildlife

Hi Katie,
Sorry I missed you today. Attached is a DATA ANALYSIS REPORT done by Rob Zisette of Herrera of Environmental Consultants, his Credentials, and a letter written by Sarah Spear Cooke, Ph. D. of Cooke Scientific, and her Expertise. Sarah's letter tells about her field investigation of Lake Burien.

I have recently taken pictures from my deck of **Species of Local Importance**, the Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagles, Barrows Golden Eye, Common Golden Eye and Kingfisher. I have tried to photograph Purple Finches but they are too fast for me. I have also photographed the Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Merganser, Wigeons, Coots, Geese and Mallard Duck families and others and would like to share them and some additional information with you. Please let me know if it would be possible for me to give you a book I have put together with some of these pictures, maps etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robbie

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