

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about...

The Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan



The Lake Chelan Collaborative (LCC) is working to identify key data gaps and emerging issues within the Lake Chelan watershed and make recommendations on how to best address them. These recommendations will culminate in an updated Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan (LCWRP) and Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (AIS Management Plan).

Q What is a watershed restoration plan?

A watershed restoration plan sets goals and identifies actions to protect and improve the health of a watershed, reflecting the priorities of the local community and partners.

Q Why does Lake Chelan need one?

Lake Chelan's current watershed plan was developed in 2012. Updating the plan provides an opportunity to incorporate new information, reflect current conditions, and address emerging priorities and challenges within the watershed.

Water supply limitations, water quality trends, emerging Aquatic Invasive Species issues, increased recreation, and other resource concerns point to the need to develop an updated plan for restoration and protection of the lake's values and resources.

Q What are the benefits of having a watershed plan?

The primary benefits from restoration planning are developing a common understanding of the issues facing Lake Chelan and aligning on what priority actions to implement.


Having a current plan will provide future funding opportunities, guide the use of funds towards the highest priority actions, and encourage coordination amongst tribal, federal, state, and local partners working in the watershed.

Q Where is the funding coming from to develop the LCWRP?

Development of the LCWRP is being funded through a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management grant awarded to Chelan County.

Q What issues is the LCWRP intended to address?

The LCC identified the following issues to address in the LCWRP: water supply availability, water quality, aquatic invasive species (AIS), fish habitat and fisheries, forest health and wildfire management, land use change management, and recreational access and impacts.



Lake Chelan is a 52-mile long "ultra-oligotrophic" lake, is the third deepest freshwater lake in the nation and the largest and deepest natural lake in Washington.

Q How will the LCWRP be structured?

The LCWRP will provide an overview of the Lake Chelan Watershed and summarize key natural resources issues. In addition, a key part of the LCWRP is the detailed implementation plan which will recommend and prioritize studies, policies, programs, and priority actions to support restoration and management efforts in the Lake Chelan Watershed and highlight funding needs to support implementation.

Q How is the LCC organized, and who is participating?

The LCC has established a collaborative organizational structure, with the goal of gathering and sharing existing information about the watershed, identifying critical data gaps, and developing a consensus-based plan to guide future watershed management.

The LCC membership includes representation from a diversity of perspectives and interests including: county, state and federal agencies, cities, tribes, recreational groups, commerce groups, agricultural groups, development groups, environmental groups, conservation groups, community-based organizations and local landowners.

Q When will the plan be finished?

The LCC will meet quarterly with the goal of preparing a final plan by September of 2027.

Q How can the community get involved?

There are several ways that the community can get involved in the LCWRP process.

- *Scan this QR code and complete this <5-minute online survey* to provide your input and share your questions related to the needs of the Lake Chelan watershed. This information will be shared with the LCC at future meetings, and incorporated into the LCWRP development process. The survey will close on August 31, 2026.
- *Attend one of our planned community events.* The next event is tentatively planned for June 2026 at the Lake Chelan Community Center. A future event will be scheduled for spring of 2027 for the Manson area.
- *Attend an LCC meeting:* The LCC holds regular quarterly meetings that are open to the public and hosted at the Chelan Fire Station (232 E Wapato Avenue) and via Zoom. The next meeting is Wednesday June 3, 2026 from 1 to 4 PM.

Reach out to Elle Robinson, elle.robinson@co.chelan.wa.us for the meeting zoom link and to be added to the email list serv. Agendas are sent out approximately 1-week in advance of meetings.

Survey Link



Q Where can I find information from previous Lake Chelan Collaborative meetings?

Previous meeting materials can be found on Chelan County's website:

<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/watershed-plan-lake-chelan>



The pristine waters of Lake Chelan are key to local tourism (over 2 million tourists visit each year) and provide excellent water quality for potable supply, fish and wildlife, and irrigation uses.