

LAKE SAMMAMISH URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE PARTNERSHIP

Working together to connect urban dwellers to nature as stewards of our native kokanee salmon and our shared watershed / July 2014



LAKE SAMMAMISH
KOKANEE WORK GROUP



US FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE



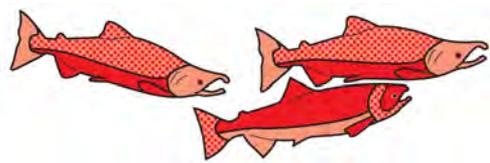
PURPOSE—WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership will provide opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature. The intent is to build support for the conservation of fish and wildlife and contribute to the quality of life in the basin for present and future generations.

The Lake Sammamish Partnership is one of eight national programs designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to engage key community partners who have been active in wildlife conservation and can help expand the local and national conservation constituency.

The Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group (KWG) is an existing partnership of local governments, concerned residents, state and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and community groups who are working together to recover native kokanee salmon in the Lake Sammamish basin. The KWG catalyzes and supports public and private actions that contribute to kokanee recovery through habitat protection and restoration, hatchery production, and public education and involvement.

The Partnership builds on this effort to engage area residents, businesses, and visitors in the broader conservation of watershed ecosystems and native species while supporting the KWG's goals for kokanee recovery.

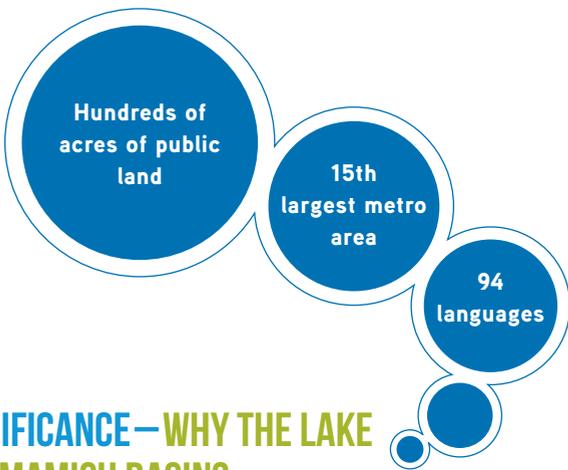


▲ The Lake Sammamish Basin, part of the larger Lake Washington-Cedar River Watershed, is the last stronghold for kokanee salmon in central Puget Sound.

Photo by Jelson 25 - Creative Commons License

◀ Sammamish resident Wally Pereyra has played a major role as a private citizen in the restoration of kokanee salmon on Lake Sammamish and its tributary creeks. His efforts are an example of how we can each make a difference.

Photo by Kevin Endejan - Issaquah and Sammamish Reporter



SIGNIFICANCE—WHY THE LAKE SAMMAMISH BASIN?

▶ The Lake Sammamish basin is part of the larger Seattle metro area (the 15th largest metro area in the U.S.) where 94 different languages are spoken. This cultural diversity is an important consideration in planning community engagement and presents a notable opportunity to engage many people who may be building their knowledge of and experience in the outdoors.

▶ The Lake Sammamish basin serves as a gateway to the many rivers, lakes, forests and trails in the Central Cascades and beyond for nearby urban residents and visitors. The basin includes hundreds of acres of public lands and parks that provide connections to urban natural areas, enhances residents' daily lives and provides support for the recovery of kokanee salmon.

▶ The current and ongoing efforts by the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group to conserve native kokanee salmon combined with the resources of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (most visited hatchery in the state – 200,000+ visitors annually), Lake Sammamish State Park (1 million+ visitors annually), Marymoor Park (3 million visitors annually) and Issaquah Salmon Days (180,000+ visitors annually) provides a strong foundation to develop the Partnership.

▶ Native kokanee salmon have experienced severe declines in abundance, diversity, and distribution in recent years, but their prospects for recovery in the Lake Washington-Lake Sammamish Watershed are significantly better with the help and engagement of local residents, businesses and visitors.

▶ Kokanee salmon are the icon to connect area residents, businesses and visitors to the outdoors. Kokanee salmon connect the water to the land and



▲ Kokanee salmon live only in fresh water. They don't migrate to salt water as other salmon do. *Photo by Roger Tabor, USFWS*

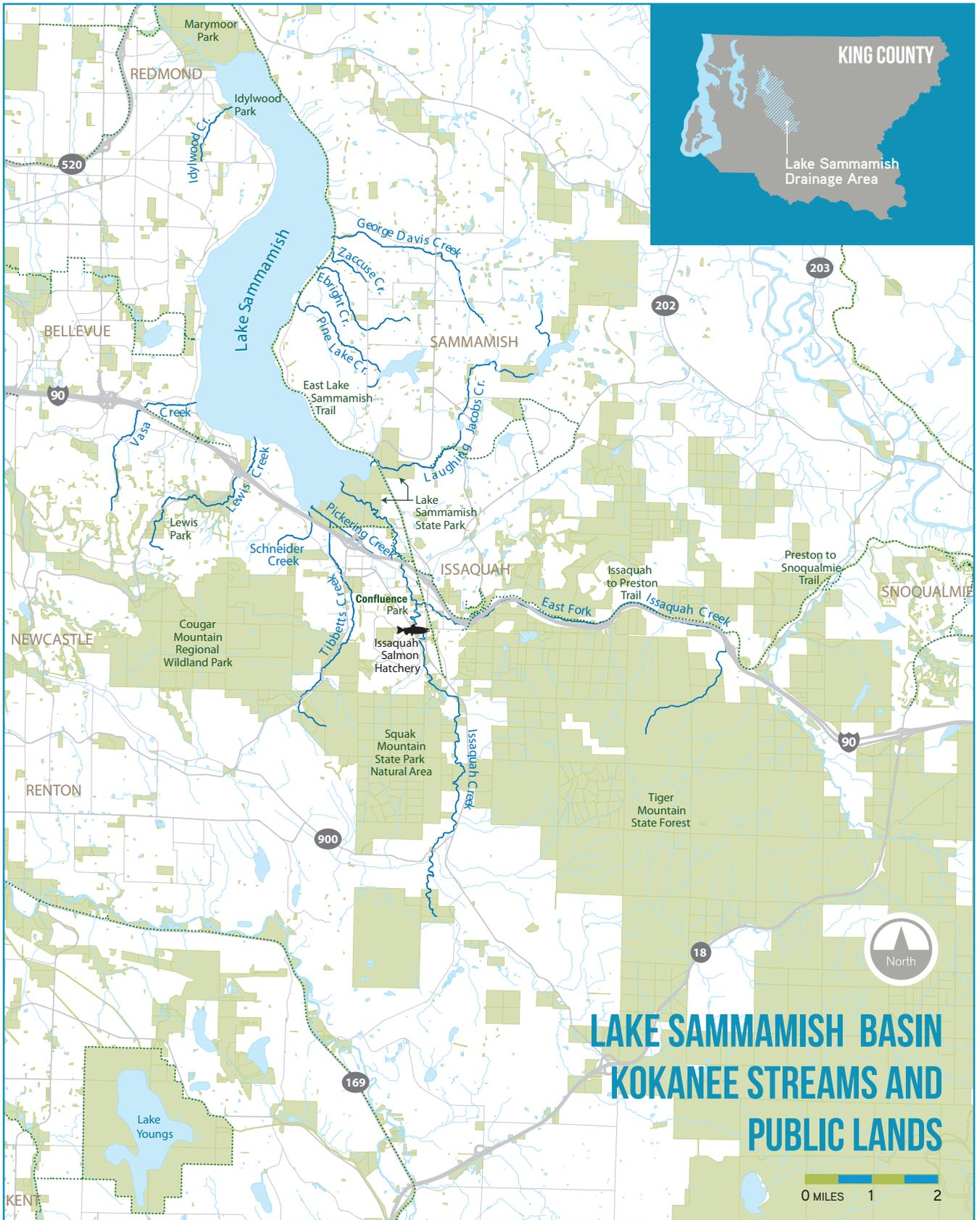
help us understand how our individual actions can impact the world we live in. Actions to conserve kokanee salmon provide tangible opportunities to engage adults, youth and families in resource stewardship.

GOAL—WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

The Partnership will build a connected conservation constituency in the Seattle metro urban area that engages in outdoor experiences and is inspired to conserve fish and wildlife in our shared watershed for future generations.

For more information about the Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/salmon-and-trout/kokanee/kokanee-refuge.aspx>, or contact

- Brad Thompson, US Fish and Wildlife Service, brad_thompson@fws.gov, 360-753-6046
- David St John, Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group, david.st.john@kingcounty.gov, 206-477-4517
- Ryan Karlson, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, lake.samm.partnerships@parks.wa.gov, 360-902-8650



-  Kokanee Stream
-  Public Land
-  Other Stream/Lake
-  King County Regional Trail
-  Major Road



Cover photos (*italic = credit*): 1/ Roger Tabor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2/ Habitat Restoration activities with Brighton Elementary School at Lake Sammamish State Park, *Mountains to Sound Greenway* 3/ Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell and King County Executive Dow Constantine – Kokanee Salmon Fry Release – April 2014, *USFWS* 4/ Issaquah Salmon Days, *PEMCO Insurance* 5/ Lake Sammamish kayak nature tour, *Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission* 6/ *WSPRC*