



**NORTHWEST AQUATIC
MANAGEMENT**

**Skagit County Public Works
Lake Management District #4**

**CLEAR LAKE
2025 YEAR IN REVIEW**

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CLEAR LAKE

2025 Year In Review

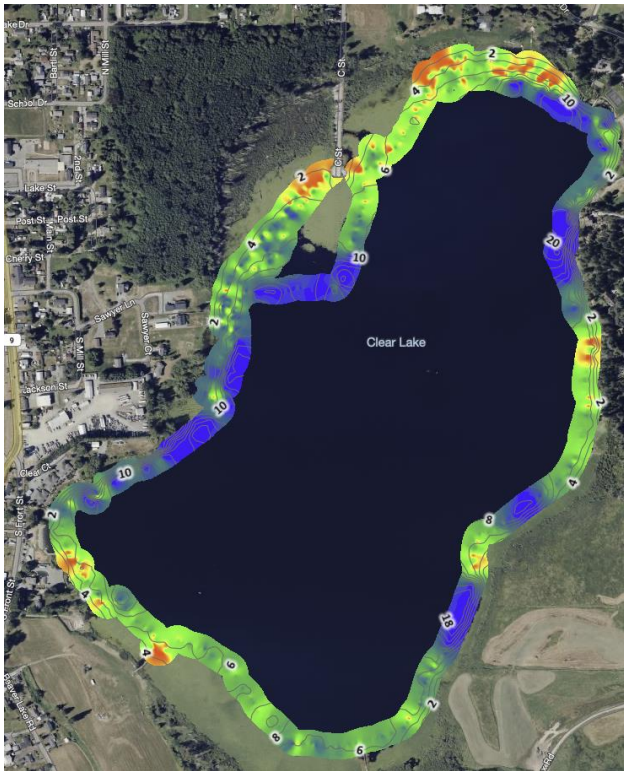
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Clear Lake management season focused on reducing nuisance aquatic vegetation while improving shoreline access and overall water quality.

This year's program included a pre-treatment survey in May, herbicide treatments in July, and a post-treatment survey in August. Significant reductions in lily pads and submerged vegetation were achieved, with follow-up maintenance recommended for 2026 to prevent regrowth.

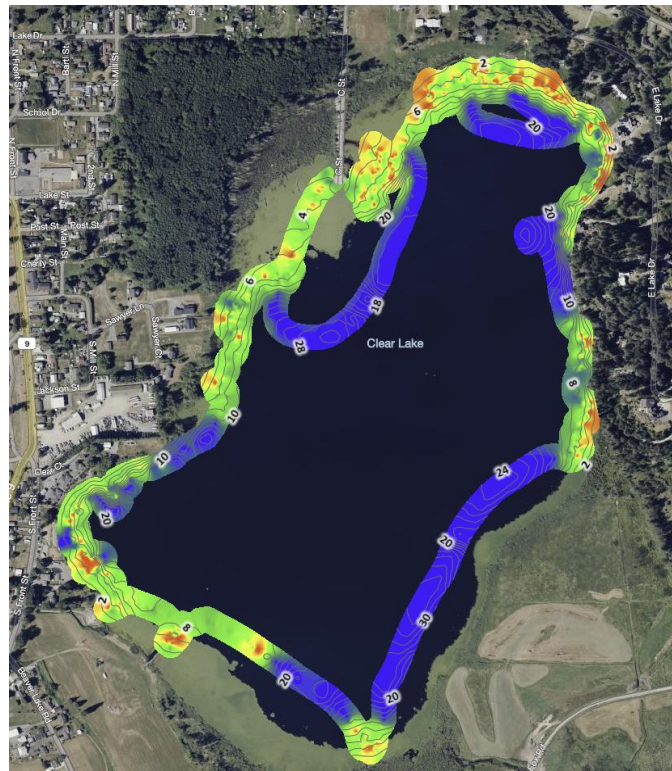
Survey & Monitoring Data using Lowrance skimmer transducer with integrated Biobase Maps.

May 2025 Pre-Treatment Survey



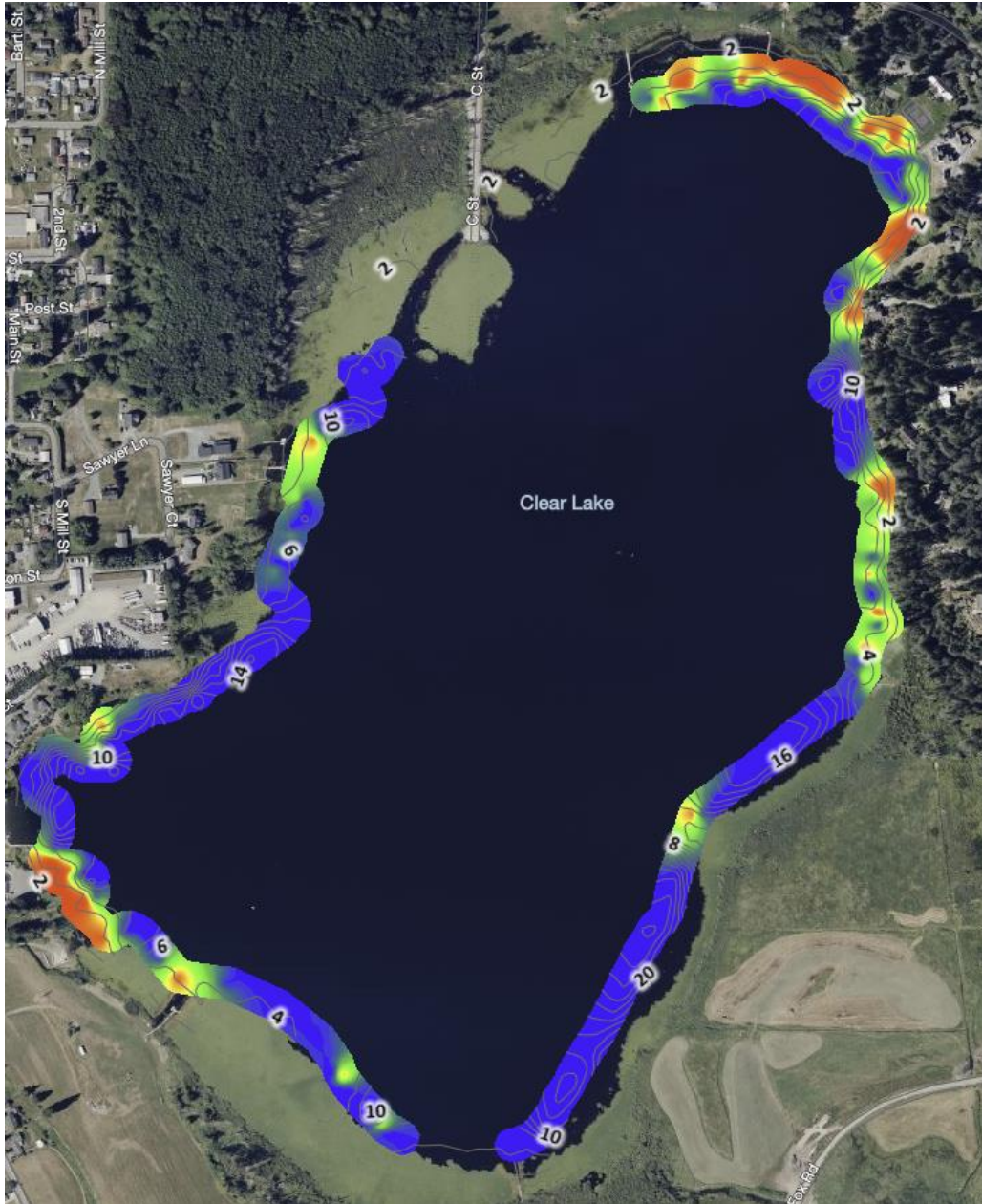
The May 2025 survey identified moderate vegetation growth concentrated near the shoreline. This served as a baseline for the season and guided treatment zone selection.

July 2024 Historical Comparison



The July 2024 heat map represents pre-treatment conditions from the previous season. Higher BioVolume readings were recorded, showing extensive vegetation prior to treatment.

August 2025 Post-Treatment Survey



The August 2025 post-treatment survey demonstrates a significant reduction in vegetation. Data from vegetation within 3 feet of the surface was excluded to account for weeds accumulating on the transducer. Remaining vegetation was localized near shallow shoreline areas.

We completed three sonar vegetation surveys over the past two seasons to track plant growth and evaluate the impact of treatments. The focus is on **BioVolume** (how much of the water column is filled with vegetation) and **Plant Height** (how tall the plants are).

Survey Dates:

- **July 15, 2024 (Mid-Summer 2024)** – Before treatments
- **May 29, 2025 (Early Season 2025)** – Spring growth check
- **August 25, 2025 (Late Summer 2025)** – Post-treatment follow-up

Key findings:

Date	Avg BioVolume	Avg Plant Height	% of scanned area with Vegetation
Jul 15, 2024	0.27 (27%)	1.70 ft	72%
May 29, 2025	0.20 (20%)	1.25 ft	72%
Aug 25, 2025	0.34 (34%)	1.60 ft	64%

What This Means:

1. Spring 2025 (May)

- Plant growth was lower than last summer, which is expected for early season conditions
- Vegetation was already covering **72% of the lake**, similar to last year, but plants were shorter

2. Late Summer 2025 (August)

- After treatments, vegetation spread **decreased slightly to 64% coverage**, showing some success in slowing plant spread
- However, **density in some nearshore areas increased**, especially where there were untreated patches or shallow water. Additional note: some areas showed more vegetation on sonar data than what was noticed visually, it was determined that some vegetation accumulated on the boat hull transducer giving higher density readings.

3. Overall Trend

- **Peak growth last year (July 2024)** had slightly taller plants and moderate BioVolume
- This year’s treatment helped reduce total coverage slightly, but there is still **a need for continued management** to prevent regrowth and maintain open water

Visual Observations

Before Treatment:

- Heavy vegetation growth in the northern and western shoreline areas

After Treatment:

- Open water areas improved, but some persistent patches remain near boat ramps and shallow bays

Visual Documentation: 2025 Surveys

The following section provides visual documentation from the May 2025 pre-treatment survey and the August 2025 post-treatment survey. These images illustrate vegetation conditions before and after treatment and support the BioBase data collected throughout the season.

May 2025 Pre-Treatment Survey



Note: Around dock lily pad growth shows light density lily pads in May 2025 pre-treatment survey



Note: Submerged vegetation (Large Leaf Pondweed) medium density in May 2025 pretreatment survey

Treatment Overview:

Treatment was conducted in July 2025, focusing on lily pads and submerged vegetation near docks, launch areas, and high-use shoreline zones. Two parcels (P30126 & P30128) were excluded as no-treatment areas.

Eurasian Watermilfoil was spotted during our treatment around the boat launch area. The areas that were surveyed and identified were treated with Triclopyr 3.



August 2025 Post-Treatment Survey Photos

The following images were taken during the August 25, 2025 survey. They show areas where herbicide treatments successfully reduced dense vegetation and areas where younger lilies and submerged plants began to regrow late in the season.

The Eurasian Watermilfoil was treated successfully before it had a chance to expand throughout the lake. Emphasis needs to be put on the 2026 Pre-Treatment survey to confirm our reports.

Dense nearshore vegetation following treatment,
with younger regrowth visible



Wide view showing treated zones



Shallow area with remaining vegetation in late August 2025



Open water following successful treatment



These photos confirm that while treatments were highly effective at reducing mid-lake and dense shoreline vegetation, late-season regrowth occurred in shallow areas. This matches the BioBase data showing 31.5% of points with vegetation within 3 feet of the surface by late August. These areas should be targeted early in 2026 to prevent mat formation.

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Recommendations for 2026

To maintain improved access and water quality, the following actions are recommended for 2026:

- Conduct early season maintenance treatments to prevent lily pad regrowth
- **Implement an early spring treatment of Fluridone to treat the seedling instead of the fully mature plant in the middle-to-late July**
- **Complete an extensive survey around the launch area to confirm the Eurasian Watermilfoil has been eradicated**
- Expand dock and launch swaths to ensure clear access
- Implement additional shoreline monitoring and early detection surveys
- Consider mechanical harvesting for dense shoreline vegetation
- Continue education and outreach for shoreline property owners