



## WHO WE ARE

[WLCA](#) is a registered not for profit society whose mandate is to promote and practice conservation and environmental protection of Whistler lakes.

## OUR VISION

Whistler lakes are healthy, sustainable and valued by all.

## OUR MISSION

As an advocate and voice for Whistler lakes, we work collaboratively with others and act to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of Whistler lakes.

## INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

We acknowledge that in Whistler we live, work and play on the shared unceded ancestral lands of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxumíxw, the people of the Squamish Nation and the Líl'wat7úl, the people of the Lil'Wat Nation. Under their stewardship, the land and lakes have flourished. We are fortunate to learn from their shared cultures and will carry on with the same respect and stewardship of Whistler lakes.



# Whistler Lakes Conservation Association

## Planning & Priorities 2022-23

June 2022

**In the last decade** many local lakeside residents have noticed changes in the environment of Whistler lakes. Increasingly, we are concerned about the impact of human activity on, in and around the lakes, including improper land development, dock construction, excessive nutrients from fertilized lawns and poor boating practices. Also, it's been over 10 years since all the Whistler lakes have been routinely monitored so there is insufficient data to fully understand the health of the lakes or track changes over time.

More details on issues needing attention are documented on the [WLCA website](#). Although each lake has its unique challenges, a number of issues are common to all five lakes (i.e. Alpha, Nita, Alta, Green and Lost).

## AREAS OF FOCUS

The WLCA Board of Directors has reviewed the priority issues and concerns that WLCA members have identified and continue to bring forward. In setting priorities for 2021-23 the Board has determined the Association's work over the next two years will focus on the following three areas:

### WATER QUALITY WATER USE WATERSHED HEALTH

Goals and actions in each of these areas are outlined below. These are not arranged by priority and related specific tasks or projects under each action will proceed on a realistic timeline based on available resources.

## GOALS AND ACTIONS

### GOAL 1. WATER QUALITY – Ensure Whistler lakes are healthy and sustainable.

#### Accomplishments to date:

- o Participated in annual lake clean ups.
- o Established and implemented year 1 of a Level 1 Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program on 5 Whistler lakes in partnership with BCLSS, RMOW, ENV, WBFEF (see full names of organizations on pg. 2).
- o Established a relationship with the Squamish Lil' Wat Cultural Centre to gather history about original names for places in the area.

#### ACTIONS FOR 2021-23:

- ❖ **Monitoring and reporting**
  - o Expand VLMP to Level 3, adding water chemistry and dissolved oxygen as important indicators of lake health.
  - o In 2023, report out on water quality findings; determine future stewardship and monitoring actions (e.g. stream water chemistry and riparian area assessments).
- ❖ **Local and Traditional knowledge** - Learn more about the history of the lakes from Squamish & Lil'Wat First Nations and long-time residents.



## Our Partners:

[Squamish Lil' Wat Cultural Centre](#)  
[BC Lake Stewardship Society \(BCLSS\)](#)  
[Resort Municipality of Whistler \(RMOW\)](#)  
[Whistler Blackcomb Foundation](#)  
[Environment Fund \(WBEF\)](#)  
[BC Ministry of Environment \(ENV\)](#)

## Further reading:

[BCLSS Lake Stewardship Guidebook](#)  
[Lake Protection Workbook](#)  
[Watersheds.ca](#)  
[Waterfront Living](#)  
[How Healthy is My Shoreline?](#)  
[BC Lake Stewardship Society \(BCLSS\)](#)  
[Document Library](#)  
*(refer to individual reports on Alpha, Nita, Alta, Green and Lost Lakes from 2001-2012)*



## Board of Directors:

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### ❖ Invasive Species

- Work with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) to stop the dumping of unwanted koi and goldfish in Whistler lakes.
- Work with Province and SSISC to prevent spread of aquatic invasives in Whistler lakes (e.g. Clean Drain Dry signage, boat wash cleaning stations).

## GOAL 2. WATER USE – Reduce noise, environmental and safety impacts due to poor boating practices.

### Accomplishments to date:

- Established a relationship and credibility with RMOW through quarterly meetings with Lake Stewardship and Parks and Trails staff.
- Joined the Federal "Decibel Coalition" advocating for change to the rules limiting noise on lakes from motorboats.
- Supported the proposed Vessel Operations Restriction Regulation for Alta Lake.

### ACTIONS FOR 2021-23:

#### ❖ Green Lake

- Work with government agencies and stakeholders to establish a boat launch reservation system.
- Work with RMOW and partners to restore shoreline erosion caused by excessive wakes.

#### ❖ River of Golden Dreams – Work with partners to restore sensitive aquatic habitat.

#### ❖ Barges and overnight vessels – Work with government agencies to address safety, environmental and regulatory issues.

#### ❖ Docks - work with RMOW and provincial and federal governments on RMOW's Dock Management Strategy.

## GOAL 3. WATERSHED HEALTH – Minimize the impact of human activity on shorelines, riparian areas and uplands.

### Accomplishments to date:

- Voiced WLCA position to RMOW Council that the proposed 5298 Alta Lake Road development address all environmental concerns.
- Joined the BC Climate Emergency Campaign, along with a multitude of organizations, requesting political action on the global climate crisis.
- Participated in webinars and started to compile a resources library on the importance of "thinking like a watershed" and knowing that what happens on the land affects our water.

### ACTIONS FOR 2021-23:

#### ❖ Outreach and education

- Distribute and promote "How Healthy is My Shoreline" quiz and "Waterfront Living – the benefits of shoreline care" to all lakeshore residents.
- Offer the [BCLSS LakeKeepers](#) course to gain a greater understanding of lake ecology and management and increase our capacity to take care of Whistler lakes.

### GET INVOLVED AND TOGETHER WE CAN MEET OUR LAKE STEWARDSHIP GOALS!

If you'd like to get involved and help meet our goals, please contact any of the WLCA [Board Directors](#) and the following focus group leads.

Water Quality – Lynn Kriwoken  
Water Use – John Doyle  
Watershed Health – Lawrence Keith