

Concerned Neighbors of Lake Samish
C/o Mark Herrenkohl
321 Summerland Road
Bellingham, WA 98229

April 23, 2009

Gary Davis, Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services
Northwest Annex
5280 Northwest Road
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097

Subject: Additional Information in Opposition to LAMIRD Designation for Lake Samish

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Concerned Neighbors of Lake Samish (CNLS) would like to provide additional information in opposing the proposed Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD) designation for Lake Samish. Specifically, the health of Lake Samish is declining rapidly, as concluded in the recent Water Monitoring Report (2005-2008) by Dr. Robin Matthews of Western Washington University (Attached). Phosphorus levels have become elevated because of increased development and the water quality has decreased resulting in algae blooms and extremely low levels of oxygen in parts of the lake. Additionally, the process of applying for the Federal Clean Water Act 303D listing as an impaired water body has been initiated because of the high levels of PCBs and mercury in sport fish collected from the lake.

Given the decline of water quality in Lake Samish, additional development allowed within a LAMIRD will only accelerate these problems. On behalf of residents and members of the CNLS, we urge the County to reject the LAMIRD designation for Lake Samish and designate the area Rural (minimum 1 house per 5 acres).

Sincerely,



Mark Herrenkohl, President

Enclosure: Lake Samish Water Monitoring Report (WWU)

Our Mission Statement:

We are a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to educate citizens of issues which may affect the health and water quality of the Lake, to ensure that development in the area is compatible with the existing unique character of the community and to see that development is in strict compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

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