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Clean Black Lake Alliance
Olympia WA
20 October 2026

Hello;
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shoreline WACs.

Proposed WAC 173-18-380 implies that there is no stream between Black Lake and the outlet of Dempsey Creek at The Black River. In historical time this was a river. A massive river in fact according to the geology maps that showed the glacial inundation from Puget Sound south to the Chehalis River. Later explorers confirmed that the Halloweena tribe would camp on the shores of Black lake and were sporadic through the upper Black as an upper Chehalis tribe. Later, John Work of the Hudsons Bay company paddled the Black in 1824. Others followed. Just because the lake was drained partially to the north by a state contract in 1924 (to John Goldbsy in 1924ish) does not mean that the lake does not periodically flow south to the Black River. Yes. It is overgrown. But. Yes. It is also paddleable as of 1991. In fact, John Markham paddled it. We showed his video at the Black Lake Grange on Saturday 18 October. I can send it later. But yes its often overgrown. There is documentation somewhere of at what elevation the Black 'flows' south. Its a bifurcating lake now. Bifurcating means flows out 2 ways. It was also the conduit for what could be an incredibly important avenue of the first peoples entering the continent The Chehalis River Hypothesis as described by Dale Croes and Kucera. A local grange recently described the human settlement, geologic history, climate history and what is known of the Ecological history of this Lake and how it connected to Chehalis river.

Proposed WAC 173-20-710 shows that only one lake is currently considered a lake of statewide significance. Alder lake. Is that it? The Black lake is super significant historically and ecologically. First it was the avenue that the first peoples may have used to enter the Puget Sound basin. Then, later, John Work of the Hudsons bay company paddled it. Secondly it is the spillway of the Glacial Lake Russell. Thirdly it was a canoe paddle lake for those who went from the Vancouver to Puget sound by paddling as much as they could instead of walking. Historically it is huge!!
Geologically it is significant.
Ecologically it is significant because we have records of the changes in fish community from local historians. In its early days people reported "herring' (probably eulachon), sturgeon, salmon, suckers, nighthawks. Now, unfortunately, these species are unlikely to occur but tributaries of Black Lake host ESA listed Rana pretiosa and our only state-listed fish, the Olympic mudminnow. People who live on Black lake still enjoy the beauty, one lake district is established to control noxious weeds and algae. Another lake group was established to try to control weeds with nonchemical means.
Black lake symbolizes human settlement from the pre-contact to current. A biface was found on the east side of Black lake or upper Black River. Explorers entered it. Those include John Work and Charles Wilkes to name a few. Please consider whether Black Lake can be added as a lake of statewide importance.

Even though the lake seems to sub out through what looks like land, it is so connected. Thank you for considering this request. I hope to send more images and reports if I have time and get more support for this
Bonnie Blessing

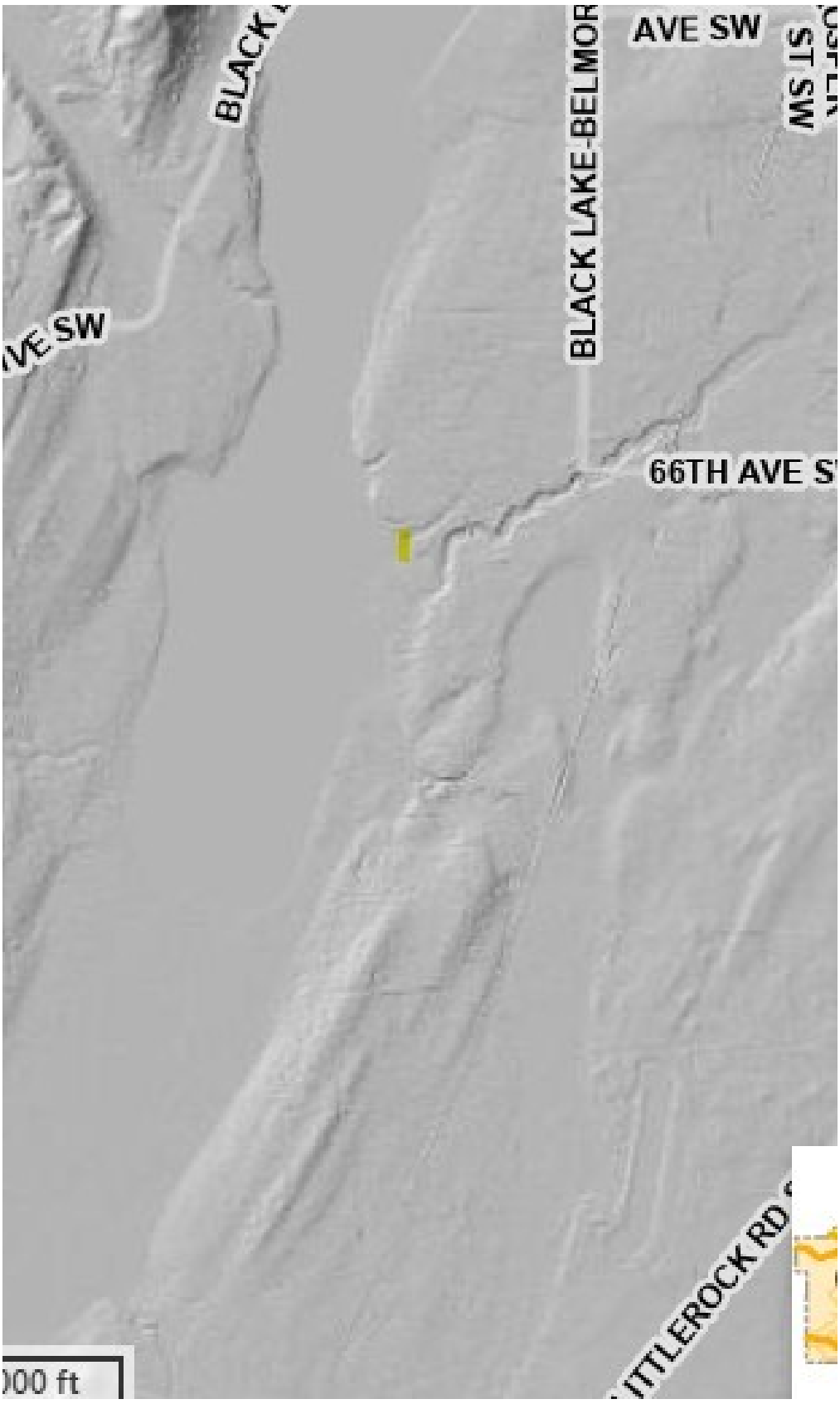


Figure 1: Figure 1. Where Black Lake spills into Black River