

DOUGLAS GREENE

Sometime ago, (August 29, 2018) I sent this letter (copy below) to Duane Ehleringer supporting his efforts to reclaim/revitalize Vancouver Lake, one of Clark County's hidden gems. He has written a 19-page proposal to "Save the Lake" but it hasn't gotten much traction.

As I/we became more knowledgeable about the many failed efforts to save the lake from becoming a "Dying Lake" I/we have personally invested over \$5000 in the Friends of Vancouver Lake organization to fund solutions to its many problems, which are fixable, given the proper attention by governmental authorities to fulfill their responsibilities relative to the preservation of the land and state resources of which Vancouver Lake is.

Over 100 years of study are enough! -There is a fix and many of the citizens of Clark County have stepped forward, with private funding, to treat the milfoil issue but much more needs to be done with the cooperation of Washington State, the DOE, Clark County, the City of Vancouver and the Port of Vancouver.

We live on the lake's shores and I could provide reams of photos showing the algae, the milfoil and other contaminants that are attacking the lake. It is unsafe to swim in during the summer months when these things "sprout".

This makes the lake, in its current state/condition a serious health hazard to humans and no doubt to the wild animals and fowl that inhabit the lake.

Lets put the reclamation of this asset on a priority list, not only for the citizens of Clark County but for the state of Washington, showing the capacity of the DOE to "step up to the challenge" making living in the State of Washington an even more desirable homestead.

Regards,

Douglas & Heather Greene
2425 NW 69th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
zdcg@verizon.net

Dear Duane,

I have to admire you and your perseverance to make something happen to the Vancouver Lake watershed, aka, revitalizing the lake, making it a destination and recreational water park as well as a promoting its potential to become a commercial enterprise. It is a real shame that the lake has been neglected for so many years and that it now almost fits the definition of a "Dying Lake".

It needn't be this way, if we can get the attention of the local, state and federal entities to realize how a revitalized lake can impact the community recreationally as well as economically. You have proposed some very aggressive plans to bring Vancouver Lake back to life and, with all that is happening on the Columbia River waterfront, there is no reason that Vancouver Lake couldn't follow that same pattern of reclamation.

Remember the Columbia river waterfront was a vast industrial entity (nearly abandoned) before some forward thinkers decided to invest millions in the redevelopment which will benefit all of Vancouver as well as the state. The same could happen with support of a reclamation project on Vancouver Lake.

We already have the Vancouver Sailboat Club, Lakeview Par 3 Golf Course and the world-class Vancouver Rowing Club on the shores of Vancouver Lake, why stop there? There are numerous other recreational and commercial enterprises that could be part of the reclamation project but allot

has to be done to improve the lake itself.

Damming and dredging the lake, along with a wider flushing channel to supply an abundance to fresh water to the lake, is a necessity. Perhaps draining the lake would be the best way to remove the weeds which prevent much of the lake from being used. I believe the waterfowl will find alternate nesting and feeding grounds, in the same area, while such a "shock treatment" takes place. We have to think big on such a reclamation project, taking into consideration that some environmental abnormalities may be necessary, for the better good, in the long run. I realize such a bold suggestion will send up red flags to many who feel that we "shouldn't fool with mother nature", but in the end, the benefits will far out weigh letting the lake die/dry up fouling the air with the poisons that have resulted from the uncontrolled runoff of septic systems, farming fertilizers and highway runoffs that have been deposited into the lake over the years.

One only has to look at the Salton Sea in southern California to understand what 60 years of neglect has done to this body of water and that hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be spent to reclaim the lake to prevent a "poisonous dust bowl" from destroying the quality of the air from the desert cities, to San Diego as well as Los Angeles.

Salton Sea Restoration Gets \$80.5 Million In State Budget ...

www.kpbs.org/news/2016/jun/28/salton-sea-restoration-80...state-budget

The Salton Sea is 100 miles east of San Diego and is fed by runoff ... Wilcox said advocates for the sea are also looking into ways to get federal ..