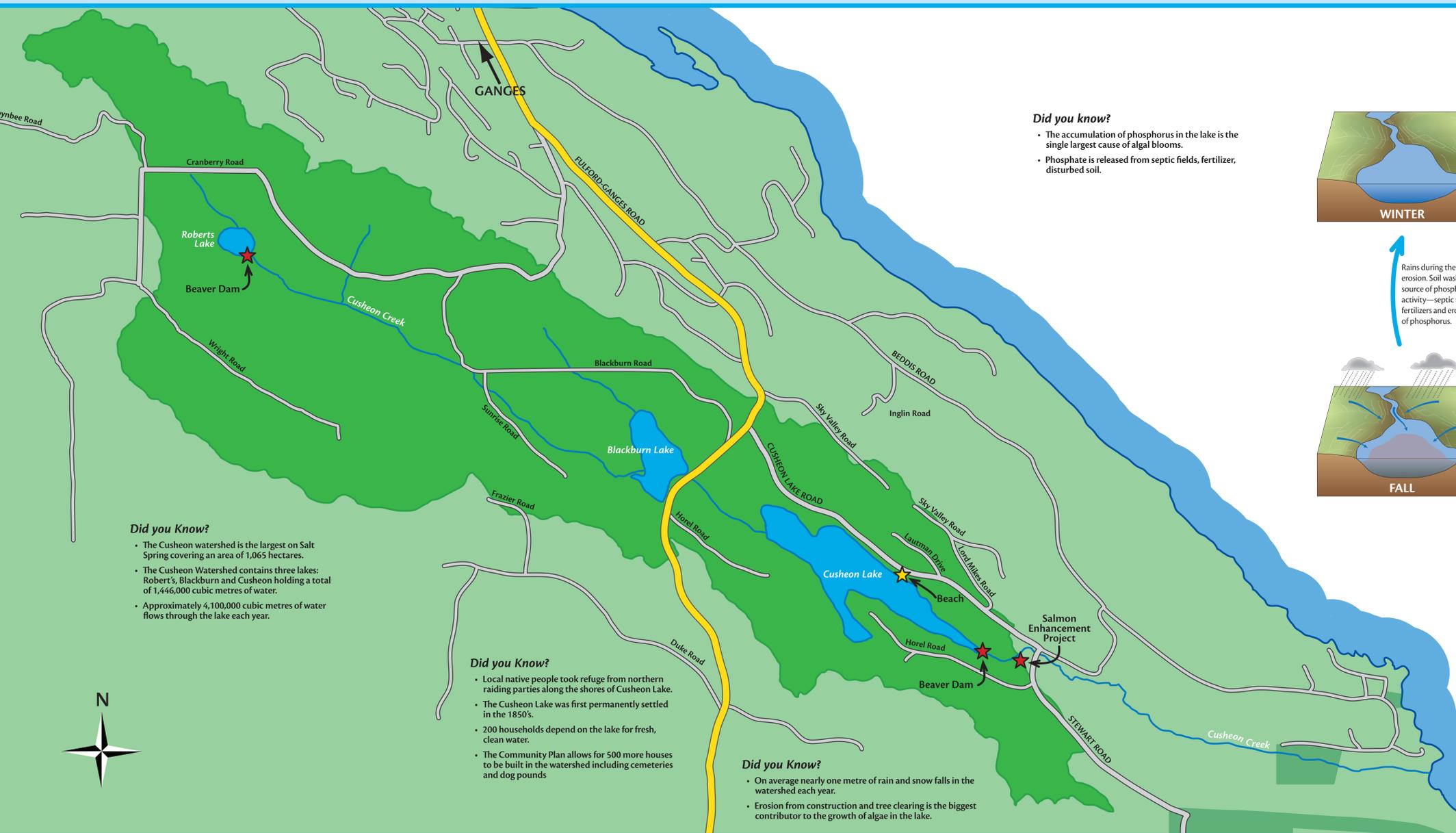
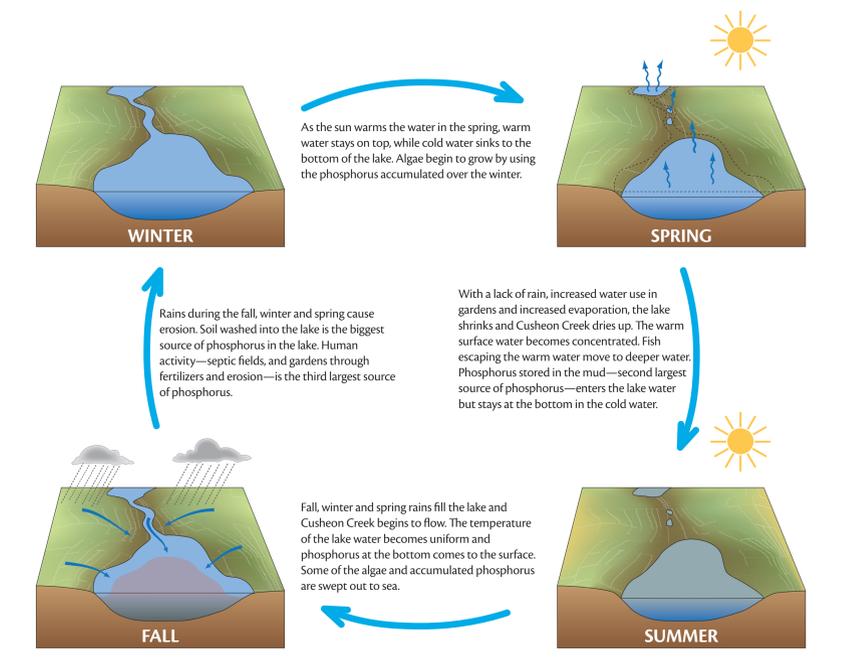


Ecology of Cusheon Watershed



Did you know?

- The accumulation of phosphorus in the lake is the single largest cause of algal blooms.
- Phosphate is released from septic fields, fertilizer, disturbed soil.



For more information check out www.cusheonlakestewardship.com

Rare and Endangered Wildlife in the Cusheon Lake Watershed

<p>Bats</p> <p>There are 16 species of bats in BC, most of which are nocturnal. Bats are excellent hunters of flying insects as they can navigate in complete darkness using echolocation to locate their prey. Thus they are important in controlling insect populations. Some bats can eat their weight in insects in one night!</p>	<p>Mink</p> <p>Neovison vison. Mink are generally nocturnal and use both aquatic and land habitats. They are carnivorous and prey on small mammals, amphibians, fish, and birds.</p>	<p>Beaver</p> <p>Castor canadensis. The beaver is the largest rodent in North America, and is primarily nocturnal. Beavers can fell trees and build dams, resulting in alterations to surrounding plant and animal communities. They eat the inner bark of trees and shrubs, as well as other aquatic plants.</p>	<p>River Otter</p> <p>Lutra canadensis. River otters are semi-aquatic, spending much of their time swimming and diving for food. They eat amphibians, fish, small mammals, crabs, birds, and aquatic plants.</p>	<p>Northern Pygmy-owl</p> <p>Glauclidium gnoma swarthi. This small brownish-grey owl has a white belly with dark streaks, white spots on the head, and two dark patches on the back of the neck that resemble eyes. Prey includes other birds, mice, voles, amphibians, snakes, and insects. These owls require natural tree cavities in which to nest, so it is important to preserve large old trees and snags, and preserve younger trees that eventually will qualify as nest and roost trees.</p>	<p>Band-tailed Pigeon</p> <p>Patagioenas fasciata. These often gregarious pigeons require mineral springs or intertidal flats with calcium rich gravel that they eat. It is thought that the calcium is needed for egg production, as well as for the crop milk that pigeons make in their crops to feed their young. They also require berry and nut-producing trees, as the adults feed entirely on fruits, nuts, and seeds.</p>	<p>Common Nighthawk</p> <p>Chordeiles minor. At dawn or dusk, these ground nesting birds feed on insects while in flight. The males make a booming sound as the air rushes through their wings when they dive dramatically at females, juveniles, or intruders.</p>	<p>Barn Swallow</p> <p>Hirundo rustica. Barn swallows build cup-like nests made from mud pellets and grass, attached to the sides of barns, houses, and other buildings. They are important in the ecosystem as insectivores, feeding on a variety of insects including aphids, dragonflies, moths, beetles, flies, caterpillars, and bees.</p>	<p>Western Painted Turtle</p> <p>Chrysemys picta bellii. This freshwater species of turtle requires wetland habitat in low elevation forests and grasslands. The wetland habitat must have muddy bottoms, abundant vegetation and basking sites (such as logs). Basking sites are important places for turtles to thermoregulate so that they warm up and have enough energy to forage, mate, and lay their eggs. The adult turtles lie dormant on the substrate of muddy ponds and lakes during winters.</p>	<p>Northern Red-legged Frog</p> <p>Rana aurora. This frog can be found in streams, ponds, lakes, and moist forests. Large egg masses are laid on vegetation in the water in spring and usually hatch in May. The frog also require forested habitat surrounding wetlands. They are important in our wetlands as they feed on green algae. As frogs breathe through their skin, it is important to maintain the water quality in lakes and wetlands and avoid polluting water sources.</p>	<p>Pacific Sideband Snail</p> <p>Monodonia fidelis. The Pacific Sideband Snail is one of the more obvious land snails in our region. It can be seen on the surface of forest floors, sometimes in trees, and at the base of bigleaf maple trees or in leaf litter. Snails and slugs play an important ecological role in forest ecosystems as agents of spore dispersal for mycorrhizal fungi. They are also consumers of live and decaying plant matter, fungi and spores, thereby assisting in nutrient cycling and maintaining ecosystem functions.</p>	<p>Blue Dasher</p> <p>Pachydiplax longipennis. There are 88 species of dragonflies in British Columbia, including 64 true dragonflies and 24 damselflies. They require habitat that includes lakes, wetlands, and ponds. Most dragonfly species lay eggs in the water or on aquatic plants, so maintaining healthy freshwater habitats is important for these species. Both larvae and adults are voracious predators on small flying insects, and help to keep mosquitoes in check.</p>
---	--	---	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	--	--

Welcome to Cusheon Lake

This is a drinking water lake. The pump station is right beside this beach.

Don't put anything in the water you wouldn't want to drink.

Do

- ☞ Enjoy the lake
- ☞ Kayak, paddle, fish and swim
- ☞ Leave the beach as you found it
- ☞ Use the outhouse
- ☞ Take your garbage home

Don't

- ☞ Don't use soap or detergent on the beach
- ☞ Don't use a gasoline motor
- ☞ Don't leave garbage
- ☞ Don't disturb the vegetation
- ☞ Don't introduce invasive species

**NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK**

Please!

**NO gasoline motors
NO seaplanes
NO soap or detergents
NO camping
NO overnight parking**