

## Background

### Deschutes Estuary Feasibility Study (2004-2007)

To evaluate the feasibility of restoring the lake to an estuary, consultants undertook studies of sediment dynamics, projected biological conditions, design engineering, costs, and socio-economic conditions. Once completed, the studies were reviewed by an outside consultant, who found them to be scientifically sound.

### Capitol Lake Alternatives Analysis (2007-2009)

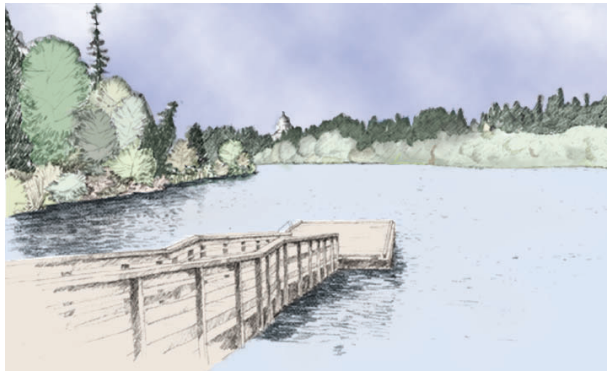
Technical information was summarized into an analysis of four management alternatives:



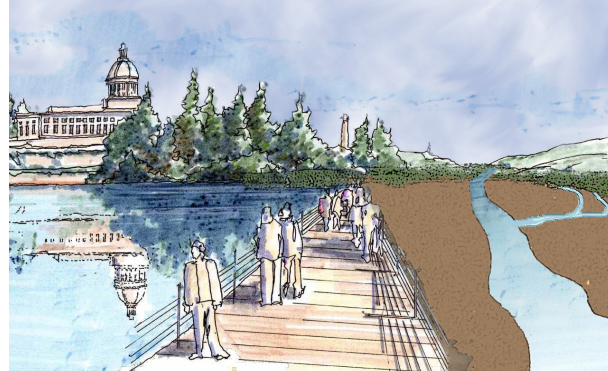
**Status Quo** – present management actions extended into the future



**Estuary** – the dam is removed, the opening is widened to 500 feet, and tides are reintroduced into the basin



**Managed Lake** - a dredged freshwater lake



**Dual-Basin Estuary** – tides are reintroduced, as above, but the north basin is divided to create a saltwater reflecting pool

Additional studies filled information gaps, and the Department of Ecology supplied new water quality and sediment toxicity reports. A comparison of the four alternatives was prepared and made available for public review. The final report was completed in July 2009 and focused on these considerations:

- Sediment Management
- Plants and Animals
- Water Quality
- Infrastructure
- Downtown Flood Risk
- Long-Term Cost
- Public Recreation
- Cultural and Spiritual Values

## CAPITOL LAKE Adaptive Management Plan

### Advisory Committee Recommendation



### Synopsis of Lake/Estuary Recommendation

The recommendation is to restore Capitol Lake to an estuary. This involves removing the dam, widening the opening to 500 feet, and reintroducing tides. The recommendation also includes a dredging and sediment management strategy for the lake basin and lower Budd Inlet. The lower long-term cost of an estuary reinforced the recommendation, as did an understanding that estuary restoration would have opportunities for federal financial support, which would not be available for a lake.

The recommendation promotes environmental benefits in the lake basin and Budd Inlet as an opportunity to support the restoration of Puget Sound. The lower long-term cost of an estuary reinforced the recommendation, as did an understanding that estuary restoration would have opportunities for federal financial support, which would not be available for a lake.

The recommendation promotes environmental benefits in the lake basin and Budd Inlet as an opportunity to support the restoration of Puget Sound. The lower long-term cost of an estuary reinforced the recommendation, as did an understanding that estuary restoration would have opportunities for federal financial support, which would not be available for a lake.

In their recommendation, committee members called for:

- Development of a coordinated sediment management strategy for the Capitol Lake basin and lower Budd Inlet, to gain dredging and habitat restoration efficiencies.
- A new governing structure for a combined Capitol Lake basin and Budd Inlet which involves all affected parties, to improve the current condition of segregated responsibility and authority.
- Coordination of permits for dredging, water quality improvements, and other related actions within the Capitol Lake basin and Budd Inlet, to streamline a cumbersome process which is currently fragmented among several public and private entities.
- Full basin coordination of those water quality improvements required by the federal Clean Water Act to strategically implement improvements that focus on greater efficiency.



Capitol Lake Interpretive Center



For additional questions, please contact:  
Nathaniel Jones, Facilities Division  
Phone: 360-902-0944 • E-mail: njones@ga.wa.gov



## Synopsis of Lake/Estuary Recommendation

The committee recommendation was not unanimous. Five members favored the comprehensive Ygi Ufm recommendation, two favored a managed lake, and one developed a set of prioritized management considerations against which any outcome would be assessed.

Comprehensive Estuary Restoration	Managed Lake	Undetermined
Thurston County Squaxin Island Tribe WA Department of Ecology WA Department of Fish and Wildlife WA Department of Natural Resources	City of Tumwater Port of Olympia	City of Olympia

The interests and concerns of each CLAMP entity have been identified. The committee found areas of agreement and areas of continuing concern that may benefit from further clarification.

### Outcomes sought by all members

- Development of an implementation plan which:
  - recognizes the placement of the lake within the larger watershed,
  - addresses the need for long-term solutions which are economically durable, and
  - which acknowledges community interests through coordinated and collaborative approaches,
- Protection of fish passage for the Deschutes River,
- Development of an equitable cost sharing structure between all relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries,
- Development of a sediment management strategy for the lake basin

While General Administration is a member of the Steering Committee, the department has been neutral in the development of these recommendations. No members supported a dual-basin alternative, nor the limited estuary alternative. Both of these approaches were considered in the committee's analysis.



All CLAMP Fact Sheet and reports are available on the GA website: [www.ga.wa.gov/clamp/index.html](http://www.ga.wa.gov/clamp/index.html)

## Synopsis (continued)

The interests of committee members who sought alternative outcomes are identified below.

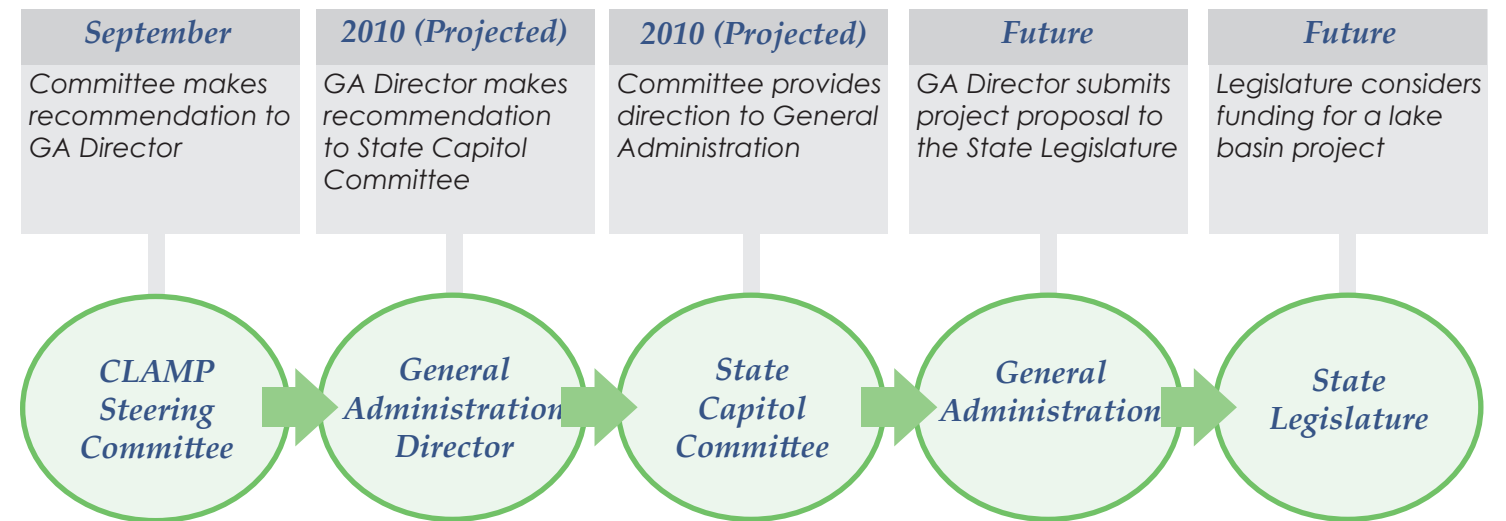
### Managed Lake

Committee members supporting the managed lake alternative were concerned with how changes to long-term sediment management would influence the economics of the community, including a potential shift of costs from the state to local governments. Some desired a more detailed analysis of potential economic effects. Some voiced concerns about the effect of changes to existing infrastructure and historic assets.

### Undetermined

The City of Olympia did not select a preferred alternative. Rather, it identified a set of interests, including an observation that the quality of implementation is more significant than the selection of a preferred alternative. Olympia is concerned about the lack of dedicated long-term funding for implementation. The city also noted that the management of Capitol Lake should be linked with a larger management approach that includes the upper watershed and Budd Inlet.

## Timeline



## Public Involvement

Public involvement is an important part of the Capitol Lake planning process. Thirteen public workshops have been held. Broad-based focus groups have helped define the scope of the committee's work. A variety of interpretive signs, fact sheets, and other materials have been developed to inform the public and encourage involvement.



CLAMP 2005 Annual Meeting, Knox Center, Olympia, WA



Focus Group Meeting, March 2006, Olympia Yacht Club, Olympia, WA



Capitol Lake Open House, June 2009, Heritage Park, Olympia, WA