

Selective Lakes Puget Sound Region

DRAFT Criteria

1. Fish Quality: The selective lake must be sufficiently productive (physical, chemical, and biological attributes) to support quality trout with rapid growth rates and fish survival during all climatic conditions (sustainability).

Rationale: Fly fishers seek healthy, quality fish that are larger than fish in other WDFW lakes and better “fighters”. Using Relative Stocking Density, a selective lake also needs to be more cost-effective than other WDFW lake. Based upon our experience at Pass Lake in Skagit County, a secondary benefit of this management strategy is that a quality fishery attracts fly fishers in sufficient numbers to produce an economic stimulus to local businesses.

2. Non-native Species: If the lake is stocked with non-native fish species, they cannot escape into adjacent waters to compromise native fish populations, or if escapement is a potential problem, the lake is stocked with only non-reproducing triploid fish. Any other non-native species can either be eradicated or easily controlled, so they do not compromise the ecological integrity of the lake.

Rationale: Non-native species such as bass and other spiny ray fish, Japanese knotweed, milfoil, etc. can escape to other waters or be transported to other lakes. They degrade the ecological functioning of Pacific Northwest aquatic systems.

Applicable FFF Code of Ethics: #3 --- Fly fishers minimize their impact on the environment and fishery by adopting practices that do not degrade the quality

3. Lack of Development: The lands surrounding the selective lake are protected from further land development, at the landscape level, but particularly along the shoreline and inflowing streams. It is preferred that the lake not be structurally modified by levies, dams, dredging, etc.

Rationale: It is preferred, but not required, that selective lakes and their surrounding lands be in public ownership or secondarily that there are few owners to improve the chances of a long-term agreement and that these natural resources will remain unchanged for the term of the agreement. The lack of development improves the aesthetics and water quality.

4. Aesthetics: The selective lake provides a quiet, aesthetically pleasing, and relaxing atmosphere for the fly fishers with a no motors or electric motors regulation. The majority of land surrounding the lake should have native forest and wildlife for aesthetics and ecological function.

Rationale: The lake and its surroundings must be compatible with the sport of fly fishing.

5. Public Access: The selective lake must be easily accessible to the fly fishing public with vehicle parking, launch ramp, and toilet facilities. Private and public funding will be sought for handicapped accessibility at certain lakes. Local selective lakes are important to fly fishers, so at least one lake per county will be proposed.

Rationale: Fly fishing Clubs and associated businesses may chose to partner with public agencies to fund such things as covered picnic areas, etc., but basic amenities provided at other public lakes and lands should be the continued obligation of the land management agency(s).

6. Public Support: The fly fishing clubs of Puget Sound agree to establish criteria for proposing selective lakes, use an interdisciplinary group to score potential lakes, and seek support for their proposal(s) through collaborative means in order to gain broad political, commercial, and public support before presenting any proposal(s) to WDFW.

Rationale: The interested fly fishing clubs need to think strategically for the long-term benefit of the sport, and be as inclusive as possible to gain the support of others (non-fly fishers).

7. Chance of Agreement: A long-term agreement can be attained with the lake and land owner(s) or public management agency to assure that the selective lake will provide the recreational opportunity for fly fishing with catch and release fisheries management strategy open to the public for the entire year.

Rationale: If the fly fishing clubs, state agency(s), and any private or non-profit organizations enter into a partnership for a selective lake, there should be some assurances that this management strategy will continue for more than 5 or 10 years. The more property owners; the wider range of opinions; and the less chance of agreement. The more private property owners; the less chance of agreement. The greater percent acreage in public land and water ownership; the greater the chance of agreement.

Applicable FFF Code of Ethics: #4 --- Fly anglers endeavor to conserve fisheries by understanding the importance of limiting their catch.

8. Regulations: The selective lake will have WDFW regulations to support sustainability and cost-effectiveness ... a catch and release fishery with barbless hooks, no more than two hooks per fly rod, natural fish growth rather than supplement feeding and planting of non-native forage fish, etc.

Rationale: These lakes must function naturally, without labor-intensive and expensive supplements. Fly fishers need to set an example and protect water quality and public health by not urinating in the lake.

Applicable FFF Code of Ethics: #3 --- Fly fishers minimize their impact on the environment and fishery by adopting practices that do not degrade the quality #4 --- Fly anglers endeavor to conserve fisheries by understanding the importance of limiting their catch.

9. Adaptive Management: The selective lakes should be monitored and periodically evaluated to determine whether or not the fisheries management practices are achieving the desired objectives or outcomes.

Rationale: Before any land and selective lake agreement expires, a fisheries evaluation should be performed. Also, public and angler values change over time, and adaptive management will provide a better opportunity for change with consensus. Adaptive management occurs when monitoring and research provide new information for public education, which can lead to improved management decisions.