



# REACH Cranberry Lake

Cranberry Lake

## LAKE AREA

133 Acres

## SHORELINE LENGTH:

2.77 Miles

## REACH AREA:

266 Acres

## PSNERP PROCESS UNITS:

8057

### REACH SUMMARY

Cranberry Lake is in the northwest portion of Deception Pass State Park at the north end of Whidbey Island. The lake is adjacent to (and continuous with) marine reach WW01. Surface inflow into the lake is intermittent from two short drainages from the southeast. The lake drains west to the marine shoreline, with the lake level stabilized by a dam structure. Historically, Cranberry Lake was likely tidally influenced. The County wetland inventory categorizes wetland areas associated with the lake as 'Coastal Lagoon' and 'Associated with Coastal Lagoon.'

Cranberry Lake is very shallow with abundant macrophyte vegetation and algae (especially during summer algae blooms). The lake was classified as eutrophic (trophic state) by Ecology during the late 1990s (Ecology, 1996). Eutrophic lake conditions are often a result of water quality pollution from adjacent and / or tributary uses, with elevated phosphorus levels frequently indicated as a primary cause. However, the lake area is not listed for impairments on the 2008 Ecology 303(d) list. County wetland inventory shows extensive wetlands both waterward and landward of the shoreline area (primarily 'large ponded' waterward of ordinary high water mark). A resident Bald Eagle was noted in the late 1990s by Ecology staff and WDFW maps Bald Eagle territory. Waterfowl concentrations are also documented by WDFW.

Existing land use within the shoreline area consists of recreational uses, undeveloped park open spaces and residential uses. Public access includes a swimming beach, non-motorized small watercraft, fishing and wildlife viewing. Overnight camping uses are located within the shoreline area to the north of the park. No motor boats are allowed on the lake. Rural residential uses occur adjacent to the southern portion of the lake and associated wetlands.



Shoreline Oblique Photos (© Microsoft Bing Maps, 2010)

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERIZATION**

<b>Mean Lake Depth</b> 13 ft	<b>Maximum Lake Depth</b> 23 ft	<b>Lake Volume</b> 1,625 Acre-Feet
<b>Drainage Area</b> 390 ft	<b>Altitude Above Sea Level</b> 20 Ft	<b>Steep Slopes</b> None mapped

**HABITATS & SPECIES**

<b>Wetlands (Map 4)</b> 90%	<b>Wetlands Waterward of OHWM (Map 4)</b> 97%
<b>Shoreland Priority Habitats &amp; Species (Map 5)</b> Waterfowl Concentration; Wetland	<b>Salmonid Fish Use (Map 5)</b> None mapped

**LAND & SHORELINE USE**

**Shoreline Modifications (Map 13)**  
Modification associated with roadways within State Park (northeast shoreline) and recreational access points; lake connection with and outlet to adjacent marine shoreline modified (controlled).

**Zoning (Map 11)**  
Rural (52%); Parks (48%)

**Public Access (Map 16)**  
Deception Pass State Park provides significant access to lake shoreline (swimming, non-motorized small watercraft, fishing, wildlife viewing).

**Current Land Use (Map 12)**  
**Number of Parcels** 81    **Average Parcel Size** 7.80 Acres  
Large majority of reach, and near entirety of Cranberry Lake, is within Deception Pass State Park with campgrounds on northern edge of lake. Those areas outside of park boundaries are mostly open space and/or wetlands. A few residential structures are located at the southern tip of the reach along W Powell Rd.

**Overwater Structures (Map 14)**  
Public pier/dock on east shoreline (within State Park) - used primarily for fishing, small craft access.

**Water Quality**  
No listed impairments

**KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- Assessment and improvement of water quality in the context of surface water runoff and nutrient inputs from contributing basin.
- Restoration of associated wetlands, aquatic habitat and some degraded riparian areas in context of ongoing high-intensity recreational use of shoreline and lake within state park.
- Preservation and enhancement of native aquatic vegetation and native woody vegetation in the nearshore environment.
- Alteration of key habitat characteristics caused by previous shoreline modifications (management of lake level with dam structure and implications on hydrologic connection with marine shoreline).

**RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES**

[Will be completed in next Draft.]