

Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme

14th Nov 2008

The report below has been submitted by Simon Everett who attended the meeting on behalf of the Chamber.

Chair Richard Leafe

Chief Executive Officer Lake National Park Authority

Roger Sweeting Overview W'mere Catchment & its lakes

W'mere & 45 Tarns etc + tributaries & rivers drains by the Leven.

Land used top be oak woodland – now pasture mainly & urban.

Catchment area 235 sq Km water quality reduced since 1940's nitrates (farm) & phosphates (humans)

Habitat loss – vastly reduced reed beds even over last 20 years!

Mooring damage to bed, swinging chain around moorings

Population 35000 + 6Million visitors!

Steven Maberley

Changes in lakes in the catchment area

Since 1890's phosphates have been introduced markedly so since 1940

Rain – acidity affects smaller lakes & Tarns

Nitrogen – nutrients – farming

Phosphates - population increase

Temp of water up, oxygen down affects charr in lower depths as phytoplankton increases this eaten by zooplankton, which is eaten by fish. More roach = less zoo = more phyto which sinks & reduces oxygen!?

Upper lakes recovering from acidity slowly – lowland lakes (2 basins of W.mere) problems with non native species

David Crawshaw

United Utilities – water!

SCaMP – Sustainable Catchment Managemant Programme in the 4th year of 5

Farms to reduce grazing on high fells in winter helped by provision of barns for wintering of animals etc

Woodland management

Recreation – bikes running walking sailing etc etc

Planting of trees & Bogg improvements to reduce runoff & slow water movement down less peat runoff & better carbon sequestration.

Colour of water a problem!!

SCaMP to be continued on U Util land & to private land.

Graeme McKee

Fisheries Officer – Environment Agency

Charr reduced nos, Pike up, Roach (non native) up a lot! Brown Trout??

Charr down since 1970's Pike weight down but nos up & are feeding on charr in deep water not known before Charr fishermen down due to reduced nos of fish alien species & diseased fish introduced for bate? Byelaw 18? Rod licences etc to cut down on this also anglers have been approached to return catch nos for info to help plot declines & trends etc

John Malley

Nat Trust & catchment officer Bass Lake Restoration Project (BLRP)

Many organisations & no one person/authority responsible

Vision – Working – Economy – Healthy environment

To reduce nutrients & phosphates (25umg to 15umg) sediment by half (5mm a year) & alien Flora & Fauna

Solutions – Land use – Policies – Communication & Community – Monitoring & Investigation

Action 5-10 Years results 15-20 years maybe 40!!!

Karin Crofts

Bassenthwaite Reflections

PR to the public to raise awareness in the community.

Funding - Lottery? & Europe – as success is proved funds should come on board.

This process to be repeated for WCRP.

Workshops

1. River Corridor/Lake Shores
2. Farming & Other Land Uses
3. Lakes & Catchment Uses for recreation
4. Invasive Species

3 Lakes & Catchment Uses for Recreation (Attended)

- This was an exploratory meeting to find common ground as to the various importance of certain thinking i.e.:
- Additional phosphate due to higher nos of visitors residents (human waste!);
- Use of biodegradable soaps, powders to be promoted for all;
- Boat owners & water waste more 'pumpout' stations etc;
- Camping parks & attendant vans tents, also wild camping more facilities needed;
- Public loos! & Car parking to prevent road side damage & subsequent runoff oil, brake fluid, mud etc due to erosion;
- A green approach will have a good effect on local business/tourism
- Will & does world heritage status have an effect??

Summary

I felt this was a worthwhile event, of which I was unaware & to which all businesses should respond in a positive manner.

The main point of all this is to improve water catchment & quality in our area, this is already beginning to be achieved in the Bassenthwaite project & the Trough of Bowland.

In the not too distant future there will be a PR body (similar to the Bassenthwaite Reflections), which will promote public awareness & the need for all our co-operation for the future provision of water a precious resource that we all too readily take for granted.

“Watch this space!”