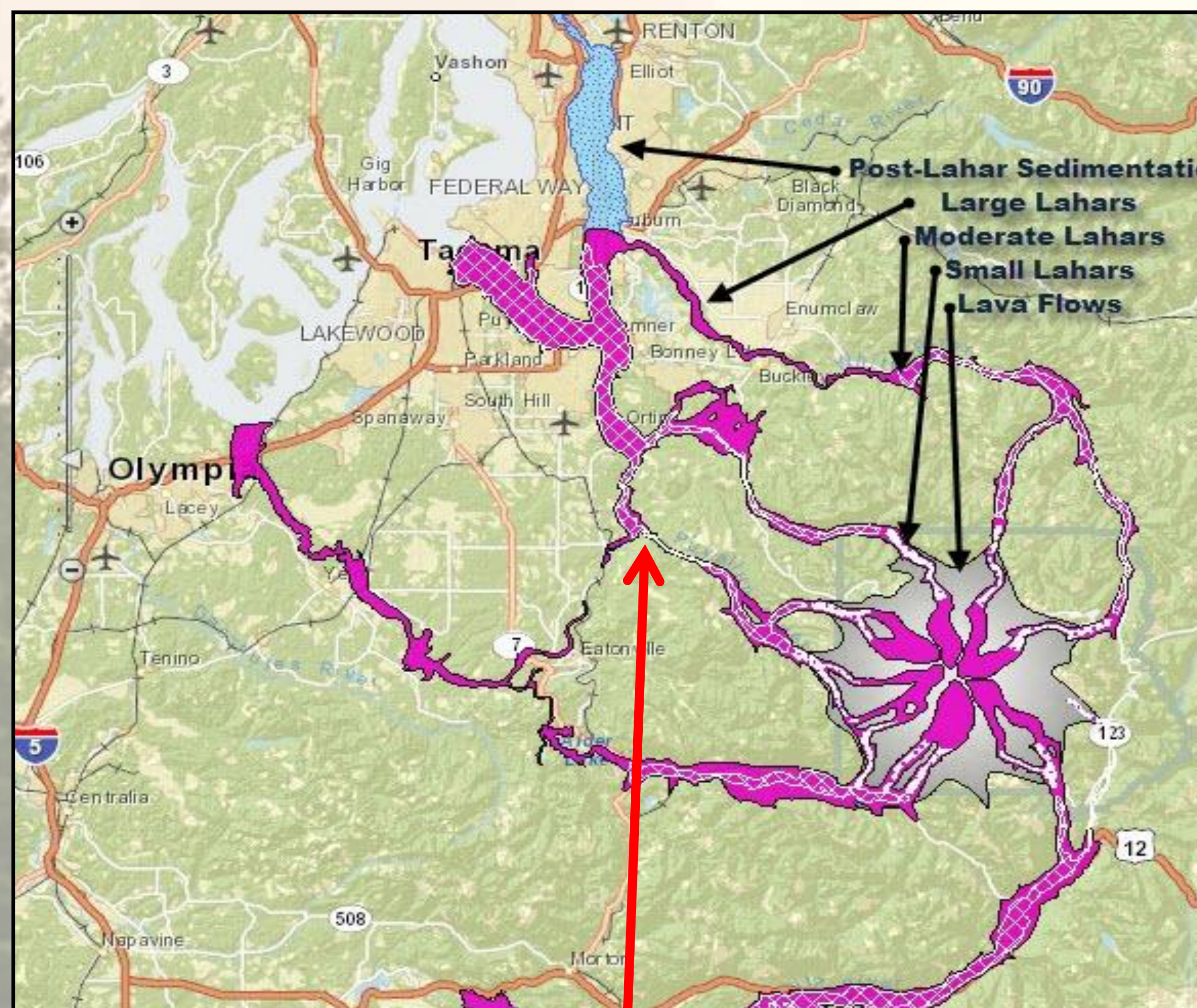


Lake Kaposwin Proposed Aquatic Reserve

Unique Features - the site has a unique and rare geologic history and boasts of natural, undeveloped shorelines, with intact riparian vegetation and diverse wetland complexes.



Electron mudflow – Kaposwin basin

Lake Kaposwin is geologically young, approximately 500 years old; at that time a massive failure of the west flank of Mt. Rainier triggered the Electron mudflow, spreading debris over 22 miles throughout the Puyallup Valley. The debris entered a tributary channel, was severely constricted, filling the valley floor to a depth of approximately 30 feet.



The depression that remained between the toe of the mudflow and the north slope of Ohop Creek alluvial fan form the present basin of Lake Kaposwin. The existence of a drowned forest in Lake Kaposwin suggests that when the present lake was formed, the historic melt-water basin had a mature forest growing on site. The visible remains of this forest, located in the higher (southern) portions of the valley remained partially exposed above water. In the late 1800's loggers cut them down for lumber at the waterline. Only the stumps and rejected snags are still visible today above waterline.

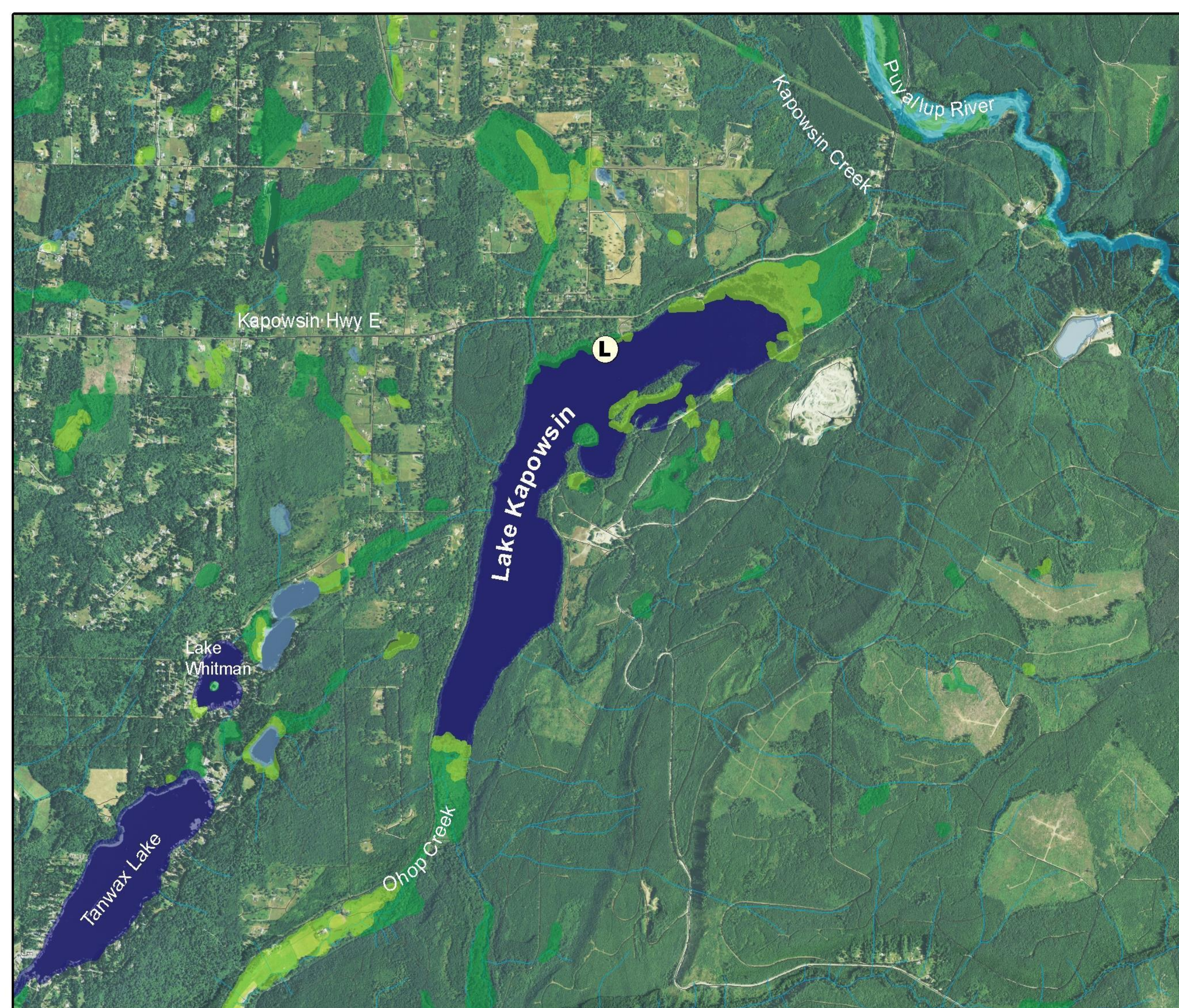
Wetland habitats

Several wetland communities are associated with the Lake Kaposwin complex. A large, mostly forested wetland complex persists along Kaposwin Creek just north of the lake. This wetland system extends along the lake including a well-vegetated riparian shoreline creating a sheltered migratory corridor to upstream spawning habitat.



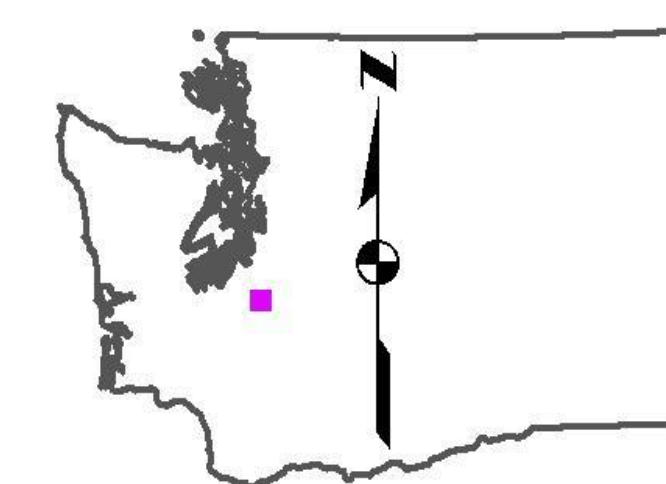
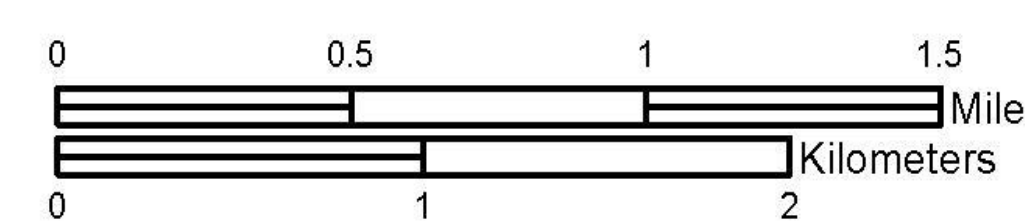
Lake Kaposwin is fed chiefly by Ohop Creek from the south and drained by Kaposwin Creek, a tributary of the Puyallup River.

Lake Kaposwin



Habitat Type

- Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Emergent Wetland
- River & Stream
- Pond
- Lake
- L Boat Launch
- Roads



An extensive wetland emerges along the south margins of the lake creating a unique mix of forested wetlands, emergent marsh, scrub-shrub, and riverine wetlands.

