

SHARING OUR WATERSHED

The Comox Valley Water System (CVWS) draws its supply from Comox Lake reservoir. This vital resource provides drinking water to approximately 41,000 residents who work and play in Courtenay and Comox.

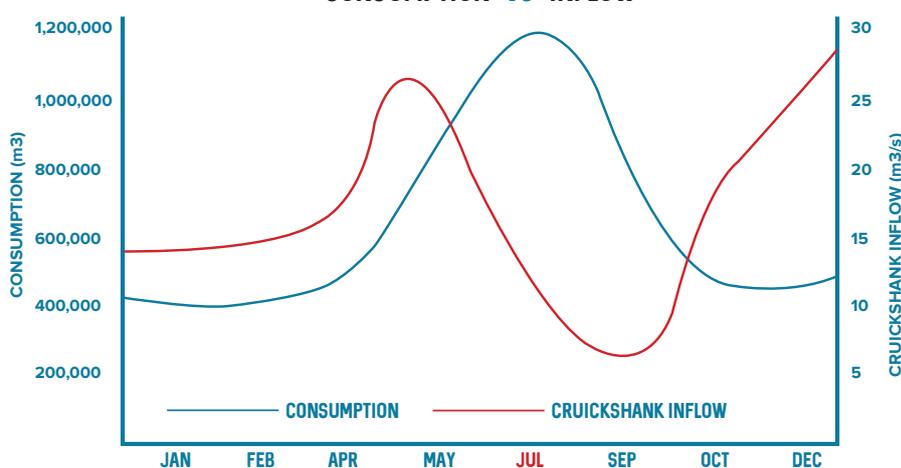
Water leaves the lake through the Puntledge River where BC Hydro diverts a portion for power generation. The CVWS utilizes BC Hydro infrastructure to deliver water to our treatment facility.

So, how much do you know about the regional district's water supply?

» SUMMER AND WINTER CONSUMPTION

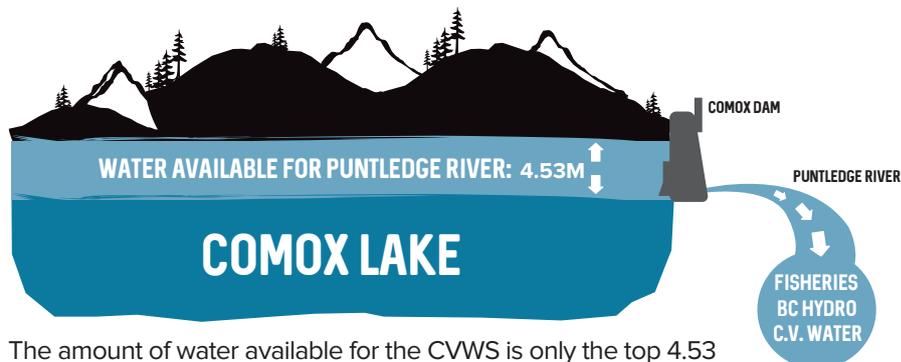
When the lake reservoir is at its highest (winter) is when water consumption is at its lowest. During the summer months when water consumption is high due to irrigation, landscaping, and recreation; Comox Lake is at its seasonal lowest and conservation practices are of the utmost importance.

CONSUMPTION VS INFLOW



The lake is important for fish habitat and power generation. BC Hydro manages the lake level and reduces power generation as needed in order to have water available for all users.

» AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE STORAGE



The amount of water available for the CVWS is only the top 4.53 vertical metres of Comox Lake. The range is defined by the Puntledge River outlet from the lake and the elevation of the dam.

» COMOX LAKE IS A SHARED RESOURCE

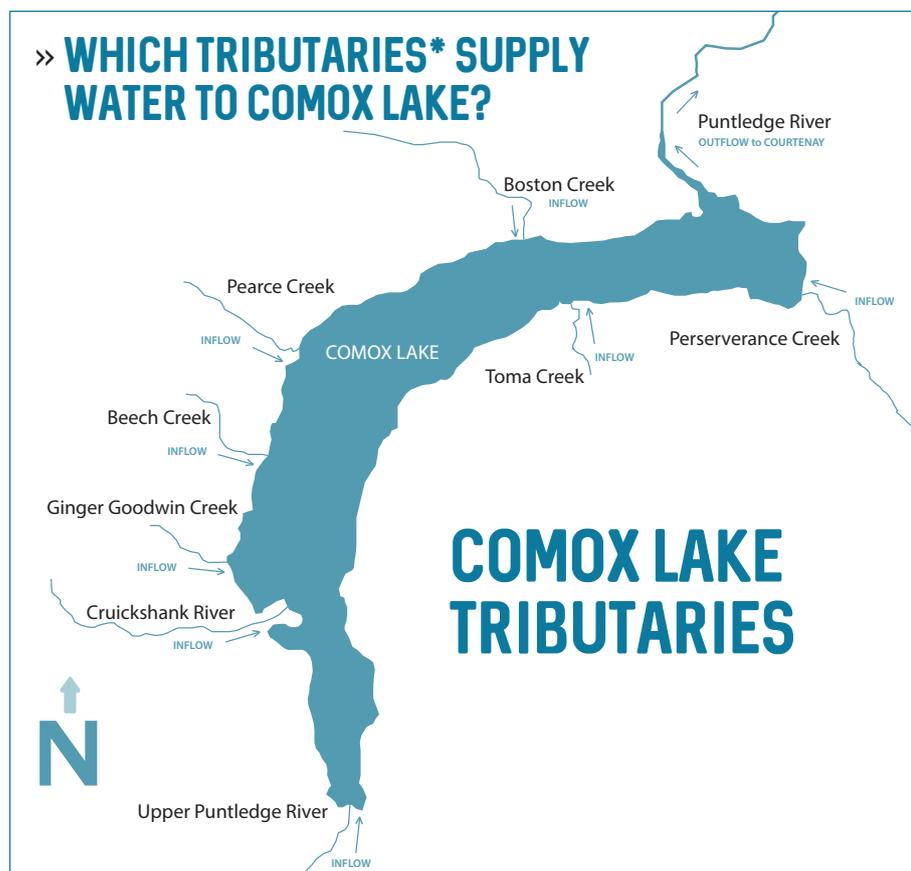
All water use is regulated by the province. A water license is required and is held by BC Hydro. The licensed amount used by the Comox Valley Regional District is one small piece of the pie that is shared with BC Hydro and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The Comox Valley Regional District is obligated to not exceed the amount allocated in the water license and compensates BC Hydro for the loss of power generation. The power generated is provided to homes and businesses in the Comox Valley.

FUN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT Comox Lake was not a drinking water supply until 1967? It was first used as a source of power generation for local mining operations in 1912.

» WHICH TRIBUTARIES* SUPPLY WATER TO COMOX LAKE?

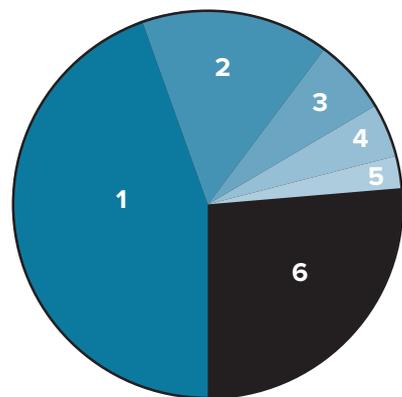


COMOX LAKE TRIBUTARIES

*tributaries are rivers or streams flowing into a larger body of water.

Sub-watersheds to Comox Lake:

- 1 Cruickshank is 21,434 ha (46.4%)
- 2 Upper Puntledge is 9,065 ha (15.6%)
- 3 Toma Creek is 2,378 ha (5.1%)
- 4 Perseverance Creek is 2,259 ha (4.8%)
- 5 Beech Creek is 1,719 (3.7%)
- 6 Other tributaries



» UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The CVRD will be present at various local events this summer. Look for the CVRD tent and come talk to staff and representatives about our shared watershed and water supply, conservation practices and rebates, the water distribution network and the watershed protection plan.