

## July is Lake Appreciation Month



So, this month's report features a message from WHILA:

*I have given you months of crystal-clear water.  
But it seems for some, it is never enough.*

*They expect me to be something I am not, and never have been.*

*For others, there is understanding of my nature,  
and appreciation for my gifts, so I know it is possible.*

*I am a shallow basin, and I depend on rainfall to restore my water levels.  
I am a shallow lake, and my appearance is diminished by boating activity.*

*I am a shallow lake with a special chemistry and enough nutrients  
to support a wide variety of living things.*

*When an abundance of nutrients arrives, my lake life responds accordingly.  
I have shown you that clarity returns when nutrient levels drop.*

*I accommodate what is done to me as best I can,  
which in my opinion is pretty-darned good.  
I do not need to be fixed, but I certainly need to be protected.  
Why do you continue to blame me instead of caring for me?*

### Rainfall and Lake Levels

With over 6 inches of rain in June, the lake level ended the month at the same level that it started with: 63.7 feet NAVD 88. For the first half of this year, rainfall contributed 619,150,000 gallons of water to the lake. Lake level and rainfall amount so far this year are very similar to what was seen in 2019.



West side of the lake, June 15, 2022

In his thorough study of White Lake in the late 1940s, Dr. David Frey determined that half of the lake bottom area was composed of muddy sediments—what he called “pulpy peat”. This muddy sediment is being stirred up by boating activity. Additionally, there is plant life growing in the bottom zone, and this is uprooted and washes ashore to collect with the sediments.

I have discussed options for collecting this material with some of the residents at the lake, and the town may want to provide services to dispose of collected materials (and dead fish also). The town may also want to provide incentives for removing sea walls.

But unless and until harmful boating practices are altered, the problem and the complaints will continue every summer.