James Glinn

I am writing in support of including higher Lake Sawyer water levels as part of the Soos Creek watershed water quality improvement plan. Much higher.

Lake Sawyer plays a critical role in the Big Soos Creek drainage basin. When lake levels are low, the water warms more quickly, which stimulates excess aquatic plant growth. This plant matter eventually decays, sinks, and creates a silty, oxygen-depleted layer at the bottom of the lake. The result is degraded water quality, harmful algae blooms, and stressed aquatic ecosystems. Importantly, this sediment and warmer water then flow downstream into the Soos Creek watershed, worsening fine sediment and temperature problems the TMDL is seeking to correct.

Maintaining higher Lake Sawyer water levels offers multiple benefits:
• Improved downstream water quality: Less murky sediment and cooler water flow into Covington Creek, Soos Creek, and eventually the Green River.
• Stronger salmon habitat: Cooler fall flows allow salmon to return to Covington Creek earlier and under healthier conditions.
• Reduced ecological stress: Higher water levels mitigate excess plant decay, oxygen depletion, and the cycle of fine sediment loading.

Because Lake Sawyer is a direct contributor to the health of the Soos Creek system, I urge those in decision making roles to consider higher lake levels as a meaningful and necessary component of the water quality improvement strategy. Protecting lake levels is not just a local issue — it directly impacts the entire Soos Creek watershed and its capacity to support fish, wildlife, and the broader ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Glinn