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Low Lake Sawyer water levels increase the temperature of the lake water which can stimulate excess growth of aquatic plants in the lake.

With excess plant growth it then decays and sinks to the bottom of the lake, leading to depleted oxygen levels in the lake and a murky layer of decomposing material.

This silty and murky water then washes downstream into the Soos Creek Water Basin increasing the fine particles in the rivers.

- These conditions impair the habitat for cold-water aquatic species, especially salmon, and creek water temps rise.

If we can keep higher Lake Sawyer water levels, we can decrease the murky sediment and warm water from traveling downstream into the Soos basin. If the water levels are higher in Lake Sawyer, water goes over the weir sooner providing a path for the salmon to come up Covington creek in the fall.

- It lowers the temperature of Covington Creek, Soos Creek and then Green River sooner in the fall.

Lake Sawyer water level is like a keystone species for this hydrologic ecosystem.