

Nathan Jones

I am a Lake Sawyer (Black Diamond, WA) resident since late 2021. I have seen at times very high water levels in winter during rainy seasons about a foot over my stationary dock. And now is the extreme opposite: 3-4 feet below that dock, leaving much of the shoreline exposed. Some parts of the lake are bare in canals, leaving junior fish habitat to fend for themselves in deeper waters.

We have heron, cormorant, transient shorebirds, and several bald eagle nests - but this isn't an exhaustive accounting for the wildlife depending upon fish for food. We have otters and beaver, squirrels and raccoon and even bear. Deer are also frequently visiting alongside elk.

As what may be the headwater of the Soos Creek system, it seems more care is needed to monitor and measure water quality, water levels and engage community partners, like water departments, cities and ecology, as well as tribes, NIMFs, ACE, and other agencies to protect this asset. We don't need a Salton Sea of Washington!