

Lake Kaposwin Proposed Aquatic Reserve

The lake's predominantly natural shoreline with, lush riparian vegetation, overhanging brush and trees, along with a myriad of submerged stumps and large logs at the water's edge, have maintained diverse and healthy habitat areas for numerous species. Lake Kaposwin covers approximately 512 surface acres, mostly shallow waters with some areas as deep as 58 feet.

Species

The following species identified for coverage under the DNR Aquatics HCP use habitat areas that include Lake Kaposwin, it's tributary, and outlet creeks, and associated wetlands.

- Western Toad – within forage buffer and predicted core habitat
- Oregon Spotted Frog – historic observation point outside of lake
- Common Loon – observed
- Bulltrout – predicted spawning stream connects to Lake Kaposwin
- Chinook – observed in Kaposwin Creek
- Steelhead - migrate through the lake
- Coho Salmon - migrate through on the way up to spawning grounds in Ohop Creek
- Pink Salmon - spawn in Kaposwin Creek



Black crappies seem to be more dependent on vegetation and are often found congregated around underwater structure, such as old pilings, stumps, snags, or near rocks or the mouths of feeder streams.

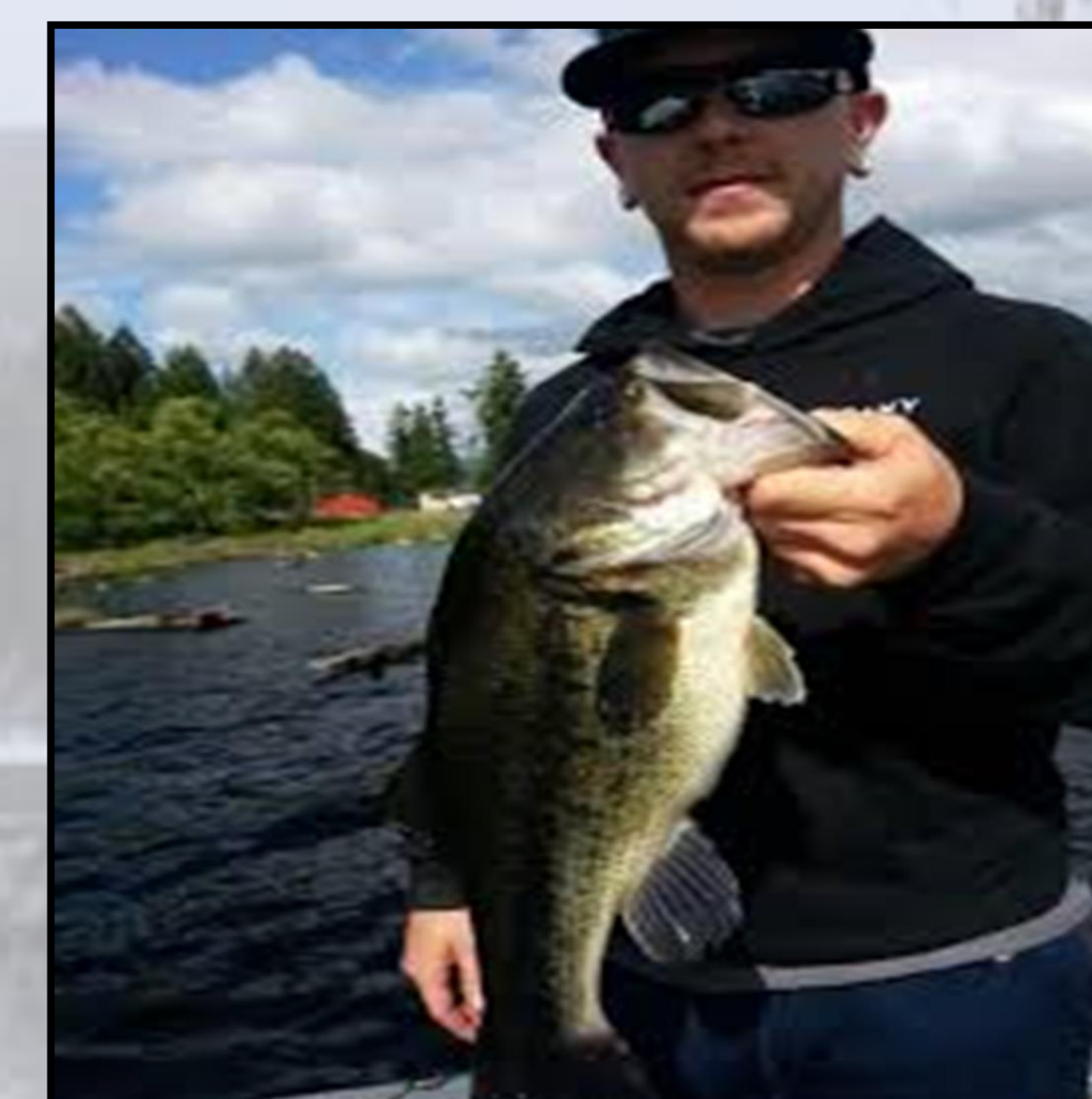
Lake Kaposwin is one of the jewels in the lowland Puget Sound area for warmwater fishing. Open year-round, the lake offers good fishing opportunity for largemouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, bluegill, brown bullhead, and rock bass. The lake is also stocked yearly with rainbow trout. Because Coho fry may remain in freshwater for up to two years before making their way to the ocean, the lake provides important rearing habitat for this species.

Kaposwin fish facts:

- Yellow perch are active throughout the year. During winter, perch often move to deeper waters, feeding exclusively off the bottom.
- Some lake spawning species such as, small mouth bass require shallow areas with flat, gravel substrate.
- The distribution of rock bass in Washington state is mostly confined to a few lakes and small tributary streams in Pierce and Thurston Counties; Lake Kaposwin has a wealth of prime rock bass habitat.



Ambloplites rupestris Rock Bass (juvenile)
Photo by: Brian Zimmerman



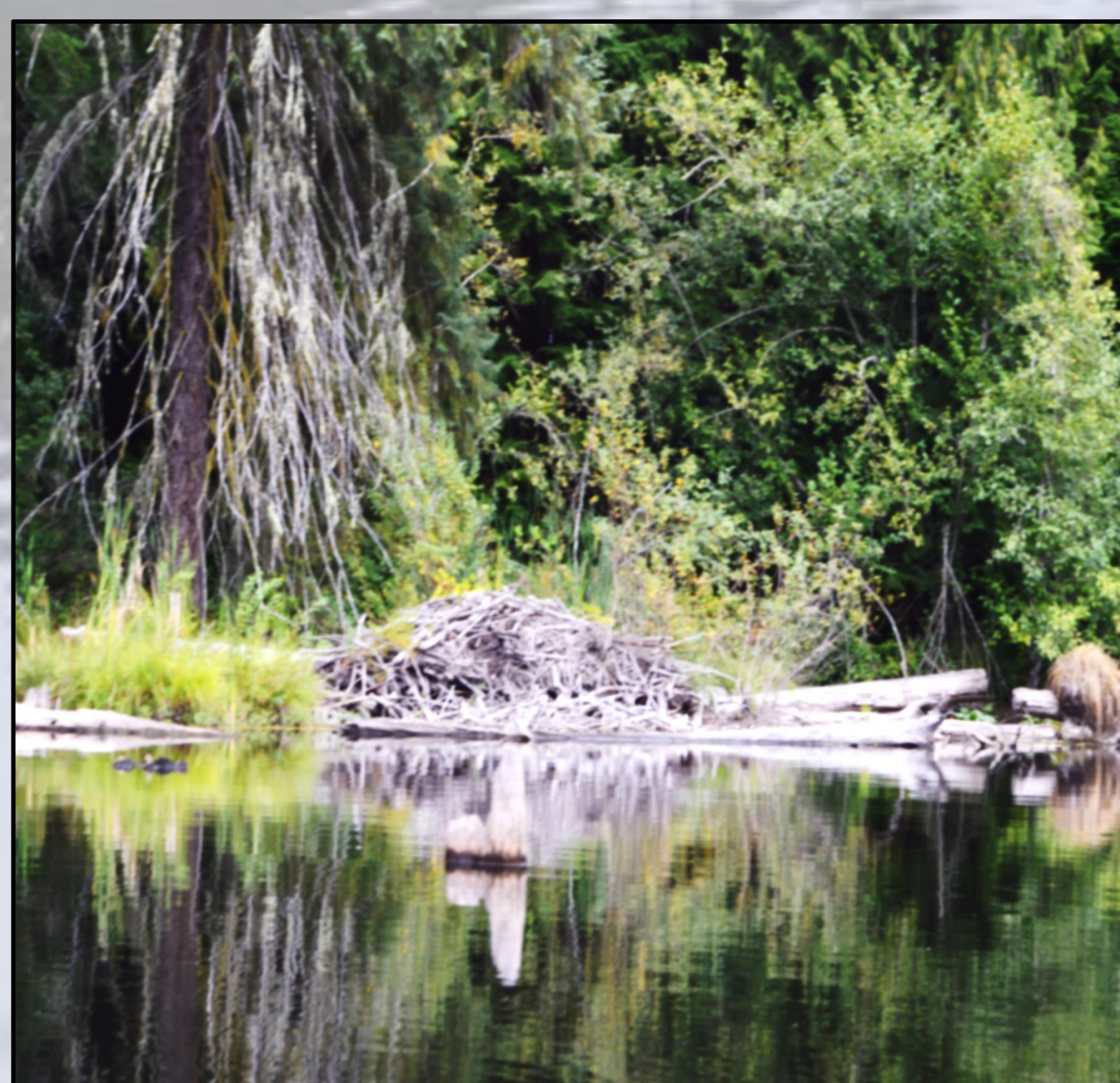
Large mouth bass

The wetlands complexes at the north and south end of the lake provide habitat and habitat corridors for a number of species including, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and Neotropical migratory birds. These riparian areas also host a small waterfowl concentration area – with good duck hunting, and the White River elk range.

Currently unknown is whether the site still support rare species such as, Oregon spotted frog or Olympic mudminnow; More information about the presence and distribution of species in the lake vicinity will be provided by a biological inventory and report.



Lake Kaposwin is home to the largest member of the shrew family - a WDFW State Monitored species. Endangered in Canada, the Pacific Water Shrew, or marsh shrew (*Sorex bendirii*) is a riparian obligate specialist, and limited to the coastal lowlands.



Beaver damn on the eastside of the lake



Duck hunting on the lake

Some waterfowl and other birds observed at Lake Kaposwin:

- American Widgeon
- Bald Eagle
- Blue-winged Teal
- Bufflehead
- Canada Goose
- Common Loon
- Hooded Merganser
- Mallard
- Osprey
- Pintail
- Ringed-necked Duck
- Ruddy Duck
- Scaup
- Wood Duck