

Smith Lake

Surface Area: 16.3 acres

Maximum Depth: 6.5 feet (2 meters)

Shoreline Length: 4,894 feet (0.93 miles)

Elevation: 3,322 feet (1,012 meters)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Smith Lake is located in Flathead County 25 miles north of Whitefish. Surrounding land ownership is 100% State Trust Lands. There is no easy public access, but there is a path to a hand carry put in on the south end of the lake.

FISHERIES INFORMATION

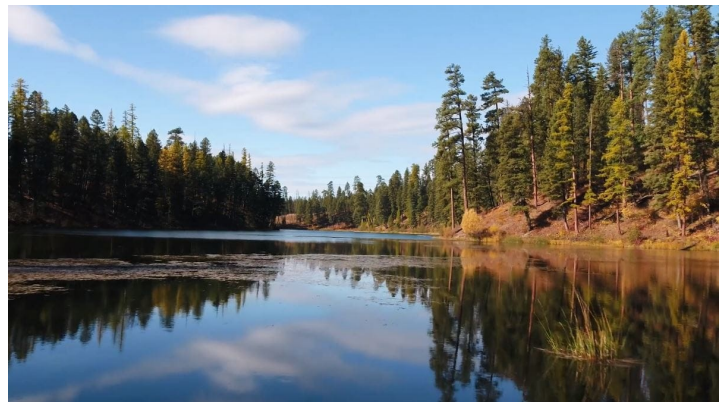
The lake is stocked with rainbow trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Fish distribution also includes brook trout. For more information see: <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish/stocking.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A macrophyte survey was conducted in 2015
- Whitefish Legacy Partners is proposing 480 acres of conservation at Smith Lake, which includes a permanent trail easement for the Whitefish Trail, ensuring public access in perpetuity. The landscape also provides vital habitat and seasonal migration corridors for large mammals including mountain lion, black and grizzly bear, mule deer, and rocky mountain elk. The proposed conservation would also support local timber jobs with continued forest management.
- There is no current NMLN citizen volunteer.



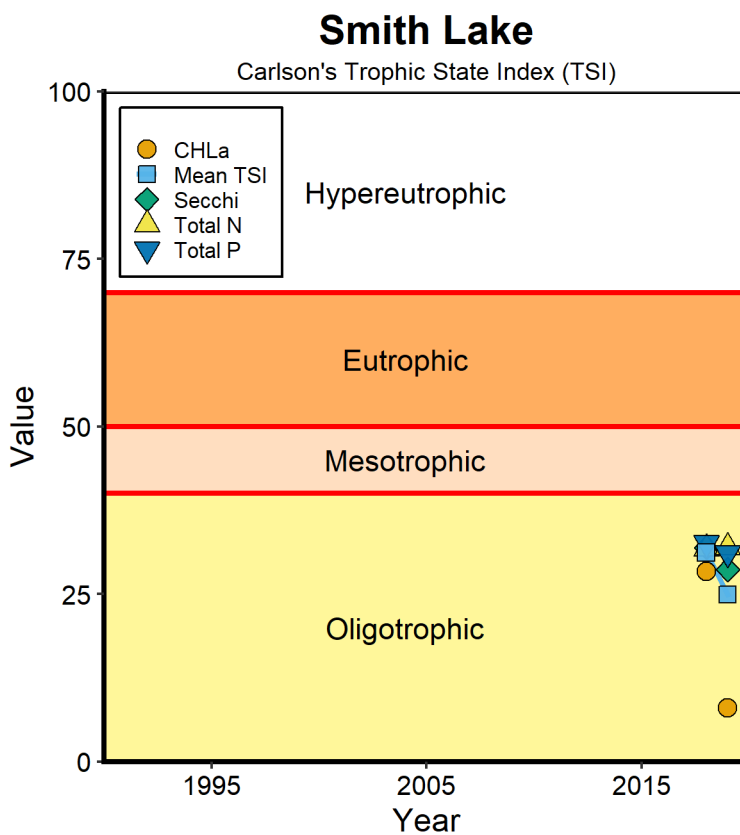
Location: 48.4963, -114.42264



Smith Lake. Courtesy of Whitefish Legacy Partners

LAKE METRICS SUMMARY AND SCORES

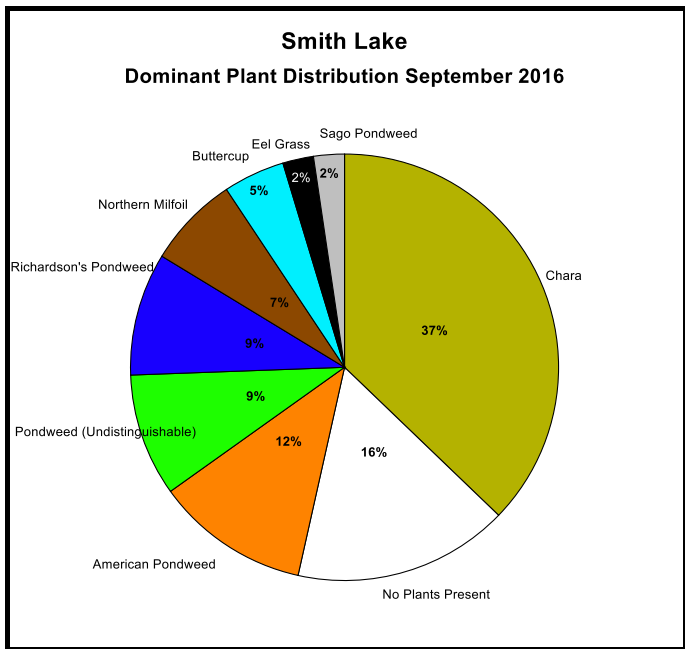
Metric	Score	Description
Cold-water fish habitat	Medium	Temperature and oxygen profiles show that Smith Lake was not stratified during summer sampling dates. Summer temperatures fall in the avoidance threshold for cold water fish from the surface to bottom. Summer dissolved oxygen levels are outside the avoidance threshold throughout the water column.
Nutrient Levels	Low	Smith Lake often ranks low for small lakes for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and chlorophyll (a).
Nutrient Trend	Consistent	No trend is apparent.
Trophic Status	Oligo-trophic	Carlson's Trophic Index trend shows Smith Lake is consistently oligotrophic.
Dreissenid Colonization Potential (Calcium)	Unknown	This lake currently has no calcium or alkalinity data since it was new to the program in 2018.
Known AIS infestations	None	



A macrophyte survey was conducted on Smith Lake in September 2015. A total of 45 sites were surveyed for plants/algae. No EWM was found in the survey but northern milfoil was found. Chara was the dominant plant. Chara or muskgrass is anchored green algae that are native to Montana that spends its entire life submerged without flowering. Chara is often referred to as muskgrass or skunkweed because of its foul odor. Because Chara is usually encrusted with carbonates, it typically feels crunchy to the touch.

Shoreline plants in order of dominance were:

- 1) Chara, 2) American Pondweed, and 3) Pondweed undistinguishable



Chara mat



Chara close up