

# Upper Stillwater Lake

**Surface Area: 592 acres**

**Maximum Depth: 22 feet (6.7 meters)**

**Drainage Size: 79,986 acres**

**Shoreline Length: 18,000 feet (3.41 miles)**

**Elevation: 3,202 feet (976 meters)**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

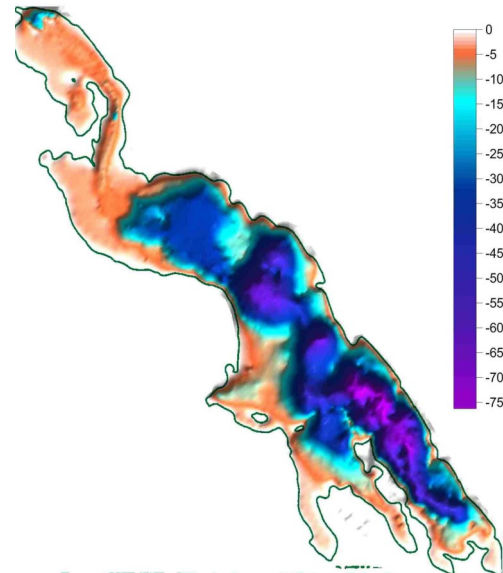
Upper Stillwater Lake is located in Flathead County in the Flathead National Forest of the Tally Lake Ranger District. The geology of the drainage basin encompasses alluvium (25%), and the Wallace formation (27%), Ravalli group (20%), and Piegan group (27%) of the belt series. Surrounding land ownership are State Trust Lands and USFS. There is one motorized public access on the southwest side of the lake.

## FISHERIES INFORMATION

The lake is stocked with westslope cutthroat. Fish distribution includes cutthroat trout, lake trout, northern pike, rainbow trout, and yellow perch. Upper Stillwater is stocked annually with westslope cutthroat trout. For more information see: <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish/stocking.html>.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A macrophyte survey was conducted on Upper Stillwater Lake on August 25, 2016. A total of 81 sites were surveyed for plants/algae. No EWM was found in the 2016 macrophyte survey
- Current NMLN citizen volunteers include: Gail Leonard & Leo Keane; Mark Fredinbergh



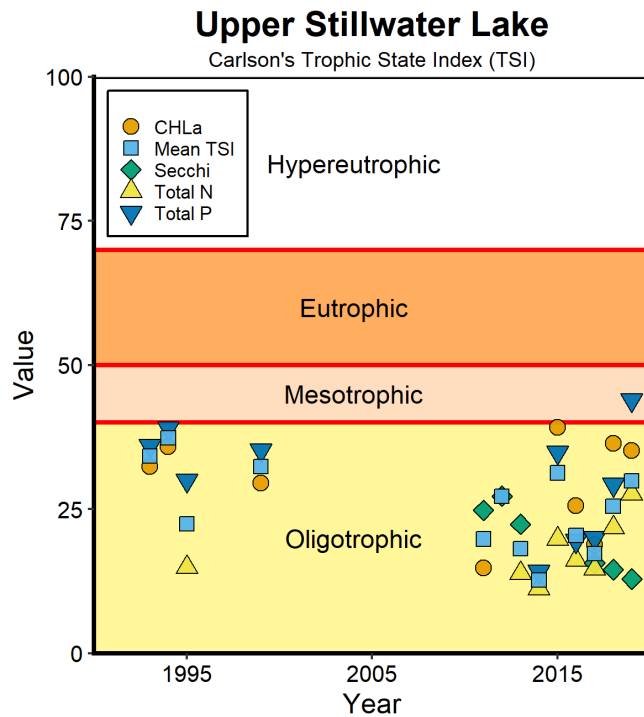
Location: 48.583448 N, 114.628748 W

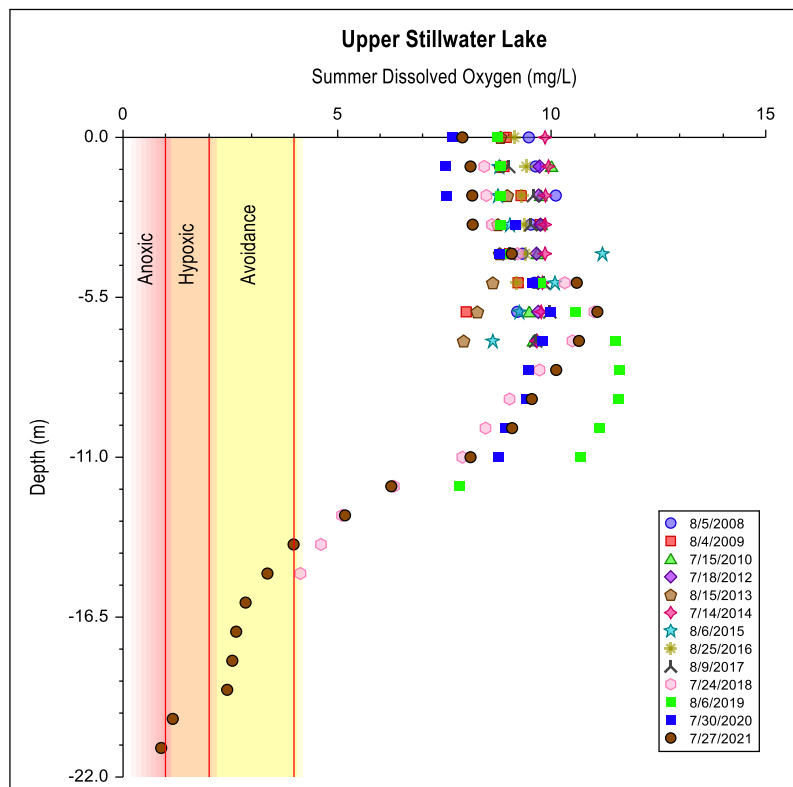
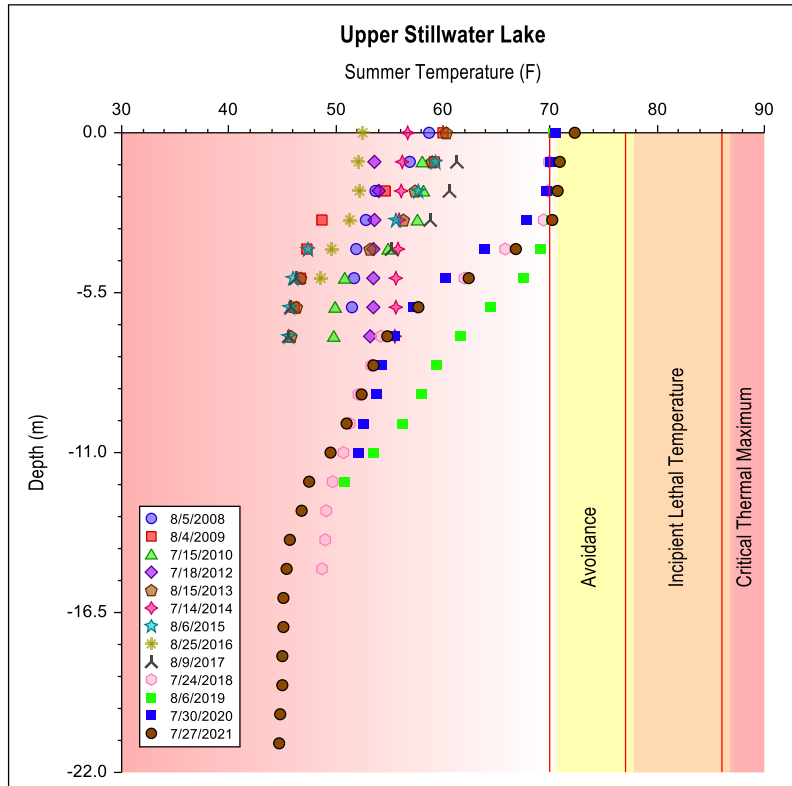


*Volunteers Peter and Cheri Aronsson upon return from a summer sampling trip on Upper Stillwater Lake.*

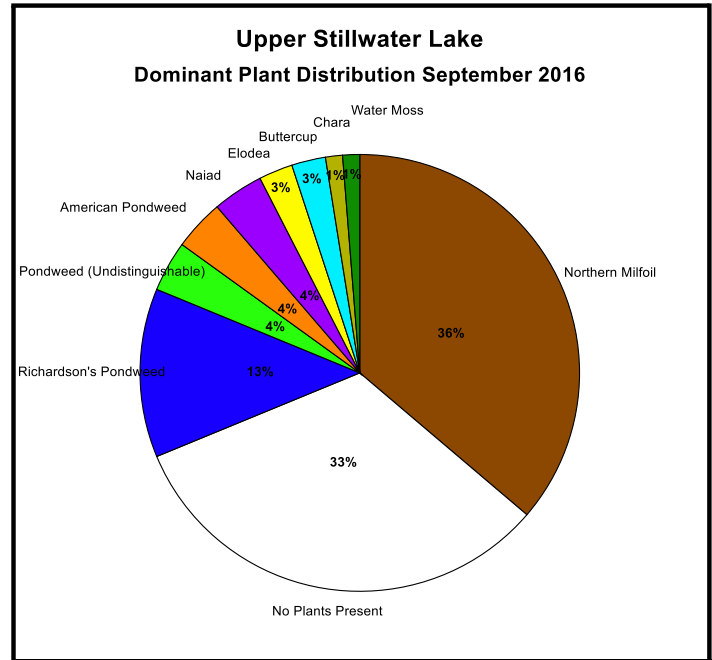
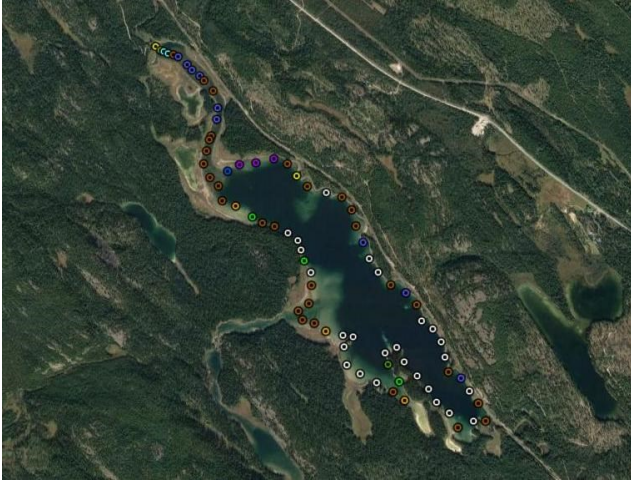
LAKE METRICS SUMMARY AND SCORES

Metric	Score	Description
Cold-water fish habitat	High	Temperature and oxygen profiles show that Upper Stillwater Lake was weakly stratified during summer sampling dates. Summer temperature and dissolved oxygen levels are below avoidance thresholds for salmonids.
Nutrient Levels	Low	Upper Stillwater Lake often ranks in the middle among large lakes (surface area >500 acres) for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and chlorophyll ( <i>a</i> )
Nutrient Trend	Consistent	No nutrient trend is apparent
Trophic Status	Oligo-trophic	Carlson's Trophic Index trends show Upper Stillwater Lake as consistently Oligotrophic.
Dreissenid Colonization Potential (Calcium)	High	Upper Stillwater Lake's 2010, 2011, and 2016 average calcium concentration was 36.1 mg/L classifying it as a high risk for zebra mussel colonization. The 2012 alkalinity level was reported at 100 mg/L.
Known AIS infestations	None	





A macrophyte survey was conducted on Upper Stillwater Lake on August 25, 2016. A total of 81 sites were surveyed for plants/algae. No EWM was found in the 2016 macrophyte survey, but because northern milfoil is the most dominate plant, it indicates that Upper Stillwater has favorable habitat for EWM. The north side of the lake has dense macrophyte beds, and the channel to get through to the south side of the lake is impassable without some form of self-propulsion. Areas where plants were not observed on the east side of the lake were manly comprised of deep shelves where the water exceeds 20 feet within a few feet of the shoreline



*Upper Stillwater Lake. Photo courtesy WLI.*