

Environmental News

As we head towards summer and the temperature is heating up, a lot of you may be planning trips to the lake. Out of respect for nature and all that it provides we ask that each of you do your part to keep the reservation clean. Everything we as humans do on the land can and often does affect the health and sustainability of the earth, the air and the water. We must remember that we are only but a small part of the bigger cycle or web of life.

Summit Lake lies at the bottom of a large watershed that extends up in to the mountains surrounding the reservation land. A watershed is an area of land that drains water, sediment and dissolved materials to a common receiving body or outlet. The term is not restricted to surface water runoff and includes interactions with sub-surface water.

Basically, a watershed is like a bathtub. The rain falls in the mountains washes over the land into the streams and rivers and eventually into the lake. As the water travels it picks up sediments and materials both good and bad that effect the water quality. As a measure to protect the water quality the tribe adopted Ordinance VII (1997) which prohibits discharge of pollutants into the waters of Summit Lake Indian Reservation. In accordance with this the tribe will no longer allow the use of gasoline powered engines on the lake.

This summer staff will begin the field-work under the Water Quality Management Program. We will be taking water samples from various locations around the reservation, primarily Mahogany Creek and Summit Lake. You may from time to time see staff out in the boat using an engine. Don't be alarmed the engine is electric and runs on batteries, not gasoline. If anyone would like to know more about the Water Quality Management Program and the work Summit Lake is doing to protect the resources please contact the Environmental Department at (775) 623-5151 or stop by and visit us personally. Staff is always open to your suggestions and available to answer your questions.

The SLPT Environmental Department would like to welcome Marshall Huitt as our latest addition. Marshall has spent several summers employed with the SLPT as a fisheries aide. This summer Marshall returns to us in a new capacity, as Environmental Intern. Marshall will be assisting staff implement the Water Quality program and field data collection. We look forward to a productive summer and hope to see you at the lake.