

Procedure for Opening and Closing of the Pleasant Lake Outlet

A permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) to close the outlet at Pleasant Lake when the elevation at Clearwater Lake reaches 992.13'. This is called the "cutoff" elevation.

To determine the level of Clearwater Lake, the CRWD watches the lake level near the dam on Grass Lake because the CRWD can determine the elevation at Clearwater with the data collected at the Grass Lake dam. The water level at the Grass Lake Dam site is monitored continuously from approximately May to October each year. The CRWD uses a device called a pressure transducer which is hooked up to an antenna and this sends data once per hour. There is also a staff gauge (a fancy term for a ruler) attached to the dam which is used to verify that the information received from the transducer is accurate.

In mid-April 2023, CRWD staff found that the levels at the dam were over the cutoff elevation and the outlet was closed. It was reopened May 19, 2023 when lake elevations went below the cutoff elevation. The graph below shows how the water levels evolved this spring.

