

Overview of Interview Process

1. Purpose and intent
2. Methods
3. Findings related to Watershed Restoration Plan goals
 - Protect the Way of Life in Hyde County
 - Reduce flooding
 - Restore water quality

Goal 1: Protect the Way of Life in Hyde County

Interview Process

- Interviewees discussed how the lake matters to Hyde County

“This is heaven on earth. The lake has made it that, there’s no getting around it. The lake is why the people are still here that are here...the lake is what has kept a few of these communities alive one way or the other, either with hunting or fishing or birdwatching.”

Goal 1: Protect the Way of Life in Hyde County

Interview Process

- Interviewees discussed how the lake matters to Hyde County and how it is important for:
 - Economy
 - Ecology
 - Recreation
 - Local Identity

Goal 2: Active Management of Lake Water Level

Interview Process

- Interviewees described how:
 - Lake level depends on weather cycles
 - Recent flooding was worse than what they remembered in the past

“But it stood in the yards the last few years the worst I have seen it since I was a boy. It affects everything we do.”

Goal 2: Active Management of Lake Water Level

Interview Process

- Interviewees described how:
 - Emergent vegetation zone has changed
 - Higher water in the lake provides boating access
 - Drainage is gravity-fed
 - Gate function
 - Canals are filled in with sediment
 - Tides are running higher

“What water level is sufficient, huh? You ask 100 people, you’ll get 100 different answers”

Goal 3: Restore Water Quality

Interview Process

“The only view of the lake is to go across on 94. What I see there, it looks fine. Looks healthy to me....I’ve never been involved or had any issue with the quality of the water in the lake. It’s never been a concern to me. Or been something you hear in the community.”

Goal 3: Restore Water Quality

Interview Process

- Interviewees discussed possible changes in land use and practices in the watershed and wondered how they may be contributing to water quality issues:
 - Increase in waterfowl impoundments near lake
 - More acreage draining to the lake
 - Usage of agricultural chemicals
- Other changed that interviewees noted:
 - Deeper water in the lake
 - Restricted flushing of the lake