

**White Bear Lake Conservation District  
Position Statement  
Ownership and Rights – Dry Lakebed During Low Water Periods**

**Overview**

The White Bear Lake Conservation District's position on ownership and rights to the dry lakebed during low water periods is consistent with the Minnesota DNR. Rights and ownership as described in the DNR's "Pardon Me Myth" publication found at:

[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Pardon\\_Me\\_Myth.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Pardon_Me_Myth.pdf)

**General DNR Guidelines**

- A very general "rule of thumb" is that the shoreline property owner's rights follow the water level up and down.
- The public normally has no right to use the shoreline or dry lake bed unless the adjoining shoreline is already in public ownership
- Landowners cannot fill, grade, build structures and otherwise alter the topography of the dry lakebed. This type of activity is strictly regulated through the DNR Division of Waters permit program

**Facts**

- White Bear Lake is designated as one of 5,480 "meandered" lakes in Minnesota. Reference: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Gazetteer\\_of\\_Meandered\\_Lakes.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Gazetteer_of_Meandered_Lakes.pdf)
- The land inside the "meander line" of the lake has not been assigned to a particular owner
- The lake bed is jointly owned by all of the landowners surrounding the lake

**Summary**

- The public does not have the right to use the dry lakebed area in front of a private lakeshore owner's property
- Private lakeshore owners do not have the right to fill, grade, build structures (including fences, and boundary structures) or alter the dry lakebed