

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor in the 6 December 2012 Republican from Friends of Deep Creek Lake.

The cost of removing sediment from Deep Creek Lake to allow boating in the shallow areas when the lake stage is below elevation 2460 would be very high. And, it would take more than removing sediment to accomplish this because the coves were shallow as soon as the lake was flooded. The work could not be accomplished by dredging. A dredge has to float in order to work. A better way to remove the material would be to lower the lake enough to allow operations in the dry using earthmoving equipment. The coves that are shallow have always been shallow. The usability by boats is a function of water levels.

The amount of water coming into the lake and going out of the lake is the same as it has always been. It is the balance of inflow vs. outflow, known as a water budget, which needs to be studied to afford a fair distribution of this asset. The nature of the recharge of the lake from runoff and groundwater needs to be modeled. Then decisions about how the water is released can be made from the model consistently and fairly.

It is the published opinion by DNR biologists that invasive aquatic species have not supplanted native aquatic species in the lake. The percentage of Eurasian Water Milfoil has not increased in counts made by DNR in 2010, 2011, and 2013. The expanded growth of aquatic plants in general is due to increased nutrient levels and higher water temperatures.

Maryland bought the lake bottom below elevation 2466 containing 4,406 acres in February of 2000 for \$7.8 million. Maryland bought Penelec's residue containing 584 acres for \$9.8 million, both according to the land records. DNR has been managing Deep Creek for many years prior to 2000. The sale of the buydown parcels did not generate anywhere near \$13 million. Because DNR wanted to keep a 25 foot buffer and tributary exclusion, not all of the 584 acres was offered for sale, and not all of the parcels that were offered sold.

The studies that the state is doing are only prudent. There will be unpleasant consequences from making wrong choices. Studies are an essential base for rational planning.

Respectfully submitted,

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