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## LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH SATURDAY JULY 14, 2007

### ***BARR LAKE STATE PARK - Brighton, Colorado***

Denver, June 1 – To draw attention to the value and importance of Colorado's 2,000+ lakes and reservoirs, Colorado will be joining the rest of the nation and proclaiming the month of July as "Lakes Appreciation Month". Thanks to the U.S. EPA and the North American Lake Management Society, the Colorado Lake & Reservoir Management Association (CLRMA) will be teaming up with Colorado State Parks and the Barr Lake & Milton Reservoir Watershed (BMW) Association to celebrate Lakes Appreciation Month at Barr Lake, Colorado's top birding destination. For a list of Lakes Appreciation Month events at Barr Lake and around the state, go to [www.clrma.org](http://www.clrma.org) or [www.barr-milton.org](http://www.barr-milton.org).



Barr Lake State Park

Barr Lake started out in the late 1880's as a get-away destination for Denverites, hence the original name of Oasis Lake. Then the reservoir was doubled in size and renamed Barr Lake in the early 1900's for agricultural purposes and not much has changed since.



Bald Eagle triplets at Barr Lake, 2006

Barr Lake has had a roller coaster ride with water quality over the years. At one point, it had the undesirable honor of being labeled the country's largest in-land sewage lagoon in the 1960's. But thanks to improvements to wastewater treatment technology and better reservoir management, the 'lagoon' once again became an 'Oasis' in just 15 years when it became a state park in 1975.

Now, the BMW Association is actively working on improving the water quality even further and to help educate the 1.5 million residents in the watershed about what it means to live upstream. The ultimate goal is to protect this valuable natural resource so

that following generations can appreciate its beauty.

For **Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**, the focus will be a shoreline clean up. Over 100 volunteers from AmeriCorp have committed to cleaning up trash that washes in from Denver. A **free barbecue lunch** will be provided to all who volunteer. Other **free activities** include face painting, canoe rentals, fishing gear for kids, and the opportunity to learn more about the wildlife refuge and the importance of this reservoir. All the Lake Appreciation Month activities will be based at several booths located at the Nature Center. To sign up to volunteer, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at 303-404-2944 ext. 22.