



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT
Amy Conklin, 303-795-5925
Amy.Conklin@comcast.net

Water Quality Studies Under Way at Barr Lake

BARR LAKE STATE PARK, CO – June 10, 2011 - The Barr-Milton Watershed Association, in cooperation with Barr Lake State Park and the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company, has installed limnocorrals at Barr Lake to study the effect of various treatments on water quality.

High levels of phosphorus that exist in summer months lead to algae blooms and create unpleasant scums and odors as well as high levels of pH in the lake.

The water quality study being undertaken by the Association requires the installation of four limnocorrals in Barr Lake. Limnocorrals isolate tubes of lake water down to the sediments at the lake's bottom – essentially creating “mini-lakes within the lake.” Each thick plastic corral is 9 feet across and 32 feet deep.

Isolating these columns of water within the corrals will allow scientists to compare the effects of treatments, like aeration, on water quality. Steve Lundt, a BMW Board member who has spearheaded the project and designed the limnocorral studies, said studies will be conducted within three of the corrals; the fourth is a control (no treatment).

One of the corrals will study phosphorus removal by adding small amounts of a common drinking water chemical. A permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is required and it is hoped a permit can be received within the next year or two. This summer, Steve and a group of dedicated volunteers will study the effects of aeration on water quality.

Laurie Rink, president of the Association, said the studies this summer follow almost six years of research by the Association into how pH affects Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir. The use of limnocorrals to study the effect of various treatments on water quality have only been tried on Colorado lakes in a few instances, she said, and the findings could have important implications for improving water quality in other lakes in Colorado and other states.

Barr Lake State Park Manager, Michelle Seubert, urged fishermen and boaters to stay away from the limnocorrals. There are no fish in the corrals, she said, and fishermen could lose expensive fishing equipment and damage the corrals if they approach too closely.

Photos of installation of the limnocorrals are available on request from Amy Conklin, 303-795-5925, and will be posted at the Association's website, www.barr-milton.org.