

September 25, 2011

The fall colors have been amazingly vivid this weekend, and with only occasional light breezes, folks have had a wonderful opportunity to soak up the fall colors and sunshine while at their Crystal Lakes properties.

The office received a notice through the Front Range Roundtable which reads, "The Colorado State Forest Service recently issued a news release targeted to recreationalists about the increased risks of falling trees due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. With many dead lodgepole pines standing, foresters are predicting that trees will fall at increasing rates: <http://www.news.colostate.edu/Release/5883>." As you work on your property felling and removing beetle kill trees, please be aware of the ever-present danger that is associated with being in the forest.

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Thanks go out to Bryon Fessler, CL Fishing Board Vice President and volunteer extraordinaire for all the work he has done gathering information for the Joint Boards and preparing detailed plans for the upcoming dredging project. Please carefully read Bryon's following notice, dated September 23, 2011:

"At their September meeting, the Joint Boards approved the dredging of three lakes/ponds within Crystal Lakes starting in October. Over 11,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from these locations. Excessive sedimentation causes elevated levels of algae and aquatic plants which can lead to the reduction of the availability of dissolved oxygen, resulting in harm to fish and aquatic habitat. Broad, shallow zones in lakes and ponds cause warming, which then increase temperatures outside of preferred ranges resulting in the mortality of aquatic organisms and fish.

"The Joint Board and the Fishing Board have partnered with an independent contractor to dredge three locations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of issuing the necessary permits. Additional coordination has been completed with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (FEMA), Larimer County Engineering, NPDES Program Office, and the State Engineer. Permits will be posted near each of the following locations and copies will be made available in the office.

"Crystal Lakes (Panhandle Reservoir). We will remove an estimated 4,000 cubic yards of sediment from the west end of the lake (Panhandle Creek inlet and boat ramp area) and transport the sediment to the east end of Crystal Lake, below the dam. The route of the dump trucks will be from the west end of Crystal Lake to Nowata Drive to Swift Deer Road to the area below the dam, and then return will be on Ottawa Way (North). As a result, both the west end of Crystal Lakes and Snoopy Pond will be closed from approximately October 3, to October 7.

"Catawba Pond. We will remove an estimated 5,000 cubic yards of sediment from Catawba Pond and transport the sediment to the east end of Crystal Lake, below the dam. The route of the dump trucks will be from Mobile Way at Catawba Pond to Nowata

Drive to Swift Deer Road to the area below the dam. The return will be on Ottawa Way (North). As a result, both Catawba Pond and Snoopy Pond will be closed from approximately October 10, to October 19. Mobile Way in front of Catawba Pond will also be closed during the timeframe for safety reasons. Catawba Pond was drained on September 23, as additional work on the drain culvert will also be performed.

"Beaver Lake. We will remove an estimated 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from Beaver Lake and transport the sediment to an area off Ottawa Way (North) between Beaver Lake and Catawba Pond. The route of the dump trucks will be from Beaver Lake on Tuscarora Way to Ottawa Way (North) and back. As a result, Beaver Lake will be closed from approximately October 24, to October 28. Tuscarora Way in front of Beaver Lake will also be closed during this timeframe for safety reasons. Beaver Lake will be drained on October 24, as additional work on the drain culvert will also be performed."

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****PAY ATTENTION TO THE CAUTION TAPE AT THE DREDGING SITES, AND POSTED WARNING SIGNS. DO NOT WALK DOWN INTO THE LAKE BEDS AFTER THE WATER LEVEL HAS BEEN LOWERED.**** The silt can be like quicksand until it thoroughly dries, so please Do Not Enter any of the areas that are being drained, or the work sites while the dredging process is underway. Also avoid the culvert openings as that suction is strong enough it could easily pull an adult into the culvert, creating a life-threatening situation.

Bryon was able to move approximately 200 fish from Catawba Pond on downstream through the opened Catawba culvert. I've heard of how difficult it is to herd cats, but can't even begin to imagine how hard it is to herd trout! Doesn't that bring an immediate picture to mind? Thanks, Bryon for all your hard work on this project, and for the smile thinking about your most recent occupational description brings – you may be known as Trout Herder from now on. In our next group email maybe Bryon will share his experience with the group email readers about the irate beaver and its temporarily successful efforts to re-close the Catawba culvert.

I'll keep you posted,
Jody