

Sperger\_Raymond2004.txt

Subject:  
impacts of scuba diving on a small lake  
From:  
"Raymond Sperger" <ersperger@msn.com>  
Date:  
Thu, 30 Sep 2004 00:13:48 -0600  
To:  
limnes

Dear Mr. Mandaville,

My name is Ray Sperger and I am a Resource Specialist in Colorado. I found your name on a Aquatic Restoration website and wanted to know if you had any information on how public SCUBA diving might impact the water quality and aquatic life in a 7 acre lake. It is my responsibility to try to balance recreational use and natural resource conservation of a 675 acre park. The park and this lake is a part of a former gravel pit (mining completed in the late 70's), but has been reclaimed and restored to a wildlife refuge/open space park/natural area. Recreation is supposed to be within the limits of the resource. A group has requested to open this lake to SCUBA diving and claiming that no harm will be done to the lake water quality or to the aquatic resources. Currently, there is no swimming or boating allowed on the lake because the park's status as a wildlife refuge.

Lake Info.

Location - 15 miles upstream of Downtown Denver in Littleton CO, Arapahoe Co.

Elevation - 5350 feet

Depth - 35 feet at deepest point, but generally about 20-25 feet

Water source - alluvial ground water from the south Platte River, no tributaries

Banks - 3 to 1 to 4:1 slopes, native willows, cottonwoods, and wetland vegetation around the edges.

Aquatic Life - good populations of crayfish, large and small mouth bass, Green sunfish, bluegill, perch, catfish, other warm water fishes, rainbow trout, many copepods, daphnia, side swimmers, and many other aquatic invertebrates. Moderate development of aquatic plants.

Fishing - fished moderately by local fisherman that have some impact on the bank vegetation. Fisherman are somewhat successful in catching fish. Only one bass over 15 inches is bag limit.

Wildlife - used by a variety of birds including wintering and migrating ducks and geese, foraging great blue herons, and has supported a beaver family for over 15 years.

Do you have thoughts, opinions, or research evidence that states what impacts, if any, SCUBA diving would have on this type of an aquatic system?

Please call or e-mail me if you have time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raymond H. Sperger  
Resource Specialist, South Platte Park  
303-730-1022 ext. 12