

Rampart Reservoir – Zebra and Quagga Mussels Overview

Background

- ◆ Approximately 70% of Colorado Springs' drinking water passes through Colorado Springs Utilities-owned Rampart Reservoir.
- ◆ Rampart Reservoir is a vital part of Springs Utilities' water supply and storage system.
- ◆ Since Rampart Reservoir is such a critical element to Colorado Springs' water supply, Springs Utilities has decided to proactively protect this reservoir by reducing the risk of an infestation of zebra and quagga mussels.
- ◆ Zebra and quagga mussels are most commonly spread from one body of water to another in the bilges, wet wells and on the hulls of boats that have been in infested water.
- ◆ While zebra or quagga mussels have not been found in Colorado Springs Utilities-owned reservoirs, in 2008, they were confirmed in eight Colorado reservoirs to include:
 - Pueblo Reservoir, zebra and quagga
 - Lake Granby, quagga
 - Grand Lake, zebra and quagga
 - Willow Creek Reservoir, quagga
 - Shadow Mountain Reservoir, quagga
 - Tarryall Reservoir, quagga
 - Jumbo Reservoir, quagga
- ◆ Zebra and quagga mussels can spread rapidly and can have detrimental impacts on water quality (taste and odor), fishery resources, and result in costly operational challenges by clogging up water system inlets, pipes and pumps.

Boating restrictions at Rampart Reservoir

To protect Colorado Springs' drinking water and to insulate customers from costly repairs, we are partnering with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the US Forest Service to implement a watercraft inspection program to allow the use of motorized-trailored boats.

- ◆ Beginning May 15, 2009, all motorized-trailored boats launching from the Rampart Reservoir boat ramp will be inspected prior to entering the reservoir. To expedite the inspection process, boaters should adhere to the “Clean, Drain, and Dry” protocols as recommended by the Division of Wildlife.
- ◆ Motorized-trailored boats will only be allowed on Rampart Reservoir Thursday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.
- ◆ Non-motorized boats and boats not requiring a trailer, such as kayaks, canoes and float tubes, **are permitted** at Rampart Reservoir.
- ◆ We apologize for the inconvenience that this temporary restriction has on boaters.
- ◆ All other forms of recreation previously allowed at Rampart Reservoir, including fishing, are permitted.

Zebra and Quagga Mussels

- ◆ The zebra and quagga mussels are a small mollusk (zebra mussels are generally about the size of a fingernail) that have the unique ability to attach to structures under water such as outlet pipes, docked boats, and can encrust entire shorelines.
- ◆ Zebra mussels can spread rapidly – a female zebra mussel is one of the most reproductive organisms in the world. It can produce between 30,000 and 40,000 eggs per reproductive cycle, and can several reproductive cycles per year under optimal habitat conditions.
- ◆ Zebra and quagga mussels can grow so densely (700,000 mussels per cubic meter) that they can clog water intakes, block pipelines, and foul water treatment facilities. The operational costs introduced by a zebra and quagga mussel infestation can be extremely costly to water providers and their customers.
- ◆ Zebra and quagga mussels also affect water quality resulting in taste and odor issues in finished drinking water supplies.
- ◆ In infested waters, zebra and quagga mussels impact beach recreation with their sharp shells and unpleasant odor.
- ◆ Zebra mussels are native to Russia. They were first detected in the United States in 1988 in the Great Lakes region. They are considered an invasive species in the United States, and have cost the water and electric industry billions of dollars for repairs and control measures.