

Charter for the Standley Lake Boating Taskforce

Vision

“Standley Lake Regional Park and Wildlife Refuge is the principal water supply for more than 300,000 residents of Northglenn, Thornton, and Westminster, it provides critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife and vegetation including threatened and endangered species, as well as being a premier recreational destination.”

Purpose

The Standley Lake Boating Taskforce (SLBT) will evaluate options for restoring trailered boats to the lake without compromising the quality of the water.

Objective

The primary objective of the SLBT is to work collaboratively to address issues of concern (primarily zebra and quagga mussels (ZQM)), associated with the trailered boat program at Standley Lake.; resulting in a broader support for decisions involving trailered boats and water quality.

1. Identify possible solutions that meet the request to continue trailer boating on Standley Lake while also protecting water quality.
2. Fully vet each possible solution to identify any possible shortfall in the proposed system including identification of ways that the system could be circumvented or ways that a technical issue might result in accidental exposure of the lake to ZQM.
3. Identify solutions to address identified shortfalls.
4. Understand and evaluate operational and cost issues that could result from each proposed program.
5. Understand and evaluate implementation issues that could result from proposed program.

Points of Agreement

1. Standley Lake provides drinking water to three cities and over 300,000 patrons. The City of Westminster is solely responsible for any impacts to the water quality of Standley Lake created by recreation. Water quality as a drinking water supply is the most important function of Standley Lake.
2. Trailered boating was immediately and indefinitely ended solely due to the threat of ZQM and no other reason.
3. The Standley Lake trailered boating program provides the greatest threat of ZQM to Standley Lake as compared to any other water-based recreation program or natural vector.
4. All SLBT members are expected to proactively engage in a collaborative manner to research, review and recommend solutions to restore trailered boating at Standley Lake without compromising water quality.

5. A timeframe to restore trailered boating at Standley Lake remains undetermined and is conditioned on the identification of an option that is appropriately protective of water quality.
6. The decision-making authority on the future of trailered boating at Standley Lake is the Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries. The SLBT's primary purpose is to provide recommendations to the PRL Director for consideration. The PRL Director may ask for additional research or information to be developed by the SLBT for any recommendation.
7. The Standley Lake Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program is independent from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife ANS Program and they operate with different standards.

Group Membership

The Standley Lake Boating Taskforce is a collaborative group that has no direct decision-making authority.

Working group membership will include a balanced group of stakeholders with interest in the future of Standley Lake.

Meeting attendance is required to serve on this taskforce.

Meetings will be recorded (audio) and shared with the public online. Meeting minutes and related material will be shared with the public online.

Additional Participants: To help ensure effective meetings and clarity about who participates in decision points, the membership of the SLBT is limited, however, subject matter experts in the areas of water-based recreation, water quality, Standley Lake operations and related areas will attend meetings to inform or expand their discussions and understanding. These additional participants will be limited and delegated by the PRL Director or PWU Director and will not be expected to provide final recommendations on the future of trailered boating at Standley Lake.

Goal of Consensus: The SLBT will be an advisory body rather than a decision-making body. Consensus will be the goal for recommendations. When seeking consensus, each member will be asked if they concur with the proposed recommendation. When consensus cannot be reached, the points of non-consensus will be documented along with the points of consensus.

Operating Principles

The following operating principles provide guidance on how the SLBT functions:

Conduct

- Operate in an open and inclusive manner that includes respectful listening and reflection, honest brokering of ideas, and constructive analysis with the overarching objectives of the SLBT in mind.
- Understand that members are hard on issues, not on each other.
- Ensure that all members have the opportunity to share perspectives.

- Remain flexible and open-minded

Meetings

- Meetings will occur on a regular basis
- Meetings will have established agendas which the group will follow closely to ensure all topics are covered
- Meetings will have a start and end time, and agendas will be followed closely to be respectful of everyone's schedule.
- Meeting notes will be shared with attendees within two weeks following each meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Members:

- Provide specific expertise and input based on their perspective and the interests they represent.
- Maintain focus on solutions that support the charter of the SLBT.
- Attend all meetings and be prepared to provide respectful participation on each topic.

Failure to adhere to the SLBT Memorandum of Understanding will result in removal from the taskforce by the authority of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries.