Milton Reservoir Water Quality Report

October 9, 2018

Water Summary

Milton Reservoir is sampled twice a month between March and October and monthly between November and February. The Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association coordinates all of the efforts to monitor, test, and improve the water quality in Milton. Regular lake sampling started in 2002 and will continue into the future. It is important to closely monitor water quality to observe any major changes that would impact wildlife, lake users, or downstream water users.

October – A few days of cooler weather in early October has lowered the water temperature by 14 ^{0}F. This cloudy, cooler weather is keeping the algae growth down. Total phosphorus has also decreased in September after the increase during June and July. The 2018 phosphorus average to date is 201 µg/L. This could be the lowest annual average for the past 16 years if TP doesn't change much for the rest of the year. As a reminder, the TMDL goal for total phosphorus is to stay below 100 µg/L, and the state standard in the near future may be 83 µg/L as a growing season (July-September) average. 2018 has shown major reductions in phosphorus due to less winter time diversions from the S. Platte River.

Water Quality Stats (as of 10-09-18)

Maximum Depth: 14.4 feet (dam outlet)

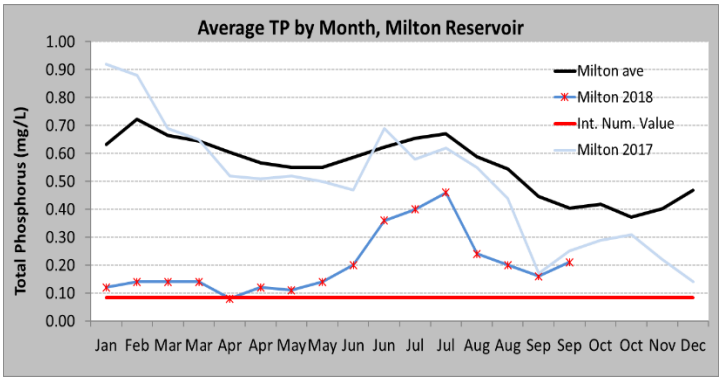
Water Temperature: 50.7^0 F (taken 3 feet below surface)

Water Clarity: 2.5 feet (≥ 3 feet is good)

Dissolved Oxygen: 68.3% (>80% is good)

pH: 7.98 (between 6 and 9 is good)

Chlorophyll-a: <20 ppb (How green, ≤ 25 is good)



Be algae aware. Summer is the time when blue-green algae like to grow. They are the only algae that can float to the surface and form harmful scums. Be algae aware and avoid contact with the scum.

H2O ONLY
KEEPITCLEAN

Watershed News

BMW is participating in a watershed workgroup organized by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to look at the impacts of adding phosphorus to Denver Water's drinking water system. Adding phosphorus helps to reduce lead in drinking water. But, the added phosphorus can aggravate the problem of downstream algae blooms.

Join BMW Association

BARR LAKE AND MILTON RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION

The BMW Association's mission is to improve the water quality by encouraging cooperation, involvement, and awareness with people living near and upstream of Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir.

You can learn more about the lakes and what is going on in the watershed by going to www.barr-milton.org.

Contact Amy Conklin, watershed coordinator, at amy.conklin@comcast.net or 303-795-5925.

Cooperation, Involvement, and Awareness