

ANRA News

Serving Colorado's Great Lakes Region

2013 Edition

USDA Forest Service

Volume 13

Welcome to the ANRA

Thank you for your interest in the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA).

Your fees allow us to care for this special recreation area, from maintaining bath-



Dan Matthews
ANRA manager

rooms and picking up litter, to repairing signs, cutting hazard trees and emptying dumpsters.

The fees also enable us to operate our lake management program, which places and moves the hazard buoys as necessary throughout the year. This program also maintains the boat launches and docks, removes floating debris, conducts safety and security patrols by boat and removes aquatic weeds from Shadow Mountain Reservoir.

In 2012, the ANRA used fees to help plant 270 trees at Cutthroat Bay Campground on National Public Lands Day and to improve signage across the recreation area.

Thank for your support and enjoy your journeys into Colorado's Great Lakes Region!

Dan Matthews

Lake Granby marks Colorado birthplace for Kokanee

By Jon Ewert
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

If you've ever hiked on the trails in the area of Shadow Mountain Dam, you may have noticed a small cinder-block house immediately below the dam. This is the "spawn shack" where Colorado Parks and Wildlife crews have collected kokanee salmon eggs every fall for decades.



Biologists use seine nets to collect female Kokanee salmon below Shadow Mountain Dam. Photo Courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Kokanee, which are the land-locked form of sockeye salmon, were first brought to Colorado when they were introduced to Lake Granby shortly after it was built in 1951. The first kokanee stocked in Granby originated from Flathead Lake in Montana. While these fish are not native to the state, they are an ideal species for Colorado's highly fluctuating coldwater reservoirs.

Unlike natural lakes, reservoirs such as Granby lack a productive "littoral zone" – the shallow areas which support rooted vegetation and provide most of the productivity which anchors the food web. Because water supply reservoirs fluctuate so widely, a stable littoral zone never becomes established. Instead, our reservoirs produce

large quantities of zooplankton – microscopic animals which live and feed in the open water. Kokanee are an ideal sport fish in this situation because they are open-water filter feeders that make their living directly from consuming zooplankton, yet are vulnerable to common methods of recreational angling.

(Continued on page 3)

ARP Foundation raises funds for Point Park improvements

By Lindsey Middendorf
ARP Foundation Program Coordinator

The Arapaho Roosevelt Pawnee Foundation (ARP Foundation) has had a successful year raising funds for the improvement of Point Park in the Arapaho National Recreation Area in the Town of Grand Lake. Point Park is a heavily-used recreation area located on the shores of Grand Lake and dear to the hearts of the Grand Lake community. It is a popular area enjoyed by both locals and tourists due to its proximity to town and beautiful natural setting, offering access to fishing, walking, and

picnicking, and providing some of the county's only handicap accessible fishing.

In 2009, all of the mature trees in the park were removed after being devastated by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. After the tree removal, the community and Town of Grand Lake invested time and money in the improvement of the park through a successful community tree-planting effort in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

(Continued on page 2)



A raft of 60 eared grebes was seen floating on Lake Granby during 2012 spring migration. The eared grebe is one of four grebe species that make Colorado home.

Did you know?

The Arapaho Roosevelt Pawnee Foundation is a 501 c3 organization established to help support projects on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. For more information please visit: www.arp-foundation.org.



The AA Bar Barn is available for special occasions. The Barn is located on Green Ridge and borders the Colorado River. This beautiful location can be rented during the summer on a day-use only basis for \$100 per day. For more information and reservations call 970-887-4100.

Sulphur's Adventure Backpack Program expands in 2012

Young explorers can take their outings to a new level through Sulphur Ranger District's Adventure Backpack Program. The program is designed to provide children ages 2-12 with the tools to follow their curiosity and discover nature.

Each backpack includes maps, nature guides, a storybook, a sketch pad and pencils, a collection box to store nature's little treasures, a small net for catching bugs and other curiosities, binoculars, a ruler, a compass and a thermometer.

"This was the best thing I have done so far in Colorado."

-Adventure Backpack Program Participant

There are no booklets to fill out, no questions to answer and no scavenger hunts to complete. Children are encouraged to investigate



An entry from the shared Adventure Backpack sketchbook.

whatever catches their curiosity as they spend the day with their family in the Arapaho National Forest and Arapaho National Recreation Area.

Use of the backpacks is free, parents are only required to leave their contact information when checking out the packs. In its second season, more than 130 families checked out one of 12 backpacks from visitors' centers in Winter Park, Meadow Creek, Monarch Lake

and the Sulphur Ranger District Office in Granby.

Grand County Wilderness Group joined the program as a partner this year, providing funding to upgrading equipment and restock packs.

Sponsorship and pack adoption opportunities are available.

To find out more about the Adventure Backpack Program and backpack pickup locations, contact 970-887-4100.

➤ Point Park

(Continued from page 1)

To complete the improvement of the park, the U.S. Forest Service requested funds from the ARP Foundation to repave the deteriorated walkway and purchase benches and interpretive signs. The ARP Foundation committed to raising funds for the completion of the park improvement in 2013.

In 2012, the ARP Foundation raised a total of \$24,100 for the park, including \$13,400 in grants from the foundation. ARP Foundation Board of Di-

rectors member Dan Nolan, along with Grand Lake community member Barbara Leutwiler, embarked on a successful community fundraising effort that raised the remaining \$10,700 in funds from individual donors and the Town of Grand Lake.

A portion of these funds have been used to purchase 10 benches with recognition plaques that will be placed throughout the park. Another portion of the funds will be used to purchase interpretive signs that will tell the story of the park's history and thank the community for their efforts in

helping improve the park. Remaining funds will be used towards repaving the walkway in order to make the entire park wheelchair accessible and improve accessibility for the general public.

Using funds collected through the ANRA fee program, the U.S. Forest Service will pay for construction supplies, interpretive planning and design, and coordination of the sign and bench installation, which will be completed with volunteer help when the walkway is repaved in the early summer of 2013.

► Kokanee

(Continued from page 1)

At the same time, the kokanee in Granby provide the forage base to support a trophy lake trout fishery. These trout can grow in excess of 30 pounds and are the top-level predator in the lake. Granby has historically produced multiple state records of this species. Lake trout would not grow to this size in Granby without the kokanee forage base.

Kokanee do not reproduce successfully in our waters. They migrate out of Lake Granby every fall, up the Colorado River to attempt to spawn, and are stopped by Shadow Mountain dam. During this spawning migration, crews collect fish as they arrive, manually spawn the fish and fertilize the eggs at the

spawn shack, and transport them to the Glenwood Springs state fish hatchery. After approximately six months in the hatchery, the 1.5 inch kokanee fry are stocked back into the Colorado River at the same location. From there, they work their way downriver into Lake Granby where they grow into adults and complete their life cycle. One million kokanee are stocked every June.

In order for the Granby kokanee population to sustain itself, a minimum of approximately 2,000 mature females need to return to the spawn shack every year, a 0.2 percent return rate of the stocked fish.

Historically, there have been times in which Granby has singlehandedly provided all the

kokanee eggs needed for the entire state. In 1983 Granby set an all-time record in producing 16 million eggs.

The 2012 spawn season was a relatively poor year. Just over 900,000 eggs were collected. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fisheries Biologist Jon Ewert is optimistic that this represents a low point in the current cycle and 2013 will see an uptick in kokanee numbers.

The spawn operation takes place Mondays and Thursdays, typically beginning in the first week of November and concluding during the first week of December. The public is always welcome, and the spawned fish are given away to the public at the end of each spawn day to people with a current fishing license.



The ANRA has been cooperating with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife to prevent Aquatic Nuisance Species from being spread or introduced into Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Reservoir. For the fourth year in a row, surveys to detect the presence of quagga and zebra mussels in these lakes came up negative. This cooperative effort will continue in 2013.

Fun Facts

Kokanee turn reddish in color and males develop a “hook jaw” during the fall spawning season. Like their cousins the salmon, kokanee die after spawning.

Hazard tree mitigation continues along roads and trails

In 2013, the U.S. Forest Service will improve public safety by cutting dead and dying trees along several high priority roads in the ANRA: Arapaho Bay Road (CR 6), which serves numerous campgrounds and trails in the ANRA; and Meadow Creek Road, (CR 84), which services the Junco Lake Cabin and several trailheads. Anticipate delays of up to 30 minutes in both directions while this work is underway.



Hazard tree work is occurring year-round across the Sulphur Ranger District over the next few years and some roads and trails may be temporarily closed when work is in progress. To avoid disappointment, be sure to “Know Before You Go.”

The best way to get the most current information is to sign up for email updates at SRDupdates@fs.fed.us or call the information hotline during regular business hours at 970-887-

4100. Updates also are available online at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/sulphurupdates and through Twitter at www.twitter.com/usfsarp.

In 2012, crews completed hazard tree work along Doe Creek Trail, Doe Creek East and portions of Doe Creek West. Hazard tree removal was also completed on Arapaho Pass Trail and Cascade Creek Trail to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Boundary.

There are other trails that crews have not been able to work on, including the Knight Ridge Trail, which experienced significant wind throw and has thousands of trees laying across or hanging over the trail. These trails are signed as “not currently maintained.”

Even on trails where work has occurred, trees can fall without warning. Use caution, particularly in dense stands of dead trees and on windy days.



On National Public Lands Day 2012, volunteers planted 270 seedlings at Cutthroat Bay Campground, an area that was impacted by the mountain pine beetle, and picked up trash along the shore of Lake Granby. Mark your calendars to participate in the next NPLD on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013.

WORK YOUR PASS OFF

What: Help collect trash along the ANRA shoreline, boat launch and picnic areas.

When: 8 a.m. to noon
Saturday, May 18, 2013

Where: Meet at the Green Ridge or Sunset boat ramps.

Why: Earn a free ANRA annual pass for each adult volunteer.

Call 970-887-4100 for more information or visit our website: www.fs.usda.gov/arp.



U.S. Forest Service

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Visitor Center Hours

Winter: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Closed Holidays
Summer: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Open Sat.-Sun. and Holidays
from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

GO GREEN: Sign up for the E-edition of next year's newsletter. Send your full name and email address to srdupdates@fs.fed.us with the subject line ANRA News.

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Serving Colorado's Great Lakes Region



Monarch Lake Day for fifth graders is one of several education days hosted for local school children in the ANRA each year. Point Park is also the site of a multi-agency education day for second graders.

Adopt a nest or fishing line collection station

Following a very difficult nesting season in 2011, ospreys enjoyed a long summer season, starting with an early spring ice-off on the lakes. Seven new osprey nests were found this year along Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Lake and also within the Town of Grand Lake for a total of 50 active nests. Of those, 32 nests were successful, fledging 64 chicks. One bald eagle nest was active this summer, fledging two chicks.

The great blue heron rookery on Lake Granby continued to be active this year with 17 nests, and a new rookery was discovered in the Fraser Valley.

With Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. and Western Area Power Administration, the U.S. Forest Service was able to install three new nest platforms designed to move nesting ospreys away from dangerous structures: one near Grand Elk Marina on a transmission line structure, one along the Arapaho Bay Road on a distribution line structure, and one at the Farr Pumping Plant where ospreys built a nest in the lattice-work of the electrical substation.

Despite installation of monofilament collection stations in many locations around the ANRA, one chick was lost to entanglement in fishing line within its nest just south of the dike near Quinette Point. Mountain Parks Electric Inc. employees cleared all fishing line from the nest during fall 2012 to prevent future entanglements.

"We are indebted to the many volunteers, neighbors and visitors who call to report osprey activities, new nests, and to report injured birds," said U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Doreen Sumerlin. "We also greatly appreciate our partners: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. and Western Area Power Administration."

Volunteers can adopt osprey nests; observing and recording observations and letting us know if they see problems. If you are interested in adopting an osprey nest from April/May through September to help the district keep track of what's going on, or if you would like to adopt one of the monofilament collection bins, call Brock McCormick at 970-887-4108.