

Grand Lake, Outstanding Waters

Criteria 3: Need for Additional Protection

Timeline

- **September 6, 1933:** BOCC Resolution- "We the said board of county commissioners of Grand County Colorado do hereby place ourselves record as absolutely opposed to any further diversion of water from the Colorado River and its tributaries"
- **March 3, 1937:** BOCC Resolution- "By the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Grand, state of Colorado that this board unequivocally opposes the diversion of the waters of Grand Lake and the evils incident thereto"
- **June 15, 1937:** Senate Doc. 80- Article 2 states "To preserve the fishing and recreational facilities and the scenic attractions of Grand Lake, the Colorado River, and the Rocky Mountain National Park"
- **Feb. 8, 1954:** D. Campbell Et Al. to area residents- "In Senate Document 80 it is very definitely stated that when the project was completed it would retain the natural beauty of Grand Lake and in fact improve it. This is a point on which we have a very definite complaint, and we are sure that you agree on this"
- **March 11, 1954:** R. Coon to Bureau-"The businessmen in Grand Lake depend upon the tourists, vacationists from Denver and other Colorado towns and the summer residents for their livelihood. They will not be able to retain this business if Grand Lake loses its attraction, such as happened last summer when the lake was completely covered over with a dark green, slimy and odoriferous scum" and "therefore look to the Bureau of Reclamation to preserve the scenic beauty and natural attractions of Grand Lake as agreed and set forth in Senate Document No. 80 of the 75th Congress"
- **1954:** Bureau responds- "We assure you that we are very much concerned with this problem, and there is no intention on the part of the Bureau of Reclamation to shirk its duties or responsibilities." No plan is implemented.
- **Timeline Continued...**
- **1968:** Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park requests the assistance of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (now the USEPA) to determine the measures necessary to prevent the pollution of Grand Lake.

- **1976:** 208 Plan adopted- pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act as implemented through Colorado Water Quality Control Act "to protect, maintain, and improve where necessary and reasonable, water quality for public water supplies, for protection and propagation of wildlife and aquatic life, for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses" (CRS 25-8-102).
- **2006:** Algal bloom causes health alert on the lake.
- **2008:** Clarity workgroup formed. NWCCOG proposed site specific clarity standard to WQCC: Numerical and Narrative Standard (the current standard)- "The highest level of clarity attainable, consistent with the exercise of established water rights and the protection of aquatic life"
- **2009:** WQCC "Grand Lake adjoins and complements Rocky Mountain National Park in the headwaters of the Colorado River and its social and economic importance is worthy of protection." CCR 1002-33.44(Q).
- **2014:** Federal Lands Livability Initiative states Grand Lake is of great recreational significance in their livability assessment as the WQCC further delays a numerical standard for clarity.
- **2016:** Clarity MOU established- "The clarity goals are a 3.8 meter average and a 2.5 meter minimum for the July through September 11 period" (NCWCD, p.3). These goals have not been achieved.