

Questions From Friends of Deep Creek Lake and Answers from DNR

1. Is the date for start of the dye application fixed for April 26th? Or could this vary depending on weather, wind conditions? And, when will the study be completed? Is May 24 a fixed date or could it change?

Weather has the possibility to change the dates, but it is unlikely to do so due to the timely need of the data. It is anticipated that the dye will be placed in the water on April 28th and the bulk of the study will be complete by May 2nd.

2. You state that bright colored floats/bouys will be placed in the study area—when will this be? How will folks be notified? At this time of year, property owners usually come up for a week-end to “open” the cottage, get their dock in the water and retrieve their boats from the marinas.

The buoys will likely be placed on Sunday, April 27th and Monday, April 28th. They will be removed by Friday, May 2nd.

3. How will property owners in the impacted zone from The Reserve/ Western Shore of Turkey Neck southward down the Deep Creek Channel be notified of this study?

Multiple press releases have gone out, and the information has been distributed to the various community groups in the area. Additionally, the rental companies and local businesses have been notified. Lake management is also trying to notify those with adjacent property directly.

4. Is there is a special phone number lake property owners and users can call for information or should they call the Lake Management Office at 301.387.4111?

No special number is established.

5. We need specific direction on the meaning of: “DNR asks that during the study lake users avoid the buoyed cove areas”. What instructions do you have for those of us who are in the impacted coves? Are we allowed to use our boats? Put in our docks?

It would be helpful if people do not drive their boats through the buoyed area. Other than that, business as usual should be the plan.

6. The Flying Scot Boat Company is based at Hickory Ridge Cove. During this period they are extremely busy launching boats they have stored over the winter into the lake and place them on moorings in the cove for owners to retrieve. Has there been communication with this company about potential impacts on their business?

No because there should be no impact.

7. The Deep Creek Lake Yacht Club appears in an impacted area, defined in one map as HV7 and the other as DC3. They have scheduled to have their dock “push” on the week-end of May 3-4. Have they been contacted about the red dye application? DCYC is the other permitted launch ramp at the lake.

We are not conducting the study in that cove, and at that time, the bulk of the study will be over; however, the cove water may have a slight pink color.

8. Lee Karrh has repeated reported problems with his “diver down” flags. These are unusual at DCL and folks tend to be attracted to them, not avoid them. What will you be doing to encourage appropriate avoidance behavior?

First, this is being performed during the week. In our experience that means very limited people on the lake at this time of year. Second, we are using cheap buoys (cut up swim noodles) so no one should be too interested in them.

9. The DNR press release talks about the coves but many of the sites indicated on the maps we assume are targets for the red dye study are along the channel shoreline. What specific instructions do you have for these property owners?

None. Do what you normally would do.

10. The property owners are clearly not the only ones who enjoy this section of the lake. This time of the year we see a lot of fisherman and assume they are off-lake boats for the most part, as well as folks touring the lake as a beginning of the 2014 boating season.

How will DNR reach out to the large lake community and boat rental companies?

Will DNR have full time launch stewards at the State Park and DCYC launch ramps to request they avoid the areas being treated?

We want to simulate the conditions of the lake as it will be when the herbicide treatment is applied in late May. That means boats. Our desire is for the buoys not to get run over or moved so we can perform a meaningful and safe study.

A public notice will be at the launch ramp. The launch stewards will not be in place for the dye study.

11. If the weather warms up, the Deep Creek Channel is a focus for the water ski/tubing/wake boarding enthusiast. Clearly the large wakes associated with these sports will really “stir up” the lake. How will notice be given to them to stop or move elsewhere?

See #10.

12. Marina companies and free-lance businesses are installing docks now. Given cold weather and lingering ice, they are behind their schedule and under a lot of pressure. Some docks are put in from the land, and others from the water. Can docks be launched during the time the bouys are in place?

Docks can be deployed/launched during the dye study. We request they do not run over the buoys.

13. Several property owners have asked whether the dye will in any way color their boats?

No.

14. Several property owners have asked whether DNR will be providing an adjustment of the buffer strip permit fee due to the closings during this study and then closing for application of herbicides.

There are no closings for this study.

15. Outreach to the rental companies. The impact area does have some rental properties, not as dense as elsewhere in the lake. Have these companies been informed of the red dye study? Many times renters will rent a boat for a day or two while they are at the lake.

Yes. The rental companies have notified by DNR Park staff.