

From: [Rich Landers](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Comment on SEPA No. 15031
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 7:56:59 AM

Please accept this comment and recommendation regarding access to Z Lake in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area as addressed in the draft management plan.

I oppose special disabled angler drive-in access to the lake for several reasons:

--Z Lake offers a rare opportunity for lowland hike-in fishing, where the angler who wants to go the extra-mile, can be rewarded with solitude or at least very limited competition and a low-key atmosphere. The closest similar opportunities to Spokane for walk-in lake fishing are a few lakes near Potholes Reservoir and the Ancient Lakes area near Quincy. (McDowell Lake is perhaps the closest walk-in opportunity to Spokane, and has a clientele that really likes it that way.)

--Disabled anglers have dozens of opportunities with developed launches and handicapped parking and access for good fishing waters in the Spokane region, including special regulations waters such as Amber, Coffeepot and Medical lakes.

--It's discouraging to people who are required to walk more than a mile into Z Lake and find a vehicle there with several people who drove in.

--Drive-in privileges open the door to potential abuses.

--The duck hunter game enough to pack in some decoys early in the morning is not going to be happy if somebody drives in later in the day. Same with the hikers who trek in to enjoy the solitude and wildlife viewing.

I recognize that some fishing clubs that have asked for the disabled access are the same groups that provide volunteers for maintaining the aerator and other projects.

A potential compromise would be to set up a couple of special work/fishing days for these volunteers. On those designated days, perhaps a limited number of, say, four vehicles would be allowed to enter the area for the work plus some after-work fishing.

Thanks for considering my proposal to eliminate the drive-in option for Z Lake and make it a destination for the walk-in, bike-in angler.

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