

June 14, 2022

Dear Forest Supervisor, State Parks Manager, and Land Trust Director,

We realized that we have overlooked the opportunity to truly explain what Sweetwater Lake means to so many people. This communication shortcoming is totally our fault! This letter is an attempt to solve this missed narrative.

What is the unique Sweetwater Lake experience that we are trying to save? What brings the Wick family up from Eagle every Father's Day for 20 years for a great steak dinner in an out of the way restaurant? What brings the Swartzes, Tenzcas, and a half dozen more Anderson Camp counselors from the 70's, who now live on the front range and all over Colorado, to the lake every summer for a mini-reunion dinner? What brings continuing generations of the Menkel family from Wisconsin to the cabins every fall for over 20 years to go hunting here? What makes the community argue so vehemently for keeping the restaurant, cabins, and barn? What made the town of Gypsum residents willing to vote to donate such funds? Why was the Save the Lake campaign able to raise so much money locally so quickly? What is this open secret about this special area?

The Sweetwater Community is not trying to preserve the lake for ourselves. We want to gift a singular, distinctive experience to others. However, we can't do that if we haven't explained to the decision makers what it is we want to save and share. We don't want to change our area into a Sylvan Lake or Ridgeway State Park. There are many, many parks around the state to give that RV, shore fishing, and picnic encounter. We want to give visitors something different, something exceptional and irreplaceable.

Sweetwater Lake is a step back in time.

It's a quiet rowboat on the lake with Grampa followed by a bison burger lunch.

It's a hike to the Indian Caves with the Girl Scout troop followed by milkshakes made with real ice cream while sprawled under the big shade tree beside the restaurant.

It's a walk along the peaceful lakeshore in the evening, with the full moon reflected in the water and being surprised by a skunk, and running, shrieking and laughing, all the way back to your cabin!

It's a Saturday horse trip that begins by trailering your horses up to the lake the night before, getting permission to put them in a corral overnight, buying hay for them, a quick, early breakfast at the restaurant, and picking up a sack lunch for yourself for a spectacular ride into the wilderness.

It's a weekend family reunion in the log cabin, sitting snuggled together by the stone fireplace with no WiFi nor TV.

It's fly fishing below the outlet, getting your line tangled, giving up, and walking up to the store to buy worms and catch fish the old way!

It's lounging in the restaurant on a cool, early summer afternoon with a couple of close friends, looking through a spotting scope, watching the osprey hatchlings in their nest.

It's a small wedding at the head of an amazing scenic canyon, the unspoiled nature surrounding your guests speaking eloquently of promises and hope.

It's a trail ride through a wildflower pasture on horses that lift their heads to survey the fields instead of plodding nose-to-tail down an overused trail.

It's the local high school track team driving 25 miles to have their annual team banquet in the restaurant.

It's doing nature crafts with your toddlers down by the dock, as they explore their "treasures" in a tin bucket.

It's camping in a tent without RV generators next door, using an outhouse, and watching shooting stars in the clear, dark sky over the lake.

It's a 50th birthday gathering with four generations to boat, fish, and eat a great, catered outdoor luncheon with the honored guest relaxing in a wooden armchair to ref the volleyball game.

It's taking an 18-mile guided horseback ride with a grizzled guide, and losing your cell phone somewhere along the way, but being too exhilarated and sore to worry about it!

It's coming on a spring break trip from Colorado College, renting some cabins with your friends before the snow has even melted, and staying up all night playing board games in front of the fireplace.

It's a quiet canoe glide across the glass top lake, to the opposite silent shore, with a couple of fresh baked cookies from the restaurant in your pocket, when SMACK! a beaver tries to warn you off!

It's laying out in the sun on the dock, with a quick trip up to the store to buy an ice-cold soda.

It's a walk to the overlook with your family visiting from Vermont, followed by quesadillas and homemade salsa in the restaurant while you page through photo albums, sharing the area's history.

It's being a stranger from the big city -- and finding a restaurant at the end of a road -- walking hesitantly in the door -- and being instantly greeted like family!

It feels like coming home to a place you've only dreamt of.

And, of course, it is lounging on a wooden deck, overlooking an incredibly scenic lake, eating delicious homemade pie, and watching your kids sit perfectly still long enough to get the hummingbirds to perch on their fingers.

No amount of hired planners, nor consultant companies, can bring our guests these adventures.

The community thought we raised money to Save the Lake. Now we are told that this only meant the physical environment, not the heart and soul of the lake experience.

The eagle nesting area will rightly be preserved for the raptors. The Indian Cave will deservedly be preserved for the Native Americans' heritage. The wetland habitat will be preserved for the wildlife to safely gather. Yet, the people who have called this place home since their families first homesteaded in the valley, will be forced to give up their nests, their heritage, and their gathering spot. We don't want to give all of this up, we want to bestow it on others (just not all at the same time!).

Is this idea compatible with being a state park? We don't know. Yet it would be an amazing, one-of-a-kind, park experience!

We know these remarkable and priceless events are so out of the ordinary these days, that we want to provide them to new guests in the old restaurant and cabins that the Forest Service now owns.

The Colorado Parks people tell us the restaurant doesn't make enough money to be viable in a state park. Well, a restaurant with a limited menu and distance from distributors will never make a lot of money. But it breaks even. And this personal service; relaxing, slow-paced meals; fresh coffee with conversation; and hand-dipped a la mode ice cream in comfortable, antique surroundings has value beyond money.

The complete Sweetwater Lake encounter includes the amazing scenery, but it is more than that. It includes friendly people, historic cabins, scenic horseback rides, and a restaurant experience that has been welcoming guests for over a century.

Sincerely,

The Greater Sweetwater Community

Representing over 30 states and three countries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town and State of Residence</u>	<u>Favorite Memory*</u>
Aaron Gaitan	Provo, UT	Rustic freedom I enjoy almost every year with friends who have a cabin near there
Abbey Stump	Gypsum, CO	I was born Glenwood Spring raised up Sweetwater! My childhood was a fairytale childhood for sure!
Adam Gratrix	Castle Rock, CO	The beauty and serenity is unparalleled, these attributes are hard to find these days.
Addie Pecord	Edwards, CO	Dinner with my amazing husband at the lake
Adeline Watkins	Blackfoot, ID (Eagle, CO born/raised)	I spent years working at Sweetwater Lake; I can pack an elk on a horse out of the high country, fold a fitted sheet and make pie crust pinwheel cookies from scratch all in one day. Sweetwater is where I call home; it's a feeling not just a place!
Adrienne Brink	Gypsum, CO	In 1969 I came off of a 10 day pack trip that had been very warm, to come down to the restaurant for the best chocolate shake I ever had in my life!
Alan Hood	Sweetwater, CO	
Alayna Wade	Edwards, CO	My favorite memory is the first time I saw it at dusk.
Alesha Nadeau	Grand Junction, CO	Girl scout camp & many weekends with special friends!
Alex Longacre	Yuma, AZ	
Alexandra Bratschie	Eagle, CO	
Alison Prine	Burlington, VT	
Amanda Nagel	Avon, CO	My grandparents bringing my brother and I to dinner at Sweetwater, and my parents having their rehearsal dinner there before their wedding.
Amy Thorland	Thompson, IA	Sweetwater is filled with unspoiled beauty with a strong sense of community and family values.
Andrea Feldman	Gypsum, CO	The very first time I experienced Sweetwater Lake was 25yrs ago for a friend's wedding... coming from NY I thought I had experienced the best weddings but boy was I surprised... it was the most enchanting weekend and an experience I will never forget.
Andrea Meza	Denver, CO	
Andy Chabot	Columbus, OH	
Angie Suntken	Sweetwater, CO	
Angie Vincent	Sweetwater, CO	
Anna Erickson	Avon, CO	
Annalies	Gypsum, CO	Sitting on the deck looking at the view and hearing stories from years ago.
Anne Klein	Lafayette, CO	I have such fun memories of riding horses from the Girls Camp up to the restaurant at Sweetwater, enjoying company and food and riding back.
Annette Thomas	Wapello, IA	Great place to relax and enjoy the scenery.
Arminda Ryter (Faulkenberg)	Gypsum, CO	

Ashley Page		Hiking and SUP'ing with my daddy and daughter.
Ashley Wilson	Goodyear, AZ (born/raised in Eagle)	The amazing scenery, food and memories are too much to fit in one sentence. I love Sweetwater lake!
Aura Schlegel	Sweetwater, CO	Almost 40 years of laughter and shenanigans whether we were out on the trails or in the restaurant learning life skills.
Austin Page	Salem, UT	Hiking to the caves and watching the eagles from the overlook.
Austin Raper	Gypsum, CO	
Autumn Rivera	Glenwood Springs, CO	Paddleboarding on the lake while watching a bald eagle fly over.
Barbara Prine	Burlington, VT	Eating pie at the restaurant, watching the hummingbirds, after a guided horseback trail ride.
Becky Burgess	Gypsum, CO	
Becky Wiemer	Grand Junction/Eagle, CO	1981 was our family's 1st memory maker of "SWEETWATER LAKE"
Benny Rivera	Sweetwater, CO	
Beth Owens	Edwardsville, IL	
Betty Nestor	Gypsum, CO	
Bill Stephens	Gypsum, CO	Adrienne
Bill Bohannon	Sweetwater, CO	
Bill Stephens	Gypsum, CO	ice fishing with my grandad and hot chocolate afterwards.
Blanca Lazareno	Pto Vallarta, Mexico	
Bob Beyer	Sweetwater, CO	Fishing at night with David during a full moon, water like glass, beaver and bats gliding by. Then dinner and Pie at the restaurant
Brad Ernest	Avon, CO	
Brad Stiles	Gypsum, CO	
Brandi Wally	Bayfield, CO	Having a location to horseback ride and pack into the flattops is priceless and preserves our western heritage.
Breanna Guevara	Thornton, CO	Growing up down the road!!
Brenda Worley	Bond, CO	I've had some very memorable dinners there.
Brian Vestal	Vail, CO	As a young adult, gaining invaluable perspective into the real world as told by the Sweetwater Lake community.
Brian Widhalm	Sweetwater, CO	
Brianna Bowen	Eagle, CO	
Brisa Zubiran	Gypsum, CO	Always looking forward to the summer to go to the lake and spend the afternoon there.
Britney Burch	Firestone, CO	
Brittany Thatcher	Sweetwater, CO	Taking our kids fishing and going for chicken fried steak.
Brittany VanderLinden	Kremmling, CO	
Brittany Wathen Bush	Taylor, WI	
Bryce Kapsner	Sweetwater, CO	

C W (Bill) Sepmeier	Gypsum, CO	The day my kids and I walked up to the cave and on the way, discovered the floor of an Aspen grove was covered with wild strawberries ... thousands of them ... and they were all ripe ... an Unforgettable family memory now!!
Calista Mallos	Gypsum, CO	
Carla Nelson	Eagle, CO	Quaint, family style restaurant with awesome food, extraordinary views and lots of activities to do while you are there. Been going there for years.
Carol Fischer	Clark, CO	I caught my first fish and rode a horse for the first time there 60+ years ago.
Carol Macumber	Thornton, CO	A little piece of heaven
Carol Pruett	Gypsum, CO	my favorite restaurant, views, hummingbirds, pie and sharing a horseback ride with my California cousins, there just isn't anyplace to compare....
Carol Vasina	Gypsum, CO	
Carol Wick	Eagle, CO	We love the beautiful uniqueness of the Sweetwater Lake!!
Carter Haycock	Parker, CO	
Casie Ward	Gypsum, CO	Canoeing around the lake
Cassi MacUmbur	Red Cliff, CO	Too many to count, it's a piece of my soul
Catherine Beyer	Sweetwater, CO	Taking friends and family to the restaurant at Sweetwater Lake has been our favorite Summer experience!
Catherine Carver	Portland, OR	A huge part of our family's culture resides at Sweetwater.
Catherine Del Sesto	Phoenix, AZ	
Cathryn Classen	Grand Junction, CO	Started visiting Sweetwater when I lived in Western New York about 12 years ago.
Chad Mitchell	Blackfoot, ID	The people and the Brinks are what make Sweetwater great.
Charlie Mason	Central City, NE	I served as Assistant Director of Anderson Camps from 1967-1975. Sweetwater Lake was a large part of the campers' total experience. A quick soda or a lure from the cafe/store was essential for a day at the lake. Campers from all over America and foreign countries have returned to the lake to share their experience with their children.
Cheyenne Richardson	Sweetwater, CO	
Cholpon Lord	Gypsum, CO	Best place for horseback riding.
Chris Estes	Gypsum, CO	
Chris Gamble	Minneapolis, MN	Sweetwater was where I rode my first horse and it was also there that I realized that the name isn't lying, it really is the best tasting water in the world!
Chris Pitman	Gypsum, CO	
Chris Stone	Orlando, FL	
Chris Vincent	Gypsum, CO	My dad, Cliff, fishing in the spillway while I was working and always coming into the restaurant and ordering a chocolate malt from Adrienne, and then we would go sit on the swing bench outside and talk.

Christine Bohannan	Columbus, OH	
Christopher Lord	Gypsum, CO	It's a beautiful place to hike, to rest and have food.
Chuck VanDevander	Urbandale, IA	Our family has been going to Sweetwater Lake for 50 years to meet with old friends during a relaxing dinner by the lake.
Cindy Brink	Fort Collins, CO	
Cindy McBroom	Jamestown, PA	
Claire Wilson	Gypsum, CO	
Clay Willians	Edwards, CO	Sunset while fishing to rising trout with nobody around
Corey Rudrud	Eagle, CO	
Courtney Miller	Walden, CO	Sweetwater is home! The entire experience is one of a kind and priceless!
Craig Williford	Arvada, CO	
Cregan Ortner	Steamboat Springs, CO	
Cris Medina	Wabasha, MN	I remember working at Anderson Camps. We would go to Sweetwater Lake and explore the caves with campers. It was always a peaceful place..
Cynthia Sibley	Eagle, CO	Great summer evening dinner and walk by the lake.
Dan Schoenfelder	Sweetwater, CO	
Dana Millet	Colorado Springs, CO	Eating lunch on the patio watching the hummingbirds.
Daniel Rivera	Clifton, CO	Chicken fried steak dinner followed by the best vanilla malt anywhere, families, friends, home, happiness!!
Danielle Bennett	Eugene, OR	Spending summers at the ranch and enjoying time at the lake, eating all the salsa and pie!
Danny Eaton	Gypsum, CO	
Darcy Beck	Gypsum, CO	This is where I made my first real group of friends after I moved here and met my now husband!
Daryl Miller	Colorado Springs, CO	
Dave Main	Ovid, MI	Been only one time, but had a great time hanging out with family and good fishing!
Dave Mutton	Columbia Falls, MT	I spent over 7 years there, those years were some of the best in my life.
Dave Wathen	Taylor, WI	
David Beyer	Sweetwater, CO	Summer evening on the lake seeing bear cubs swimming with mom watching close by.
David Callomon	Needville, TX	An Anderson camper in the early 80's. Have returned as an adult with my children. This place is so very special.
David Frazier	Gypsum, CO	
David Pleshaw	Vail, CO	I haven't been there in 20 years, but remember it like it was yesterday.
Dayna Cress	Eagle, CO	
De Mézerac Heloise	Caen France	
Deacon Winters	The Woodlands, TX	Awesome place! Great food and service!

Dean Quint	Sweetwater, CO	Eating at the Sweetwater Lake Resort before we bought a home here.
Deb Gifford	Eagle, CO	Many memories hiking, breakfast and camping at the lake. Such a beautiful place
Debbie J. Eachus	Gypsum, CO	
Debbie Vernell	Gypsum, CO	My favorite memory is paddle boarding with the family early one 4th of July morning. We were the only ones on the lake except for the eagles.
Debbie Webber	Gypsum, CO	
Deborah Spohn	Edwards, CO	
Deena Eaton	Gypsum, CO	
Deirdre Kinkel	Lakewood, CO	
Demi Miller	Gypsum, CO	
Dendy Heisel	Glenwood Springs, CO	Our annual day trip with my mom and boys to fish, row, ride, and of course eat chicken fried steak and pie for lunch!
Derrick Wiemer	Gypsum, CO	Bison burgers and hummingbirds at the lake with my parents and grandparents back in the 80's.
Diane Frantz-Herman	Pine, CO & Sweetwater, CO	I have been coming to Sweetwater Lake for 3 decades with extended family, children, grandchildren and now new great-grandchildren. Always enjoyed the Supper Club dinners with our neighbors too.
Don Miller	Palm Springs, CA	
Don Van Devander	Glenwood Springs, CO	Paddling a canoe around the lake, enjoying the quiet and serenity the lake has to offer.
Donna Troiani	Eagle, CO	
Doris Schoenfelder	Sweetwater, CO	My home
Dwayne Noriega	Gypsum, CO	Bears and Eagles
Eden Varela	Yuma, CO	
Elizabeth Longacre	Casper, WY	Heaven on earth
Elizabeth Oatney	Wellton, AZ	
Elizabeth Stacy	Denver, CO	
Emily Bonfoey	Gypsum, CO	
Emily Magers	Coupeville, WA	Gathering at the Sweetwater lodge and restaurant with family and horseback adventures.
Eric Eckdahl	Eagle, CO	
Eric Gilmore	Erie, CO	One of the most special places in CO. I took my son there for a father-son trip and we stayed in an awesome cabin and enjoyed several great meals at the restaurant when he was going into middle school. I hope he can do the same for his kids someday.
Erica Haycock	Parker, CO	I spent all of my childhood summers there visiting my grandparents. I'd go hiking, fishing, canoeing and horseback riding. It's so important to me that my children get to have those same experiences at Sweetwater Lake.

Erin Flaherty	Silt, CO	Fish fries at the restaurant...there's nothing that can compare to the kindness of the people in Sweetwater, the fresh fish, and the cordiality of everyone up there.
Ern Mooney	Westhoff, TX	
Ezra Harris	Gypsum, CO	Chicken fried steak and pie at the lake with friends and family
Gail and Mark Muehlethaler	Eagle, CO	We would drive up to the lake for our Anniversary dinner.
Garrett Haycock	Parker, CO	Taking our young boys up to the Indian cave and watching the bald eagles on the way up. Also, having Buffalo burgers and pie at Adrienne's.
Gary Bernard	Dickson, TN	Enjoy visiting Sweetwater Creek every late October for second rifle season, the cabins and restaurant why I visit there.
Gene Bray	Gypsum, CO	
Grant Laman	Gypsum, CO	I've been going up to the lake and lodge for many years. It's a beautiful place and it's always been nice seeing the members of Sweetwater community at the lodge for dinner. The photos on the wall with the history of Sweetwater are amazing.
Gretchen Henum	Gypsum, CO	Paddle boarding on the lake with our dogs on a hot summer day
Hannah Jaramillo	Eagle, CO	I miss eating at the restaurant- its one of our favorite places to visit in the summer, with the simplicity and rustic nature of the restaurant it makes a burger taste better than any gourmet meal in town.
Hannah Waltz	Gypsum, CO	
Heather Bailey	Denver, CO	My favorite Sweetwater experience was getting caught in a torrential down pour while fishing along the lake. The flash flood eroded the paths and swept us into the lake. Scared as hell and soaked, my family and I laughed at the adventure as we scrambled back to the camp ground.
Heather Duncan	Gypsum, CO	
Heather Greene	Eagle CO	
Heather Taylor	Del Norte, CO	My now husband and I enjoyed the cabins and family time there for decades.
Holly Golen	Arvada, CO	Sleeping in the motel, eating in the restaurant and hiking.
Hope Kapsner	Gypsum (Sweetwater), CO	My first date with my husband.
Ivy Whiddon	Lakewood, CO	Riding horses with great company in some of the most beautiful country you've ever seen!
Jackie and Rod Schlegel	Burns, CO	It was so nice to be able to come down to the restaurant after a long hot day of moving cows and get a nice cold glass of ice tea and a piece of pie.
Jackson Vincent	Gypsum, CO	
Jacob Lafleur	Gypsum, CO	Fishing
Jacob Rivera	Eagle, CO	Hummingbirds sitting on your finger at the feeders on the deck of the restaurant.
James Bolen	Winter Park, FL and Vail, CO	

James Ewing	Eagle, CO	Many hiking and camping trips with friends and family. Wonderful escape into nature!
Jan and Bill Martin	Grand Junction, CO	The best meals anywhere, with wonderful, welcoming staff, especially after a long day of moving cattle!
Janet & Paul Testwuide	Vail, CO	We have been blessed to be part of such a lost dynamic in today's world... COMMUNITY!
Janet Ewing	Eagle, CO	
Janet Rivera	Sweetwater, CO	
Jared Baranowski	Eagle, CO	
Jason Butters	Gypsum, CO	
Jayme Cianio	Brighton, CO	Enjoying a rowboat on the lake, then visiting and eating at the best restaurant ever!
Jean Clegh	Eagle, CO	
Jeanine Kenney	Eagle, CO	
Jeff Harper	Avon, CO	
Jennifer Parmenter	Gypsum, CO	Family, friends, peaceful experience and the best chicken fried steak, the kind at grandma's house.
Jennifer Raper	Gypsum, CO	Family dinners at the restaurant on the deck enjoying the best chicken fried steak and homemade pie overlooking the beautiful lake surrounded by hummingbirds.
Jennifer Trude	White Salmon, WA	It was my first chosen home, and for over 20 years it still feels like coming home, to the place and the people, every time.
Jennifer Widhalm	Gypsum, CO	Canoeing on the Lake to a Full Moon
Jereme Odom	Palmyra, TN	
Jerry & Ruth Butters	Gypsum, CO	Ordering rhubarb pie before our meal to save it before Adrienne ran out! Memorial service for our close friend, Rick Poffenbarger, along the lake shore.
Jesse Masten	Gypsum CO	
Jessica Rivera	Gypsum, CO	
Jill Baron	Montrose, CO	Love the tranquility & pristine beauty of the lake - God's magnificent artwork! Would take out of town family & guests for dinner!
Jill Jesch	Denver, CO	Some of my best memories are from bringing campers to see the Indian Caves. There is something so peaceful and grounding about Sweetwater Lake that I will always cherish and want future generations to cherish as well.
Jill Kane	Colorado	Riding with friends and family and coming back to eat at the Restaurant. Life slows down when you get there, it's an experience that you will never forget, and you'll find that it will hold a special place in your heart.

Jilly Brogdon	Arvada, CO	I have fond memories of driving up there with my great grand-pop, my Grampy and my daddy. Now I take my babies there...this historical group of buildings was our gathering spot. My specific memory would be hours spent hiking around the lake and exploring with my mom and siblings. One time it rained so hard, and when we were running back we all started sliding down into the lake. It was like the mudslide scene from Romancing the Stone. We ended up outside on the deck at the restaurant and just laughed and laughed. It was hilarious.
Jim & Marie Goedert	Ft. Morgan, CO	I have gone to Sweetwater for the past 55 years, took my husband there when we were dating and Sweetwater is why he married me!
Jim Schultz	Gypsum, CO	
Joan Mantel	Eagle, ID	
Joanie Baranowski	Eagle, CO	
Jodie Lynch	Libby, MT	I love how quiet and serene Sweetwater Lake is, where you go to get away from hustle and bustle.
Jody Cox	Eagle, CO	Beautiful experience, have rented cabins, camped, hiked to Indian caves and overlook. Been canoeing and fishing with the kids.
Joe Estes	Eagle, CO	Ice fishing with the local group that lives up Sweetwater
Joe Geiman	Eagle, CO	
Joe Srholez	Sweetwater, CO	It sure was nice being able to run up the road for some food and pie without having to make the trek to town.
Johanna Johnsson	Lakewood, CO	
John Thatcher	Gypsum CO	Always stopping by for lunch at Adrienne's restaurant and meeting the love of my life that was working there at the time
Jon Paul Testwuide	Lakewood, CO	
Jonah Mueller	Gypsum, CO	
Jonah Utley	Huntsville, AL	My soul has never felt more at peace than the 18 years I spent at Sweetwater Resort.
Jonathan Engelkemier	Saint Albans, WV	
Jordyn Main	Woodland Park, CO	
Josh Bye	Poplar Grove, IL	Some of my best experiences have started at Sweetwater, its quietness and peace is what makes it a special place.
Josh leach	Eagle, CO	My grandfather taught me to fish up there, just like I've gone up with my father, my son and my daughter.
Joshua Westfall	Camden, TN	
Joyce L. (Amichaux) Reiche	Eagle, CO	I was raised in Glenwood and as a child spent many week-ends picnicking and hiking at the Lake. Love it up there.
Judy Grant	Bella Vista, AK	We loved the rustic, calm, scenic experience of Sweetwater Lake and Resort.
Julia Brink	Erie, CO	As a kid I felt so happy and free getting to run around at Sweetwater Lake and spend some wonderful moments with my family.

Julia Cole	Manassas, VA	
Julia Rivera	Salida, CO	
Julianne Flaherty	Silt, CO	Horseback riding, dinner at the restaurant, and a fantastic night's sleep in a wonderful historic cabin!
Julie Geiman	Eagle, CO	Paddleboarding with no one around.
Julie Kieras	Lagunitas, CA	Quiet peaceful serene slice of Colorado
Juline Gilmore	Erie, CO	
June Nestor	Gypsum, CO	
Justin Morey	San Diego, CA	
Justin Rivera	Gypsum, CO	
Kaeleigh Testwuide	Denver, CO	My husband and I were eating bison burgers, across the lake out came a bear and into the lake to catch himself some fresh lunch!
Karen Prine	Berryville, VA	Hiking out to the overlook with my brother-in-law carrying my niece in his backpack.
Karen Vincent	Sweetwater, CO	
Karla Suer	Kremmling, CO	I grew up living on the lake and I am forever grateful for the part it played in my childhood.
Karla Taylor	Oklahoma City, OK	Family and friends gathering
Kassandra Lazareno	Gypsum, CO	Staying at the cabins and eating at the restaurant on summer afternoons
Kate Mitchell	Blackfoot, ID	The Brink family and their hospitality, the cabins, the restaurant with its good food, the hummingbirds, the trail rides into the mountains, the local recipe book with history of the people and area, all added to the beautiful lake setting are unique and a one of a kind place.
Katelin Hennum	Gypsum, CO	
Katherine Hubbard	Bozeman, MT	Staying over night in the cabins
Kathleen Corcoran	Gypsum, CO	Hiking up above the lake and looking down at the beautiful, peaceful natural landscape.
Kathleen Williford	Arvada, CO	
Kathleen Zeeman	Leonard, MI	Love the place, shared many memories with family and friends riding horses there over the years, and restaurant was a highlight.
Kathy and Bill Heicher	Eagle, CO	Not only the peaceful environment, but also the history that the lake offers is important.
Kathy Mikolasy	Edwards, CO	Whenever we have company we go to Sweetwater for a meal and enjoy the rustic environment!
Katie Jean Ewing	Gypsum, CO	
Katie Langdon	Sweetwater/Gypsum, CO	Parking a horse trailer at the lake taking beautiful scenic horseback rides and looking down on the pristine beauty of the lake
Katie Poffenbarger	Saginaw MI	Riding horses with my mom and dad as a little girl

Katie Rivera (Wick)	Eagle, CO	20 years of Fathers Day and exploring the caves whenever friends came to town
Katie Stephens LaFramboise	Belfair, WA	Growing up in Sweetwater, some of my favorite memories are taking our horses and trail riding out of the lake, coming back to the restaurant to enjoy a meal, and then playing on the docks with some of our neighbors.
Kay Q McCarty	Eagle, CO	
Ken Wright	Daytona Beach, FL	We saw both a huge black bear and an elk herd during a 4-hour horseback ride!
Kevin Guevara	Thornton, CO	Raising my children there
Kevin Thatcher	Sweetwater, CO	Losing my fishing pole in the lake when I was learning how to fish.
Kim Mcilnay	Folsom, CA	Every summer visiting my aunt and uncle on Sweetwater.
Kimberly Andree	Priest River, ID	As 45 year residents of Eagle county, we would travel to Sweetwater resort to feel home again.
Kindra Stiles	Gypsum, CO	
Kodi Raper	Gypsum, CO	
Kris Longacre	Alamogordo, NM	Watching my good friend Aura Brink ride a pack saddle four hours out because she gave her horse to a sick elderly man to ride out.
Krista	Bailey, CO	I appreciate not only the beauty of the lake but the community around it.
Kristi Stanford	Breckenridge, CO	
Kristina Tody	Tumwater, WA	
Lara Carlson	Edwards, CO	My favorite memory at Sweetwater Lake is paddle boarding on a beautiful evening at sunset across the lake with my husband and my dog.
Lark Masten	Gypsum, CO	
Larry Lynch	Burns, CO	Super place for a Sunday dinner with friends and family and to watch the hummers
Larry Mabry	Sweetwater, CO	
Larry Mabry	Sweetwater, CO	
Laura Gentry	The Woodlands, TX	Great experience! Best Chicken Fried Steak in Colorado! Awesome service!
Laura Hagen	Gypsum, CO	
Letitia Mabry	Gypsum, CO	Making cookies for the public and enjoying the time with neighbors, visitors and friends.
Lewis Moore	Erin, TN	
Linda Gates	Gypsum, CO	
Linda Joy Ausfahl	Simla, CO	Back pack trip....50th wedding anniversary
Lindsay Pitman	Grand Junction, CO	
Lindsay Schultz	Grand Junction CO	Fishing with family, hiking to the cave, enjoying pie at the restaurant.

Lisa Scheetz	Colorado Springs, CO	Loved going to the restaurant overlooking the lake and enjoying the peaceful atmosphere and hummingbirds. There is nothing like it!
Lisa Vincent	Taylor, WI	
Liz Mooney	Gypsum, CO	Stepping back in time every visit to "The Lake" is truly a gift.
Logan Anderson	Edmond, OK	
Logan Brown	Denver, CO	I love biking to the lake from my mom's house. It was wonderful having the restaurant there too, given how remote the area is.
Lucas Pecord	Edwards, CO	Adrienne's cooking best around. Let me tell you what, so many memories.
Lucas Stephens	Gypsum, CO	Enjoying Chicken Fried Steak with a view.
Lydia Widhalm	Gypsum, CO	
Lynn Brown	Scottsdale, AZ	Great getaway to beat the summer heat in AZ!
Lynn Janklow	Gypsum, CO	I love the restaurant and the horses!
Mallory McKinney	Peyton, CO	
Malorie Stephens	Sweetwater, CO	Trail rides and popping in to say hello to friends we all call family while playing games down by the docks. So many great memories!
Marc Hill	Texarkana, TX	
Mariah Andree	Eaton, CO	
Marie Mooney	Victoria, TX	
Mark and Amy Wilhelm	Boca Raton, FL	We have always enjoyed spending time and sharing meals with our neighbors at Sweetwater Lake. The local historical Resort Restaurant IS the Sweetwater community center where folks have always met neighbors at any time of the week to share the special history that is Sweetwater. For over 68 years I have met original settlers, their many off-spring and many new folks... each with stories about what is the real history of Sweetwater. If only the walls could talk!
Mark Herman	Lakewood CO & Sweetwater CO	
Mark Ullerick	Rifle, CO	
Martha Milbery	Edwards CO	Sweetwater is a sweet gem
Mary Blackburn	Edwardsville, IL	One long weekend, my niece got married, went canoeing across the lake, caught fish in the steam, went hiking through the mountains.....made lifelong memories!
Mary Blomquist	Gypsum, CO	
Mary E. Weaver	Glenwood Springs, CO	...lady hikers gathering for day hike lunch, and then pie a-la-mode, to fishing and laughing so hard finding my friend had no idea how to row!
Mary Lynn & Danny Tartaglia	Gypsum, CO	A haven found 33 years ago while escaping the hustle & bustle of the East Coast.
Mary Stephens	Gypsum, CO	Rowing with my friends in the rowboat in circles. Laughed so hard our stomachs hurt.

Mary Warner	Colorado Springs, CO	I actually worked at Sweetwater Lake Resort during hunting season in 1975 and have spent many times enjoying this beautiful place.
Matt Bergstreser	Sweetwater, CO	Chicken Fried Steak and Strawberry Rhubarb Pie for the last 38 Years!
Matt Herman	Henderson, CO	
Matt Kapsner	Gypsum, CO	The best thing about Sweetwater Lake is Adrienne's Chicken Fried Steak!
Matt Lou	Vail, CO	Having lunch on the deck of the restaurant, while humming birds fly all around. Camping at the lake in the true solitude of silence and open space.
Matt Raper	Gypsum, CO	
Matt Statman	Denver, CO	Watching my then 3 daughter develop a love of horses on pony rides around the corral beside the lake. Heaven.
Matthew Eineke	Sweetwater, CO	
Meagan Wilmers	Gypsum CO	
Megan Flaherty	Aztec, NM	Sweetwater Lake is an amazing example of western history, culture and community.
Megan McIlveen	New Castle CO	
Melanie Sexton	Eagle, CO	
Melissa Dallmann	Eagle, CO	We have loved eating at the cafe and watching SO MANY happy hummingbirds fly around the deck. The pie was amazing!
Meranda Tabor	Eagle CO	Best experience! Went up with my friends on the Fourth of July. Can't forget that. It's incredible.
Merida A Lazareno	Gypsum, CO	Great friends
Merri Chester	Dallas, TX	The beautiful scenery and the PIE the restaurant used to serve!
Merrilee Hohnholz	Laramie, WY	Worked there for years, I love the country and the people (co-workers, who are now family, and guests alike). Such a fun relaxing place, my second home.
Michael Crouser	Minneapolis, MN	Chicken fried steak at the restaurant!
Michael Duling	Newport, NH	
Michael J. Witt	Vashon, WA	Riding horses and enjoying the scenic beauty.
Michael Thompson	Ski Town, CO	
Michael Widhalm	Hudson, CO	
Michelle Klein	Wolcott, CO	
Mike Nebrig	Flower Mound, TX	We had the pleasure of attending a beautiful wedding at Sweetwater Lake!
Mindy Pannell	Edwards, CO	
Molly Lawson	Cedar Falls, IA	Wrangler at Anderson Camps late 80s, returned for honeymoon mid 90s, brought our whole family back to primitive camp, hike, eat bison burgers, enjoy the quiet of the lake and the hummingbirds; we can't stay away
Monte and Doris Miller	Sweetwater, CO	

Morgan Scott	Aberdeen, ID	
Myrt Frenze	Loma, CO	
Namishay Dawkins	Clifton, CO	
Nancy VanDevander	Glenwood Springs, CO	We have spent many wonderful unforgettable times with family and friends from all over up at Sweetwater Lake over the past 50 years.
Nancy Williams	Brandon, FL	I grew up in that area! It's home to me
Nancy Wilmers	Gypsum, CO	Absolutely the most beautiful place with old west feel. Love riding high up in the mountains with wonderful guides. Very peaceful and gorgeous.
Ned Hayes	Powell, WY	Fishing
Nickie Woods	Littleton, CO	Learning that family doesn't always mean blood.
Nicole Vincent	Sweetwater, CO	While living there at the lake, my son who was 2 weeks old at the time (now 21 years old), we would sit on the dock every night at sunset and I would tell him all the dreams I had for him when he would grow up. Best Mom/Son bonding moments ever.
Oulie Hale	Cortez, CO	
Paige Mickley	New Castle, CO	Watching the bald eagles dive into the lake and catching fish since I was 5 years old.
Pat McNally	Stillwater, OK	It is hard (i.e., impossible) to put a hard dollar value on a backcountry experience. More important is the mental, emotional and social value...the people who come to, live in, and flourish from the Sweetwater experience.
Patricia Main	Woodland Park, CO	Family Reunions
Patty Hood	Gypsum, CO	Sweetwater Lake is a treasure that has hosted decades of family outings, weddings, birthday parties, memorial services, and celebrations of many milestones. The restaurant has served as a gathering place for Gypsum, Eagle, as well as the local Sweetwater community.
Paul and Shawna Dumas	Edwards, CO	
Paul Cohen	Lander, WY	
Paula Kurtz	Eagle, CO	
Peggy Ebner	Los Angeles, CA	I grew up coming here and thought it was normal to paddle around the lake, catch a trout then have a bison burger and the world's best pie while catching up with our neighbors. To my friends who I have brought here from all over the world this is a singular experience and their reactions of awe and joy prove what a genuine treasure this place is.
Phil Brink	Erie, CO	Riding through sunny wildflower-studded meadows and shady aspen groves, watching the hummingbirds while sipping coffee on the deck, and getting together with my family and friends in a beautiful place that is relaxing, unpretentious and uncrowded.
Quin Kapsner	Telluride, CO	
Rachel Hintz	Summit County, CO	

Raymond Tencza	New Castle, CO	Dining with friends in the restaurant
Robert and Kimberly Nock	Eagle, CO	
Robert Gentry	Gypsum, CO	The best horse back rides ever !!!!!
Roberto Cortez	Gypsum, CO	
Rocky Mt Silver and Beads	Edwards, CO	Guests of our store and our employees enjoy the staff and atmosphere of Sweetwater resort, the peace of nature and recreational value of this community.
RussAnn Anderson	Edmond, OK	
Ryan Lightfoot	Bailey, CO	Seeing Sweetwater Lake for the first time and realizing it's one of the most beautiful lakes in all of Colorado.
Ryan Suprise	Gypsum, CO	
Samantha Velasquez	Gypsum, CO	
Sandra Blake	Keenesburg, CO	One of my family's greatest memories is at Sweetwater! My kids loved spending the night in the cabin and eating at the restaurant. It's a little slice of heaven!
Scott Dobson	Beckley, WV	Where else can you go to see your friends get married, then end up learning how to ride and pack horses, make amazing life long friends, and continue to return for 18 years?
Scott Everhart	Artesian, SD	No other place like Sweetwater exists!
Scott Kostka	Eagle, CO	
Scott Skelton	Sweetwater, CO	
Scott Suntken	Sweetwater, CO	
Scott Vasina	Gypsum, CO	
Seth Minkoff	Vail, CO	I have been renting cabins at the lake for many years, brought many members of my family with me, and shared many meals at the restaurant. It is a place out of time and a treasure as such. Nature, history, and hospitality linked with community.
Shane McGinnis	Gypsum, CO	
Shannon Burke	Denver, CO	Generations of Joy
Shari Frye	Avon, CO	
Sharon & Christopher Stromberg	Frederick, MD	We enjoyed a horseback tour with AJ Brinks to visit the Indian cave and other landmarks.
Sharon Bailey	Jackson, WY	Many memories, the restaurant with a good meal and good friends, watching the hummingbirds, taking a real horse pack trip, and appreciating nature the way it should be!
Sharon Conlin	Gold Hill, CO	Beautiful horseback riding and great pie a la mode
Sharon Sommers	Grand Junction, CO	
Shelby Longacre	Longmont, CO	
Sheri Rasmussen	Sterling, CO	I was there a couple of years ago with my lifelong friend...it is a Colorado treasure!

Shirley Herman	Lakewood, CO	The Sweetwater Lake is a place where you can hike to your heart's content and not encounter "keep out" signs. After hiking you could count on visiting the Lake Resort Restaurant for refreshments or a great meal. A friendly place "where everyone knows your name" and where you could meet your neighbors over many decades of time.
Sidia Duron	Houston, TX	
Sonja Beasley	Eagle, CO	One of our family's favorite places on earth!
Sonoka Ito-Prine	Burlington, VT	
Stacy Seay	Denton, TX	
Stephanie Bonucci	Bozeman, MT	This place left a lasting impression on me. The atmosphere and charm should be preserved at all costs.
Stephanie Weeks	Gypsum, CO	
Stephen Widhalm	Kersey, CO	
Steven hagen	Gypsum, CO	
Sue Duncan	Gypsum, CO	
Suprena Crawford	Eagle, CO	I have such fond memories of coming to the lake as a child and now as an adult. Its quiet quaint feel is something that has stood through the test of time.
Susan and Jerry Semrod	Sweetwater, CO	
Susan Payne	Carbondale, CO	Off grid serenity and outrageous pies and lots to do to work that homemade goodness off
Susan Savage	Greenwood Village, CO	My grandfather was the second owner of the 7W. He purchased it from his best friend in the 1940s for \$5000. Since then, we have had a presence in the Sweetwater region for 4 generations. This place is very dear to us
Susan Stacy	Portland, OR	My daughter was married there atop the butte with the reception beside the lake...we filled all the cabins and enjoyed our meals at the restaurant for a long, beautiful weekend with old friends and new!
T.C. Townsen	Santa Fe, NM	
Tammi Wiemer	Gypsum, CO	Enjoying the quiet lake from the deck of the restaurant. Thanks to Jim Brink, my first experience at Sweetwater was hunting season of 1969 working for Larry Gay horse packing camps in to the back country and packing harvested game out.
Thomas Mitchell	Blackfoot, ID	Oh the amazing experiences and fabulous memories of that one and a half months of nothing but hard hard work, helped me so much to make it home from Vietnam as an army infantryman two years later.
Tiffany Sommers	Sarasota, FL	Canoes on the lake & Halloween parties.
Tim Hennum	Gypsum, CO	
Timothy Ebner	Westminster, CO	A physically and visually unique and special place on the planet, shared and cared for by a kind, welcoming, and generous community of people.

Tina Estes	Gypsum, CO	
TJ Stanford	Gypsum, CO	Many wonderful memories with family and friends at the lake and the restaurant!
Todd Huffman	Edwards, CO	
Todd Schlegel	Sweetwater, CO	Lilia's Salsa...Adrienne's cooking in general
Tom Thatcher	Sweetwater, CO	I live here and so does my family; my kids are 5th generation here.
Tommy Hill	Tillatoba, MS	
Trina Richey	Gypsum, CO	
Trisha Hobbs	Cheyenne, WY	Spending the summer working at Sweetwater lake, canoeing, and doing a half day horseback ride.
Trueman Hoffmeister	Granby, CO	This area has fostered an appreciation for nature while bringing us closer together.
Ty LaFramboise	Belfair, WA	First date with my wife.
Tyler Haycock	Parker, CO	I love going to the Indian cave every summer.
Tyler Wathen	Taylor, WI	
Vikki Hobbs	Gypsum, CO	Taking out-of-state family for dinner every summer.
Vincent Scharf	Gypsum, CO	Paddle boarding with Grandson followed by Strawberry Rhubarb Pie!
Wade Burrell	Annaville, PA	AJ Brinks at Sweetwater was supposed to be a "couple-months-job" that turned into an experience that will forever be a part of molding who I feel I've become. The lake itself is a beautiful area of the world that "gets in your blood". It's been over 15 years since I've worked there and I still find myself thinking about it and daydreaming of that area! I cannot wait to get back there with my family so they can enjoy it also!
Walker Bohannon	Seattle, WA	Only recently discovered Sweetwater Lake, but visiting it is truly a unique experience to most outdoor spaces you visit these days.
Wendy Sacks	Eagle, CO	Sweetwater Lake is pristine!
Will Geiman	Eagle, CO	
Will Trude	White Salmon, WA	
William Hargleroad	Gypsum, CO	
Yvonne & Russ Ammon	Gypsum, CO	The hummingbirds on the patio and the great food especially the pie!
Yvonne Mooney Babbitt	Corpus Christi, TX	Perfect place to bring guests when we are there at our summer home.

*Many people shared longer stories, but were shortened for length and purpose. We are happy to provide the full responses upon request.