



August 5, 2024

Dear White River National Forest,

We are writing to request that you provide bilingual signs, educational and interpretive information at the proposed state-managed recreation area around Sweetwater Lake. The development of this new facility is an important opportunity for the Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to demonstrate a commitment to ensuring all members of the public have access to public lands and that public lands are welcoming and inclusive to our entire community.

The Latino community in the Counties and towns surrounding Sweetwater Lake makes up a significant portion of the population (in many communities, over 30%). Providing bilingual signs, educational and interpretive information will help the Forest Service fulfill one of the purposes of the Project to: *"Provide updated and sustainable nature-based recreational services to the public that are appropriate to the environment and are responsive to the recreational needs of the public."* Providing bilingual signs, educational and interpretive information will also help reduce and overcome the myriad barriers many in the Hispanic community face in accessing and enjoying public lands. In particular bilingual signs, educational and interpretive information would ensure information about Sweetwater Lake is available to all, and would send the important message that everyone.

The White River National Forest has been a leader in listening to the Latino Community and responding by providing bilingual signs and information. The Forest has already installed bilingual signs in the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness Area and has plans to install more signs across the Forest and at Visitor Information Centers. Providing bilingual signs, educational and interpretive information at the proposed state-managed recreation area around Sweetwater Lake would continue this important work and greatly benefit the public.

Sincerely,

Omar Sarabia
Director Defiende Nuestra Tierra
Wilderness Workshop
Omar@wildernessworkshop.org

Alan Munoz
Title: Regional Organizer
Voces Unidas
Email: alan@vocesunidas.org

Hannah Arauza
Title: Garfield county
Western Colorado Alliance
Email: hanna@westerncoloradoalliance.org

All others:

Email Address	Name / Nombre	City / Ciudad	Organization / Organizacion
[REDACTED]	Irene	Rifle	
[REDACTED]	Yesenia Silva Estrada	Silt	
[REDACTED]	Liz Ramirez	Rifle	
[REDACTED]	Erika Jimenez	Rifle	
[REDACTED]	Lucy Merrill-Hills	New Castle	
[REDACTED]	Steven J. Arauza	Rifle	
[REDACTED]	Alan Muñoz Valenciano	Rifle	Voces Unidas
[REDACTED]	Hanna Arauza	Rifle	Western Colorado Alliance
[REDACTED]	Debra Grizzle	Rifle	