



REGION 8

DENVER, CO 80202

August 13, 2026

Brian Glaspell, Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest
900 Grand Avenue
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Dear Supervisor Glaspell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project (CEQ # 20260075) in accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA Section 309 role is unique to the EPA. It requires the EPA to review and comment on the environmental impact of any proposed Federal action subject to NEPA's EIS requirements and to make its comments public.

The White River National Forest is proposing a recreation management plan for the newly acquired Sweetwater Lake property in northeastern Garfield County. The goals of this plan are to improve recreation access, update facilities, and create a 846-acre state-managed recreation area on National Forest Service Lands around Sweetwater Lake through a partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Management of this site would be handled by CPW through a 20-year Special Use Permit.

The EPA provided scoping recommendations to the Forest Service in a letter dated August 5, 2024. The EPA has reviewed the Draft EIS based on our statutory authorities and has no further comments. The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the Draft EIS. For any follow up coordination, please contact Carolyn Gleason, Acting NEPA Branch Manager, at gleason.carolyn@epa.gov or 303-312-6641. The Region 8 NEPA Program can also be reached at EPA-R8-NEPA@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel Heffernan
Associate Deputy Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 8