

- Request removal or relocation of new roads, the campground, and equestrian development from severe winter range and documented migration, calving, and fawning habitat.
- Require enforceable December 1–April 30 closures to all human activity in severe winter range, together with appropriate calving and fawning protections established by CPW and Forest Service wildlife biologists.
- Demand calculations for the Forest Plan's 0.40 Elk habitat-effectiveness standard and CPW's route-density recommendations before any decision is issued.
- Request written concurrence from CPW and Forest Service wildlife biologists on the final site design, seasonal restrictions, monitoring methods, and mitigation measures.
- Seek enforceable thresholds requiring reductions or closures when monitoring shows wildlife displacement or declining habitat effectiveness—not merely discretionary actions that may be implemented if funding permits.
- Communicate these concerns directly to the White River National Forest, CPW leadership, and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

This is not an argument against public access or responsible improvements. Sweetwater already supports historic fishing, camping, hiking, hunting access, and equestrian use. The issue is whether mapped winter range should be converted to developed recreation simply because the proposed infrastructure does not comply with the existing habitat protections.

If that approach is accepted at Sweetwater, no designated winter range is truly secure from being redesignated when development becomes inconvenient.

RMEF's technical expertise and conservation voice could make a decisive difference in the administrative record. Please let me know whether RMEF can engage before the September 23 deadline. I would be glad to provide the complete supporting record or participate in a call with RMEF staff.

Thank you for considering this urgent request.

Sincerely,

