

Unanswered questions about enforceable raptor protections

Prepared: September 23, 2026 at 5:14 PM MST (UTC-7)

Submitted by: Maria Summerlin, authorized representative of the Sweetwater Lake Working Group

To the responsible official, White River National Forest:

Please include this comment and Exhibits R-1 through R-3 in the Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project file and public record. I submit this raptor-protection issue on behalf of the Sweetwater Lake Working Group as its authorized representative and ask the Forest Service to address it in its response to comments and decision.

On July 29, I emailed Forest Supervisor Brian Glaspell asking whether CPW's Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors (2020) would govern Sweetwater Lake's Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles during construction and long-term operation, and whether those protections would be incorporated into the Record of Decision and CPW special-use permit (Exhibit R-2). My July 29 CARA receipt confirmation shows Letter ID **284162-6986-47** (Exhibit R-1). Please associate this receipt with the underlying submitted comment in the project file; the receipt screenshot itself does not reproduce that comment's text.

On July 30, I separately asked CPW's director and commission chair to confirm those protections, or identify what CPW raptor protections would apply instead (Exhibit R-3). **As of September 23, 2026 (MST), I have received no written agency response to these requests.**

Issue and requested action. Before selecting a CPW partnership alternative, disclose the specific protections for Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles that will govern both construction and long-term operation, including the applicable mapped buffers and seasonal restrictions, how they will be implemented, and whether they will be enforceable in the Record of Decision and special-use permit. Incorporate CPW's 2020 raptor guidance as enforceable conditions. If the Forest Service chooses a different approach, identify its requirements, explain the scientific basis, and analyze the effects of departing from that guidance before deciding.

Exhibits: R-1 - CARA receipt confirmation (July 29, 2026); R-2 - email to Supervisor Glaspell (July 29, 2026); R-3 - email to CPW leadership (July 30, 2026). The original scanned pages follow each divider.

The exhibit screenshots show their original clock times without a stated time zone; those times have not been converted.

EXHIBIT R-1

July 29, 2026 CARA receipt confirmation

Source: 20260729_email_Galspell__RE_raptors_PI_article CARA confirmation.pdf

1 original page follow, preserved from the supplied PDF.



Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project (SLDP) #284162

Thank you for Your Comment.

Your comment has been received by our system on 7/29/2026

Your letter may be found in the Public Reading Room within 24 hours. The reading room can be found at the following site: [Public Reading Room](#)

Your letter ID is **284162-6986-47**. Please save or print this page for your records.

Regards,
The Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project (SLDP) Team

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EXHIBIT R-2

July 29, 2026 email to Forest Supervisor Glaspell

Source: 20260729_email_Galspell__RE_raptors_PI_article.pdf

1 original page follow, preserved from the supplied PDF.

Clarification of CPW Raptor Protections at Sweetwater Lake

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 7/29/2026 12:46 PM
To Glaspell, Brian - FS, CO <brian.glaspell@usda.gov>
Cc [REDACTED]

Supervisor Glaspell,

We were very encouraged to read your statement in Taylor Cramer's front-page Post Independent article that CPW's raptor protections would apply if the Record of Decision selects an alternative involving a management partnership with CPW. We have copied Mr. Cramer because my question concerns that statement.

We understand your statement to mean that CPW's *Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions For Colorado Raptors (2020)* would apply to Sweetwater Lake's Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles during construction and long-term operation under a CPW partnership alternative. That would be welcome news and would provide consistency with CPW's application of its raptor guidelines at other state-managed parks, including Fishers Peak State Park.

Would you please confirm that, if the Record of Decision selects a CPW partnership alternative, CPW's raptor guidelines will apply at Sweetwater Lake and will be incorporated into the Record of Decision and CPW's special-use permit?

Thank you for providing this clarification and reassurance.

Sincerely,
Maria Summerlin, PG (FL) - Retired Environmental Consultant-Sweetwater Lake Working Group
Roaring Fork Audubon Society
Colorado Wild
Save the Worlds Rivers
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
Audubon Colorado Council
Hawk Migration Association
Wilderness Workshop
Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance

EXHIBIT R-3

July 30, 2026 email to CPW leadership

Source: 20260730_email_to_CPW_Raptors_PI_article_red.pdf

2 original pages follow, preserved from the supplied PDF.

Confirmation of CPW Raptor Protections at Sweetwater Lake

From [REDACTED]
Date Thu 7/30/2026 9:57 AM
To dnr_cpw_director@state.co.us <dnr_cpw_director@state.co.us>; james.tutchton@state.co.us <james.tutchton@state.co.us>
Cc tcramer@postindependent.com <tcramer@postindependent.com>

Director Clellan and Chair Tutchton,

I was encouraged to read Forest Supervisor Brian Glaspell's statement in Taylor Cramer's front-page *Post Independent* article that CPW's raptor protections would apply if the Record of Decision selects an alternative involving a management partnership with CPW:

<https://www.postindependent.com/news/sweetwater-lake-plans-draw-protest-in-glenwood-springs/>

I understand his statement to mean that CPW's **Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions For Colorado Raptors (2020)** would apply to Sweetwater Lake's Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles during construction and long-term operation under a CPW partnership alternative:

<https://cpw.widencollective.com/assets/share/asset/fqmg4ds76b>

That would be welcome news and would provide consistency with CPW's application of its raptor guidelines at other state-managed parks, including Fishers Peak State Park.

Would CPW please confirm that, if a CPW partnership alternative is selected, CPW will apply these guidelines at Sweetwater Lake and support their incorporation into the Record of Decision and CPW's Forest Service special-use permit?

If that is not CPW's understanding, please identify the CPW raptor protections that would apply under the partnership.

Thank you for providing this clarification and reassurance.

I am also submitting this request through the Commission's Engage page so that it is included in the administrative record and provided to the full Commission.

Sincerely,

Maria Summerlin, PG (FL)
Retired Environmental Consultant
Authorized Representative-
Sweetwater Lake Working Group
386-299-1733

