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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I have a number of issues regarding the proposal for a state managed facility up at Sweetwater Lake. And while I do believe that improvements to the existing site will be beneficial to the public experience, the scope (as in: size) of the project will create many adverse effects on the health of the environment, wildlife, the local community, and ultimately the visitors to this special area.

Rather than lay out a whole complex opus of comments in one letter, I would like to break it down into numerous points of perspective.

I will Start with the occupancy target number, as well as the access.

Historically, the number of guests at Sweetwater lake has been in the 25-60 range per day, with occasional larger groups for a wedding a few times a season. At about 25 cars per day, this is a reasonable amount that has kept the site in it's current condition for over 100 years. It has maintained a healthy relationship with the surrounding environment, and all is well with the bears, eagles, falcons, elk, deer, mountain lions, lynx and other creatures and plants of the area.

The current proposal for use of this site quadruples this number at a max occupancy of 250! that is around 100 cars per day, up and down. This is way too big and will cause many new problems relating to environmental decline, road degradation, water and lake quality issues, negative community impact, as well as increased safety issues for all.

I will address many of these on-site concerns in following comments, but the most glaring point of objection is with the access and road capacity.

Historically, access to this property has been on a very rural road created, maintained, and inhabited for much of it's history by a self-starting community of homesteaders, ranchers, and families some dating back many generations. It is a winding road, dirt half way, with tight corners, short lines of sight, and lane widths that are less than standard for a road of much volume, often times even only single lane. This is a road to access private property, ranches, homes, and agriculture. It is a road to drive cattle up and down seasonally, and to transport hunters, and horse enthusiasts to and from the wilderness areas above.

It is not designed for, or had any history with the numbers of vehicle trips proposed by current proposal. Increasing vehicle travel on this road will lead to increased road degradation, increased safety incidents, increased noise and pollution, increased wildlife deaths, and many negative impacts to the private homes and livelihoods along the entire length of the road.

The road is adequate for the numbers of vehicles currently traveling. It is not designed for more.

If the proposal for the property would stay within historic number limits than all will most likely be well and the area will stay as beautiful as it is now. If it is enlarged than I believe that all concerns and problems will enlarge along with it. I will talk to these other concerns later, but the road is what it is... small, rural, limited, beautiful

25-60 historic average lake occupancy.

Thank you. ML