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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of Eagle, Colorado for 35 years. I have been a frequent user of Sweetwater Lake and the surrounding National Forest all of that time. I fish the lake from a canoe or paddleboard in summer. I ice fish in winter. I hike and ride horses into the wilderness on all the different trails. I have frequently taken multi-day pack trips into the wilderness with my horses. I have camped in the campground. I have hunted deer, elk, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, turkey and small game all accessed from Sweetwater Lake. The Sweetwater Lake area is a treasure that has been close to perfect as long as I have been living here.

I have very strong concerns regarding many of the proposed changes to the area. I have listed them here.

I am strongly opposed to a State Park or any form of state management. I realize the USFS does not want to spend additional money to manage the newly acquired property. However if funds are not available just leave the area as is. It is just fine the way it is and has been for all these years. The additional acreage does not inherently require additional facilities, personnel or management. The property was purchased to prevent development. That has only been accomplished if the state is not allowed to build facilities.

No cabins should be built.

Equestrian facilities could be nice but again if the USFS can't do it then it is better not to do it at all.

Additional lake access points could be good but only if the USFS can afford to do it without turning it over to the state.

Converting the existing campground to day use and moving it to the new location might make sense but only if the USFS can do it. Once again it's all fine the way it is. Improvements should not be made if it will require the industrial tourism style of state management.

No on any new lodge. A lodge is expensive to build, staff and maintain. The need is not there.

New day use trails on on northeast side are not needed.

Construction of new housing and maintenance facilities is absolutely not needed. That is development. I cherish Sweetwater Lake for the uncrowded peaceful quiet beauty. Nothing should be done to diminish those qualities.

Thank you,

Bill McEwen

Eagle, Colorado