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Comments: I recently visited Sweetwater Lake for the first time and saw instantly why this area deserves protection from private development. However, what it most certainly does NOT need is development for increased traffic and recreation. Sweetwater is unique for being one of very few easily accessible natural lakes in Colorado and for hosting very special wildlife, like peregrine falcons, White-throated Swifts, Violet-green Swallows, bald eagles, and scores of other species. It is spectacular as it is and should be left as close to its historical use as possible. Its small size makes it very susceptible to the damage that any greater traffic would inflict.

What I do not see among the stated purposes for the Sweetwater project is wildlife protection. Delicate Sweetwater and its special wildlife will be destroyed by drastically increasing visitor traffic. It does not need more provisions like concrete pads, hookups, and waste disposal, nor does the unpaved access road need widening or paving. Sweetwater should be preserved as is for those who are interested in enjoying rustic camping and facilities, not made more accessible and convenient for larger crowds who will regard it as simply another state park for long-term RV "camping."

I don't know whether updating the 100-year old cabins and contracting with the current operator of the lodge and stables to manage them and the dining room are feasible, but inasmuch as this would preserve charming facilities for a small number of visitors and income for park management, I encourage all effort to do this, rather than razing the cabins and ending the rich history of the dining room.

Thanks for your attention to preserving and protecting one of Colorado's genuine Hidden Gems.