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Comments: This is an objection and comment relating to the proposed action segment of the scoping letter for the Sweetwater Lake property.

The first action states "Redesign the current site to promote recreational opportunities at a scale that is compatible with the capacity of the project area, it's resources, and the surrounding area".

Right here we have multiple issues.

1. Redesigning in this case means considerably enlarging, i.e. more disturbance of the project area, it's resources, and the surrounding area. As well as spreading the project footprint and it's potentially harmful impact on the character and features of the area.
2. The purpose of this redesign is to "promote recreation"(further the progress of, support or actively encourage, give publicity to to increase sales or public awareness). What this means is alert and encourage more people to come to this area, thereby exceeding the historic use and cultural character, and threatening wildlife viability, in addition to creating challenges that then need to be mitigated and managed.
3. The capacity of the project area, it's resources, and the surrounding area have already been established by historic and cultural use. To enlarge the project footprint by even a little, will need much research and review.

"Evaluate existing structures..."

Yes, this is understandable, however, compliance with what laws, regulations, and policies exactly? This is pretty much carte blanche to do whatever without consultation or regulation.

" Develop a new campground to provide 15-20 new sites in a historically disturbed area."

15 is about the historic maximum. The lower pasture contains plenty of native vegetation and to call it historically disturbed is an exaggeration. This does not include the proposed rv sites, with electrical and water hookups, as well as a septic dump station, further impacting the area in many obvious ways. In addition, this site has no view of the lake, and is basically a parking lot in a field with no protection from exposure, or interesting features that work with the landscape. This lower pasture is also Elk habitat and calving area in the spring. There is a better and less intrusive location for the campsite, in the area surrounding the existing ranger cabin in SW alternative plan A, or leave it in the existing location in SW alternative plan B.

"Construct 8-12 new cabins to provide an overnight recreation opportunity similar to that which historically existed in the vicinity."

Ok, but the number is 2x too high, the details unclear, the grouping location takes up too much valuable real estate, does not work with the landscape, impedes the viewshed, and the "similar opportunity" is quite different than the existing historic lodges. The proposal also includes(although not specified) that some of these will be dry cabins which were not part of the experience and just add to the volume without adding to the experience. Sure, western character is a good aim.

"Construct equestrian facilities in the middle pasture...etc."

Once again, this is a gross expansion of historic use into valuable agricultural pasture land, furthering disturbance of the area, the wildlife, and the historic culture of the area. The proposed location is inconvenient for multiple trail access points, and requires substantial road and utilities development and disturbance to properly access.

The equestrian facilities could possibly occupy the very lowest part of the lower pasture near the road for convenient access as in SW alternative plan A, or remain where it is in SW alternative plan B.

"Develop additional lake access points".

This makes sense as long as it supports the historic visitor volume at the site. There should be only limited launch docks.

"Convert existing campground and parking into day use individual or group picnic sites". This makes sense as long as historic use numbers are honored as in alternative plan A. Otherwise, SW alternative Plan B

" Construct a new lodge with administrative, educational, and interpretive spaces to enhance the visitor experience through site amenities and services. etc."

A new lodge sounds like it will increase disturbance of site characteristics, increase site visitor volumes to a non-viable level, impede the natural viewshed of the area, increase support staffing needs and presence, and create a utilities infrastructure maintenance burden on the site.

Nature-based experiences need little interpretation, education, administration, and amenities.

Instead a group picnic site in this location would be preferable to maintain the character of the area. Mobile food trucks or kitchens will detract from the rustic and primitive experience. Pack it in, pack it out.

"Evaluate establishing day use hiking and equestrian trails on the north side of the lake, etc."

Some new trails could be created with the goal being less intrusion and disturbance according to site designs. Maintenance of existing trails would be good, but keep it simple and keep it small.

"Construct appropriate maintenance facilities, equipment storage, and personnel housing necessary for management and maintenance."

Less infrastructure and maintenance needs = less facilities needs. Historic site visitor volumes will dictate staffing needs. The location proposed for said maintenance facilities takes a prime location closer to the lake which could be better used as a campground location. If the site target visitor volume requires a maintenance facility and housing, a better location would be atop the bluff known as dead horse flat, a previously disturbed area with plenty of room for a facility of this kind. See SW alternative plan A

Yes, preserve the cave...

Yes, preserve and protect the wetlands above the lake

Amending the forest service management plans should only be considered if it increases the protection the natural and cultural resources,.Not, as an avenue for expansion, enlargement, increase in recreation visitor volume, or further development.

This concludes this objection/comment section. Thank you.