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Title:

Comments: I would like to comment/object to the proposed development of the pasture spaces around Sweetwater Lake.

In the arid west I see pastures as a valuable resource to be protected and preserved for many reasons, and specifically "The Pastures at Sweetwater Lake".

1. To have a ditch-water irrigated pasture is a special thing in such an isolated and arid western local, as it is a valuable shelter and food source not only for horses, but many other species of plant and wildlife.

2. Pastures are the quintessential open spaces for wildlife habitat, calving areas, and hunting areas for birds of prey and other predators as they contain many species of rodents and small mammals.

3. Pastures create a feeling of spaciousness, and extend our views outward to the beautiful natural landscape. To walk through a pasture of grasses and wildflowers is one of the truest county feelings we can experience.

4. Pastures capture rainwater and help to recharge groundwater sources, prevent evaporation, aid in soil health and carbon sequestration, and provide a green cooling of the area.

5. "The Pastures at Sweetwater Lake" provide a grazing source for horses, eliminating the need for frequent hay delivery up the Sweetwater Rd. This will ease a potential safety issue with larger vehicles on the road, as well as reduce the Energy consumption necessary for transportation of hay from outside locations.

6. Seasonal horse grazing also adds to the nutrification of the pastures by depositing urine and manure which further aids in the natural cycles of regeneration in this ecosystem.

7. "The pastures at Sweetwater Lake" add to the western charm of the area, and are part of the historic use of the peoples of this valley.

For all these reasons, and possibly more, I would object to expansion of facilities into these wonderful and exceptional areas. Instead I would encourage protection, preservation, and gratitude for these open space resources.