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First name: Mary

Last name: McGhee

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not develop Sweetwater Lake and the forest land around it.

I am an avid high-country hiker and every week I see these irreplaceable natural areas fall victim to human interference.

I see trash left, fires not put out, unauthorized social trails and wildflowers picked to the point that the vegetation does not recover.

Campers, their dogs and horses trample riparian areas to the point that even brome grass won't grow back.

I trail ride my Arab horse in Open Space and see the negative impact my horse and other park users have on a natural area, despite the best intentions of the forest service and park management.

Cars, campers, dogs, horses, people etc., bring in noxious weeds that you do not have the staff to remove and stop from crowding out native plants.

Please listen to the Audubon Society. Their surveys identified a total of 83 breeding bird species in the boundaries of the proposed recreation plan. Bird populations have plummeted in the last 50 years. Why would you want to make that problem worse?

I see people letting their dogs off leash to chase picas and marmots. You do not have the staff to catch humans stressing wildlife, poaching wildlife, and not respecting our shared wilderness.

Please do not add campsites, cut in trails, construct housing or add any further human encroachment on Sweetwater. There is enough forest service land already being used by ski areas.

Your proposed fishing docks and watercraft on the lake will impact bald eagles breeding and teaching their young to fish. This is a life-giving lake for moose, lions, birds, bees and bears.

Please do not disturb this special wildlife refuge. By implementing the proposed development plan, you would be destroying the very things we all love and trust you to protect.