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Comments: I am not opposed to CPW creating a state park, but the proposed development of Sweetwater Lake is too large. I visited Sweetwater on multiple occasions in the summer, fall and winter over the past eight years. I never saw >25 people total while visiting the lake, campground, trails, restaurant and outfitter. To create a park with CPW's stated capacity of 250 is an overdevelopment of a sensitive location. Please scale back this plan by at least 75%.

In addition, a state park at Sweetwater Lake will naturally lead to additional human activities on the Hilltop, Sheep Creek and CR 151 USFS lands where I enjoy hiking. Mr. Fitzwilliams stated that a state park is necessary because the USFS does not have sufficient funding to maintain and patrol the Sweetwater Lake property, which is unfortunate but true.

However, what is the USFS plan for these public lands directly accessible off Sweetwater Road that are not included in the state park? We can assume that USFS will not have sufficient funding to maintain and patrol their Hilltop, Sheep Creek and CR 151 lands either, and therefore that the same consequences Mr. Fitzwilliams fears for Sweetwater Lake will simply occur farther out in more difficult to monitor areas.

Before any action is taken at Sweetwater Lake, a full environmental analysis of the Hilltop, Sheep Creek and CR 151 USFS lands must be conducted including access, parking and natural resources. After establishing that data, USFS needs to somehow ensure these areas are not adversely impacted as a carry-over effect from increasing visitation of the area by >800%. To not plan for this inevitability is unacceptable.

In the alternative, perhaps the most reasonable solution would be for CPW to actively manage ALL public lands accessible via Sweetwater Road. A state park welcome center could be created at the base of Sweetwater Road, and the state park staff could patrol, maintain and monitor these three areas too.

Finally, Sweetwater Road requires an upgrade if tourism is to be increased. The road is too narrow, has too many blind corners, and the CR 151 intersection is too dangerous. More frequent maintenance will be required based on increased utilization. Sweetwater Road runs through a box canyon with a single egress. It sometimes closes due to mudslides, and the entire area was once evacuated due to a fire more than 10 miles away. Adding hundreds of state park visitors will increase EMS response times, delay evacuations, and increase vehicle collisions. I am unsure which entities will be responsible for the requisite upgrades, but to ignore the safety of residents and visitors should not be an option. Wildlife collisions from I-70 to Sweetwater Lake will also increase and the same should be studied/modeled during this NEPA review.