

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/27/2024 2:24:31 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have visited the Sweetwater Lake area a couple of times and was overwhelmed by its beauty. I even got to see three young mountain lions during my visit, which was a once in a lifetime moment!

What I also appreciated about my experience in Sweetwater was how quiet and peaceful it was and all of the stars at night. It seems that the USFS and the CPW are proposing a plan that will add a lot of traffic and hundreds of people in this area. Without a doubt, I feel that the amount of people needs to be significantly reduced or it will ruin this area. It will ruin the experience for the visitors and it will ruin it for the wildlife.

The drive to Sweetwater Lake is also quite risky with the narrow roads, boulders in the road, blind turns and washboard conditions. If you see someone coming you have to pull off so they can pass. I can't imagine how treacherous the road will be if you add over a hundred more vehicles, particularly RVs.

To keep the peace at Sweetwater and not ruin the experience, I recommend a Dark Sky designation and noise restrictions. There should be a curfew on artificial light so it does not disturb the wildlife, and noise restrictions should be enforced day and night (no radios, generators, etc.). This is not just disturbing to the wildlife; it is disturbing to people.

Above all else, please reduce the number of allowed visitors. The most people I've seen in the area was maybe 10 people, but I would think allowing 40 would be a fair number. If they are spread out, it shouldn't disturb the wildlife or the human experience at Sweetwater.