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Title:

Comments: The current infrastructure surrounding Sweetwater Lake is not at all fit for the proposed plan. With an estimated number of 250 visitors to the park per day in 76 individual cars, combined with existing traffic from residents, there would be a shortage of parking. There is no place where even a fraction of those vehicles can park at one time, let alone on busier days when there would be even more. If visitors don't have a place to park, they are likely to pull off on the side of the road, worsening existing traffic problems. Sweetwater Road itself is also not fit for the volume of people that a State Park would bring in. Although acceptable for its current use, the road has many faults that would become safety issues with increased traffic. For example, there are several blind curves in the road with no view of oncoming traffic. Additionally, some of these curves are in places where the road is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass one another, making it a huge risk for head-on collisions with the traffic a State Park would bring in. Also, much of Sweetwater Road is unpaved dirt with potholes, ruts, and bumps that most visitors would not be accustomed to driving on. The road also gets covered with hard-packed ice for much of the winter, and large sections of it are without guardrails. Combining this with the increased flow of visitors would increase the likelihood of traffic accidents significantly. Even still, Sweetwater Road has a substantial number of animals surrounding it, and it is very common to see deer, elk, and even turkeys on the road. Visitors going to the State Park would increase the number of roadkill accidents, harming the animal populations. On another note, the creation of a State Park would force residents to change the way they've used the road for generations. Currently, the road is multi-use in many ways. Children ride their bikes on it, people ride their horses on it, people walk along it, people drive dirtbikes and 4-wheelers up it, and people even run cattle up the road sometimes. However, the development of the State Park would force all this to change. An increase in traffic would mean every one of these alternative uses by residents would have to stop out of risk of a car accident. It's not right that longtime residents should have to change their everyday way of life just to allow distant visitors to use the road to access a state park that locals don't want there.