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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing to express my concern as an Eagle County resident and frequent Sweetwater recreationalist that the current plan for Sweetwater Lake is way to large scale for the area it is in. There is not enough space nor infrastructure to support the scale proposed. Seeing the effect a state park has on nearby areas when visiting Sylvan lake it is clear that it brings in more visitors than it can support and other areas fill up with unmonitored dispersed camping. The only available areas nearby are campsites up Colorado River Road and Coffee Pot that are already completely full every weekend and very often full throughout the week. Sheep's creek is a residential road as well as used by ranchers for work. It is also rough single lane roads that simply could not support added traffic and dispersed camping. Also with that would come a major increased fire danger in extremely difficult terrain putting a dry and delicate ecosystem at risk as well as the wildlife and cattle. The road to Sweetwater Lake is a quite rural road, single lane in many areas, that is used by recreational bikers, cattle drivers, ranchers for projects along their property, and children. In my biking and running Sweetwater rd. I have run across much variety of wildlife and domestic animals including folks dogs, chickens, buffalo, and horses. It is a slow paced road. I have run into many shocking blind corner life flashing before my eyes by out of control drivers, the recreationalists loaded down with campers and boats driving way way too fast not respecting the community. I would hate to see more added danger for this peaceful rural area. Currently the lake is a place you can go for a very peaceful reset and hardly see a soul. It is heaven on earth. The wilderness around the lake is hard terrain and protected from mechanized travel. The lake should be protected too, not providing advertising to the masses and ease of access to the inconsiderate. Not every place can handle being an easily accessible destination. Sweetwater Lake can not handle large crowds and the rural community below should not be put to deal with the added traffic. There is no cell service and it is very far from emergency services as well adding even more risk to the visitors and community should any natural (or man made) disaster or personal emergency arise. I believe this area would better serve the community around it and visitors as a preserved nature area and not a State Park. I do not believe there should be any amenities added to attract large crowds. The area has been used for outfitting and I feel strongly that this use should continue. I believe development should not surpass a small few dry cabins in the existing cabin area and revamping the existing camp ground if needed. I do agree the existing buildings need major care and should be replaced but not exceeded. I believe there should be measures taken to ensure the communities and recreational road users safety with road improvements, especially at homes perhaps even speed bumps to enforce the existing speed limits at the clustered home areas. I also feel added safety around blind corners would be necessary or widening the road around those corners where able.