

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/4/2024 6:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 8/4/2025

As a homeowner on Sweetwater Road I am writing to object to the planned daily volume of visitors and parking proposal for the Sweetwater Lake project. Encouraging roughly 76 extra cars a day on top of residents far exceeds the capacity of both Sweetwater Road and Sweetwater Lake itself. The proposed plan would more than quadruple traffic, which is both unrealistic and unsafe. Such an excess in traffic will erode the serenity, environment, and beauty of all of Sweetwater.

Mentioned in the Gypsum meeting for the proposal was the idea that visitors who arrive at Sweetwater Lake and find no parking will simply turn around and go to another park or go home. This is ludicrous, as Sweetwater Lake is over half an hour from the nearest large town, and people who drove that far or more won't just turn back because they can't park in designated areas. The reality is that they will create parking wherever they can find a spot, likely along the side of the road, both further harming the flora and fauna around the lake, and worsening existing traffic issues.

Another concerning issue is the plan to make campsites that can host RVs and campers. Sweetwater Road is exceptionally narrow in some spots, especially around a few blind curves, and at these places it is challenging for even two small cars to pass one another when going opposite directions. RVs could barely make it through these narrow sections as it is, let alone if there were other vehicles going the opposite direction. Because of this, making campsites that accommodate RVs and camper-like vehicles poses a substantial traffic safety risk.

This is not an appeal to widen or alter Sweetwater Road in any way, but rather a call to action to let the road naturally limit the number of visitors as it has for decades.

Diane Osborn