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First name: Lynne

Last name: Cassidy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the White River Nation Forest Service and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife,

Sweetwater Lake is a breathtaking natural ecosystem that needs to be protected. I understand the desire to develop this area for people to enjoy, but I feel that this proposal is way too ambitious, and has the potential to damage the lake's fragile ecosystem and biodiversity. I can understand a proposal like this for an urban state park or a reservoir state park, like Rifle Gap State Park. A urban parks and reservoirs can handle high volume visits, food service, cabins, boats, food trucks, RV camping. Sweetwater Lake is much more remote. It should be preserved and allowed only small-scale development as to not destroy the quality of this area. This proposal will add water, noise, and light pollution to this area. It will increase traffic on a road that is obviously not built for high volume traffic, RVs and trailers (horse/boat/campers). Also, think about the community members that live on this road leading up to Sweetwater Lake and how greatly they will be impacted by the traffic, dust, speeding and vehicle accidents.

What is the carrying capacity of Sweetwater Lake's ecosystem? What is the tipping point that will turn this living lake environment into a barren reservoir?

I live very close to both Harvey Gap State Park and Rifle State Park. I access Harvey Gap weekly in the summer to go paddle boarding so I see first-hand how loved the state parks are. I love how quiet Harvey Gap State Park is. Only kayaks, SUP boards and small engine fishing boats are allowed on the water. I feel safe on the water and it is quiet enough to listen to the natural surroundings. Each time I visit, I see and hear how much joy people experience when they are there, AND I also see the human impact on the land, water and roads (trash, waste, speeding).

On the other hand, Rifle Gap is a loud place with big engine boats, waterskiing, music blasting, big RV campers and boat trailers. It has better road access for trailers/RVs and is located closer to the City of Rifle. I rarely go to Rifle Gap because I don't enjoy paddle boarding there because of the big boats, and I don't find it to be a peaceful place due to all the noise. Each of these state park has a totally different purpose which allows people to experience the outdoors in different ways. What will Sweetwater Lake become?

Please put nature FIRST by preserving the natural beauty and pristine ecosystem at Sweetwater Lake. Redesign this proposal so that it aligns with the carrying capacity for this area and can sustain its biodiversity for future generations. The initial return on investment might take a little longer, but in the long run you will save money because you will have a more stable natural infrastructure. There are some very good ideas in the proposal, but the overall proposal is too ambitious and is asking too much from the natural area and the community that lives there. Let Sweetwater be a small, simple, safe, accessible and peaceful state park that allows people to foster a deep connection with nature.

Thank you for considering my input.