Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/5/2024 9:05:29 PM First name: Jerry Last name: Craghead Organization: Title: Comments: There are three glaring omissions in the proposed EIS.

First there is no mention of impacts on the neighboring Flat Tops Wilderness Area. Because so many Wilderness management goals and objectives are Congressional mandates, great care must be taken to insure " the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man," Any increase in use at Sweetwater Lake which is a main access point to the Flat Tops will be deleterious to that mandate and concurrently on Wilderness soils and waters and wildlife.

Trails, lakes and destinations accessed out of Sweetwater are over-used, ill-maintained and beyond Forest Plan capacity now without an influx caused by a large new trailhead catering to even more horse use. Not to mention added foot traffic. Any redevelopment at Sweetwater Lake must, at worst, lead to no degradation of the Flat Tops Wilderness resource.

Secondly. Maintaining or improving the purity of this headwater reservoir and stream must be a high priority in any plan to manage the Lake. Any disturbance which could potentially pollute or degrade the water quality must be thoroughly reviewed with strict protection measures in place before a single shovel full of soil is turned.

Third, officials of the White River National Forest should be immediately removed from any analytical or decision making role in this process. There is more than abundant reason to believe those officials have forfeited any chance of objectivity and in fact will endeavor to support a management plan which was presented as a fait accompli, with no opportunity for meaningful public comment. Further, their actions to steamroll this ill-conceived plan introduced an unacceptable degree of politicization into what should be an objective analysis. If there is to be any public trust in this process WRNF employees and contractors should step aside to remove any taint of pre-selection.