Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/5/2024 6:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
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Comments: Dear Commission,

It seems to me that the biggest concern of the community is increased traffic and more people out in the areas we all love. It is a valid concern and should not be taken lightly. Everyone wants it to be as small as it can be, but logically we should expect some increase in traffic. Even without the lake issue, the road is just plain dangerous and with the increased volume of traffic, it only makes it worse.

There should be far better signage. The 25 mph speed limit signs should be posted every mile.

I don't know the logistics of my next idea but a couple of digital signs that clock drivers and alert them when they are speeding would also be good. Not sure if they could send tickets in the mail like the red-light cameras in some cities but I would support anything that keeps cars going slower.

Maybe some customs signs as well. "2-way traffic with no center line: stay far to the right". Or "please respect the community and drive within the speed limit."

Identify the narrowest parts of roads and fix them. Locals know where these areas are and how to be courteous to oncoming traffic, but outsiders do not.

I wish the road could be a dirt road forever but if it is going to be paved eventually, it would make sense to just do it. The only reason I feel this way is because people just don't know how to drive and with no centerline cars are run off the road with other drivers hogging the center of the road and having no experience with dirt road driving.

I imagine there will be a lot of give and take as the decision makers weigh the pros and cons of each issue. One of these issues would be the private enterprise that made sense when it was owned by private land but that is no longer the case. I do not think it would be fair to other private companies and the taxpayers to allow a private horse operation at the lake. Cutting ties with private operations will free you of long-term problems associated with a private business for years to come. It will also decrease the number of people which will make less of a footprint on the area. A horse operation is an unneeded liability to the public. The overall impact of horses on the land and public trail system would lessen and make a better environment for the general public who will be hiking

these trails. I do not think any other public horseback riding should change in any way and horses and horse people should be allowed to use the area as they always have. I do support horse camping and upgrades to the overall public to use it as such. There is already a private horse operation that is in the general area but is not at the lake. This other company allows for people to still have a horse service for people using the area and it does not impact on the area in question. The other company had to pay for their operation without public funding. I find it to be appalling that any taxpayers' funds would go to pay for the bill of a private enterprise so they can profit on these public lands. A private operation will need to figure it out and it should not be a concern of the public and taxpayers to figure it out for them or fund it in any way. Who would not love to have the table set for them in a beautiful area with plans to build their infrastructure and having the government foot the bill for all of it? I see nothing but conflict that could arise between private enterprises over who would have the right to operate there. Although there may not be a solution that everyone is happy with, making the decisions with what fairness in mind would lead decision makers with only one choice. The only way to truly be fair is to separate private enterprises from public ones because ultimately it was paid for by public funds. By ruling against a private operation, you are doing what is in the area's best interest and avoiding a constant burden and power struggle which can easily be avoided by ruling against private operations.

Whatever is decided, try to stretch the project out and do it little by little. If you decide to do 30 campsites in total; put in 10 sites every 5 years so it does not seem so drastic when the work is completed. I honestly wish nothing happens up there but doing it slowly will allow everyone to get used to it. All at once will ruffle feathers and will be disrespectful to Sweetwater. Slow is good!

Do not make it into a state park! Give the local community this victory at least. Even if it ends up being a little like one which it will, please don't advertise it as one. Everyone that has ever set foot on the valley floor of Sweetwater knows they have luckily stumbled onto one the greatest places on earth. This would be true of every local living and surrounding communities. Being realistic, people are going to increase their activity in the area and that is just a fact of life but let's do what we can to not accelerate these changes and make them as gradual as possible.