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Comments: To whom it may concern,

This project of non-native invasive aquatic plant removal is desperately and immediately needed.

The growth of these plants in Bear Creek Lake inside the St Francis National Forest has exploded over the past few years. Since the drawdown of water level due to spillway repair project, allowing sunlight to reach areas previously covered in water, the plant growth has increased exponentially.

This lake has historically been one of the few public fishing lakes in the area and has provided the community with recreation opportunities as well as a revenue stream to support tourism at our State Parks and National Forests. However, the growth of these non-native invasive plants are rapidly choking out access to many fishing areas and restricting the aforementioned revenue and recreation benefits.

Please move forward with this project with all the speed that can be mustered.