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First name: Kate

Last name: Redmond

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Brian Glaspell, Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest:

I am writing to voice my opposition to massive growth around our precious Sweetwater Lake, also known as the Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project (SLDP) #284162.

I have been camping at Sweetwater since I was a teen, having grown up in Routt County. Its primitive, minimal, natural amenities are what makes this place special.

This morning in Steamboat Today, I read of the proposed changes. I had kind of lost track where the issue was, as it has been on the table for a long time. A 4,000 sf lodge, employee housing, 20 campsites, 12 cabins, and other added pressure on the land is just too much for that little enclave that Coloradans have enjoyed for so long. Please don't ruin it. There are so few natural lakes in the State like this!

As residents have emphasized, and as the wildfire last summer showed us, packing hundreds of campers into a dead-end road is a very bad idea. That road is subject to earthen slides during rain storms. The additions that are being proposed will exceed the carrying capacity of the road and of the land and water. Please don't ruin it. No one who lives up there wants this. Is Colorado for us, or for tourists? Can't we have a balance, and enjoy some places for the quiet solitude, and not respond to "MARKET DEMAND" (a term used in the Today article). When I read that, I knew we were in trouble. All that matter is money, huh?

I can not state strongly enough my opposition to this change. I saw what happened to Sylvan Lake, and it is just disheartening. To camp next to a phalanx of generators is not pleasant. I have enjoyed the raptors, the beavers and other wildlife at Sweetwater Lake, and I believe it is your job to preserve and protect it, not destroy it.

Respectfully,
Kate Redmond