



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tom <nagsheader3121@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 2:55 PM

- 1 Dear Sir, I am for allowing recreation at Lake Nighthorse. I am for the least developed alternative at the present. In the future if things work positively I could see myself possibly seeing more development. You may use the above to contact me if needed. I live in Durango and allow you to use my name and address if you need it to promote the recreational use for Lake Nighthorse.

Sincerely,
Thomas O'Neill
56 Big Bend Loop
Durango, Co. 81301
Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments to Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Mike Japhet <msjaphet1@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 10:41 PM

- 1 I support the Proposed Action alternative with two suggested changes: 1) that a breakwater be included at the existing boat ramp for public safety and 2) that an amendment to the Proposed Action Alternative should be
- 2 made to facilitate a more timely opening of Lake Nighthorse to public recreation.

Consistent with the concept of phased implementation, an accelerated schedule for opening Lake Nighthorse to public use should be considered that still provides the most basic of public safety and environmental protections, without the added delay of time-consuming construction of an overflow parking area, connector trail, and permanent entrance station. Considering it has been 4+ years since the existing boat ramp, parking lot, and restrooms were completed, it is not necessary nor is it in the public's best interest to further delay opening until all aspects of the Proposed Action Alternative are fully completed. Under this schedule, Lake Nighthorse could be opened as early as summer 2016 for limited boating and fishing use only, with the public use limit defined by the capacity of the existing boat ramp parking area. The simple, "bare bones" operation of Lake Nighthorse for fishing and boating access would mimic the way dozens of existing State Fishing Areas around the state have successfully operated for decades, and does not require construction of an overflow parking lot or a permanent entrance station structure to be in place before public use is allowed. Specifically, a temporary entrance station consisting of a portable shed or sun shade can be placed at the existing gated entrance off CR 211. Similar arrangements have been in place for many years at Vallecito and McPhee Reservoirs and have functioned well.

- 3 This temporary structure can double as an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) inspection station, using the
- 4 enlarged gravel parking area outside the entrance gate as the boat inspection area. With regard to parking, the existing parking lot at the boat ramp would serve as a self-regulating daily limit to the number of users allowed at Lake Nighthorse. Once the parking lot is full, the ANS attendant or park ranger at the entrance gate would temporarily close the gate to additional boaters or anglers until someone leaves, thus preventing unauthorized overflow parking along the boat ramp access road. From May to November, specific hours of operation can be established, after which the entrance gate will be closed for the day. With the addition of a single portable shed or covered structure and hiring of seasonal ANS inspectors/entrance gate attendants, the existing boat ramp, restrooms, parking area, and access road will serve admirably well until the overflow parking lot and permanent entrance station envisioned in the Proposed Action alternative can be constructed. This will avoid years more delay and growing public resentment at being prohibited access from a facility built with U.S. taxpayers dollars and (in the case of the boat ramp project) Colorado sportsmen's dollars.

- 5 With regard to the related issue of the continuing noncompliance of Reclamation with regard to allowing public access to the public access facilities built at Lake Nighthorse with funds from the Motorboat Colorado Access Fund, under all the alternatives considered in the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Reclamation should be required to reimburse Motorboat Colorado for the cost of the boat ramp, parking lot, and restrooms that have been sitting idle since they were completed in 2012. While unused, these facilities are no longer new, and their useful life has been diminished while Reclamation dithers on "someday" opening Lake Nighthorse. Reclamation is ultimately responsible for the delay in getting this issue resolved. The Wallop-Breaux Act approved an excise tax on fishing and boating gear paid by Colorado anglers and boaters. Wallop-Breaux funds were used to build the boat ramp facility, with the express intent of improving public fishing and boating access in Colorado. This intent has clearly not been met at Lake Nighthorse. Accordingly, Reclamation should be required to immediately reimburse the Motor Boat Colorado fund for the cost of the Lake Nighthorse boat ramp project so these funds can be used at other reservoirs where public access is allowed.

If the accelerated opening of Lake Nighthorse could be accomplished in 2016 under an amendment to the Proposed Action alternative, perhaps the full reimbursement of funds used for the boat ramp project could be scaled back to include only the four years of depreciated value lost since the 2012 completion of the project. As time slips by however, and Lake Nighthorse still remains closed to the public, the clock is ticking on the useful life of the boat ramp project and the likelihood of a public appeal to the Colorado administrator of Wallop-Breaux Federal Aid funds for misuse of funds by Reclamation looms large.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse plan #1

1 message

Matthew Krichman <mkrichman@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 5:12 AM

1 I am writing to support plan #1 as described in today's Durango herald article about opening lake Nighthorse to recreation. I think it is well thought out and balances the concerns and interests of the various groups involved.

Personally, as a nature enthusiast and "peace and quiet" kind of guy, I'd also be fine with a more limited approach that would allow hiking and land activities and non-motorized boating. I think this would be a more respectful use of the area. It would still be a fantastic resource for the community and would attract lots of people. I would actually pay more money to access the lake area if it were not overrun by motor boats.

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

COMMENT: ALP - Lake Nighthorse / Ridges Basin Recreation Plan

1 message

Duffy Brook <duffybrook@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 9:04 AM

To whom it may concern (and Justyn Liff),

1 First of all, I'm happy to see progress is being made toward opening Lake Nighthorse to public access. While I'm very concerned about the impact people will have on the basin, I'm equally enthusiastic about having a "lake" in our backyard.

As a 15 year resident of Durango, and an avid sailor with a motor-less 15' sailboat, **I would prefer to have Lake Nighthorse limited to wind-powered, self-powered, and possibly battery-powered vessels. Basically, cap the speed limit on the lake to 10 mph.**

1 At the very least, it would be great to have a separate non-motorized boat ramp instead of the chaos of rude and often inebriated boaters on Vallecito and Navajo Lakes who will barge in while I'm trying to maneuver to the launch dock. With summer thunderstorms and erratic winds, it can be incredibly challenging to get my boat with a tall lightening rod off the water in a timely manner.

I also think day-use only is the right place to start.

In my opinion, that would be the least disruptive, most cost-effective approach. It would preserve the elemental aspects of the area, and lessen the impact on wildlife. It would keep the need for infrastructure and law enforcement to a minimum. Which in turn would keep usage fees down and promote a wider range of family friendly activities across all socio-economic levels.

Sincerely,
James Brook

Long-term Durango resident and business owner.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

comment on draft EA for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

rebecca koeppen <rkoeppen@gobrainstorm.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 9:20 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

1 I appreciate the thoroughness of the draft EA. At this time I would support Action Alternative 1, from 2011.

Sincerely, Rebecca Koeppen



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

support for motorized recreation on Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Amos L. Soignier <lawoffices@soignierlaw.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 3:00 PM

1 Dear Sir or Madam, kindly accept this email in support of allowing motorized boating activities on Lake Nighthorse. As a lifetime resident of Durango, having a recreational lake within minutes of downtown would offer yet another unique experience for residents and tourists of my beautiful town a like. As an avid boater, I would love nothing more than the opportunity to recreate on a lake located so close to my home. Allowing motorized boats on the lake would also be a significant revenue producing activity for whomever is overseeing such operations in addition to providing non-resident families yet another excuse to come vacation in Durango. I strongly encourage the planning committee to consider allowing motorized boating recreation on Lake Nighthorse once the lake is opened to the public.

—

Kindest Regards,
Amos L. Soignier
The Soignier Law Firm, LLC
100 Jenkins Ranch Rd., Ste. E-3
Durango, CO 81301
ph. (970) 247-3510
fax (970) 247-9195

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5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

mike wurtz <mewurtz@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 9:00 PM

1 To whom it may concern,

The only comment I have is that I highly recommend that water skiing will be made available on Lake Nighthorse.

Thank you



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

janet <jruthr52@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 9:12 PM

The Proposed Action - 2014 Recreation Plan

1 2014 begins the development with a respectful ambition and has growth potential without over reaching. It seems by far the most thoughtful approach to maintain any sense of peaceful outdoor experience without inundating the area as aggressively as Alternate 1 and 2 .

2014 Recreation Plan provides the advantage of careful growth and further development (if deemed appropriate in the future). It would mitigate an initial stampede and enable observation and assessment before the area became overrun. You can't restore what you have "developed". Go a step at a time.

Janet Wilson



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Yvonne Holland <fiddlingpotter@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, Apr 2, 2016 at 7:44 AM

Hello,

I have a quick comment on the Lake Nighthorse Recreation site.

- 1 Could the boating be restricted to electric motors, canoes, & kayaks to preserve the water quality?

Thank you,

Yvonne Holland
227 Hermosa Acres Drive
Durango
Co.
81301

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>



Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment

1 message

Kellus Sewell <nordicak@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 4:14 PM

Dear Mr. Liff,

Pls note my comments below wrt the USBR solicitation of comments in the **Durango Herald** on Fri, Apr 1, 2016.

I. If the following is allowed without sufficient restrictions please note my comments below as recommended in the public meetings coordinated by the **Nat'l Park Service** and local government agencies at the Durango Fairgrounds large meeting room in April 2011 - Pls see Lake Nighthorse PPT attached which was prepared in conjunction with others on the Historical committee.

- 1 1. Horsepower or sound decibels should be limited for any boats or vehicles that create waves and noise with respect to the numerous homes and residents on any of the land that can be from anywhere on the Lake. I recommend no jet boats and that boat or any motorized vessels on the Lake have horsepower limited to 10HP;
2. A quiet area should be created in the SW sector where no motor boats/vehicles are allowed

II. If the following is NOT allowed or restricted I recommend the assessment be modified to allow:

- 2 1. A "Leave No Trace" Wilderness Camp for Kids. I envision a Teepee village with support for cooking outside, excursions on the Lake and land by canoe or horseback to fish and view game, etc. to give kids an experience of what it was like a 100 or more years ago. All heavy provisions must be carried in by boat (provided as an exception to I. above for certain times in late/early Spring, early Fall) or horseback with food and other incidentals transported by horseback during the season. I envision **Universal Studios, Disney** or a similar large or smaller organization that would entice families to Durango while parents explored/toured, camped, fished, etc. in our area while the kids were exposed to a unique but realistic wilderness experience. Therefore, providing a once-in-a-lifetime experience bringing significant economic resources to the community with little, if any, impact on the land or Lake environment.

Sincerely,

Kellus Sewell
1189 D and RG Drive
Durango, CO 81303
970 375 2191

Residence located in Shenandoah Estates with view of Lake Nighthorse to the East

RIDGES BASIN



EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

THREE THEMES:

Past – Present – Future

Goal

Provide education and interpretation of the past, present, and future of Ridges Basin, and how these uses relate to the community.

Three Themes for Education and Interpretation

Past:

- Prehistoric occupation of Ridges Basin
- Historic occupation of Ridges Basin
- Ute period
- Anglo Period
- Ute & Spanish Trail
- Mining- Agriculture- Railroads - Ranching

Three Themes for Education and Interpretation

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PRESENT:

History of the ALP Project

Engineering aspects of the Project

Reasons for building ALP

Community use of Ridges Basin

Education for environmental and cultural resource protection

Three Themes for Education and Interpretation

110g

Future:

- Preserving the natural qualities of the Basin
- Encouraging youth to be involved in resource preservation efforts
- Protecting the natural and cultural environment of the basin
- Promoting long term thinking about the environment

Reaching the goal

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- Use of available technology
- Internet
- I-Phone Apps
- Community volunteer efforts
- Incorporation into school lesson plans
- Piggyback onto facility development
- Development of a Lake Nighthorse brand



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

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Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Greg Kiehm <gkiehm@msn.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 9:31 PM

Justyn,

- 1 I would like to see Lake Nighthorse stay undeveloped and in the condition it is in. Plenty of people that are for development of Lake Nighthorse are the same ones that will not respect it and appreciate it. There are many other places nearby for recreational water for those that desire it.

I recently purchased property in the Durango area (Rafter J area) to build a home in the near future, and do not want the congestion and problems that would be caused by developing Lake Nighthorse.

If you want a comparison of what developing Lake Nighthorse would do, take a look at Chatfield Reservoir near Denver, and also Hanging Lake near Glenwood Springs. Both are very much turning into a mess. The same would likely happen with Lake Nighthorse if it were to become developed.

Thank you for your time.

Greg Kiehm

gkiehm@msn.com

720-394-5429

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment on Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

Mike Reuter <mreuter1@cox.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 10:24 AM

Hi Justin,

- 1 After reading "most" of the Lake Nighthorse Plan I would like to say that I support the 2011 Trails version "Action Alternative 1— 2011 Recreation Plan" of the recreation plan. In the document page 24, column 2.

"2-4 miles of ADAaccessible trail in initial phase. Additional multiuse trails in possible future phases, resulting in a total of 28.6 miles of trail, forming complete loop around lake."

I would also love to see a connector trail from the Animas River trail up to the Lake Nighthorse trail system. This would be a wonderful addition to the current Animas River trail.

In my opinion to negate having any trails around Lake Nighthorse would be a shame as the views around the lake are beautiful and should be enjoyed by the public. I am a member of Trails 2000 and have put in many hours of volunteer work for that organization to create the beautiful network of trails that we currently enjoy around Durango. In my ten-plus years of home ownership in Durango I've never run into any "trail conflict" as was mentioned in the Lake Nighthorse draft. I will hope that you consider a more comprehensive trials plan such as the 2011 RECREATION Plan for Lake Nighthorse.

Sincerely,

= Mike Reuter =



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

The Houstons <durangocolo@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 11:12 AM

- 1 Justyn, my wife and I have lived in Durango for the past 26 years and were first in the Four Corners in 1969 when Lake Powell was filling. I am a retired ER Doc who has seen more than enough trauma from all types of motorized recreation. So, I am writing in the hope that "personal watercraft" and power boats not be allowed on Lake Nighthorse. It is a small lake! I would make exception for electric trolling motors & possibly outboard motors of less than 5hp, though the latter I would accept reluctantly. The lake is a gem & motorized recreation will severely compromise its beauty. Please, please! Alan F. Houston, 107 Riverview Drive, Durango, CO, 81301.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails at Lake Night Horse

1 message

Dusty Grannis <tech@animashighschool.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 8, 2016 at 6:41 PM

1 I advocate and am very interested that there be a trail or trail system around Lake Night Horse! For both mountain bikes and hikers.

I am sure Trails 2000 will take very good care of the trails as they (and I when I volunteer) do. I would love to volunteer my time to build this trail.

It would be very beautiful to bike next to a lake. This town is a big bike and hike community. It would provide a great activity for families.

Thanks!

Dusty Grannis :: IT Director & Assessment Coordinator :: Animas High School
Tel: (970) 247-2474 | x2309
tech@animashighschool.com | www.animashighschool.com



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5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Comment about trails at Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment about trails at Nighthorse

1 message

Jane Brunton <theartstation@me.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 8, 2016 at 9:51 PM

- 1 I would very much like to see some trails put in at Lake Nighthorse. It is a beautiful area and would be a shame to not have a trail system to enjoy the beauty on foot and possibly mountain bike and horse use. The trail system could also be nice for cross country skiing in the winter. Not everyone has a boat. Thank you for this consideration.

Jane



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

nighthorse comments

1 message

wkoon@frontier.net <wkoon@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, Apr 9, 2016 at 7:13 AM

- 1 Hi
Please consider alternative 1 as the best use of Lake Nighthorse. Please don't be afraid to implement multi use of this area. It was voted into existence back in the 80's by local residents for water rights and recreation. Both can happen simultaneously with monitoring.
I work for the Ute Mountain tribe, and know they are mainly interested in making money for the tribal members. The sooner you get a Lake Capote type facility there, the faster the tribes can make money. It can be done in a natural way so as to preserve the environment and satisfy all interests.
thank you
Bill Koons
Durango

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Nighthorse trails

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse trails

1 message

Amos, Charlie <AmosRC@durangofire.org>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sat, Apr 9, 2016 at 5:58 PM

- 1 I would love to see some shoreline walking paths around Lake Nighthorse. This lake has huge potential for healthy and active locals. The terrain would also lend itself to some awesome mountain biking trail system. Thanks for your time.

Charlie Amos

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Thank you !

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thank you !

1 message

Todd Otoole <otooletodd@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, Apr 10, 2016 at 6:56 AM

- 1 Thank you for your time and consideration. We love our outdoors and would love to manage the installation and maintenance of a new trail around Lake Nighthorse. A trail would contribute to the integration of all race,color, gender, age to share in the appreciation of this beautiful area. Also the volunteers will be good stewards in the care and managed preservation of the area by maintaining not just the trail but cleaning up the large amounts of trash (similar to Horse Gulch area) that are collected annually from use not related to hikers and bikers. Thanks again for all your work, it is appreciated.

Sent from my iPa

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

glenn steckler <glennsteckler@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, Apr 10, 2016 at 10:02 AM

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

- 1 please consider trail development and usage options for Lake Nighthorse. When visiting other lakes in SW Colorado (McPhee, Ridgway Reservoir, Wood's Lake, Trout Lake) nearby trails are a big part of the attraction to these areas and creates multi-use options for the visitor. Access to trails at Lake Nighthorse gives more bang for the buck, a lot of the work is already done, and it would be a huge missed opportunity if there were no trails in place in completing and opening this project to the public.

Glenn Steckler
glennsteckler@hotmail.com
303-419-3679 - cell
970-728-4276 - home

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Plan

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

glenn steckler <glennsteckler@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, Apr 10, 2016 at 10:02 AM

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

please consider trail development and usage options for Lake Nighthorse. When visiting other lakes in SW Colorado (McPhee, Ridgway Reservoir, Wood's Lake, Trout Lake) nearby trails are a big part of the attraction to these areas and creates multi-use options for the visitor. Access to trails at Lake Nighthorse gives more bang for the buck, a lot of the work is already done, and it would be a huge missed opportunity if there were no trails in place in completing and opening this project to the public.

Glenn Steckler
glennsteckler@hotmail.com
303-419-3679 - cell
970-728-4276 - home

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

trails at nighthorse

1 message

gardner catsman <gcatsman@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: gardner catsman <gcatsman@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 10:55 AM

- 1 As a local durango father of two i strongly hope trails at lake nighthorse will be included! trails will create perfect family oppotunities! not everyone wants to get in the water, and i view trails as a major component of recreation!
please add trails to lake nighthorse
gardner catsman
642 e 5th ave
durango, co 81301

Gardner Woodwork and Design Inc. cell(970) 769.1409 fax 970.385.7450
gcatsman@yahoo.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail. Get the app



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

Jan Dahlquist <wj Dahlquist@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 2:33 PM

1 Dear People,
I have read the draft environmental assessment and feel that the proposed alternative is the best of those presented.

I assume that in allowing motorboats and gasoline engines, you have taken into account possible contamination by those boat and engines. That would be my biggest concern, since this water is to be used for drinking water by local residents.

Just for your information, our use of Lake Nighthorse, if it were to be open, would consist of the following:

- 16 ft. sailboat with electric trolling motor
- 8 ft. sailboat with paddles
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Non-RV camping

Sincerely,
Janet Dahlquist



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

lake Nighthorse

1 message

Diane Skinner <skinnerkatz@durango.net>
To: JLiff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 6:52 PM

- 1 I would like to see Lake Nighthorse opened to the public soon because it is a great place close to Durango to go birdwatching. I used to go birdwatching on Smelter Mt. many years ago and miss that opportunity. I did take a Bureau of Rec. tour of Lake Nighthorse and saw a small stream to the south that would be excellent for hiking and birdwatching. And with the lake there should be lots of waterfowl.

Diane Skinner



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake night horse

1 message

J Spiker <jeffspeicher@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 9:15 PM

- 1 To who it may concern, please consider Trails 2000's plan for a comprehensive trail network. Many trails navigate sacred areas including Sand Canyon, Mesa Verde and many others. Many of the sites were previously excavated prior to lake construction and there is a history of my bike trails coexisting with pre texted land and sites. To have such a resource next to durango is priceless. Please don't restrict use to mostly motorized boats. I personally would pay a park fee annually to use the trail system. The original plan was for a very comprehensive trail network. Please follow through on that plan including trails on the USA le west side. This project cost tax payers a fortune. Please allow us to realize some value in the well managed use by responsible cyclists and hikers. Trails 2000 will build and maintain the trails and has years of history to prove it. Concerned citizen and tax payer

Jeff Speicher

Sent from Outlook Mobile



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Ann-Ernie Norris <aenorris@q.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 4:07 PM

- 1 Although my first choice would be a totally non-motorized lake I understand the desire of the City to promote tourism and the roll power boaters play as tourists.

I am pleased to see that the EA does such a good job of minimizing the impact of power boats and believe you have struck a good compromise that will work for most folks. I, however, wonder about the speed limit of 40mph. The portion of the lake open to this speed is not that big and it seems one would be across the lake in the blink of an eye at 40mph. It also seems that 30mph would be plenty fast for most skiers. Too many boats buzzing around such a small area could also be a challenge to some boaters and present safety issues to all boats.

I also wanted to mention a possible concern with the proposed use of chip seal for a portion of the road. I live in Rafter J and our chip seal roads are great EXCEPT for our cut-de-sacs where tight turns are required. I don't know exactly where chip seal will be used at Nighthorse, but I would suggest it not be used where tight turns are required - like in the boat ramp area or anywhere vehicle have to make tight turns. The turning action puts extra stress on the chip seal and greatly reduces the life of the road.

Just my thoughts.

Ernie Norris



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan - Alternative 1

1 message

Seth Furtney <sethfurtney@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 7:26 PM

Dear sir,

- 1 I've been actively following the Lake Nighthorse project for over a decade. I strongly favor the Alternative #1 Recreation Plan as it directly responds to the priorities established by the local community.

Please know that in 2010 the City of Durango developed a Parks & Open Space Master Plan. One substantial part of this plan was identifying the communities priority ranking of facilities/amenities desired for the City of Durango.

The #1 ranked community priority was "Natural surface trails for hiking and biking" followed by #2 ranked "Hard surface trails for bike and pedestrian"

I encourage you to support a recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse that responds to these highest community priorities.

Seth Furtney
970-385-5547



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

William Herringer <wherringer@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, Apr 13, 2016 at 2:25 PM

- 1 I am writing to express support for multi-use recreational trails to be included as part of the plan for Lake Nighthorse. I would encourage the BLM to work with Trails 2000 to develop a plan that includes recreational trails that can be used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Trails 2000 has an excellent history of creating sustainable and enjoyable trails throughout the county and is dedicated to maintaining the areas trails to keep them in good condition.

Thank you for your consideration,

William L. Herringer

—
Will Herringer
wherringer@gmail.com
(970) 799-2628 cell
(970) 382-9854 home



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Knighthorse Reservoir

1 message

1 **greg speicher** <gregspeicher@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, Apr 13, 2016 at 3:09 PM

Please consider including mountain biking trail all around Knighthorse Reservoir.
Thanks
Greg Speicher



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Matthew R. Coleman <mattcoleman@qwestoffice.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, Apr 13, 2016 at 4:15 PM

- 1 Please include multi-use trails in the Lake Nighthorse area. Make it truly a place for all to enjoy.

Thank you, Matt

Matthew R. Coleman, CPA
mattcoleman@dgo CPA.com



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

trails

1 message

Bruce Daniel <bruce@koganbuilders.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:03 AM

- 1 As an avid runner, hiker and horseback rider I request that you do not miss the opportunity to plan for multiple use trails at the new Lake Nighthorse recreation area.

Thanks,

Bruce Daniel

main 970.259.0195

cell 970.769.2390

direct 970.403.1254

bruce@koganbuilders.com



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trail needed for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Linda Boulder <Linda.Boulder@co.laplata.co.us>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:38 AM

1 To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

As a 29 year resident of La Plata County and lifelong horse owner, I urge your agency to please include trails as part of the Lake Nighthorse recreational area. La plata County has a strong backcountry horseman' association that volunteers hundreds of hours each year helping government agencies, such as the forest service, to maintain trails on public lands for the enjoyment of the public. Not including trails at Lake Nighthorse is basically a slap in the face of these volunteers as well as the rest of the riding, hiking public, and may very likely result in folks carving out their own trails, which invites a whole host of problems. Please do the right thing for this area.

Linda Boulder
970 385-5798



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

jon sherer <jonsherer_1@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: jon sherer <jonsherer_1@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:51 AM

- 1 I am told that the current plan for development contains no trails. I think that a trail system is an important part of the recreation area, and I would like to see those trails open to horse traffic as well as hikers and bikers. Thanks for your consideration.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tom and Jane <tomjanerobinson@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 9:03 AM

- 1 What happened to all the work that was done by so many on trails at Lake Nighthorse? Please don't forget the abundant walkers, riders and cyclists who have faithfully put in time and effort in response to requests for planning. We have horses personally and have been in expectation of having some lovely trails to ride at Lake Nighthorse for years now, waiting for this area to open for us all.

Thank you,
Tom and Jane Robinson
Members,
4 Corners Back Country Horsemen



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Richard Speegle <richardspeegle@yahoo.com>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 3:27 PM

Reply-To: Richard Speegle <richardspeegle@zoho.com>

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>, Cathy Metz <cathy.metz@durangogov.org>

My name is Richard Speegle and I am a member of the Durango Park and Recreation Board. I am very familiar with the Lake Nighthorse project as I spent 2 years working on the 2011 Recreation Management Plan with a wide variety of publics in Durango. After reading the draft EA, I can see you are doing the minimum to get the lake open (proposed action). That is fine, and we in Durango are willing to see minimum development initially to get the doors open for the public.

However, once the City of Durango is managing the lake, we need to be aware of the immediate demand for a developed day use area with picnic tables, swim beach, and restrooms. The visitors are not just going to recreate in the lake, but there will be a great

1 deal of use along the undeveloped shoreline (fishing, hiking, picnicking, messing around.) This will no doubt impact the vegetation and riparian environment adjacent to the parking area, boat launch area and beyond. I would like to request that you evaluate the impacts to the shoreline on an annual basis. This will determine when and where the day use area will be developed once it is essential to both meet demand and reduce impacts to the shoreline.

Please include my comments in your analysis and keep me on your mailing list. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this wonderful recreation amenity for the community of Durango.

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Trails at Lake Nighthorse

135



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Cindy Leming <cleming@hughes.net>
Reply-To: cleming@hughes.net
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 12:55 PM

1 I hope that you are planning to include horse trails at Lake Nighthorse. After all with this name

It would be just wrong not to allow horses.

Thank you

Cindy Leming



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment extension request for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Kristine Johnson <johnson.k@bresnan.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 2:01 PM

Dear Justyn,

- 1 This is a request to extend the comment period of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan. I received the 3/25 e-mail notice a couple of days before leaving town for a week, and I noticed that the bigger public article in the Durango Herald did not come out until 4/1/16. Given that the lake does not expect to open until the 20017 season (?), and that this Draft has been five years coming, an extension of two or four weeks does not seem unreasonable.

I am preparing a letter to the editor that may turn into an op ed piece in the Herald; and that could ideally generate more comments to you and proper discussion in the community I remember full well the interest that rocked our community five years ago. It took me an additional week to review my file, read the new document and talk with individuals that are more informed than I. I do not want to feel time pressured for my letter/op ed and want a thoughtful, balanced position presented.

Thank-you for this consideration and have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Kristine Johnson
82 Big Bend Loop
Durango, CO 81301
970-946-9560,



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails for mountainbiking at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Susan Ulery <susan.ulery@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 7:09 PM

Dear BLM,

- 1 I know that Trails 2000 submitted a proposal to include mountain biking trails in the development of Lake Nighthorse, and I understand that the current proposal does not include any trails for mountain biking.

I hope you will find a way to include some singletrack, dirt trails for mountain biking. The Durango area has many trails, but people (myself included) still drive 60 minutes to get to Phil's World in Cortez and Boggy Draw above Dolores because these areas have what Durango doesn't - relatively easy, rolling terrain that's fun for all levels, but is notable for being friendly to beginner and intermediate or senior riders. Trails 2000 does a great job of developing and maintaining trails, helping to alleviate the burden on governmental and tribal agencies involved in design - and maintenance would be relatively light compared to any of the boating or camping uses.

Thanks,
Susan Ulery

--

Susan H. Ulery, CEO
Ph: 970-589-2707
www.assureconsulting.us



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April 15, 2016

Ed Warner
Bureau of Reclamation
445 W. Gunnison Street
Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Chairman Manuel Heart
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
124 Mike Wash Way
Towaoc, CO 81334

Chairman Russell Begaye
The Navajo Nation
PO Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Chairman Clement Frost
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
PO Box 737
356 Ouray Drive
Ignacio, CO 81137

Chairman Herman Honanie
Hope Tribal Council
Hopicouncil@hopi.nsn.us

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CLASS P10 1.10
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CLASS	INITIALS	SURNAME
7/2/16	EW	C. Warner
4/21	KO	K. Frost
4/21	WH	W. Heart
4/21	HB	H. Honanie
4/21	MB	M. Begaye
4/21	CF	C. Frost

20160426CA - 001

Dear Chairmen and Mr. Warner,

1 I am writing regarding the potential opening of Lake Nighthorse to the public. I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment, and based on my experience as a resident of Durango, Colorado and involvement as a Site Steward with the Bureau of Land Management's program in Canyon of the Ancients, I have serious concerns regarding enforcement.

Specifically, I am concerned regarding the City of Durango providing management services, as they pertain to enforcement. Living in Durango, the city government's philosophy regarding enforcement of the many ordinances is that enforcement is citizen initiated. That is, if a citizen sees a violation, they should report it. The city will not actively seek out violations, except in some cases. Not very proactive and this has been true for many years. In a recent council meeting, the next mayor reiterated that the city did not have enough staff to enforce the housing code, thus without citizen's complaints, little would be done. Furthermore, the city freely admits that it has difficult recruiting police and filling the many vacant spots. So, enforcement by the City of Durango is reactive, not proactive. I have also experienced that even when violations are pointed out, letters are sent but the violations remain. I not certain why such lax enforcement, likely a combination of the city's culture, years of passivity, and lack of staff, all of which are intertwined.

2 Before moving to Colorado, I lived on a lake in Maryland and witnessed the numerous violations of the law regarding boats. Fortunately, the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources was very proactive in their approach to boaters by stationing officers on boats 12 hours per day. While this took care of many of the problems, swimmers and kayakers, like myself, found the motorboats often inconsiderate and violating the law. Given that motor boats will be allowed on the lake, I have concerns that the City of Durango can be proactive in ensuring the safety of all who use the lake.

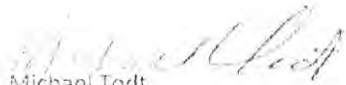
Most important, I am concerned about the potential damage to the archeological sites, artifacts, and possible grave sites which, based on previous archeological research conducted prior to building the reservoir likely exist. Given the large numbers of people who will visit the area, there remains a strong possibility that sites will be disturbed and artifacts taken. As a site steward in Canyon of the Ancients, ensuring that sites remain protected is important and the presence of site stewards monitoring sites and the area supports the work of the BLM police staff.

- 3 Finally, motorboats on Lake Nighthorse will create both noise pollution, pollution to the water, and potential danger to swimmers, kayakers, and wildlife. While I would suggest only canoes and kayaks on the lake, I doubt that will happen, but at least I can suggest.

I have two suggestions. First and foremost, make certain that the City of Durango can present a very detailed plan regarding how they intend to enforce the laws that will apply to Lake Nighthorse. Make certain that they are going to hire and train enough staff so that monitoring can occur seven days per week during the hours that people will be utilizing the lake area. Make certain that they will be proactive in their enforcement both on the lake and in the area around the lake that people will use for hiking. Finally, periodically monitor their effectiveness at enforcement. Do not assume enforcement is happening....be keen observers and evaluate their performance periodically. What would be "icing on the cake" is to utilize the BLM police that ensure enforcement in Canyon of the Ancients. They are proactive though they are few in number. I have more faith they will ensure the safety of the ruins and artifacts.

Second, initiate some type of "site steward" program that would utilize volunteers to maintain a presence in the area and monitor whether archeological sites and artifacts are being abused. Such a program would require training and support from the various tribes and BUREC. Such a program could be modeled after the site steward programs in Canyon of the Ancients, New Mexico and Utah. The archeological sites are precious to the tribes and generations to follow.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.


Michael Todt
450 E. 3rd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
970-403-3449



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: Lake Nighthorse Comment

1 message

Ozga, Kathleen <kozga@usbr.gov>

Mon, Jun 6, 2016 at 11:45 AM

To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>, Mark Chiarito <mchiarito@usbr.gov>

Justyn - please add this one to our email comments for Lake Nighthorse Draft EA.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phillip Turner** <phillipt1949@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Apr 16, 2016 at 9:45 AM

Subject: Lake Nighthorse

To: KOzga@usbr.gov

- 1 I support the right to hunt waterfowl on the lake for all citizens who have a valid hunting license.. In the original drafts hunting was included. Hunters have supported the lake based on this and it should be included now and not be limited to any sector of the population. We do not need to foster discrimination issues by trying to limit use by all parties.

Regards

Phillip Turner



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment on Lake Night Horse Recreation Plan

1 message

Jens Nielsen <jens_nielsen@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Jens Nielsen <jens_nielsen@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 11:06 AM

Mr. Liff,

1 I welcome the proposal for recreation at Lake Night Horse. However, i would like to propose including mountain biking trails in the proposed action plan. Adding trails at the lake would reduce pressure on our existing trails, and extend our recreational opportunities in the Durango area.

Regards,
Jens Nielsen
235 Copper Rim Trl
Durango, CO 81301
970 335 8030



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments Regarding March 2016 Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

Ginger Hall <hallginger@msn.com>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 1:39 PM

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>, KIM HALL <kimbroughhall@msn.com>

After reading the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan/Draft EA, more than once, & attending numerous public meetings since the early 2000s, the following are my comments.

- 1 Lake Nighthorse has been compared (by meeting officials) to Vallecito Lake, as being 'almost as big' & '2/3 the size'. In fact, when full, Lake Nighthorse surface area is 1,490 acres, Lake Vallecito is 2,720 acres. That makes Lake Nighthorse just 260 acres over 1/2 the size of Vallecito. Basically 1/2 the size!

Use the boat ramp for small, fishing type, boats only. Our beautiful area does not need another lake full of large, noisy, gas producing, lake polluting boats. There are other lakes already in place that allow for this type of recreation. There are numerous other types of water recreation, that is far more appropriate for Lake Nighthorse. Fishing, kayaking, canoeing, sailboarding, paddle boarding, swimming, diving, just to name a few.

- 2 Allow for day use only, with the capability of overnight boat housing. This is a very, very dry & windy area, with residents living very closeby. The possibility for fires in this beautiful, somewhat protected area is extremely high. There have been proposals, over the years, for up to 196 overnight camping sites. Vallecito Lake, which is almost twice the size, & is much higher in elevation, thereby having far less fire danger, has 79 camping sites. I would hope common sense would play a part in this decision, not just money making, because one fire would eliminate any capital gains possible.

4

- 3 Hiking trails, mountain biking trails & the interactive nature hikes are a great idea. Picnic areas are a must, being aware that bear proofing is absolutely necessary.
- 5 The fence that 'encloses' the land between Co Rd 141 & Co Rd 210 should be removed. It is serving no purpose, except for tripping wildlife, getting strung out on the roads, & costing the tax payers a half a million dollars. That land should be open to the public, as before, & nature, hiking & mountain biking trails can be put in. The trails can then be used for cross country skiing, as before.
- 6 Pave Co Rd 210. It's been repaired numerous times, & is getting no better as time goes on. It is now a short cut for all vehicles, including industrial trucks, & once Lake Nighthorse is open, it will only get worse.

I live one mile from Lake Nighthorse & therefore have a vested interest in what happens next!

Thank you,

Ginger Hall
52 Rendezvous Trail
Hesperus, Colorado

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Comment Period

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comment Period

1 message

john culver <john.culver3@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 7:28 AM

1 I'm slowly coming up to speed on the draft environmental assessment for Lake Nighthorse (I'm in Durango). I would appreciate it if the public comment period could be extended at least three weeks. Thanks,
John Culver



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

hotmail <shane_sigle@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 9:33 AM

Hello,

- 1 I would like to express my desire to have both soft and hard surface trails incorporated into the Master Plan. Durango is a world-class destination for trail use for multi-modal transportation. The lake is a great area for additional trails and the community has a great resource, Trails 2000, for construction, maintenance and promotion of these types of trails. Thanks for your time and attention to this important aspect of the Plan.

-Shane Sigle

Shane Sigle

PO Box 706

Durango CO 81301

303 808 7734



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments for Nighthorse

1 message

eric hjermstad <jstfshn@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: eric hjermstad <jstfshn@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 9:31 AM

- 1 Having a well developed multi use trail system thought the area will help lessen the potential for pedestrians developing their own trails that could potentially cause more harm than good. Durango is a destination for trail users so the development of another great trail system in the area will only boost Durango's reputation. Also, another trail system close to town will help distribute usage of all trails lessening impact on the trail systems overall. It is great to see that we are finally getting close to moving forward with this.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Dan Tobin <dantobin1@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Dan Tobin <dantobin1@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 3:23 PM

- 1 I am writing to state my support for developed trails at Lake Nighthorse especially singletrack. I also support camping and picnicking in addition to water recreation.

Dan Tobin



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

1 To whom it may concern, I understand that the proposal for Lake Nighthorse does not include any consideration for Horse trails. Really???? I hope this is just an oversight and you will reconsider making trails for horse use for this large segment of recreational users

1 message

Flow Zerr <heartssongssh@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 3:25 PM

Thank you,

Flow Zerr
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

priscilla sherman <priscilla.sherman@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 6:47 PM

Dear Justin,

It has just come to my attention that the time to make comments regarding the Lake Nighthorse EA will close on the 25th of April. I am a recent buyer/home owner in the nearby development called Rafter J. I was out of town for most of March and part of April. I apologize for not getting the time to review the EA before now. I am writing to ask if there is any way the comment period can be extended a few days. I have begun to review the document, but it will take time to read and research all of the valuable information your office has compiled.

In the future Lake Nighthorse will be a water source for my home, along with some other concerns I have, I would really like to understand all that this EA has in sight for my future. I am aware of many others who feel that they were unable to review the document as well.

Again, I so appreciate all the time and effort you and your agency put into developing the EA and getting the citizens notified.

- 1 Any consideration in extending the comment period would be greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,
Priscilla Sherman
560 West Fork Rd
Durango, CO 81303
970-749-7894

www.pshermanphotography.smugmug.com

"Forget not that the Earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.." Kahlil Gibran



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

The water use for the lake.

1 message

The Anderson's <lazydog@durango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM

1 I love water and I love playing in the water, as most people do. Our family is a power boat user but I don't think this lake should be used for that. It is such a beautiful lake at this moment and it should stay in it's pristine state. And in order to do that, it should be used for kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking trails and shore fishing. There are plenty of other lakes to take our powerboat onto. Thank you for listening.

Julia Anderson



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Proposal

1 message

addie greer <anaddi8@yahoo.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 6:33 PM

I am taking time to write to strongly urge you to include development of trails at Lake Nighthorse.

1 Trails, and especially one that links to the very popular Dgo riverwalk, benefit the largest number of people and the largest variety of people as well.

People on foot, on bikes, with dogs, birdwatchers/DBC, runners/AMT, youth and parents with strollers and elderly on foot, or with walkers and even wheelchairs can and do utilize the river walk—all these folks would be able to enjoy Lake Nighthorse more than all actual lake users combined! No gear is required to walk; and exercise outdoors is much appreciated and needed by Colorado residents and visitors alike.

I have lived in Pagosa Springs for almost forty years and can assure you that I will use a trail at Lake Nighthorse; and I know my family and friends in Durango would enjoy trails there too.

I was suspicious of Lake Nighthorse's purpose right from the start—not including trails would most certainly cause me to desire complete transparency and more information on the entire project.

Please include the maximum amount of trails, including a continuation of the Dgo riverwalk.

Thank you for your attention.

Addie Greer
P.O.Box 1402
P.S.,CO 81147



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment

1 message

Richard Hoehlein <richhoehlein@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 6:43 PM

We participated in the series of community meetings held several years ago here in Durango wherein ideas were collected and vetted regarding options for future recreational use of Lake Nighthorse. With that as background, we are disappointed that so much of what was envisioned is not included in option #1. Among those items were a swim beach and the development of a reasonably scaled system of trails around much of the lake (it would help to have a clearer sense of how/when the 25 foot buffer zone around the lake will be in effect for hiking purposes).

It seems that only access for motorized boating is being considered at this time, and that other previously recommended (by the public) forms of recreation are on hold until some unspecified time in the future and with no indication of commitment from the Bureau that further enhancements will necessarily occur. Given the significantly reduced footprint of the area that can potentially be used for recreation by the public, it would seem that any significant positive impact on local/regional economic development or more broad use of this resource by the public has been curtailed to a large extent.

- 1 We wish that the Bureau and the other key stakeholders would commit to adoption of the first alternative plan presented in the assessment, along with a timeline for its implementation. As a corollary observations, we think
- 2 it is unfortunate that the decision to allow motorized vehicles on the lake includes gas/diesel propulsion, rather than limiting boating to electric motors only. Since water quality is a high priority, it will be interesting to see how the planned broader inclusion of various types of motorized boats will impact conditions at the lake over time.

Richard and Jill Hoehlein
Hesperus, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse comment

1 message

Scott Graham <grahams1234@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Scott Graham <grahams1234@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 7:46 PM

Greetings,

I have been a Durango resident since 1971 and I am a former Durango City Councilor.

- 1 Given its clear size limitations, I strongly believe Nighthorse should be no-wakes allowed. That will allow the majority -- motorized fishing users and non-motorized users -- to enjoy the lake, while the minority -- water ski and etc. users -- can appropriately use Navajo.

Thank you.

Scott Graham
8 Junction Lane
Durango, CO 81301
970-385-0224
grahams1234@yahoo.com

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Recreation

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation

1 message

Matt Gerhardt <matt@rivers-media.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 11:03 AM

Hello,

I wanted to write you in support of recreational activities at Lake Nighthorse. I feel that recreation is such a big part of our community in Durango and is the main reason that many of us call Durango home. Having recreational access to Lake Nighthorse would be a major asset and revenue source to our community.

- 1 I would like to voice my support for Action Alternative #1, but would love to see the non-motorized section of Alternative #2 added into the Alternative #1 plan. I would also love to voice my support for one or two completely non-motorized days per week (Sunday-Monday?).

Thank you for your time.

Matt Gerhardt
(970) 903-5499



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

Bill Atkins <billatkins1010@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 11:33 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: Bill Atkins <billatkins1010@gmail.com>

Dear USBR,

This is to provide comments on the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan.

In the Draft Environmental Assessment, I see no mention of the plan to pump Lake Nighthorse water to Lake Durango to supplement drinking water for several area subdivisions. Section 3.11.1 of the EA says in part "The Animas River from Junction Creek to the Southern Ute Indian Reservation boundary (which includes the intake structure for the Durango Pumping Plant for Lake Nighthorse) has been assessed as fully supporting agriculture and primary contact recreational uses, not supporting water supply use, and having insufficient information to assess aquatic life..". (my underline)

Secondly, section 3.11.2 says that under any of the development proposals "...water quality in Lake Nighthorse would be potentially affected by development and use of shoreline recreational facilities, motorized boating, and other waterbased recreational facilities".

I request assurance that before development is approved:

1. the water quality of Lake Nighthorse will be assessed as supporting water supply use, and
2. any additional water processing (caused by Lake Nighthorse water quality) required of Lake Durango Water Authority will be evaluated and made public.

Sincerely,

Bill Atkins
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Recreation at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Dave Linden <dlinden@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 11:53 AM

Justin,

I realize there are many opposing ideas of what recreation should look like at Lake Nighthorse, but considering the impacts on water quality and

the cultural/ historic resources my thoughts are:

- 1 Non -Motorized boating only to keep petro chemicals out of the water. If motorized boating is allowed it should be wakeless. With Vallicito, Navajo and McPhee

serving the waterski and speed boat community their redundant use at Lake Nighthorse is unnecessary. The non -motorized boating would have a

lighter impact on the water quality, serenity and wildlife (since the area was a wildlife area until "repurposed").

- 2 Developed camping on the northside should be low impact if it is set back far enough from the shore with adequate pit toilets and trails built to connect to the shore and

trails (so multiple "casual" trails do not develop).

Unpaved trails are appropriate unless a short paved handicapped access trail is necessary to avoid issues. Ideally there would be trails on both sides of the lake

with one possibly routing to the ridge on the southside of the basin. Trails should be able to be routed to avoid any historic/ cultural sites and sensitive wildlife

or wetlands areas. Trails should be non-motorized.

Thanks, Dave

how small we are under the wheeling starry night sky.....



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

RE: Reclamation Extends Draft Environmental Assessment Comment Period for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Richard and Jill Hoehlein <hoehlein@msn.com>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 3:51 PM

- 1 Thank you - this is such an important issue for us who live nearby, we had hoped there would be a longer response time.

Date: Wed, 20 Apr 2016 12:18:43 -0600
Subject: Reclamation Extends Draft Environmental Assessment Comment Period for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan
From: jliff@usbr.gov
To:

Western Colorado Area Office

Durango, Colorado

Media Contact: Justyn Liff (970) 248-0625

jliff@usbr.gov

For Release April 20, 2016

Reclamation Extends Draft Environmental Assessment Comment Period for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

DURANGO, Colo. – In response to multiple requests, the Bureau of Reclamation will extend the draft environmental assessment comment period for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan to Friday, May 6.

The draft environmental assessment includes a no action alternative and three alternative recreation plans. These three proposed plans provide different scenarios for recreation at Lake Nighthorse while protecting water quality and sensitive natural, cultural, and other resources and ensure compatibility with the primary purpose of the Animas-La Plata Project for municipal and industrial water supply.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Recreational Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Art Berg <artandpatberg@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Art Berg <artandpatberg@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 7:47 PM

4/21/16

Dear Sir or Madame,

- 1 We are writing to respectfully request that equestrian trails be part of the proposal for lands surrounding Lake Nighthorse. There are many in the La Plata County community who enjoy horseback riding and this seems like a wonderful opportunity to provide for that part of our diverse community. This is a beautiful area to ride in and even more so now that the lands overlook Lake Nighthorse. Riding horses, as you well know, is a part of our Western Heritage. The Bodo Family, who predates Lake Nighthorse, were a ranchers and stock users. It is historically appropriate that horseback riding should be continued and allowed for in your planning.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Art and Pat Berg

P.O. Box 866

Durango, Colorado 81301

970-247-1460

Residents of La Plata County since 1975 (we remember when this was the Bodo Ranch)

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Equestrian trails

157



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Equestrian trails

1 message

Tess Stransky <biff_tess@yahoo.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 9:19 PM

- 1 Please include equestrian trails in the development of Lake Nighthorse. We certainly agree that horses and their use have been a huge part in the history of that area as Bodo Ranch. Sincerely, Biff and Tess Stransky



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments - Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan Environmental Assessment

1 message

Ann Dugan Schwarz <nutshellbasic@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, Apr 22, 2016 at 2:27 PM

Dear Ms. Liff,

- 1 I support the "no action" proposal for the recreation plan.
I am opposed to any use of motors on the lake due to the environmental damage this would cause, and all the other "action" alternatives allow motors.
 - 2 I am also opposed to any campgrounds. There is no need for campgrounds, and they would cause too much negative environmental damage, including potential fires. If any "action" proposals are implemented, I therefore prefer the Proposed Action, which does not allow campgrounds (at least not immediately).
- Thank you,
Ann Schwarz

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake nighthorse

1 message

Julie Eisenmann <noworry1@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 22, 2016 at 3:05 PM

1 Greetings!! Please please add a horse trail at the Lake!! Thank you julie eisenmann. Ignacio, co who works in Durango and shops and votes!

Sent from my iPhone

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

160



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Nancy Shipps <shippsnan@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 22, 2016 at 5:45 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

- 1 I am of the opinion that Lake Nighthorse be a quiet, motorless recreation area. It is essential for wildlife and the serenity of those visiting and enjoying the lake. There are ample opportunities for motor boat enthusiasts to recreate on Vallecito Reservoir, McPhee Reservoir and Navajo Lake. It is important to honor and respect those who prefer a quiet outdoor water experience.
Thank you for your consideration.
Nancy Shipps
Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Chuck Wanner <cwanner@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, Apr 22, 2016 at 9:16 PM

- 1 Please be sure to include horse riding trails in your recreational plans for Lake Night Horse. Your trails should include some that are for riding and walking only as well as mixed use trails that include bicyclists.
Thanks,
Charles Wanner
4CBH

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Area

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Area

1 message

jondeehurley@gmail.com <jondeehurley@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 8:03 AM

Dear Ed Warner,

- 1 I hope you will consider including horse trails in the Nighthorse Campbell Reservoir recreational plan. I rode the area before it was a lake and considered it one of the best areas for riding and wildlife watching.

Thanks,
Todd Rodas
495 CR 226
Durango, CO 81301

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

keeping Lake Nighthorse quiet

1 message

Betsy Janeczek <path303@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 11:46 AM

1 We are writing to add our voices to the many other local residents of La Plata County who can't wait to begin enjoying the recreational opportunities offered by Lake Nighthorse. We feel strongly, however, that boats on the water should be wake-free (.. or maybe there could be days off and days on for loud motors.)

This area would be adversely affected by a lot of loud motor activity over there.. and we cringe at the thought of jetskis .. no, no! all that gasoline pollution getting churned into the water. Please encourage quieter activities: canoes, kayaks.. hiking, birding.

We live right across the valley up on Florida Mesa, we can see the dam from our house. We don't need any additional noise pollution.

Thank you, Betsy and Andy Janeczek
1467 CR 303, Durango, Co 81303



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

John <johnw@animas.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 12:25 PM

1 The Lake Nighthorse draft environmental assessment does not adequately address the non-motorized option. The value and attractiveness of a quiet peaceful lake is grossly under-rated. We have several large nearby lakes where motor boaters can recreate; but none where canoeists and kayakers can enjoy a lake without noise, waves, and potential collisions with speedboats. Elimination of motorboats could also mean saving the big expense of a mussel inspection station (doubt there is much risk with hand carried boats). A non-motorized lake would certainly offer better air and water quality benefits.

If the boat ramp represents some kind of claim for power boaters, then what is the costs to refund their "investment" and eliminate their claim? The public was never given the opportunity to choose if they wanted that ramp or not. Getting rid of powerboats and the cleaning station should lower the costs, making the recreation plan more financially attractive.

Please re-analyze with proper regard for the multiple benefits of a non-motorized lake. Or at least one that limits the motors to electric or 5 hp.

John Wolgamott
423 Peak Trail
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Response to Lake Night Horse proposal

1 message

Robert Wilde <dgobob@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 12:53 PM

Madams, Sirs.

I welcome, finally, the opportunity to comment on the belated opening of Lake NightHorse. I have been disappointed over the years to witness little progress towards final configuration. In fact , I have written numerous successful articles to the Editor of the Herald complaining about the lack of information about progress .

The proposal package was thoroughly and excellently done to examine the options and make a decision. The proposal has overlooked nothing and probably is exempt from lawsuits or lack of issue explanation.

- 1 After waiting so long (not necessarily patiently) , there can only be one choice which is the 2011 draft (or better). We citizens of La Plata County deserve this (essentially funded) jewel of Southwest Colorado.

I am still concerned though. How are you going to weigh the comments? By county citizenship , city address, businessman or not, Native American or not, financial status, friendship, political influence, party affiliation, ? etc. I believe this remains you biggest remaining challenge.

Next biggest perhaps, is to expedite the final decision and expediently implement it. If the conclusion takes as long as the proposal, many of us won't live long enough to get our feet wet. Additional bureaucratic delays are unnecessary and conflict with public sentiments.

Sincerely,

R. Wilde



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Equestrian Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

lwatters <ljwatters@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: lwatters <ljwatters@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 5:27 PM

- 1 Please add my name to the list, hoping there will be equestrian trails at Lake Nighthorse. The "cowboy/horse/trail riding/western" lifestyle of Durango is sadly slipping away.

This area should be available for many types of outdoor recreation. There are virtually NO riding trails near town; please consider allowing riders to once again access this area, so we can all enjoy the beauty of this lake.

Thank you.
LISA WATTERS

4/24/16

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To: ED WARRER
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
445 WEST GUNNISON AVE SUITE 221
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 80501

From: ADOLPH KUSS
308 KENESHA TRAIL
DURANGO, CO 81301
(970) 385-6706

SUBJECT: COMMENT DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
LAKE NIGHTHORSE RECREATION

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MAY 0 2 2016

CLASS _____
PRJ _____
ENR. _____
FLDR _____

CLASS	INITIALS	SURNAME
5/2/16	EW	Warrar
5/10/16	DC	Chianto Waldman

I have perused the 107 page Reclamation Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment plan and would like to make the following comments.

It appears to me that there is no need for an additional lake water recreation facility. As noted in the draft, the area has several lake water recreation facilities within a 100 mile radius of Durango, Co.

Lake Nighthorse has for the past few years remained a wildlife and cultural ~~site~~ ^{site} A Panther site and private lands buffer ~~at the site~~.

There are so many mitigation issues related to this unnatural body of water, surrounded by established ~~with~~ state wildlife area and native american cultural sites. It does not make sense to not protect this site as a wildlife and cultural preserve.

1. I strongly ~~emphore~~ Reclamation
and other stake holders to
consider the No Actions Alternative

Thank you

(Joseph Kuse)

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse.

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse.

1 message

Joel Claus <mountain0312@yahoo.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, Apr 24, 2016 at 11:45 AM

1 Hello,
There should be no motorized traffic on or around the lake. No jet skis, powerboats, dirt bikes, ATV's etc.
Have parking areas for vehicles and boat ramps for non-motorized boats....and then walk, paddle or bike.
Thank you,

Joel Claus
Bayfield, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Sandy Brown <sbrown0207@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, Apr 24, 2016 at 7:16 PM

To whom it may concern:

Since it appears cost is a factor in implementing recreation at Lake Nighthorse, I suggest going back to the Recreation Master Plan of 2011 that called for a series of trails. Trail maintenance in Durango is less than other recreation facilities because Trails 2000 builds and maintains them with volunteer labor.

The 2014 Recreation Plan appears to continue to consider trails as stated, "Possible future recreation development.....may include.....a natural surface trail from Lake Nighthorse to the Animas River Trail, a looped natural trail system on the east side of reservoir, potential linkages with other trails outside the project....." (2.1 Proposed Action--2014 Recreation Plan).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sandra V. Brown
2900 Cedar Ave.
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse draft environmental assessment comments

1 message

Andrew Schwarz <aschwarz@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 6:29 AM

Greetings,

1 I wish to support the "no action alternative" To the draft environmental assessment for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan. The area around here already has a abundance of lakes that can be used to recreate and I personally favor leaving this one in a pristine state.

Thank you for consideration,

Andrew F. Schwarz
aschwarz@frontier.net
255 Wildcat Road
Durango, CO 81303
970 385-4454



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails and recreation at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Candee Pearson <candeepearson@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 9:33 AM

Hi,

- 1 I would like to see a network of trails for hiking and biking at Lake Nighthorse. Since we do not have many lakes/reservoirs in the area having a trail around the lake and possible some other loop trails near campgrounds/parking areas/boat ramps would provide a unique recreational opportunity for trail users.
- 2 Since it is such a small lake, non-motorized use and slower motorized use is my preference. I would like to see either days/locations/times where the lake is non-motorized for paddleboards, windsurfing, canoes, swimming etc.

Thanks,
Candee Pearson

Five Star Feng Shui
<http://www.fivestarfengshui.com>

25 Hermosa Drive
Durango, CO 81301
970-764-5615 cell

"A shift in consciousness takes place only when we choose it." Alan Fogel



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse recreation

1 message

Noisom, Lindsay <ljnoisom@fortlewis.edu>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 11:49 AM

Dear Mr. Liff,

1 I would like to offer my opinion on the recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse, for what it's worth. I read over the options, and would like to see Action Plan 1 get underway, although I don't agree with the decision, initially, to allow motorized travel on the lake.

We live in Hesperus, and would love to have the option to hike, swim, and picnic so close to home, but I'm also concerned that the lake will become one giant landfill with so much human activity there. I'll be curious to see how all this pans out.

When will the plan be made public?

Sincerely,

Lindsay Noisom

Lindsay Noisom

Administrative Assistant

First Year Programs

(970) 247-7157



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Carrie Allen <rubyballoon@durango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 4:44 PM

- 1 This seems like a futile attempt to make the public involved in the decision making process to open the lake. If the public had their way it would've been accessible 4 years ago. It would be helpful to have an honest discussion about what is holding up the opening of Lake Nighthorse. I realize entities are playing the political game of trying not to piss off other agencies involved, but let's have a little honesty here. Carrie Allen

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April 15, 2016

Ed Warner
Bureau of Reclamation
445 W. Gunnison Street
Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Chairman Clement Frost
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
PO Box 737
356 Ouray Drive
Ignacio, CO 81137

Chairman Manuel Heart
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
124 Mike Wash Way
Towaoc, CO 81334

Chairman Herman Honanie
Hope Tribal Council
Hopicouncil@hopi.nsn.us

Chairman Russell Begaye
The Navajo Nation
PO Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Chairmen and Mr. Warner,

I am writing regarding the potential opening of Lake Nighthorse to the public. I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment, and based on my experience as a resident of Durango, Colorado and involvement as a Site Steward with the Bureau of Land Management's program in Canyon of the Ancients, I have serious concerns regarding enforcement.

Specifically, I am concerned regarding the City of Durango providing management services, as they pertain to enforcement. Living in Durango, the city government's philosophy regarding enforcement of the many ordinances is that enforcement is citizen initiated. That is, if a citizen sees a violation, they should report it. The city will not actively seek out violations, except in some cases. Not very proactive and this has been true for many years. In a recent council meeting, the next mayor reiterated that the city did not have enough staff to enforce the housing code, thus without citizen's complaints, little would be done. Furthermore, the city freely admits that it has difficult recruiting police and filling the many vacant spots. So, enforcement by the City of Durango is reactive, not proactive. I have also experienced that even when violations are pointed out, letters are sent but the violations remain. I not certain why such lax enforcement, likely a combination of the city's culture, years of passivity, and lack of staff, all of which are intertwined.

Before moving to Colorado, I lived on a lake in Maryland and witnessed the numerous violations of the law regarding boats. Fortunately, the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources was very proactive in their approach to boaters by stationing officers on boats 12 hours per day. While this took care of many of the problems, swimmers and kayakers, like myself, found the motorboats often inconsiderate and violating the law. Given that motor boats will be allowed on the lake, I have concerns that the City of Durango can be proactive in ensuring the safety of all who use the lake.

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CLASS	INITIALS	SURNAME
7/2/16	EW	C. Warner
4/21	KO	C. Frost
4/21	WH	M. Heart
4/21	HH	H. Honanie
		R. Begaye

20160426CA - DC 1



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trail around Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Helen Joline <helenjoline@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 2:23 PM

My name is Helen Joline and I live at 6119 Hwy 550, Durango Co 81303.

I would like to weigh in on the planning for recreation at Lake Nighthorse. The basin which holds Lake Nighthorse is a peaceful and beautiful area, with historic and spiritual value which can be felt.

- 1 My hopes for the Lake are: any power boats would have a speed limit, not allow loud pleasure craft such as jet skis and keep the lake equally accessible for canoes, kayaks and sailboats.
- 2 Having trails around the Lake just for hikers would be a nice way to keep trail damage/upkeep to a minimum and give a place for hikers to enjoy getting out in nature without the fear of a biker coming barreling around a bend.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Joline



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

comments regarding the draft EA for the Lake Nighthorse Recreational Plan

1 message

Steven Ruddell <sruddell@mac.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 8:50 AM

Dear Mr. Justyn,

I have read the draft EA for this proposed project. Please consider the comments below.

- 1** 1. Prohibit all jet skis in the Proposed Action. These are the most objectionable motorized vehicles to other users. Enforcement will be a continued source of conflict and very difficult to do if jet skis are allowed access.
2. Test all boat motors for decibel limits in the Proposed Action. If not done, it will be impossible to enforce and will cause continued conflict for users and neighbors. Testing decibel limits must be done before allowing access for motorized boats. The method for testing will need to be changed to do this on land. Law enforcement must have calibrated devices to continually monitor boat decibels while these users are on the lake.
- 2** 3. Include a trail system that circumnavigates the lake in the Proposed Action.
- 3** 4. Require law enforcement to patrol the lake continually during open hours in the Proposed Action. Law enforcement must be visible on the lake surface if rules are to be complied with. Otherwise there will be constant conflict between motorized users, neighbors, and non-motorized users.
- 4** 5. Increase the no-wake zone to 300 feet from the shore along the perimeter of the lake.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Steven Ruddell
788 Animas View Drive
Durango, CO 81301
970-403-3429

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Draft EA



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

Jim Judge <jim.judge@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 12:45 PM

1 I have reviewed the draft EA for Lake Nighthorse and wish to support the No Action Alternative.

Thank you,

W. James Judge
Durango



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: Add Waterfowl Hunting to the Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

Ozga, Kathleen <kozga@usbr.gov>
To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>, Mark Chiarito <mchiarito@usbr.gov>
Cc: BOR-DUR CFiles <rec-dur-cfiles@usbr.gov>

Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 9:28 AM

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Downey** <Bill.Downey@vantiv.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 9:52 AM
Subject: Add Waterfowl Hunting to the Lake Nighthorse Plan
To: "KOzga@usbr.gov" <KOzga@usbr.gov>

Hi Kathleen

1Please add Waterfowl Hunting to the final plan for LN

Thanks

Bill Downey ETA CPP
Sr. Merchant Sales Executive
vantiv / integrated payments, formerly Mercury
o: 970-335-4247
f: 970-335-4059

Customer Support: 800-846-4472
bill.downey@vantiv.com
www.vantiv.com



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Marjorie Brinton <runswim55@gmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 1:13 PM

- 1 As a trail runner and general outdoor enthusiast, I would recommend the inclusion of trails in the plan for Lake Nighthorse. Given that it is in such a beautiful wooded setting and has so much to offer for solitude and being in the outdoors while being so close to town, it would be a shame to not include other opportunities for outdoor recreation. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely, Marjorie Brinton

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

In regards to limiting motors on Lake Nighthorse

1 message

ryan keck <ryankeck007@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 8:10 AM

It is my opinion that the Durango area's greatest asset is the beautiful natural setting in which it exists. People (and the animals too) experience this with all senses. The sound, and to a less extent the smell, of motorized vehicles greatly take away from the enjoyment of nature in my opinion.

- 1 The minute a lake allows motorboats is the minute it becomes much less appealing a place to swim, fish, canoe, sail, kayak, or any activity on the land surrounding the lake.

Considering the bigger picture and the issue of global warming, Durango should act by example in ways that limit the burning of fossil fuels.

Please act to protect and allow the enjoyment of our greatest asset, nature.

Thank you,

Ryan Keck
847-274-4996
ryankeck007@gmail.com

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>



Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Rick Pearcy <rapearcy@aol.com>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 8:57 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Please strongly consider making the lake quiet and peaceful.

1 I'm a neighbor so I do have a vested interest in noise control on the lake, in campgrounds and on nearby roads.

The lake is beautiful BUT small. No high speed boats please. No wake craft would be welcome (small sail boats, kayaks, swimming, etc.)

2 Any walking/hiking/running trails planned for a trip around the lake? That would be great.

Please open up soon.

Rick Pearcy
Rafter J



182

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Keep lake night horse a NO WAKE lake

1 message

Buz Branch <sailorbuz@hotmail.com>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 11:02 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

- 1 Why have a few loud power boats disturb the peace. The echo off the hills would be very disturbing and there are many other lakes locally where they can show off.

Sent from my iPad

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Silence at Nighthorse

183



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Silence at Nighthorse

1 message

Debra Van Winegarden <debra@vanwinegarden.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 12:19 PM

Greetings,

1 I am 100% behind Kristine Johnson's opinion piece in the Herald today, May 1, 2016. I strongly prefer NO motorboats on Lake Nighthorse. If they must be allowed, please, just little quiet putt-putters. I look forward to row boating on the lake.

Thank you,

Debra Van Winegarden



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Kent Fry <Kent.Fry@wnco.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 12:33 PM

1 Please allow unrestricted motor boat operation on Lake Nighthorse.

As an 18 year resident of Durango I am tired of driving an hour any direction to use my boat and would very much like to see our tax dollars used for all purposes on the lake.

Kent Fry
478 Ute Jct
Durango

Sent from my iPad

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5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Lauren Ellison <lellison1977@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 12:32 PM

1 I am sorry motor boats are going to be allowed, but please restrict to low hp boats and no wake. It's absurd to permit large boats going high speed on such a small mountain lake. We were looking forward to a nearby lake to kayak, but large boats will ruin that. We were at Williams reservoir recently where only small motor boats were allowed. The wake was not a problem but the noise was still incredible every time someone moved. A small valley like Lake Nighthorse will reverberate noise off the valley walls until you'd think you were in a rock concert.

I am very disappointed by the process so far. So few large boaters will it compared to others but there will be a disproportionate impact. I would otherwise be a consistent user. If you can't please everyone why not go for the most minimal impact option.

Lauren Ellison
1130 CR 228, Durango.

Lauren Ellison
Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Knighthorse

1 message

Cross, Jim <CROSS_J@fortlewis.edu>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>
Cc: "Cross, Jim" <CROSS_J@fortlewis.edu>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 12:48 PM

1 I would like to add my voice to those who feel that Lake Knighthorse should be a quiet lake with either no motorized access or limited to trolling motors and a no wake policy. This process has been infuriating for the local recreational community. I am one of only a few scullers in the area, but we are part of a much larger paddling community. We usually travel to Lemon Lake to row our long gliding boats. Kristine Johnson's editorial in today's (May 1) Durango Herald has inspired me, despite my frustration, to get involved again. I attended almost all of the available meetings of 2010-11 and voiced my opinion. Unfortunately that was a doomed process due to the decision to take the boat ramp funding without consulting the public. To my knowledge we do not have a quiet lake in the area and thus the paddlers are left to deal with the wakes of the powerboaters. I even suggested that we have quiet morning and evening hours of use on Knighthorse, but that was dismissed as an unwieldy solution. One would like to think that local government would work more efficiently, smoothly and quickly than our state or federal governments but alas we suffer the same bureaucracy with what appears to be even more ineptitude on our local level. What's worse is that we seem to have a track record of not getting recreational projects done in Durango. (unopened fields at FLC, DHS Track, replacing tennis courts at FLC, Oxbow Park near the River to name a few) The surrounding communities of Bayfield, Cortez and Farmington seem to be able to build and maintain better recreational and athletic facilities well ahead of Durango despite lesser community financial means. I have been told that a Lake Knighthorse manager, a former Durango Parks and Recreation Director who used to get things done, was all but hired several years ago until the city got involved. I strongly urge that this Lake Nightmare project be resolved, that a quiet lake solution be reconsidered and that the decision be put to a community vote. Perhaps then, and only then, you will get quiet from us off the lake as well as on.

Sincerely,

James S. Cross

130 Cedar Drive

Durango, CO 81301

28 yr. local resident



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Greg Otteson <GLOtteson@msn.com>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 2:59 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: johnson.k@bresnan.net

In regards to the ongoing debate whether power (ski) boats be allowed I would like to suggest that

1 you allow both, but alternate days that power boats are allowed. You could either do an odd / even alternation, or split the days of the week alternating weekend days.

Example

June 1 – Power Boats

June 2 – Non Power Boats (fishing trollers allowed)

June 3 – Power Boats

June 4 – Non Power Boats

and so on....

Example

Tues-Thurs- Sat / Power Boats

Wed – Fri – Sun / Non Power Boats

Tues-Thurs- Sun / Power Boats

Wed – Fri – Sat / Non Power Boats

2 This small of a lake would be dangerous mixing the 2. In addition boat traffic should only be counter clockwise (common in the US on smallish lakes)

I would be glad to attend a meeting, however I travel frequently and might not be able to make it but would appreciate knowing when they are.

Greg Otteson



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Lawrence Suazo <lawsuaz@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>
Cc: "johnson.k@bresnan.net" <johnson.k@bresnan.net>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 4:30 P.M.

Dear Justyn,

1 I would like to add my support for making Lake Nighthorse a non-motorized lake. Selfishly, I am a StandUpPaddleboarder. My family and I go to Vallecito Lake frequently in the summer, and would love not to have to deal with motorized boats who laugh while they make wakes across our paths, usually laughing. I have no recourse and am at their mercy. I'm sure alcohol is involved. I too enjoy weekend brews, but when it accompanies a motorized vehicle, it's an accident waiting to happen. How would you propose policing this type of problem?

Another issue is that there would not be personnel needed to check for harmful mussels, etc. The size of Nighthorse lends itself to some quiet water.

I offer the suggestion to table the decision for motorized use to see how the utilization is received. It would be much harder to cease motorized boat use if it may prove to be problematic in such a small lake. Just my thoughts.

Regards,

Lawrence E. Suazo



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment - Lake Nighthorse Draft EA

1 message

Jody Furtney <jodyfurtney@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 4:32 PM

Justyn,

As a Colorado native and Durango resident for 13 years, I have read through the Draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse and am very disappointed that the recommended proposal includes no multi-use trails for immediate use as part of the plan. This proposal does not represent the many views of the community over the years that overwhelmingly requested that trails and other recreational opportunities be included with the Lake Nighthorse plan.

- 1 I am advocating that this proposal be updated to be Action Alternative 1 - 2011 Recreation Plan which reflects the views of myself as well as the community at large. I have one update. I propose that the hiking trail should be a multi-use including equine trail as well. Durango has a long history of having multi-use trails and this tradition should be maintained
- 2 so as not to alienate one group over another.

Please let me know that you received this comment. Please keep me posted on meetings and developments surrounding this issue. Thanks.

Jody S. A. Furtney
970-385-5567
jodyfurtney@hotmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment

1 message

Steve Kawell <stevekawell@gmail.com>

Sun, May 1, 2016 at 8:37 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Justyn,

I have lived in Durango long enough to remember the large herds of elk and deer that use to winter in the Bodo State Wildlife area, now under water.

It seems crazy to allow large power boats and water skiers on what should be a wildlife area.

- 1 Please do not allow any power boats over 10 hp. on Nighthorse reservoir.
Keep it quiet for the wildlife as well as the human visitors.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Kawell

970-769-3904



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse - Public Comment (Disc Golf Course)

1 message

Jeff Spori <explorationists@yahoo.com>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 5:23 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: rec@ci.durango.co.us, durangodisc@yahoo.com

Hello Justyn,

- 1 About three years ago, I discussed the possibility of Durango installing a disc golf course at Lake Nighthorse with Cathy Metz at Durango Parks and Recreation. I think a disc golf course would make a great addition to the community and the terrain would really make for a challenging and scenic course.

Since there was a public comment period, I went ahead and designed an example course via Google Earth to help give you guys an idea of what a real disc golf course might look like at Lake Nighthorse. This course plan is only to serve as an example, as again, it was designed via Google Earth only. However, I did take the time to use appropriate distances for uphill or downhill holes, and tried to locate the start and end near the existing parking lot.

Please have a look. I would be glad to donate my time (ie. no charge) to make this happen.

I am going to forward the same to Cathy Metz at Durango Park and Rec also.

Thanks Justyn!

Jeff Spori

Disc Golf Course Designer

PDGA Pro Member #48766


Durango, CO

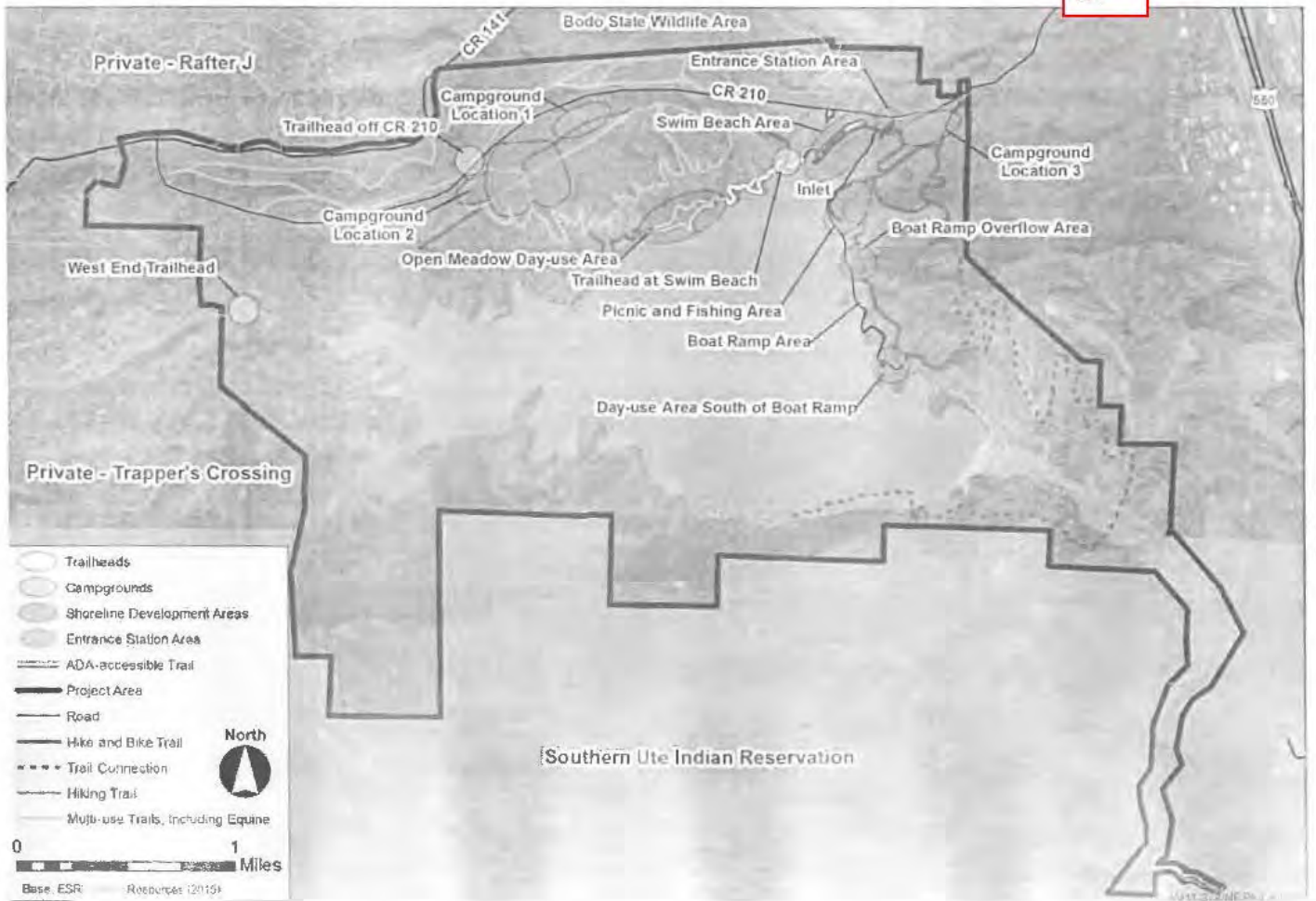
durangodisc@yahoo.com or

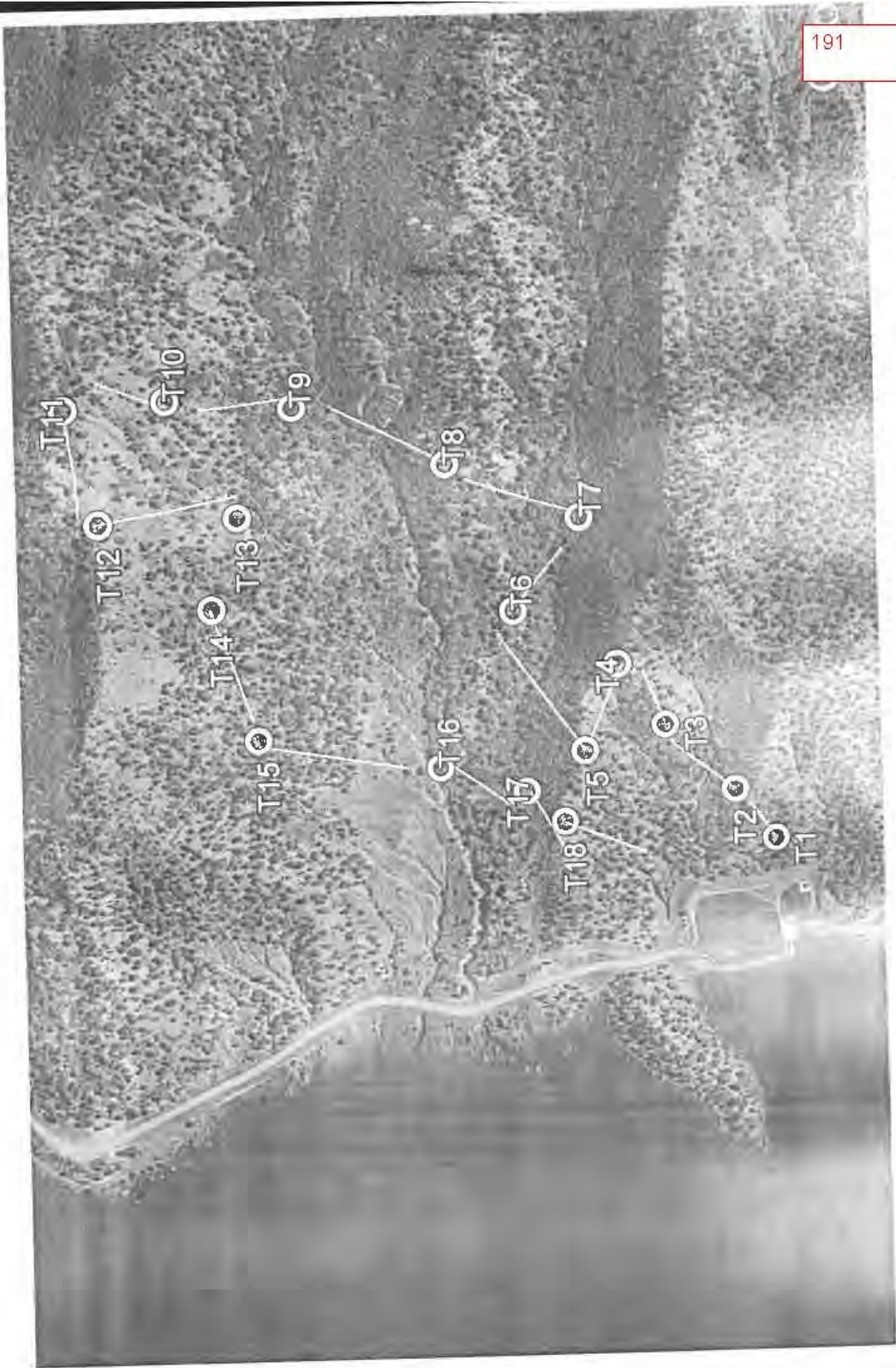
explorationists@yahoo.com

970-375-7772

970-799-0907

 **Lake Nighthorse - Possible Disc Golf Course (7 pages).pdf**
1780K







5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Action Plans

192



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Action Plans

1 message

Phillip Wehmeyer <phillipw@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 7:28 AM

Justyn,

- 1 I am a Durango resident for the last 20+ years and would like to cast my vote for Action Alternative 1 - 2011 Recreation Plan in regards to the Lake Nighthorse Action Plans currently under consideration.

Thank you and I look forward to another wonderful outdoor amenity for our residents and visitors!

Phil Wehmeyer

915 Hidden Valley Cir.

Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Liza Tregillus <lizatrig@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 7:40 AM

- 1 Just a message in opposition to motorized boating on the Lake Nighthorse reservoir. My reasons are global warming (recreational use of gas), environmental disruption and noise. Even if motorized use could be limited to one or two days a week, that would be preferable.

Liza Tregillus
711 Carriage Place
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

lake nighthorse

1 message

Marci Daly <marci.daly@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 7:44 AM

1 Very much in favor of the action alt. 1 ,2011 recreation plan!!!



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jeff Vierling <jeffv@stanfordalumni.org>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 7:54 AM

Hello,

- 1 I would like to comment on the Lake Nighthorse recreation plan. I strongly prefer prioritizing non-motorized recreation at the lake. I know it's probably hopeless given that the boat ramp has already been built, but I believe a non-motorized lake would benefit far more of the Durango and La Plata County community than yet another lake dominated by loud and smelly motors. At the very least, I'd
- 2 like to see Action Alternative 1 adopted from the 2011 Recreation Plan. The current plan's emphasis on boating-only recreation is unacceptable and not reflective of the community desires.

Thank you,
Jeff Vierling

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

196



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Jodi Deller <jndeller@mydurango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 8:05 AM

Dear Justyn: I am concerned about the current 3/16 DEA Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan. Under section 2.1 Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan, there is a very limited scope of access and recreation being allowed at this time. Although it does state “possible future recreation development” which may include trails, camping, picnic areas, etc... - what is the real chance of this happening? In section 2.2 Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan, all of these items were specified. There was a 2 year time frame, which included public involvement, and these recreation items were obviously a priority for the public and they were written into the plan. Why do so much research and act like we, the public, are having our concerns addressed, then take all of those items out of the current proposed plan? It seems like a bait and switch tactic to me.

- 1 Please consider the 2011 Recreation Plan as proposed. Lake Nighthorse could be a great economic and recreational asset to Durango and our community. But, not if it is only limited to boaters.

If opening up recreation must be done in phases, then the current plan should state specifically what and when these items will be phased in. Please consider and listen to what the public asked for between 2009-2011. Trusting that these items have the “possibility” of happening is not good enough for me. The current plan should be revised to address these additional items to ensure that they come to fruition.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Jodi Deller
37 Rio Vista Circle
Durango, CO 81301

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Nighthorse Plan comments



197

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse Plan comments

1 message

Tom Engel <tengel@goffengineering.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 8:17 AM

- 1 We would like mountain biking trails built by trails 2000 to be incorporated into the Lake Nighthorse Recreation area. Alignment to be created at a future date by Trails 2000. 50+ miles of trails are desired. Non-motorized.

Thomas W. Engel
475 Braceland Ln
Durango, CO 81303

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

198



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

kim martin <kimartinkona@icloud.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 8:44 AM

- 1 I encourage you to make Lake Nighthorse a no-wake boating lake. Water skiers, etc. have Lake Navajo and Vallecito for their purposes.

If, for some reason, it is decided that Nighthorse should be available for larger boats, that can be changed later on. Let's get the lake open to the public as soon as possible.

Kim Martin
6451 CR 100
Hesperus, CO 81326

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

RE: Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Greg Otteson <GLOtteson@msn.com>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>
Cc: Kristine Johnson <johnson.k@bresnan.net>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 9:41 AM

- 1 Was also thinking that if the Power Boat days were less popular, maybe just allow them 2 days per week. That will give the wildlife more of a break.

Greg Otteson
Glotteson@msn.com
(626) 482-2923



From: Liff, Justyn [mailto:jliff@usbr.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2016 9:38 AM
To: Greg Otteson <GLOtteson@msn.com>
Cc: Kristine Johnson <johnson.k@bresnan.net>
Subject: Re: Lake Nighthorse

Good Morning Mr. Otteson –

Thank you for your interest in recreation at Lake Nighthorse. I have received your comments and they will be considered as we finalize the environmental assessment and the recreation plan at Lake Nighthorse.

Thank you again.

Justyn

On Sun, May 1, 2016 at 2:59 PM, Greg Otteson <GLOtteson@msn.com> wrote:



200

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation plan

1 message

Kurt Smith <kurtshmiddie@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 10:05 AM

Hello.

- 1 Please provide mountain bike specific trails for Lake Nighthorse.

Sincerely,

Kurt Smith

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

201



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jack Morrison <jmorrison@durango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 12:21 PM

Sir:

I am one of those testosterone laden men with a speedboat. I love to go fast. I should not be allowed to drive it on Lake Nighthorse. The lake is too small.

1 I can and should go to Navajo Lake where there is plenty of room.

Please keep Lake Nighthorse wake free. It is only common sense to do so.

Add my name to the list of people of oppose power boats on Lake Nighthorse.

Thank you.

Jack Morrison

Jack Morrison, Ph.D.

Morrison Business Consulting

288 Logging Trail

Durango, CO 81303

970-903-9307

ColoradoBusinessConsulting.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse reservoir

1 message

Lisa Self <willowblue@icloud.com>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 2:00 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Hello nice person,

1 This is to let you know that I would much prefer **no loud boats** in our beautiful reservoir.

Again, no loud boats please.

Thank you kindly,
Lisa Self

Sent from my iPad

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

203



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Steve Self <steveself@mac.com>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 2:04 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Dear Justyn,

1 I would greatly prefer that Lake Nighthorse be for quiet boating only and that speed boats and other motorized craft be banned.

Regards,

Steve Self



204

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>


Lake knight horse

1 message

Bob Prentice <builder.bob@live.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 3:31 PM

To whom it may concern: I have lived in Durango for over 40 years and am eager and ready for Lake Knight Horse to open. I think the biggest mistake you could do is to allow water skiing on this beautiful lake. It would take away from the pristine nature that so many people in this community appreciate. Let the big boats and water skiers go to Lake Navaho or vallicto Reservoir. I think it would just add to noise and create a party atmosphere being so close to Durango, Which will create management problems. I do think you should allow small fishing boats with small motors or make it a wake free zone. Water skiing on this lake would disrupt fishing as well as most other activities.
Bob Prentice 749-6113

 builder_bob.vcf
1K



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments for Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Planning

1 message

Michelle Reott <mshellie@gmail.com>
To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM

Hello -

I am submitting the following comments for the Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Planning:

- 1 Although my preference would be no motorized boating to protect noise and water quality and since that is not an option, I strongly support a low or no-wake option for the motorized boating on Lake Nighthorse. I feel this will be a quieter option for all users and the surrounding environs.

Thank you!
Michelle Reott
250 W 16th St
Durango CO 81301



206

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Support power boating at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tim and Sandra LaFrance <lafrance7@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 5:47 PM

To the Bureau of Recreation,

Please consider my comments to the Draft Assessment regarding Lake Nighthorse.

- 1 One of the main reasons that I supported ALP and the creation of Lake Nighthorse years ago was because of the advertised recreation potential of having a reservoir so close to Durango that was large enough for power boating. It would be a violation of trust to take power boating away now. There are an abundance of small lakes in the area without power boating for those who want a quiet lake experience, e.g. Haviland, Andrews, Four Bears, Turtle Lake, and numerous alpine lakes accessible by hiking.

I could support a quiet end of Lake Nighthorse in the shallow water of limited size.

Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

Tim LaFrance
3310 E 5th Ave
Durango, CO 81301
lafrance7@gmail.com

--
Tim & Sandra
lafrance7@gmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

dorothy bregar <dorothy.bregar@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: dorothy bregar <dorothy.bregar@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 2, 2016 at 11:36 PM

Dear Mr. Liff,

- 1 I would like to weigh in on the planning for Lake Nighthorse. I would like to see the lake be a wake free lake.

Durango keeps growing larger and it's becoming increasingly hard to avoid the aura of a faster paced, more intense lifestyle. Since it seems that we're required to have some sort of motorized boating on the lake, I would like to see it kept wake free. This type of boating would have less impact on the greater number of motor boat free people who would be using the lake.

We have other, larger reservoirs that can better handle speed boats and water skiers. Let's keep Lake Nighthorse quieter for the benefit of those looking for a place to be able to relax and get away from the increasing stress of modern life.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Bregar
Durango, CO



208

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Draft Assessment /Comment

1 message

Robert Rosenberg <bob@insight-corp.com>

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 8:46 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: VIRGIL PULLIAM <pulliamco@yahoo.com>, Rob Pope <rpope@miningequipmentltd.com>, Marcey Olajos <moita@earthlink.net>, ron lee <trironlee@gmail.com>, John <johnw@animas.net>, alicia hill <alicia.hill804@gmail.com>, Blaze Davies <blazecolo@gmail.com>, Bruce Appelbaum <bappelbaum@mosaicresources.com>

Sir-

I would, once again, like to cast my vote in favor of PROHIBITING GASOLINE-POWERED WATER CRAFT on Lake Nighthorse.

- 1 The size of the lake, the history of the basin, and its proximity to wildlife all strongly suggest that gas-powered boating recreation on the lake is an ill-conceived notion. Certainly battery-powered trolling motors and sail-powered boating seems much more appropriate to the locality than high impact, high speed power boating and jet skiing.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosenberg

507 Peak Trail

Durango, CO 81303

(970) 259-0065



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments RE High Speed Watercraft

1 message

Hugh Brown <hugh.m.brown2@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 8:55 AM

Dear Justyn Liff,

- 1 I'd like to add my voice in opposition to high speed watercraft on Lake Nighthorse. Kristine Johnson's article in the May 1st Durango Herald Opinion Section covered many good reasons to prohibit high power/speed watercraft on our newest, small, pristine lake. An addition, the wake from such watercraft will cause significant accelerated shore erosion and bank undercutting. This unnatural action creates turbid, muddy water with very negative impacts on shallow water-dwelling gamefish, birds, amphibians, and invertebrates, whose populations must surely be thriving in our currently quiet lake. Further, over time such accelerated erosion will likely wash out unidentified archeological or paleontological sites, to their detriment.

As Kristine Johnson pointed out, Lake Nighthorse is just too small to accommodate high speed watercraft. Aside from the safety and noise issues, its small size exacerbates the wake problem, providing insufficient distance to allow such wake to dissipate. I believe that a 10-15 HP size limit would accommodate casual boaters and fisherman with minimal negative impact.

Thanks in advance for including my comments.

Dr. Hugh M. Brown
Durango, CO



210

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Re: Lake Nighthorse Draft Assessment /Comment

1 message

Bruce Appelbaum <bappelbaum@mosaicresources.com>

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 9:14 AM

To: Robert Rosenberg <bob@insight-corp.com>

Cc: jliff@usbr.gov, VIRGIL PULLIAM <pulliamco@yahoo.com>, Rob Pope <rpope@miningequipmentltd.com>, Marcey Olajos <moita@earthlink.net>, ron lee <trironlee@gmail.com>, John <johnw@animas.net>, alicia hill <alicia.hill804@gmail.com>, Blaze Davies <blazecolo@gmail.com>

And no rednecks or Budweiser ?

B

Bruce Appelbaum

On May 3, 2016, at 9:46 AM, Robert Rosenberg <bob@insight-corp.com> wrote:

Sir-

I would, once again, like to cast my vote in favor of PROHIBITING GASOLINE-POWERED WATER CRAFT on Lake Nighthorse.

The size of the lake, the history of the basin, and its proximity to wildlife all strongly suggest that gas-powered boating recreation on the lake is an ill-conceived notion. Certainly battery-powered trolling motors and sail-powered boating seems much more appropriate to the locality than high impact, high speed power boating and jet skiing.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosenberg

507 Peak Trail

Durango, CO 81303

(970) 259-0065



211

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Barbara <barbgarlick@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 9:19 AM

Dear Ms. Liff:

1We would like to urge the Bureau of Reclamation to limit the use of gasoline powered watercraft on Lake Nighthorse to speeds that produce no wake. Better yet, the money that was obtained for the boat ramp should be returned and motorized watercraft should be prohibited altogether.

The Bureau has the unique opportunity to create an environment on the lake that is peaceful, quiet and healthy.

- This would keep the lake from being polluted by gasoline and oil and preserve the quality of the water for drinking.
- There are several other lakes close by where motorized boats are allowed - Vallecito, Navajo, McPhee. We do not need to allow them in Lake Nighthorse as well.
- This could help prevent introduction of the invasive zebra mussel into the lake. The threat of the mussel alone is reason to decide against allowing motorized watercraft.
- This would promote the use of the lake for healthier pursuits such as swimming and paddling stand-up boards and kayaks.
- The resulting peace and quiet would allow people a place to relax and unwind. The mental health benefits obtained from this are well documented.

We think it is better for the Bureau to proceed slowly on the amount of activity allowed on this pristine lake. It would be virtually impossible to ban gas powered watercraft once they are allowed on the lake. It would be much easier prohibit their use at first and then re-evaluate the situation in a few years and decide to allow the introduction of motorized watercraft - or continue the ban.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Bruce and Barbara Garlick
2143 W. Second Ave
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse EA

1 message

Jimbo Buickerood <jimbo buickerood@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 10:29 AM

Dear USBOR Staff,

- 1 I support Action Alternative 2 in general, however, I also recommend a couple modifications to Alt 2 including 1) the reduction of the motorized use area to approximately 1/4 of the size noted on the map shown in the EA document, 2) a reduction in the speed limit for motorized use to 10 MPH maximum and 3) the lifting of a wholesale prohibition to foot/boat access of the dam structure while allowing specific closure areas for safety and security such as the spillway, intake/release structures, etc.
- 2 In general the Four Corners areas has **many** lakes/reservoirs for motorized use and **too few** for non-motorized use. As well, the restricted access to the dam area is overreach by BOR as this could be a popular fishing area that does NOT need to be completely off limits for security and/or safety purposes. The public paid for the project and it follows they should have maximum access excess for reasons related to public safety and security.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, jimbo

Jimbo Buickerood
7707 County Road 203
Durango, CO 81301
jimbo buickerood@frontier.net



213 a

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment Due May 6, 2016 - Wilderness Experience for Kids, Film Industry and Aquaculture

1 message

Kellus Sewell <nordicak@frontier.net>
To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 3, 2016 at 4:10 PM

Dear Mr. Liff,

Your consideration and support for these comments would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kellus

Kellus Sewell
Marketing & Management Consultant
970 375 2191 or Skype

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals"
~Immanuel Kant~

"Until one has loved an animal, part of your soul remains unawakened." ~Anonymous~

2 attachments

 **PastedGraphic-7.pdf**
59K

 **USBR Enviornmental Assessment Comment RE Leave No Trace Wilderness Experience for Kids.pdf**
2013K



Justyn Liff

May 3, 2016

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Subject: Lake Nighthorse Recreational Plan *Draft Environmental Assessment*, March 2016 - Comments Related to "Leave No Trace Indian Tepee Camp Wilderness Experience for Kids" "Film Industry," and "Aquaculture"

Dear Mr. Liff:

Please consider the following comments in response to the subject **USBR** Environmental Assessment. Upon my review of the 128 pages of the subject Assessment these concepts appear to be fully compliant or could be approved. If not, please consider them for incorporation into or modifying the two Alternative recreation plans in the Assessment, where appropriate, to allow "other project beneficiaries" to implement the following three concepts under these alternatives, the "recreation master plan in 2010", 2014 Conceptual Recreation Plan, other Plans, and any other governing ordinances, regulations, laws, etc.

- 1 If not a part of the process in developing the Final Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, it is stressed that a Mission statement to provide overall guidance in making future decisions be eventually validated and established, stating the general purpose served in developing Lake Nighthorse to include the importance of preserving through education the natural environment, historical and cultural significance of the Ridges Basin² Volunteer support will surely be necessary to meet the Mission and sustainable objectives to preserve the values of the area.
- 2 Also, submitted for consideration and discussed below in the Addendum are the *Lake Nighthorse Interpretive & Education Team Recommendations*, Jan 12, 2011 submitted in a video based on participation at the Public Forum coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service in 2011 in conjunction with the City of Durango and La Plata County. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO187vkegio>

Leave No Trace Tepee Camp Wilderness Experience for Kids

Significantly adding a "New³" Revenue Source to our La Plata County tax base would be the opportunity to allow by permit a "Leave No Trace Wilderness Environment for Kids," sensitive to **natural, cultural** (Tribal, Spanish, etc.) and other resources, utilizing the Lake and adjoining lands to **create an educational experience** - like no other I am aware of in North America. Brilliantly pointed out in the Jan '16 *Nat'l Geo Magazine*, *Nature stimulates young people and improves productivity*,⁴ enriching young peoples lives, a hallmark for success in the future economy of the La Plata and surrounding counties. Please see recommendation from the Lake Nighthorse Interpretive &

¹ *Draft Environmental Assessment Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan* <http://www.usbr.gov/lrc/env/docs/eval/draft/LakeNighthorseDraftEA.pdf>, 1.2 p.2

² Also known as Saga Gewitches or Green Basin, and Sacred Ridge https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_Ridge

³ Respectfully differing from Ap. A, No. 24 - A new sector of parents & children will be attracted to the Wilderness Tepee site.

⁴ pp. 56, 57 "16% Forest walks can decrease stress." "Nature can improve creativity by up to 50%." "Feeling like a beached sea urchin I walk carefully to a grassy bank along the San Juan River for ten minutes of restful contemplation." <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/call-to-wilderness/>

Education Team Recommendations, Jan 12, 2011 in the Addendum attached.

- 3 If overnight use by children in camps are not compliant, an appropriate revision to Alternatives 2 and 3 are requested to allow overnight stays from May 15 to Sep 1 since it is presumed overnight camping would be considered as noted in Sec 2.1, p. 9 where the word "initially" was used in the statement, "The Lake and recreational area would be 'initially' designated as day use only..." Or, may be permitted subject to other requirements as noted in Appendix A, No. 20.
- 4 The permit would limit usage between May 15 and Sep 1, require all impacts from the concessioner and accompanying support, children and visitors to be limited to horses on designated trails and water transportation on designated water and land pathways, and to certain times. The permit would allow exclusive or water frontage rights and require adjacent Indian "Tepees Camps" to be within 200 yards and perhaps a wall-tent oriented site for shelter and cooking with the area to be designated the "Wilderness Site." Amendments Requested:
- 5 Since Tepees or similar temporary structures may be prohibited it is requested Alternatives 1 and 2 be amended (Wildlife (impacts to elk and deer winter range) Table 1, P.19) and elsewhere where appropriate by deleting the period [.] after the words, "such as cabin sites, shall be developed in the project area under any of the action alternatives.1.2" and adding "unless they are specifically permitted for Tepees and/or temporary by the recreation manager, or appropriate or designated authority, and will follow the Leave No Trace doctrine."
- 4 Since any trails on the south and west sides of the reservoir shall be designated for foot traffic only in Alternatives 1 and 2 (Wildlife in Table 1, P. 20), it is requested they be amended (and elsewhere where appropriate) to allow horses in the South or West side of the lake only for appropriate times needed to take supplies or riders into or out of the "Wilderness Site, or for access by the Southern Ute to tribal lands."
- 6 A reasonable number of "maximum" user days would be allocated, i.e. 1,068 to 2136 = 10-20/day, mostly children, X 3.5 months X 30.5 days/mo. Under either Alternative 1 or 2 it is assumed restricting area usage and limiting/imposing "use periods" would constrain/limit the user days, especially in certain areas during elk calving or mule deer fawning times. Campfires for cooking and other accommodating functions such as athletic or other game areas must meet certain requirements, along with other environmental restrictions to maintain the pre-existing serenity of the area to the greatest extent possible. For example, only "dead and down" wood should be utilized for camp/cooking fires and placed in designated, approved fire containment systems. Otherwise, "everything" contributing to or from the experience, including garbage, human waste, etc., must be "completely" hauled in or out as noted above or below, Leaving No Trace of the experience to the maximum extent possible. All water traffic hauling supplies (food, etc.) in or out must be limited to a vessel and raft or barge of an acceptable length and horsepower outboard rating, and no inboard engines permitted. All other water activity must be by kayak, canoe, or other human powered small craft in designated areas suggested to be immediately adjoining the land of the "Wilderness Site."
- 8 The preferred area recommended would be located somewhere along the South or West side of the lake that would accommodate the greatest or closest to a Wilderness experience where there would be the least interaction with other recreational users. And, the **Southern Ute** Tribe should be encouraged to develop the Tepee Camp if the best Wilderness experience would be on their land or adjoining public land to demonstrate the significance, importance and protection of their cultural artifacts, cultural uses, and dependence on the land and its resources for hunting, fishing, and gathering related to their sovereign rights and powers or provided under Federal Law.

For the same reason the Bay Area is attractive to young, athletic, energetic, ambitious, and/or career oriented individuals, the 4-Corners with our pristine mountains, rivers, landscape, history, culture, rural setting and other amenities can be as well to entice design engineers and specialty manufacturing that to some extent already exists, and attractive to major companies or start-ups. According to

research cited in the Jan 2016 **National Geographic**, living close to Nature reduces stress substantially!⁵ Therefore, "Nature Nurtures Us"⁶ is a strong 4-Corners incentive or theme to encourage/stimulate Economic Growth.

A "Leave No Trace" Wilderness camp at Lake Nighthorse for children developed and leased, preferably with oversight of the **Southern Ute** and/or **Ute Mountain Ute Tribes**, to icons like Disney or **NBC Universal Studios**⁶ would attract the parents as well to Durango, increasing airport traffic, local tourism – compounded by parents visiting, and significantly adding to the Durango and surrounding area's tax base. The **Southern Ute** or **Ute Mountain Ute Tribes**, **Purgatory Ski Resort** and/or the other collective ski area ownership partners, or **Durango Mountain Resort** (or the separate entity that remains) may have interest as an investor or sponsor. No question this concept would help the passage of the new Durango Airport terminal expansion or relocation.

10 Enticing the Film Industry to An Attractive, Historical, Cultural Film Industry Location

Filming in and around Lake Nighthorse would be an attractive setting that would add significant commerce, revenue and tourism to the surrounding communities. Please see the recommendation in the Addendum attached.

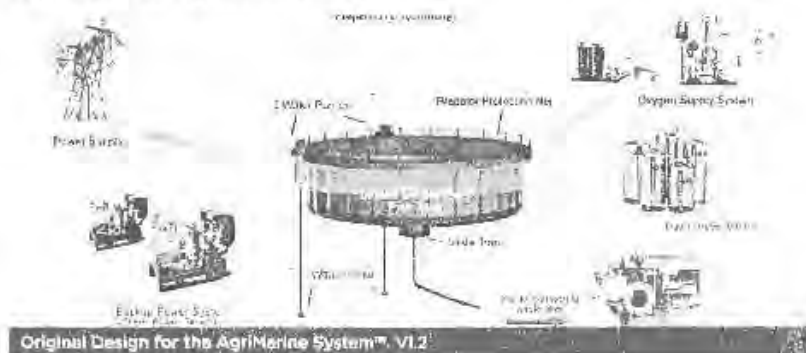
11 Fresh Water Aquaculture

Consideration should be given to allowing the development of a significant employment and revenue producing industry through *the rearing and/or holding of trout, steelhead, Arctic char, salmon, and/or other acceptable species for sport and commercial purposes in a "self-contained" environment in the lake or on land.* Children from the Wilderness Site could be excited catching fish while learning about a thriving, significantly profitable aquaculture industry with close proximity to major markets.

Sport and Commercial Aquaculture. An aquaculture venture that enhances the children and family experience with fishing adventures *limited to children* and offering local trout or other enhancement to the Lake and local food source availability provides increased economy through employment and commerce – successful ventures have been developed in private and public waters by the **Coleville** tribe in the Grand Coulee reservoir in Washington and other compatible aquaculture uses exist downstream on the Columbia River.

Examples are noted below of commercial systems employed in British Columbia, China and elsewhere, which should also be applicable for a children's fishing experience.

AgriMarine System V1.2



⁵ pp. 56, 57 "16% Forest walks can decrease..stress.." "Nature can improve creativity by up to 50%."

<http://nom.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/call-to-wild-text/>

⁶ A friend could provide insight who is a retired VP from **NBC Universal Studios**.

⁷ Examples are http://www.puresalmon.org/closed_containment.html and http://agrimarine.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/doc09FN_Agrimarine.pdf

Agrimarine System V1.2



Agrimarine System™ V1.2 - fully assembled, in the water

The infrastructure must be "low impact" to be defined by appropriate regulations or other governing requirements. Amendments are requested in Sec. 2.2, p.12 by adding another paragraph after the word "Reclamation" at the end of the last paragraph to read:

- 11 Additional low-impact commercial activities shall include the rearing and/or holding of trout, salmon, steelhead, Arctic char and/or other acceptable species for sport and commercial purposes in a self-contained environment in the lake or on land (no possibility of any pollution or escapes of any species raised or unnatural components or ingredients used in the rearing process or system), and limited to a well-defined area with sufficient biological and ecological water column to maintain a proper growth environment for the specie/s, maintaining an enriched, non polluting environment, further expanding revenue from sustainable sport, environmentally sensitive commercial and recreational activities.

Your consideration is respectfully appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kellus Sewell

Cc Mail

Ed Warner,

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221

Grand Junction, CO 81501

Cc Email

Southern Ute, Chairman Clement Frost

Ute Mountain Ute, Chairman Manuel Heart

La Plata County Commissioners Brad Blake, Gwen Lachelt, and Julie Westendorff

City of Durango Councilors, Christina Rinderie, Keith Brant, Dean Brookie, Dick White, Sweetie Marbury

Gary S. Derck, CEO Purgatory Ski Resort, Durango Mountain Resort

¹ Ibid

Addendum

Lake Nighthorse Interpretive & Education Team Recommendations, Jan 12, 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO187vkeqio>

- 2 Goal: Provide the cultural history of the area through current educational communication and surface experiences through historical messages visible on land and all other means with minimum environmental impact to enhance future experiences for domestic and international visitors.

One of the most important considerations is generating revenue sources to permit sufficient education of the inherent cultural history inherent in the Lake Nighthorse Ridges Basin Area, also know as Saga Gewitches or Green Basin. As a consequence we propose private sector and non-profit investment incentives be developed.

We encourage utilization of buses to transfer the majority of the visitors, which would be provided by the visitor promoters relying upon their marketing and investments to underwrite visitor awareness, historical signage and other soft structure to enhance cultural and other acceptable discoveries, adventures and experiences.

The idea would be to add a third day to a visitor's experience to the typical train and Mesa Verde experience by concentrating the majority of visitors in Durango with transportation groups to Lake Nighthorse.

Some examples might be:

1. allow consideration for a destination adventure Indian village such as what might be envisioned by Disney or Universal Studios which would include Tepees, discoveries, general life as it once was and now through nature discoveries. All would be soft structures completely removed after seasonal usage with visitors and support transferred in by horses;
2. aquaculture venture/s that enhance the children and family experience with fishing adventures limited to children and offering local trout or other enhancement to the Lake and local food source availability which provides increased economy through employment and commerce – successful ventures have been developed in private waters by the Coleville tribe in the Grand Coulee reservoir in Washington and other compatible aquaculture uses downstream on the Columbia river.
3. sites attractive to the film industry which could provide incentives for development of film studio location in Durango or utilizing those available in New Mexico.



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Public Comments for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Sherlyn Kordes <skkordes@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 8:57 AM

- 1 Hi, since the comment period has been extended regarding Lake Nighthorse I would like to provide some comments. I've reviewed the draft and would like to strongly encourage that the lake is wakeless. There are multiple options in the area on much larger bodies of water for water activities such as wake boarding and water skiing. Due to the noise, size of the lake and the desire to use the lake for kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. Even though the plan has a wakeless border around the lake, if the lake is not wakeless this area still has "rollers" from the boating activity that is not in the wakeless area.

Thank you for considering my comments

Sherlyn Kordes

970-290-6136

Hesperus, Co.



215

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

A suggestion on boating at Lake Nighthorse ...

1 message

Douglas Brew <dcbrew35@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 9:19 AM

- 1 Justyn - Starting with the premise that any decision won't satisfy everyone, here is one that I think might come close: allow boaters that are motorized in some way only on odd-numbered days of a month; do not allow motorized boaters on even-numbered days of the month.

The points in favor of this are several ... 1) it's pretty cut and dried and easy to remember, for both sets of participants and for staff enforcing it, 2) it gives the non-motorized set (and others, I might add) a quiet day, both in terms of noise and in terms of wakes, 3) in the long run the motorized folks end up with more user days ... not many ... but no one could ever claim they'd been short-changed. As another point ... the other residents of the lake, i.e. geese, ducks, coots, plus others get a respite from noise (at least) every other day.

I say nothing about the motorized set as to power, speeds, etc.; I'm sure that the size of the lake will be considered by those who know more about it than I do and inappropriate craft won't be allowed.

- 2 One last comment, not related to boating: the lake offers numerous opportunities for educating folks about the local geology, archaeology, biology, water issues, and so on. These are seldom part of the conversation, and they should be. Keep bringing that up.

Doug Brew



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Should Be Non-Motorized

1 message

George & Jan Curtis <gxcdgo@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 12:03 PM

1 I'm writing to voice my opinion that Lake Nighthorse needs to be a non-motorized recreational resource.

The lake is much too small to accommodate motor craft along with kayaks, canoes, rafts, windsurfers, kitesurfers and swimmers safely.

2 In addition, major consideration should be given to providing a quiet and peaceful refuge for wildlife as well as recreationalists both on and around the lake. Sound travels a long way!

Finally, the resources required to regulate motorized vessels on the lake would be prohibitive in both man hours, equipment and financial.

George Curtis

George and Jan



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Draft EA for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Phillip Shelley <Phillip.Shelley@santaana-nsn.gov>

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 1:31 PM

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: "Julian T. Garcia" <Julian.Garcia@santaana-nsn.gov>, Tim Menchego <timothy.menchego@santaana-nsn.gov>, Joseph Pena <Joseph.Pena@santaana-nsn.gov>

- 1 We have reviewed the draft EA referenced above and the THPO staff for the Pueblo of Santa Ana favors the 2014 Rec Plan alternative.

Thank you

Phillip H. Shelley, PhD, RPA

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Pueblo of Santa Ana

02 Dove Road,

Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

Phillip.Shelley@santaana-nsn.gov

505-280-5478

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Thank you.

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>



Recreation Plan Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Mark Franklin <ID@animas.net>

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 2:13 PM


To: jliff@usbr.gov

Jill - Attached are comments from the Old Spanish Trail Association on the Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse. Thank you for extending the deadline. If you would, please acknowledge receipt of these comments. *Mark

Mark Franklin
Ex-Officio, OSTA Colorado Director
2914 Junction St.
Durango, CO 81301
970-375-7992
ID@ANIMAS.NET

2 attachments

 OSTA - Lake Nighthorse.pages
622K

 OSTA - Lake Nighthorse.doc
210K



OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

218

Ed Warner

May 4, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation
445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Mr. Warner,

- 1 The Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) would like to provide the following comments on the draft environmental assessment for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan.

After initial review we noticed the lack of acknowledgement that the Old Spanish National Historic Trail traverses Lake Nighthorse. Nowhere in Recreation Plan do you mention that the trail exists nor the historic importance of this trail corridor. For countless generations, this was a major travel route used by pleistocene hunters, Ancestral Puebloan farmers, Spanish explorers (Juan Rivera, Dominguez and Escalante), as well as trappers, traders, and military expeditions on the Old Spanish Trail from 1829-1848 (Robidioux, Workman, Slover, McComb, Carson, Fremont, Roland, Wolfskill etc.) The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was recognized for its historic values by Congress and signed into law in 2002.


As we reviewed the Recreation Plan, we also noticed the lack of any mitigation measures taken by the Bureau of Reclamation for the damage to the historic trail by the dam construction and the filling of Lake Nighthorse. Nowhere in the document do you acknowledge the responsibility of the Bureau to mitigate for these losses and provide opportunities for the public to learn about this historic trade route on public lands. During numerous discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation, it was understood that the mitigation for the losses would occur in future study sessions

The OSTA would like to emphasize the importance of protection of historic trail segments as well as the historic trail corridor, historic trail landscape, and associated trail resources under §106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act. National historic trail corridor values and purposes include scenic values, opportunities to vicariously share the experience of original users of the historic route, historic trail landscapes, historic trail view sheds, opportunities for open-air outdoor recreation, and interpretation of the historic route - described in the National Trails System Act (NTSA) and subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) consideration.

We look forward to your revised Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse that includes consideration of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and its associated values.

Sincerely,



Mark Franklin
ex-officio - OSTA Colorado Director
2914 Junction St.
Durango, Colorado 81301
(970) 375-7992



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

RE: Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan - Alternative 1

1 message

Seth Furtney <sethfurtney@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Cc: Jody Furtney <jodyfurtney@hotmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 2:34 PM

Dear Ms. Justyn Liff,

Thank you very much for taking the time yesterday to provide me additional background on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse.

As you know, in 2012 the City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department received the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the field of Parks & Recreation Management. This award provides ample evidence of the town's ability to effectively manage and develop recreation at Lake Nighthorse.

Please know that I was recently selected to Durango's, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and have closely followed this recreational initiative for the town for well over a decade. I offer my personal recommendations below to amend the Proposed Action, in order to make it more attractive to the residents of Durango.

One pillar supporting the town's success in this arena is the broad city management / community partnership guiding the City of Durango recreation program. Our Master Plan for the City of Durango Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation (hereinafter "POST Plan") was finalized in April 2010. Development of the POST Plan involved 17 key leader meetings, 5 focus groups, 2 public meetings at the start and end of the process, and countless conversations among resident. The POST Plan is a statistically robust compilation of the area's position on POST issues for the Durango community.

For your convenience, I've attached POST Plan Chapter 9 - Priorities Needs Assessment , which shows that the highest outdoor priorities for recreation are human powered activities involving (1) Natural & Hard Surface Trails; (2) Neighborhood Parks (e.g. places where individuals can spend quality recreational time outdoors); and (3) Water Recreation (swimming beach, non-motorized water sports, etc.).

Based on my understanding of the towns priorities, I recommend the following changes to the Proposed Action:

- 1** 1. Extend the Recreational Footprint to be 1 mile around the full pool elevation of the lake specifically for creation of a natural surface trail surrounding the entire lake to include a trail below the dam connecting the Parking Lot area to the southern border of the lake.
- 2** 2. Incorporate a hard-surface trail connecting Animas River Trail (which follows the Animas River through Durango) to the Lake Nighthorse Proposed Recreation Footprint. This trail connection would establish an avenue for safe non-motorized travel from the town to the lake.

incorporate elements of the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan into the Proposed Action as far as possible.

- 3 a. Key elements of 2011 Recreation Plan that are not included in the 2014 Plan: (1) Natural & Hard Surface Trail(s), (2) Swim Beach, (3) Day Use & Picnic Area(s), (4) Campground(s), (5) Trailhead(s), (6) Non-motorized Boat Launch, (7) Breakwater (if required) or No Wake boating restriction, (8) Informational Displays.
- b. If these above recreational elements can't be "approved" by all the parties and implemented as part of the Proposed Plan in the currently planned comment/modification period, consider instead including these Action Alternative 1 elements as "future recreational improvements approved in concept to be developed further & implemented in phases" rather than presented as "possible future recreation development" as future improvements are currently conveyed in the Proposed Action.
- c. Durango residents appear prepared for the time needed to plan and develop recreational facilities, but are likely be upset by the Proposed Action unchanged, since it forfeits many of the recreational elements established by the community in its 2011 Recreation Plan.
- d. I believe that adopting the Proposed Action without alteration could deliver a severe blow to the residents expectations and negatively impact the Gold Medal performance of Durango's Parks & Recreation Department.

Please know that in my discussions on this issue, many residents seem comfortable reducing the environmental footprint of motorized boating in favor of other outdoor recreational priorities (trails, swimming, etc.). Many residents appear to favor no-wake boating limits (e.g. reduced ambient noise, minimized wave action, facilitating swimming, supporting fishing) throughout the entire lake.

The recommendations in this email do not reflect the deliberations of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The board is presently evaluating the Proposed Action and deliberating whether to provide formal comment to you separately.

Señh Furtney

970-385-5547

POST Plan - 9 Priorities.pdf
131K

CHAPTER NINE - PRIORITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Facility and Program Needs Assessment is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and recreation program needs for the residents of the City of Durango. The Needs Assessment evaluates both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes the statistically valid Community Survey, which asked 568 City of Durango residents to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained in Focus Group meetings, Key Leader Interviews, and Public Forums.

The information in the Facility and Program Needs Assessment is supplemented with the recommended Level of Service Standards and Equity Mapping to develop the strategic recommendations to identify the facilities/amenities and programs of highest priority for the community. These priorities will play a vital role in dictating the sequence and extent of implementation of the projects identified in the Master Plan.

A weighted scoring system was used to determine the priorities for parks and recreation facilities/amenities and recreation programs. For instance, as noted below, a weighted value of 2 for the unmet desires means that out of a total of 100%, a value of 20% would be attributed to unmet desires or support identified in the survey.

This scoring system considers the following:

- Community Survey
- Unmet desires for facilities and recreation programs – This is used as a factor from the total number of households mentioning whether they have a need for a facility/program and the extent to which their desires for facilities and recreation programs have been met. Survey participants were asked to identify their desire for or support of 28 different facilities and 26 recreation programs. Weighted value of 2.
- Importance ranking for facilities – This is used as a factor of the importance allocated to a facility or program by the community. Each respondent was asked to identify the top four most important facilities and recreation programs. Weighted value of 4.
- Consultant and Steering Committee Evaluation
- Factor derived from the consultant and steering committee’s evaluation of program and facility priority based on survey results, demographics, trends and overall community input. Weighted value of 4.

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (1), Medium Priority (2), and Low Priority (3).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity and Program Priority is determined. **Figure 59** and **Figure 60** below depict the Facility/Amenity and Recreation Program Priority Rankings for the City of Durango.

Since this is a community-wide survey, it is obvious that amenities that benefit the widest demographic cross-sections of the community would tend to be ranked higher than those that serve a niche market. It is, therefore, typical in such assessments nationwide that broad categories, such as trails or neighborhood parks, tend to rank higher than individual facilities or programs.

9.1 FACILITY/AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS

Figure 60 shows that natural surface trails for hiking and biking, hard surface trails for bike and pedestrian and neighborhood parks were the top three facilities/amenities. These were followed by indoor fitness and exercise facilities, river recreation and ski and snowboarding areas.

City of Durango Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings			
	High	Medium	Low
Natural surface trails for hiking & biking	1		
Hard surface trails for bike & pedestrian	2		
Neighborhood parks	3		
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	4		
River recreation	5		
Ski & snowboarding areas	6		
Off-leash dog parks	7		
Soccer/football/multipurpose fields	8		
Outdoor aquatic centers	9		
Sledding areas		10	
Cross country skiing areas		11	
Fishing areas		12	
Picnicking areas & shelters		13	
Indoor aquatic recreation centers		14	
Baseball and softball fields		15	
Community gardens		16	
Outdoor tennis courts		17	
Playgrounds		18	
Outdoor basketball courts			19
Indoor ice rink			20
Indoor gymnastics space			21
Boating & sailing areas			22
Outdoor amphitheaters			23
Frisbee golf			24
Golf courses			25
BMX/bicycle park			26
Equestrian trails			27
Skate park			28

Figure 60 - Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings

9.2 PROGRAM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 61 identifies Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs, Before and After School programs and Youth/Teen Sports programs as the three core program areas that merited the highest priority.

City of Durango Program Needs Assessment			
	High	Medium	Low
Adult fitness and wellness programs	1		
Before and after school programs	2		
Youth/teen sports programs	3		
Preschool programs	4		
Special Events	5		
Youth Learn to Swim programs	6		
Youth/teen fitness and wellness programs	7		
Nature and wildlife interpretive programs	8		
Biking events	9		
Lifeskill Classes		10	
Youth/teen summer camp programs		11	
60 years plus programs		12	
Kayaking / paddling sports		13	
Gymnastics programs		14	
Adult swim programs		15	
Youth/teen art, dance, performing arts		16	
Programs for people with disabilities		17	
Adult art, dance, performing arts		18	
Adult sports programs			19
Ski & snowboarding programs			20
Ice skating and Hockey			21
Water fitness programs			22
Tennis lessons, clinics and leagues			23
Running events			24
Golf programs			25
Martial arts programs			26

Figure 61 - Program Needs Assessment



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Recreation at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Donna <dkgis@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 4, 2016 at 6:22 PM

1 Given the size of Lake Nighthorse I would prefer that small motors only be allowed. Trolling motors, etc. Please don't ruin the peace and quiet!!!!

--

Donna K. Graves

Information Services

Phone: 970-385-4897

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Comments: Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan- Draft EA

221



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments: Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan- Draft EA

1 message

Adam Reeves <adamtreeves@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 5, 2016 at 4:49 PM

Please find attached my comments on the Draft EA for consideration and entry into the administrative record in this matter.

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan Draft EA...Adam Reeves.pdf
80K

Adam Reeves
3078 E. 3rd Ave
Durango, CO 81301

Via email: jliff@usbr.gov

Ed Warner,
Bureau of Reclamation, 4
45 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221,
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Comments re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan.

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment, Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan. ("Draft EA"). Although the analysis of the proposed action is reasonably thorough, as more fully detailed below, the Draft EA fails to properly characterize the "no action" alternative as more fully detailed below.

As the Bureau correctly identifies,

NEPA requires evaluation of a No Action Alternative (40 CFR 1502.14). "No action" is generally interpreted as the resulting outcome if the proposed federal action, or its action alternatives, are not implemented. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for comparison of the environmental effects associated with the action alternatives.

Draft EA at 15.

In characterizing the required "no action" alternative the Draft EA posits that, "Under the No Action Alternative, the reservoir area and area below the dam would remain closed to the public." *Id.* This does not accurately describe the "no action" outcome.

The current Lake Nighthorse Closure order was entered in 2003. As noted by Reclamation at the time,

Reclamation will be prohibiting all public access on Reclamation lands in and around Ridges Basin **during construction of the Animas-La Plata Project**. This is being done to protect the public

from construction activities and to protect the construction workforce from public activities such as discharging weapons.

68 *Fed. Reg.* 39970 (July 3, 2003) (Emphasis added). As the Bureau is aware it simply does not enjoy blanket authority to close federal lands to the public. The cited authority for the current closure order, 43 C.F.R. §423.3(b), only reserves to Reclamation the limited right to “close and restrict public access to Reclamation lands and Reclamation projects subject to this **part for security or public safety reasons.**” With the conclusion of construction of Ridges Basin Dam and Lake Nighthorse Reservoir, the basis for the closure order no longer exists and it is unclear that Reclamation’s purported current closure has any legal basis whatsoever.

Accordingly, properly construed, the “no action” alternative isn’t that the reservoir area would be closed to the public, but rather that the reservoir area would be open to the public (and no recreation facilities would be constructed).

This failure to accurately characterize the “no action” alternative has meaningful public consequences and environmental impacts that should be disclosed in the final EA.

Importantly, the public interest in outdoor wildlife related recreation and hunting would be immediately expanded under the no action alternative. As the Bureau is aware, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and its implementing regulations favor public access to public land for wildlife related activities including fishing and hunting.

In particular, 24 C.F.R. §24.4(i) provides:

(i) Federal agencies of the Department of the Interior shall:

(3) ***Provide for public use of Federal lands in accordance with State and Federal laws, and permit public hunting, fishing and trapping within statutory and budgetary limitations and in a manner compatible with the primary objectives for which the lands are administered.***

(Emphasis added).

Because, with the conclusion of construction, the Bureau’s current closure of ALP property has no legal basis, in order for it to prohibit hunting as identified

7 in the proposed action it must first comply with subsection (4) of 24 C.F.R. §24.4 which provides:

(4) For those Federal lands that are already open for hunting, fishing, or trapping, closure authority shall not be exercised without prior consultation with the affected States, except in emergency situations.

1 For the above stated reasons, the final EA should properly characterize the "no action" alternative as opening the reservoir for all uses not otherwise inconsistent with federal law. Moreover, because the proposed action does not purport to close Lake Nighthorse to lawful hunting activities, proper construction of the "no action" alternative leads to the conclusion that deferring a decision about future hunting at the Reservoir results in its being open until such time as the Bureau, consistent with 24 C.F.R. §24.4(i)(4) following proper consultation with the appropriate State and Tribal officials.

Sincerely

Adam T. Reeves



222

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jackie Caudill <jcaudill5@live.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2016 at 7:57 AM

Mr. Liff,

- 1 I appreciate the chance to voice my opinion again! I live in Rafter J Subdivision, a close neighbor of Lake Nighthorse. I travel CR 210 daily on my way into work in Bodo Park.

It is so nice to travel that road daily, it is the only road in the entire county where on your drive you can't see one house. How about that.

Lake Nighthorse, while beautiful, is entirely too small to accommodate swift motorized boating and jet skiing. This lake is much more suited to wakeless pursuits, small trolling motors, canoes and the like.

Please do your part to preserve this pristine beauty, don't spoil it with loud, unnecessary speeding around this small lake.

Jackie Caudill



223

Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Re: Lake Nighthorse

1 message

john culver <john.culver3@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 6, 2016 at 11:38 AM

Please count me as one of those Durango area residents who is opposed to power boats on Lake Nighthorse. This is a relatively small lake that will be popular for hikers, those wanting to fish, simply paddle/row around the lake, or take in the scenery some other way.

- 1 Vallecito and Navajo Lakes are close by and appropriate for the large motor boats given the acreage of water. By contrast, Lake Nighthorse is not appropriate for such boats. I worry about noise, water, and general environmental pollution from the larger craft, any one of which can ruin the tranquility of being on the lake by its size and speed. Electric trolling motors and small hp gas engines (e.g., under 10hp) are appropriate.

Larger boats require marinas and other support which is not in the draft environmental assessment plan. If there is the demand in the future to revise water craft useage, it can be changed to reflect the public's will. But, it's difficult to turn a lake that has accepted high horse power boats into one where horse power is limited; the damage will have been done.

- 2 I want to see school kids engaged in contests creating low-tech, no engine craft to get around the lake, people rowing their canoes and rubber duckies while enjoying the quiet afforded by the surroundings that are rich in their own historical right. This lake is perfect for a number of things but it doesn't have to be everything for everyone.

Thanks for extending the public comment period.

In appreciation,
John Culver (retired senior)
john.culver3@gmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Alternative 1

1 message

Jim Mackay <jsmackay@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 6, 2016 at 3:14 PM

- 1 I am full support of implementing Alternative 1 with the addition of trails originally included in the 2011 plan. I attended all of the meetings back then and would like to see us get started on this, finally.

Sincerely,

Jim Mackay
234 West 16th St
Durango CO 81301

225



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Night.. rec plan

1 message

Britt Bassett <britt.bassett@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 6, 2016 at 3:35 PM

- 1 My first priority is for a non-motorized, shared use trail around the lake! If we could only just get the right-of-way, locals, including Trails 2000, the local running club, and local mountain bikers would build it and keep it clean and maintained.
- 2 I also request a no-wake lake to keep the aggressive, loud, motor-heads out. The area should be allowed to maintain its peaceful character.

Thanks,

..britt

Britt Bassett
333 E. 13th Street
Durango, CO 81301
970-946-6532
britt.bassett@gmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Alternative 1 with the addition of trails

1 message

Kricket Lewis <kricketlewis@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Kricket Lewis <kricketlewis@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2016 at 9:00 PM

1 Hi, I'm writing in support of Alternative 1 with the addition of trails to Night Horse.

Kristi Lewis

227



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

support for Alternative 1 trails at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Susan Raleigh <susan.raleigh@animashighschool.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 8:39 AM

- 1 Hello-- I am writing to support the building of trails at Lake Nighthorse. My name is Susy Raleigh and my email address is seraleigh007@gmail.com. Thanks!

—

Susy Raleigh :: Foreign Language Dept. :: Animas High School
 Tel: (970) 247-2474
 susan.raleigh@animashighschool.com | www.animashighschool.com



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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

melkelly@bresnan.net <melkelly@bresnan.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 10:44 AM

- 1 Please consider quiet hiking trails at the soon to be open Lake Nighthorse. Trails for hiking (no motorized, please) would be in keeping with the intentions of a wildlife area and be one of the least impactful things for this area. In addition to this, why on earth would you allow any motorized boating as it both disturbs the peace and is of much higher impact.....
- 2 at the very least please keep it a no-wake zone so this beautiful land and lake don't become a circus.

Thanks,
Melanie Kelly
4316 CR 240
Durango

547 Ruins Point
Hesperus, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Knighthorse

1 message

homeprojects101@yahoo.com <homeprojects101@yahoo.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 11:56 AM

1 I am definitely in favor of having non-motorized and less than five horsepower motorized boating on Lake Knighthorse.

Thanks, Michael Gustin



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comment

1 message

Richard Butler <rbbutler54@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 12:23 PM

I have reviewed the amended draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse and wish to comment on the Alternatives.

I am a resident of La Plata County, a board member of a local Metro District, former board member of a local hiking club and active in several local environmental/outdoor groups. My comment, however, reflects my personal views and not of any organization.

I appreciate the desire of owners of motor boats to use state, tribal and federal funded
1 reservoirs, however, I am concerned that the actions taken to limit impact of motorized activity on air and water quality and noise levels in the study area will be difficult to enforce and will not be sufficient.

It is unfortunate that the Boat Ramp Grant and its requirements were accepted and implemented prior to the completion of the EA. It appears motorized boat use is a foregone conclusion. Given the small size of the reservoir I do not see how any agency could enforce the "no-wake" zone contemplated by the plan given 40 mph speed limits.

I would urge the Bureau to limit impact within the three alternatives listed as follows: 1. Limit motor size, noise level and speed as much as possible, 2. Expand the no-wake zone, and 3.
2 Encourage non-motorized uses and limit the more intensive impact activities in the Study Area, specifically, no motorized vehicles on trails, no drones, no overnight camping, smallest footprint for facilities. 3

The Study Area was established on land donated and dedicated to preserving the Area. Let's at least minimize the impact of recreational use on what has already been the taking and diversion of the original purpose of this area.

Richard Butler
La Plata County, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

John Gregg <greggjohn80@yahoo.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 6:36 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing you today to express my opinion on Lake Nighthorse.

I moved to Durango in 1971 with three small children. As I was raising my children in the Durango area we enjoyed hiking, skiing, canoeing, picnicking as well as many camping trips on public lands as well as floating, rafting and kayaking on the Animas river.

During the past almost half century I have come to enjoy the quiet pristine environment that southwest Colorado has to offer.

4 I strongly feel that due to the close proximity to Durango, the amount of people both in the front range and the four corners area that would bring their high horse power boats and personal water craft to this relatively small body of water that it would have a very detrimental impact on the environment as well as impacting people like me that for have enjoyed the quietness and stillness of the San Juan Basin for many years.

1 I also support small, self contained campers only with no generators and tent camping with hiking and biking
2 trails with the hopes that a non motorized trail between downtown Durango and the reservoir could be built. I
3 also strongly feel that swimming and fishing would have a very beneficial use to this reservoir.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to people like me that strongly support a non motorized, passive recreational area and I hope that I get to float, hike and enjoy this beautiful recreational area in the near future.

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Gregg
Durango, Colorado

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Night horse

1 message

NANCY HOFMAN <nhofman-@msn.com>

Sat, May 7, 2016 at 7:34 PM

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Hi there,

Can't imagine NOT including trails. Trails actually keep people off of the rest of the terrain and keep people from making their own way to and from the lake. Take a look at Moab, s town totally invaded by tourists, but

1 somehow, they have managed it very well and have diffused the crowds by designing well- made, sustainable trails that follow the curves of the land and minimize impact on surrounding land. Use your head to think of the big picture and try to take control before people start making their own trails.

And, no rush, it's only been how long? Come on! Make something happen and include the public.

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Added Public Comments for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Sherlyn Kordes <skkordes@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 8, 2016 at 10:10 AM

1 Hi I realize I forgot to include comments regarding the lack of trails being included in the plan. I believe that along with the wakeless status being a priority that it is important to included more trails in the plan. There should be cooperation with Trails 2000 to plan, design and develop trails for hikers.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sherlyn Kordes
Hesperus, Co
970-290-6136

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sherlyn Kordes <skkordes@gmail.com>
Date: May 4, 2016 at 8:57:51 AM MDT
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Subject: Public Comments for Lake Nighthorse

Hi, since the comment period has been extended regarding Lake Nighthorse I would like to provide some comments. I've reviewed the draft and would like to strongly encourage that the lake is wakeless. There are multiple options in the area on much larger bodies of water for water activities such as wake boarding and water skiing. Due to the noise, size of the lake and the desire to use the lake for kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. Even though the plan has a wakeless border around the lake, if the lake is not wakeless this area still has "rollers" from the boating activity that is not in the wakeless area.

Thank you for considering my comments
Sherlyn Kordes
970-290-6136
Hesperus, Co.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Input

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Input

1 message

Richard Kordes <rdkordes@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 8, 2016 at 11:01 AM

- 1 Regarding Lake Nighthorse I would like to provide some comments. I've reviewed the draft and would like to strongly encourage that the lake is wakeless. There are multiple options in the area on much larger bodies of water for water activities such as wake boarding and water skiing. Due to the noise and size of the lake motor boats should be limited to non planing speeds. Also the initial plan called for trails, we have the resources of Trails 2000 to develop trails. Lake
- 2 Nighthorse close proximity to town should be developed for the people who shall use it the most

Richard Kordes
200 Hawskill Dr
Hesperus CO 81326
9702180076
rdkordes@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

In Support of Trails at Lake Night Horse!

1 message

Roxy McKnight <roxy.mcknight@animashighschool.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 9, 2016 at 7:18 AM

Hello concerned parties and those of you taking your time to make this happen,

- 1 I bought a house in Rafter J back in 2010 with the hopes that the area would be open summer of 2012. While I do love it out here, I am super bummed we have no trail system within our reach.

My full name is Roxanne Elizabeth McKnight, I live at 230 Pinon Lane, Durango CO 81303 and I fully support putting trails in at and around Lake Night Horse. This support includes Alternate 1 with the additional 2011 proposed trails.

Let's get our backyard up and running! Thank you!

Roxy McKnight :: Digital Arts Dept. :: Animas High School

Tel: (970) 247-2474

roxy.mcknight@animashighschool.com | www.animashighschool.com

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Travis Fischer <travis.p.fischer@icloud.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 9, 2016 at 11:33 AM

Justin,

- 1 I am writing in response to the draft EIS and support the wake-less lake usages such as canoe, sail boats / motor sailing, SUP and small fishing boats with low HP ratings.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Andy Corra <andy@riversports.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 10, 2016 at 10:18 AM

I'm excited to see the prospect of getting Lake Nighthorse open for public use moving forward. As most agree, it is past due.

1 I believe we have a unique opportunity for a quieter, more peaceful experience at this lake than is possible at any other body of water in the region. While I understand that funding from oil and gas interests built a boat ramp in exchange for a commitment to allow motors on the lake (unfortunately done prior to public input), we still have an opportunity to limit the motor size and speed. My sense is that the community of Durango values a wake free lake over the prospect of having large power boats, with the associated noise bouncing off the surrounding hills, and boat wakes criss-crossing the water. With limited surface area, Lake Nighthorse is not well suited for power boat/ water skiing interests. We have no other area lakes with a no-wake policy. Limiting motor size, and making Nighthorse wakeless, will offer a unique experience to our region. Fisherman, paddle boarders, kayakers, canoeists, swimmers, will be drawn to use the lake more readily with this scenario. Plus this is more in line with the values of the surrounding community.

Please consider making Nighthorse a wake free lake, limiting motor size, and keeping the area more quiet, peaceful, and more accessible to paddlers, fisherman, and those looking for a more relaxing experience. Thank you.

Andy Corra
4Corners Riversports
800.426.7637



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

comment on Lake Nighthorse

1 message

John Patrick <tpjh66@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 10, 2016 at 10:51 AM

I implore you to use whatever means possible to open lake Nighthorse, but to restrict usage to the following:

- 1 Low impact boating - allowing only canoes, kayaks, sailboats and very low horsepower trolling motors used for slow moving fishing boats (maybe even only electric trolling motors). There are other lakes in the area for motor boating and water skiing. This lake is too small for power boats and water skiing, keep it a no-wake lake in it's entirety. Keep the lake a quiet place.
- 2 Campgrounds for tent and RV use. with handicap access, composting restroom,s and water and RV dump station (or directions to the RV dump station at Santa Rita Park.). Have campsites well dispersed like many forest service campgrounds so sites are not close together, which enables a quiet experience for campers.
- 3 Hiking trails, not allowing any mountain bikes, there are plenty of trails in the Durango area for mtn bikes. let these trail be a way of experiences quiet and solitude and communing with nature by foot travel only. Little kids with their families could be run over by mtn bikes.
- 4 Handicap access for fishing from shore.
- 5 Prevent access to sensitive native sites & educate!!
- 1 Do Not commercialize this lake! No marina!

Thanks,

Tom Helm
153 Blackhawk trail
Ignacio, CO 81137



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

NICK vanvonno <ncv767@hotmail.com>

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 2:49 PM

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: "johnson.k@bresnan.net" <johnson.k@bresnan.net>

Greetings, In reference to Durango's Lake Nighthorse I would like to submit the following for consideration. Vallecito Lake and Navajo Lake both allow motor boats and a wide range of recreational opportunities for all to enjoy. I would very much like Lake Nighthorse to provide a more peaceful and tranquil alternative with minimal commercialization. No gasoline powered motor boats of any kind (electric propulsion is fine), tent camping areas (no RV's), picnic and swimming areas, and an off leash dog area. Hiking, biking, snowshoe, cross-country skiing areas provided. Minimal roads deep into the park. There are currently no large lakes nearby that provide this kind of peaceful recreational opportunities and I hope you will provide this essential alternative to our residents. Thank you for your consideration, Nicolaas van Vonno, Durango CO

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy View, an AT&T 4G LTE device.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Ridges Basin Reservoir

1 message

Robert Winslow <rwinslow@mydurango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 9:03 PM

Dear Mr. Liff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ridges Basin Reservoir Draft Assessment Plan. My wife (Marilyn S. Leftwich) and I live in close proximity to the reservoir in the Rafter J subdivision. In fact, we can view the reservoir from our home.

As an avid birder and member of the Durango Bird Club (DBC) I am eagerly awaiting access to this unique body of water that supports a home for many species of waterfowl and shore birds. In addition, the reservoir provides an important stop-over for many migrating species of birds.

In late December of 2015 I had the privilege, along with other select members of the DBC and under the supervision of a gentleman from the Bureau of Reclamation, to walk the road along the east side and record bird species for the Christmas Bird Count. This is an annual census of birds that takes place throughout the Western Hemisphere and is performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology.

- 1 Once access is available to the reservoir, it is my intention to regularly paddle the shoreline in a canoe and leisurely view and record the birds that I see. I am deeply concerned about the use of high-speed motorized power boats on this relatively small body of water. These boats will undoubtedly upset the waterfowl and shorebirds and disturb their mating, nesting and feeding behavior. In addition, I will feel very vulnerable in a tipsy open canoe by the wakes that these high-speed boats will create. Furthermore, the noise of these high-speed boats will certainly disrupt the peace and quiet and mute the songs

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Ridges Basin Reservoir

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of birds that I will be venturing out to experience.

Respectfully,

Robert Winslow



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

A-LP Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Maggie Cowing <maggiecowing@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 10:51 AM

To Whom this Concerns:

Here are my comments and concerns in regards to the draft environmental assessment for Lake Nighthorse within the Animas-La Plata Project:

- 1 I strongly encourage the Bureau to declare a no-wake lake. The Bodo family's intentions, when they so generously created the Bodo Wildlife Area, should be respected by those making these important decisions. Noise pollution from high-speed motor boats would have a negative impact on wildlife, and on other users' experiences. Especially in this day and age of constant noise pollution, we could all benefit greatly from a quiet, peaceful recreation area; I'm afraid that allowing motorized high-speed boats would attract a party atmosphere. We already have 3 lakes in the vicinity that allow high-speed boating: Vallecito, McPhee, and Navajo. On the other hand, we have very few quiet lakes that allow for a peaceful, serene experience for humans and wildlife. As an angler, I would appreciate a no-wake area for fishing; as a hiker, I would be so disappointed if all of the beautiful sounds of nature were drowned out by loud music and noisy jet skis coming from a party on the lake. Please get this right and make the logical decision to keep Lake Nighthorse a no-wake lake.

Sincerely,

Maggie Cowing
77 Alan Road
Durango, CO 81301
970-385-0874

Sent from my iPhone

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Susan McDowell <susanmcdowell7@icloud.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 11:36 AM

- 1 I have been noticing comments in the Durango Herald regarding Lake Nighthorse. I agree with many of the editorials from people that this lake should be wake free - no moter boats. Lake Navaho is nearby for mortar boats and jet skis. Please consider making our lovely little lake here a haven for paddle boards, kayaks, canoes. We so enjoy the peaceful surrounding which will be ruined by jet skis and motor boats, Thank you for your consideration.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Pinu'u Stout <pstout@sfpueblo.com>

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:18 PM

To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>, Robert Waldman <rwaldman@usbr.gov>

Cc: Ricardo Ortiz <ROrtiz@sfpueblo.com>

Good Afternoon,

The Pueblo of San Felipe may have additional comments, but in general are opposed to opening up the area to recreation. We understand that consultations occurred, most before San Felipe had the staff capacity to fully engage, and may also not have been aware of the enormity of the undertaking when the Animas La-Plata dam was discussed with the Pueblo on one phone call many years ago. What has been done is done, and some of it is for a good reason, to provide water to tribes and communities in the area.

1 Given the solemnity, weight and gravity of the undertaking, evidenced by boxes and boxes of books detailing what was disturbed, destroyed and curated and what is unknown that was disturbed, destroyed or curated is seems inappropriate to open up the area for recreation, and further disrespect or disturbance.

Again, the Pueblo may submit additional comments before the expiration of the comment period on May 25th but if not, please include this as a comment and as a request for further Government to Government consultation on the issue. Please also keep in mind our request for inclusion in future communication and discussion as alternatives are ultimately selected and implemented.

If you have any questions please contact Ricardo Ortiz, NAGPRA Representative and THPO for the Pueblo at 505-771-6628 or rortiz@sfpueblo.com. I can be contacted to help coordinate additional consultation.

Thank you,

Pinu'u Stout

Pinu'u Stout, Director

Department of Natural Resources



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Michele and Dave Harris <harris1999@centurylink.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 7:11 AM

Dear Madam or Sir:

We would like to voice our opinion on the use of Lake Nighthorse. We understand that you need to balance the use of Lake Nighthorse and consider the needs of all users. However, please bear in mind that we already have 2 large reservoirs in our immediate area (Vallecito and Navajo) which are open to both motorized and non-motorized use. It seems that given we already have 2 large reservoirs dedicated to motorized users, the smaller sized Lake Nighthorse would be ideal for non-motorized use - if not exclusively, at least several days a week. It doesn't seem large enough to have motorized and non-motorized sections.

As well, I believe Lake Nighthorse is to be used as a domestic water source for the City of Durango. Although we don't live in the City of Durango, it seems non-motorized use would be more consistent for a lake that is a domestic water source.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and please reply to our email address if you have any questions.

Dave and Michele Harris



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Ken <kvanz@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 9:43 AM

I can't even imagine the carnage that boats traveling 40 mph will cause on such a small lake. Do you know how fast that is for a boat? About top speed for a coast guard cutter. It will cause wave erosion, and will be incredibly dangerous for canoes, kayaks, rafts, etc.

1 Please be reasonable and restrict boat motors to electric or less than 10 hp.

Ken Van Zee
Durango, CO

Sent from my iPhone

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Bruce Garlick <bruce@durango.net>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 10:20 AM

1 Please give the money back to Wallop-Beaux that would allow Motorized Boats on Lake Nighthorse, and don't allowed polluting gas powered Boats on this small beautiful Lake. Pollution, Zebra Mussels and noise. This is not what people want. The threat that Zebra Mussels alone could, and will eventually ruin Durango's water system. This should be reason enough to renegotiate on the motorized boat issue. No lake thus far has been able to stop them. Even Lake Powell is now infected!! It's not worth it. Please don't take the chance. Don't let it happen to us. Stop motorized boats on Lake Nighthorse!!!

PLEASE
Bruce Garlick
Durango co.

Sent from my iPhone

Liff, JESSY J <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Glenn E Rodey <grodey@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 10:28 AM

I just submitted a letter to the editor today before finding this public comments e-mail site. I copied it below. I hope an equitable solution can be found that will preserve this smaller lake for quiet, non-polluting activities. Thank you for your support.

- 1 I attended the first public meetings to discuss the recreational role Lake Nighthorse would serve in the La Plata County region. But the presenters made it clear that discussion of power boat exclusion was off the table. They received money from private concerns reportedly to build a dock. Acceptance of the money was contingent on a promise that powerboats would be allowed on the lake. I don't recall any public hearings prior to that decision. Some participants suggested limiting engine size to eliminate wakes and noise. I believe powerboat enthusiasts pointed out that modern engines could cruise at 10 mph without leaving wakes. The presenters justified their decision with a statement that public facilities should serve all of the public, and that was the end of the discussion.

Let's be clear. That statement distorted the debate. "Serving all of the public" means that all of the public are welcome to use the lake for its intended purpose. It does not mean that the public can do whatever they wish. You cannot, for example, take snowmobiles in certain areas. You cannot camp anywhere you wish in La Plata Canyon; you must do it in designated areas.

Judging from recent letters, not all of the public agrees with having powered boats on the lake and many people at those first meetings didn't either. Our area lacks a smaller, quiet lake for swimming and

fishing, kayaking, rowing, or day sailing in a small boat. Lake Nighthorse fits the bill perfectly. Moreover, chances of infesting the lake with destructive mollusks from larger boats diminish. I appreciate the view of large boat users, but they already have two beautiful lakes available in the area, whereas others with different interests do not.

Public input should have been sought before accepting funding for the dock. A second poor judgement will not correct the first one. I believe BLM should return the money to the private interests so we can start again to discuss Lake Nighthorse usage. Use the concrete dock for some other purpose.

Glenn Rodey

Hesperus

970-759-6625



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

broker13@aol.com <broker13@aol.com>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 10:39 AM

To: jliff@usbr.gov, johnson.k@bresnan.net

Prior to moving full time to Durango, I lived at Lake Arrowhead Ca for 25 years. Lake Arrowhead is a private lake owned by the property owners and managed by a lake association. The cost of the lake is managed by boat registration fees, private dock registration fees, etc., and I suggest you go on line to the Arrowhead Lake Association (ala-ca.org) and you can see everything used to manage this beautiful lake. It is successfully monitored and managed by required lake registration, passing a written test of the rules of the lake, and adherence to these rules. This is a smaller lake than Nighthorse (2.2 miles long, 14 miles of shoreline, 47,418 ac ft, 782 acres when full at 5160 elev.) but it offers features that please most. This lake is also the only water source for the homes in Lake Arrowhead. Other nearby homes/cabins have their own small wells/water districts.

1 The speed limit on the lake is 35 mph from 8am until dusk when it is no wake until morning (5mph). There is a no wake zone all around the lake marked by buoys so that swimmers, kayaks, and the like can enjoy quieter waters all day. Power boats are allowed up to I believe 26 ft in length. Jet skis are NOT allowed due to safety issues, water skis are. The reason it is a safe lake is due to the rules and that there is a lake patrol on duty all season long to keep not only rules followed but to help those in distress. There is also a fire boat that is accessed by the fire dept. when needed. Boat rentals are strictly not allowed - they tried it and there were too many people renting boats who didn't know what they were doing..."where are the brakes?"....

One must keep in mind that people living near the lake chose to live there and expect a certain amount of engine noise from power boats, however, those who live in close proximity to Nighthorse may or may not be expecting the noise pollution that results and understandably may object to power boats. Water contamination can also be an issue.

IF properly managed and monitored all users of the lake can get along but with a much larger lake and possibly many more users it could quickly become chaotic and out of control. Another issue I see here is that anyone can put their boat on this lake (at least that is what I foresee) and there is no guarantee any type of order would be maintained unless some strict rules are mandated ahead of time and strictly enforced. I personally would like to see power boats continue to use Vallecito and Navajo and let Lake Nighthorse be the quiet and peaceful place it was before it became a lake. Another option that works at Lake Gregory in Crestline, Ca., a state owned man made lake, is they provide small rental boats with battery powered motors for cruising/fishing at low speeds and no noise, providing a quiet and peaceful atmosphere among the pines. No other boats are allowed but canoes, kayaks, swimmers, fishing, etc. is a great experience without the noise of power boats.

I appreciate your consideration of this information.....

Marilyn Thorsen
Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Rob <rpope@miningequipmentltd.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 11:15 AM

Justyn,

I would like to comment on the proposed recreation plan at lake Nighthorse.

First of all, I think it is worth noting that I live in a small subdivision (The Peaks) the borders the lake property and as such, am one of the closest residents to the lake.

- 1 I am in favor of the original 1014 recreational plan.
- 2 The important points to me are building all facilities near the water intake area. I think we need to minimize disturbing any more land around the lake.
- 3 Also, I would like to see a trail system for hiking and mountain biking that extends around the lake. As you know, mountain biking is a very popular sport in our area. A quality trail system will help draw people to this area and benefit a larger portion of Durango's residents.
- 4 As for boating, I for one, hope to see motorized boating on the lake. Limiting this will exclude those of us that already have motorized boats. Due to the size of the lake, I would expect those who want to go fast and water ski would go elsewhere. That being said, I would like to see a ban on open exhaust boats.
- 5 For what it's worth, I am also not in favor of granting Indian hunting rights on this land. This is federal land and we should all have equal rights.

Thanks for your time.

Rob Pope

(970) 749-3009

5/18/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

250



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

gstees <gstees@aol.com>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 9:09 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: "gstees@aol.com" <gstees@aol.com>

- 1 I wanted say I am for gas motors on the lake . If need to limit the size to 70 horse I under stand. Because many pontoon boats are 70 horse or under . The lake is close by and many people will enjoy it. Guy Stees Hesperus



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Reservoir

1 message

Shane & Susan Harris <shaneandsusan@durango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 14, 2016 at 8:38 PM

I would like to comment on the Nighthorse Reservoir recreation development plan.

First, I want to stress the importance of opening up the lake and surrounding property to recreation. Fishing and boating location are greatly needed in the Durango area. This will be beneficial to visitors and residents.

- 1 Secondly, the reservoir should allow motorized boats. There could be areas designated for low or no wake crafts but not for the entire lake. I would like to see water skiing allowed and well as fishing, non-motorized crafts and swimming.
- 2 Thirdly, I believe that the City is the best entity to oversee the recreation of the reservoir. They are in close proximity and are at the lowest level of bureaucracy and can therefore quickly respond to immediate issues. I don't believe that the State of Colorado Parks and Recreation Department is the entity to manage the facility. They are overburdened and have a lot of debt. They mismanage much of what they to oversee.

Finally, I believe that it is imperative that the reservoir be available for recreation immediately. There has been too much time pass with this valuable resource sitting inaccessible. Please work on getting this property up and available!

Shane Harris

293 Rockwood Drive

Durango, CO 81301

Mobile: (970) 759-1812

Home: (970) 385-9106

shaneandsusan@durango.net



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Larry <larrybollinger@comcast.net>
Reply-To: Larry <larrybollinger@comcast.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 15, 2016 at 8:29 PM

1

Add our names to the list of those who would prefer to see Lake Nighthorse reserved for sports and recreation that are non-polluting such as sailboard, paddle board, non-motorized boats for fishing or canoeing, birdwatching, hiking the perimeter, picnicking and the like. Visitors to Durango come seeking a natural, wild experience...and that is what a quiet, peaceful Lake Nighthorse *could* give them just five minutes or less from their lodgings in town. Ideally, Lake Nighthorse would have no motorized boats for the same reason that motorized vehicles are prohibited on foot trails: matters of safety and quality of the experience for all users. The noise, the traffic, the churning up of the water (makes fishing difficult), and the inevitable petroleum sheen on the surface of the reservoir all spoil the wilderness ambiance that would otherwise have a *unique appeal for this very small lake so very close to town.*

We can create a special place with the opening of Lake Nighthorse as a natural sanctuary without the sounds and smells of roaring engines on the lake and idling engines in line for boat inspection and the boat ramp. For those who crave engine fumes and the constant drone of internal combustion engines I suggest they pitch a tent on the shoulder of Highway 550 and leave Lake Nighthorse in peace and quiet. Power boats have the use of many other nearby lakes, why do they need to dominate this one too?

Carolyn and Larry Bollinger
35 Cedar Drive
Durango 81301
970-382-7258



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse

1 message

anjeans@live.com <anjeans@live.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 9:57 AM

- 1 Please do something outside the "box". Don't put money ahead of our beautiful lake. Say NO to motorized toys on Lake Nighthorse. And all RV,s for that matter. Just make it a fishing lake. People will come from all over the country just to fish! Fish do not thrive on water that constantly polluted by gas smell and turned waters. Thank you. Ange Nobes, Hesperus



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Draft Recreation Plan 3/16 - Public Comment

1 message

Glen Christiansen <GChristiansen@colopeaks.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 12:49 PM

To whom it may concern:

1 I'd like voice my support for both the "Proposed Action" as well as the "Action Alternative 1". I firmly believe that in the spirit of "multiple use", motorized boating should absolutely be allowed in all instances and will ultimately
2 add value to the lake. Although I support a more developed plan (Action Alternative 1), I understand that due to budgetary concerns, the Proposed Action is more easily attainable and realistic at this time. I do not support either of the other 2 alternatives, and under no circumstances, do I support non-motorized boating and/or no-wake lake.

Sincerely,

Glen E. Christiansen

1533 D & RG Drive

Durango, CO 81303

970-375-1883



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: DEA Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Warner, Louis (Ed) <lwarner@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 12:59 PM

To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>, Kathleen Ozga <kozga@usbr.gov>, Mark Chiarito <MChiarito@usbr.gov>, Rob Waldman <RWaldman@usbr.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----


From: **Stephen P Krest** <skrest@earthlink.net>

Date: Mon, May 16, 2016 at 11:59 AM

Subject: DEA Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

To: lwarner@usbr.gov

Dear Mr, Warner,
Please find attached my comments on your plan.
Steve Krest

 **ALP EA Recreation Comments.docx**
13K

Mr. Ed Warner
Western Colorado Area Office Manager
USDI Bureau of Reclamation
445 W. Gunnison Ave Suite 221
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

May 16, 2016

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan
March 2016

1 Dear Mr. Warner,

Please give consideration to these, my comments regarding the draft EA:

I stand opposed to the proposed action plan as it does not adequately address social/environmental justice issues. The proposed action does a fine job providing for the motorized boating community; and those members who can afford this type of recreation. However it (the proposed action) does nothing for those member of our community who cannot afford this type of recreation. The proposed action does nothing for the non-motorized community. Those canoers, kayakers and sailors who would also like to recreate on the reservoir.

The same injustice applies with respect to folks who want to use the reservoir for swimming. The proposed action addresses only "possible future" swimming recreation; this is unacceptable. Lakes are made to swim in. The way you have created this action plan Lakes are for motor boating only.

Again, I view this plan as being written for the sake of the financially well off at the expense the financially struggling of our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Krest
498 CR 132
Marvel, Colo. 81329

5/20/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse comments

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Sandy Bielenberg <sandyb@frontier.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 2:22 PM

 **2016Nighthorse comment.docx**
134K

In October 2008, I submitted the following petition with 450 local signatures to the Bureau of Reclamation and the other listed entities. My guess is that the majority of the people who signed this petition are still in favor of keeping Lake Nighthorse a quiet place dedicated to non-motorized craft. If one researched enough, the boat ramp built with Wallop Breaux funds actually does not require motorized access.

Personally, I feel strongly that Lake Nighthorse should be kept quiet, preferably closed to loud motors and big wakes, dedicated to a small carbon footprint because of the enormous carbon footprint of pumping water uphill.

If you would like copies of the petition, let me know. I have all of the original signatures.

Sincerely, Sandy Bielenberg
67 Rio Vista Circle
Durango, CO 81301
970-426-8740

PETITION TO CITY OF DURANGO, LA PLATA COUNTY, WATER COMMISSION, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUESTING ONLY NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE IN LAKE NIGHTHORSE (Ridges Basin Reservoir)

1

Because the potential for invasive species introduction, such as the zebra mussel, New Zealand mud snail and -----* occurs almost exclusively from use of motorized watercraft;
Because all surrounding area reservoirs already allow for recreation and fishing using at least electric motorized craft;
Because of the potential for water pollution of municipal water supplies, particularly from older motors and watercraft still in use;
Because of the potential for noise pollution from personal water crafts and snowmobiles;
Because Ridge's Basin provides migration routes and winter habitat for big game;
Because golden eagle nesting sites exist in Ridge's Basin;
Because both the City of Durango and La Plata County have signed the Global Warming Climate Treaty, *we, the undersigned, request that Lake Nighthorse (Ridges Basin Reservoir) be dedicated to non-motorized use:*



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse reservoir preferred alternate...

1 message

Rob Harries <rharries@mydurango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Cc: Jodi Deller <jndeller@mydurango.net>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 6:25 PM

Justyn,

I hope these comments are too late to be considered for the preferred alternate for Nighthorse reservoir.

1 I strongly support alternate #1 wherein, recreational opportunities and perimeter trails are permitted and/or constructed. This amenity should provide access to all varieties of local residents, even those who prefer hiking to secluded beaches for swimming opportunities. I support development of a perimeter trail accessing and along the northern "lake" edge for use by all user groups.

Sincerely,

Rob Harries

37 Rio Vista Circle

Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Marcey Olajos <moita@earthlink.net>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 7:16 PM

Dear Mr. Liff,

Below is my submission for comments concerning the Draft Recreation Master Plan.

Living on Peak Trail, which, basically overlooks Lake Nighthorse, I feel we have an intimate relationship with the Lake. My partner, Ron Lee, and I attended almost every meeting during the recreation planning process, being on the no motor side of the aisle. Not that it makes any difference now, but we and our like minded neighbors have often wondered why the decision for gas motors was decided by the funders of the boat ramp, without public comment? The fact that it is a "done deal" never seemed fair from the beginning. My question now is, how can this small lake that's main purpose is for drinking water, also support gasoline powered boats? What are the requirements for safe drinking water from a body of water which carries pollutants from power boats? I don't believe I have ever seen any mention made of these concerns.

- 1 My preference for this lake would be to provide safe drinking water and a place for quiet recreation, that is, non-motorized vehicle use. The wildlife which has become accustomed to using this area should be considered in
- 2 the management plan for this body of water. The use of motorized vehicles on the lake would surely have an effect on the solitude of the lake.

Thank you for the opportunity, once again, to offer my views.

Sincerely,

Marcey Olajos



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Night Horse

1 message

Susan131@aol.com <susan131@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 8:10 AM

Hi,

1 I wanted to give a comment on Lake Night Horse:
I am in favor of recreational use of the lake for no wake vehicles only, no electric motors, no oil, gas, or pollutants in the water. Thank you, Susan

Susan Atkinson/ *Yoga instructor*
<http://www.tubyoga.com>
<http://www.sunriseyogadurango.com>
(970) 259-0385



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Uses of Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Lou Fontana <fontana711@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 8:17 AM

As a resident looking to use Lake Nighthorse as a future source of drinking water, I would ask planning bodies to consider the following:

- 2 Body-contact recreation (e.g., swimming, bathing, water skiing, wind surfing, and use of personal watercraft) should not be allowed on water bodies used as sources of public water supply. Where it is allowed to occur, it should be separated from the water intake by the greatest distance possible, usually at least a mile. This would be hard to do on a reservoir as small as Lake Nighthorse.

Non-body-contact water-based recreation, particularly the use of two-stroke carbureted gasoline engines that discharge exhaust into the water and the use of petroleum-powered vehicles and tools on the ice, should be discouraged.

- 1 These guidelines were developed to prevent contamination of public drinking water with coliform bacteria, gasoline, fuel additives, and oil.

The proponents of recreational use near or on Lake Nighthorse must be required to provide technical evidence supporting the claim that such activity will not adversely affect the water quality, or the public health of the water consumer served by this water supply. If their proposals for recreational use are inconsistent with this policy they should be rejected.

Where recreational uses of a drinking water source are being considered, the public health risks of this practice should be communicated to drinking water consumers by the decision makers, including plans for protection and enforcement designed to minimize the risk of contamination and degradation of water quality.

Lou Fontana
549 King Mountain Rd.
Durango, CO
970-799-2553



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

ED MARY HANDRICK <edmaryhandrick@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 9:32 AM

I am a Durango resident and property owning taxpayer . Regarding uses for Lake Nighthorse:

1. Keep the lake as a quiet area, free of motorized vehicles during all seasons. Motor boats have a number of options in this area to use for boating, skiing and fishing, but none of these waters are suitable for quiet water sports such as kayaks, SUPs, sailboats or just electric motors. The concrete boat ramp can be used for any of these uses- it need not include motorized boats.
2. Trails users, on a system built by volunteers, can better enjoy the beauty and quiet of a natural area if motorized vehicles are not allowed. It was the intention of the Bodo donors to keep this area for the wildlife, please honor that request.
3. If camping is permitted, limit camping to a small area which will not accommodate large RV's and which have strict noise ordinances.

Thank you,
Mary Handrick
970-382-8765

THE HOPI TRIBE



May 9, 2016

Fd Warner, Area Manager
 Attention: Rob Waldman, Chief, Southern Environmental & Planning Group
 Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office
 445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
 Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

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Herman G. Honore
 CHAIRMAN

Alfred Tomahquah
 VICE-CHAIRMAN

REC'D BOR WCAE-SS
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
 MAY 17 2016

CLASS			
FOLDER			
PROJECT			
CONTROL #			
NAME	DATE	INITIAL	CYS
EWARNER			4
KOSKA			4
EWALDMAN			4
ERBAUM			4
KLOUEN			4
LATTYME			4

20160517CA-001

Dear Mr. Warner,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated April 22, 2016, with an enclosed draft environmental assessment for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan of the Animas La Plata Project.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural groups in this project area. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)'s continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the enclosed draft environmental assessment and we note the Proposed Action would result in no direct effects to cultural resources from initial development, while alternative 1 would result in adverse effects to 12 sites and alternative 2 may effect up to 170 cultural resource sites remaining in the project area.

We note and support the comments and concerns of the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes in Appendix A *Comment Resolution Table for the Animas-La Plata Stakeholder Group Review of the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment* including:

there should never be any recreation on Lake Nighthorse and the area should be protected and valued as an important part of these lands and the people that have occupied these lands since human occupation first began.

We appreciate that the BOR agrees that the "cultural resources present are significant and need protection" and implementation of a cultural resources management plan yet to be developed in consultation with the Tribes "will address cultural resource protection through

Ed Warner
May 9, 2016
Page 2

preconstruction surveys, avoidance, mitigation and long term monitoring." However, we do not consider mitigation to be protection and we are aware of mitigation already conducted for the Animas La Plata Project, including the disturbance of numerous human remains.

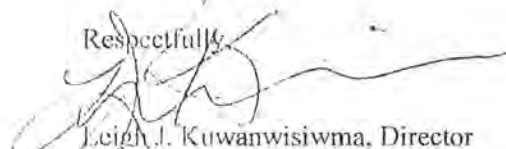
In our enclosed letter on the Animas La Plata Project dated April 22, 2013, regarding three sites in the Ridges Basin that were being adversely effected by Lake Nighthorse, we stated we understood 109 prehistoric sites have been identified within one mile of these sites and asked if these sites will also be adversely effected by the development of recreational facilities. In our enclosed letter dated October 20, 2014 we reviewed the draft Ridges Basin Cultural resources Management Plan and requested continuing consultation on the plan and its implementation. Our enclosed letters dated September 17 and December 2, 2015 cite sites that were destroyed by previous projects.

We have been under the belief that the primary purpose of the Animas La Plata Project is to fulfill historical promises made by the United States government to the Ute Tribes. The United States government has made and continues to make the ruins and graves of our ancestors its Monuments and Recreation Areas.

1 Therefore, we have supported the Ute Tribes throughout the Animas La Plata Project. And therefore we support the No Action Alternative in this environmental assessment and recommend the BOR fully address their comments and concerns and accept their recommendations.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: December 2 and September 17, 2015, March 31, 2014, and June 24 and April 22, 2013 letters

cc: Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

THE HOPI TRIBE



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Herman H. Homan
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Tomshiquain Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2015

Ed Warner, Area Manager
Attention: Ernie Rheaume, Rob Waldman
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Suttle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Mr. Warner,


2

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated November 18, 2015, with an enclosed cultural resources survey report for the proposed Like Nighthorse Raw Water Pipeline of the Animas La Plata Project. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural groups in this project area. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the enclosed cultural resources survey report which identifies five prehistoric sites: two described as National Register eligible artifact scatters, one described as a National Register eligible habitation site, one described as an artifact scatter of undetermined eligibility that has been destroyed by previous projects and one described as an ineligible artifact scatter.

We concur that if the three eligible prehistoric sites and prehistoric site of undetermined eligibility and avoided and/or monitored during project activities, then a recommendation for a finding of no adverse effect is appropriate for this undertaking. However, we appreciate that if any cultural features or deposits are encountered during project activities, these activities will be discontinued in the immediate area of the remains, and we will be consulted on their nature and significance. If any Native American human remains or funerary objects are discovered during construction they shall be immediately reported as required by law. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Legeb J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

THE HOPI TRIBE



Herman G. Holman
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquah Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

September 17, 2015

Ed Warner, Area Manager
Attention: Eric Rheanne, Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Suttle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Mr. Warner,


This letter is in response to your correspondences dated August 26 and 27, 2015, regarding review and enclosed cultural resources re-survey report for a proposed boat wash and entrance station at the Animas La Plata Project. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural groups in this project area. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of our ancestral sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the enclosed cultural resources re-survey report that identifies a National Register eligible prehistoric site, 5PL 5806, described as a Basketmaker III-Pueblo I artifact scatter, that was identified in 2000 and totally compromised by road construction by 2002.

We conclude a National Register eligible prehistoric site that was identified in 2000 was not avoided by road construction so that it was destroyed by 2002. Therefore, we have now determined that previous activities in this project area adversely effected site 5PL 5806, resulting in the Bureau of Reclamation's current determination of no historic properties effected for the current undertaking.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Leigh A. Kutwaniwisiwina, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

THE HOPI TRIBE



Herman G. Henamu
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahyabbi Jr
VICE-CHAIRMAN

October 20, 2014

Ed Warner, Area Manager
Attention: Joe Tuomey, Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Suttle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Mr. Warner,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated October 9, 2014, with an enclosed Draft Ridges Basin Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Animas-La Plata Project pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the enclosed draft plan and we understand Reclamation will continue as the responsible agency for management of the 5,504 acres of project lands, preservation of significant cultural resources, and compliance with this management plan. We understand approximately 200 archaeological sites are in the project area, 67 of which were treated in the Ridges Basin as part of the project, including site 51.P245 which involved the disturbance of over 100 human burials. We also understand the main impacts to sites are anticipated to be from recreation, wave action, operations, maintenance and construction activities, including road, fence, trail, boat ramp, and campground construction. We further understand 130 sites which are considered to be National Register eligible and 8 sites of undetermined eligibility are subject to this management plan.

A management plan is only as good as its implementation. Therefore, we request continuing consultation on this plan and its implementation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leigh L. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Terry Knight, Ute Tribe



Herman G. Hananie
CHAIRMAN

Witbed Lomelquah...
VICE-CHAIRMAN

March 31, 2014

Ed Warner, Area Manager
Attention: Dr. Lauren E. Jelinek, Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Suttle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Mr. Warner,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated March 6, 2014, with an enclosed *End-of-Fieldwork of Archaeological Testing of 5PL173, 5PL173 and 5PL238, La Plata County*. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to earlier identifiable cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of our ancestral sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

In a letter dated April 22, 2013, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office reviewed the Testing Plan for three sites in the Ridges Basin, described as Basketmaker III/Pueblo I seasonal habitations that are being adversely affected by the Animas La Plata Project's Lake Nighthorse. We stated we understood Site 5PL172 has been previously adversely affected by a gas pipeline and previous surface and recent test excavations, for which a report has not yet been completed. We also stated we understood Site 5LP173 has also been subjected to surface collections. We further stated we understood Site 5LP238 has been subjected to previous excavations in 1967 by the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School for which a report was never completed, and 2004 by SWCA, and repeatedly surface collected. Fragments of human remains of 23 individuals were recovered from 5PL238 in 1967 and have been claimed for repatriation by the Hopi Tribe for reburial. An additional individual was disturbed by the 2004 excavations and has been reburied by the Pueblo of Acoma.

We understand that Reclamation permitted Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School to implement the Testing Plan at these three sites in highly accessible and vulnerable areas to identify the nature and extent of subsurface deposits, mitigate adverse effects of erosion and visitation, and evaluate future effects from the development of recreational facilities.

Ed Warner
March 31, 2014
Page 2

There are 109 prehistoric sites, including these three, that have been identified within one mile of the project area, and we asked if these three sites are in highly accessible and vulnerable areas and have been impacted by visitation, won't the other sites within a mile of the project area also be adversely affected by the development of recreational facilities?

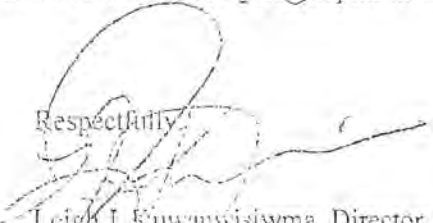
In a letter dated June 24, 2013, we stated we appreciated Dr. Jelinek's May 31st e-mail correspondence in response to our letter and understood that these three sites are of immediate concern due to their proximity to the main access road and shoreline, and that the shoreline will be monitored. We also stated we appreciated the Amendment adding stipulations for the monitoring and completion of archaeological testing.

We have now reviewed the enclosed End-of-Fieldwork Report of Archaeological Testing and understand that no subsurface features were encountered at sites 5LP172 and 5LP173, described as limited activity areas, that are now considered National Register ineligible. We note that the report recommends archaeological monitoring if these sites are to be impacted by construction.

Site 5LP238 is described as a habitation site with features including four pit structures, a series of jacal rooms and a midden, at which over 4,500 surface artifacts were collected, and that is a Traditional Cultural Property considered National Register eligible. The report states that it is likely that artifacts and possibly additional burials will continue to be uncovered through erosion because of the steep slope and reservoir, and recommends that the site be avoided and the open pithouse be backfilled.

Therefore, we request continuing consultation on this project. Please provide us with a copy of the environmental assessment for the recreation plan in which we understand all action plans will potentially affect cultural resources for review and comment. Please also provide us with a copy of the monitoring report if sites 5LP172 and or 5LP173 are impacted by construction and a copy of any further actions proposed at site 5LP238.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leigh J. Kuwanwisitwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN



HOPi TRIBE

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

June 24, 2013

Dr. Lauren E. Jelinek, Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Suttle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Dr. Jelinek,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated June 11, 2013, with an enclosed Amendment to the Archaeological Testing Plan for Three At-Risk sites in Ridges Basin, 5PL175, 5PL173 and 5PL238, La Plata County. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

In a letter dated April 22, 2013, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office reviewed the Testing Plan for these three sites in the Ridges Basin, described as Basketmaker III/Pueblo I seasonal habitations that are being adversely affected by the Animas La Plata Project's Lake Nighthorse. We stated we understood Site 5PL172 has also been adversely affected by a gas pipeline and previous surface and recent test excavations, for which a report has not yet been completed, and Site 5PL173 has also been subjected to surface collections. Site 5PL238 has been subjected to previous excavations in 1967 by the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School for which a report was never completed and in 2004 by SWCA, and repeatedly surface collected. Fragments of human remains of 23 individuals were recovered from 5PL238 in 1967 and have been claimed for repatriation by the Hopi Tribe for reburial. An additional individual was disturbed by the 2004 excavations and has been reburied by the Pueblo of Acoma.


In our April 22nd letter we also stated we understood that Reclamation proposes to permit the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School to implement the Testing Plan at these three sites in highly accessible and vulnerable areas to identify the nature and extent of subsurface deposits, mitigate adverse effects of erosion and visitation, and evaluate future effects from the development of recreational facilities. We stated that we appreciate that if human remains are encountered, we will be notified, and they will not be removed.

Dr. Lauren E. Jelinek
June 24, 2013
Page 2

We appreciate your May 31st e-mail correspondence in response to our April 22, 2013, letter and understand that these three sites are of immediate concern due to their proximity to the main access road and shoreline, and that the shoreline will be monitored. We also appreciate enclosed Amendment adding stipulations for the monitoring and completion of archaeological testing, and that we will be provided with copies of the end of fieldwork and draft testing report for review and comment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leig J. Kwanvisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Hojanla
VICE-CHAIRMAN

THE HOPI TRIBE



April 22, 2013

Dr. Lauren E. Jelinek, Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Durango Field Division
185 Surtle Street, Suite 2
Durango, Colorado 81303-7911

Dear Dr. Jelinek,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated April 15, 2013, with an enclosed *Treatment Plan for Archaeological Testing of 5PL173, 5PL173 and 5PL238, La Plata County*. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the enclosed Testing Plan for three sites, described as Basketmaker III/Pueblo I seasonal habitations, in the Ridges Basin that are being adversely effected by the Animas La Plata Project's Lake Nighthorse. Site 5PL172 has also been adversely affected by a gas pipeline and previous surface and recent test excavations, for which a report has not yet been completed. Site 5PL173 has also been subjected to surface collections.

Site 5PL238 has been subjected to previous excavations in 1967 by the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School for which a report was never completed and 2004 by SWCA and repeatedly surface collected. Fragments of human remains of 23 individuals were recovered from 5PL238 in 1967 and have been claimed for repatriation by the Hopi Tribe for reburial. An additional individual was disturbed by the 2004 excavations and has been reburied by the Pueblo of Acoma

We understand that Reclamation proposes to permit the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School to implement the Testing Plan at these three sites in highly accessible and vulnerable areas to identify the nature and extent of subsurface deposits, mitigate adverse effects of erosion and visitation, and evaluate future effects from the development of

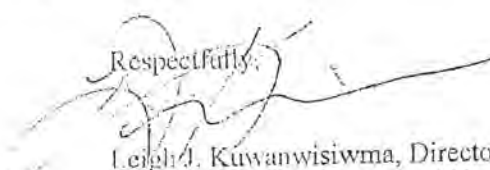
Dr. Lauren E. Jelínek
April 22, 2013
Page 2

recreational facilities. We appreciate that if human remains are encountered, we will be notified, and they will not be removed.

We also understand there are 120 sites, 109 of which are prehistoric, including these three sites have been identified within one mile of the project area. If these three sites are in highly accessible and vulnerable areas and have been impacted by visitation, won't the other sites within a mile of the project area also be adversely affected by the development of recreational facilities?

Please provide us with copies of the environmental assessment for the recreation plan, and draft testing report for review and comment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

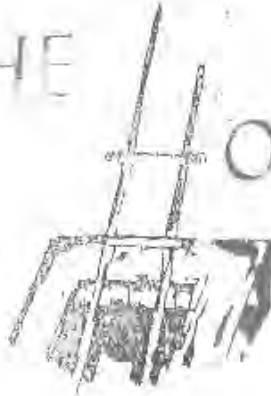
Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

THE HOPI TRIBE



Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

May 14, 2003

Warren Hurley, Archaeologist, Four Corners Division
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office
535 East Second Avenue, Suite 300
Durango, Colorado 81301

Terry Knight, Contract Coordinator
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Animas-La Plata Cultural Resources Project
P.O. Box 468
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

Dear Mr. Knight and Mr. Hurley,

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Taylor and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office dated April 28, 2003, regarding tribal participation in cultural resources management for the Animas-La Plata project, and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)'s May 1, 2003, Memorandum regarding discovery of Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA) items.

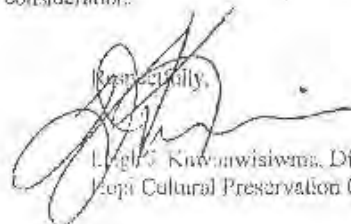
The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office understands that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has contracted with Reclamation, under an agreement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, to manage the cultural resources investigations of the Animas-La Plata project. We also understand that SWCA, Inc. began excavations in the summer of 2002 under a contract to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and that cultural resources in the project area include 52 ancient Puebloan archaeological sites, 34 of which will be directly impacted.

We appreciate that previous consultations and other research by Reclamation have indicated that ancient Puebloan habitation sites scheduled for data recovery may also be identified as Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties, and that Reclamation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe would like our input as to the treatment of Traditional Cultural Properties found within the project area. Therefore, we look forward to being contacted by SWCA Ethnographer Ms. Maxine Seletstewa to confirm the Hopi Tribe's involvement in the Animas-La Plata Project, and make arrangements for further consultation regarding the treatment of Traditional Cultural Properties.

As you indicate, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office's primary concerns regarding the Animas-La Plata Project are with NAGPRA issues and procedures. To date, we have been notified pursuant to the Plan of Action of four human remains discoveries in the Eastern Site Cluster, described as a community of Pueblo I habitations, and that it is apparent that additional NAGPRA items will be encountered during the course of excavations in the Eastern Site Cluster. Therefore, we look forward to consulting on the proposed disposition of these items, as well as the cultural affiliation study currently being prepared by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, assisted by SWCA, to assist Reclamation in the determination of cultural affiliation for NAGPRA discoveries.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you again for your consideration.

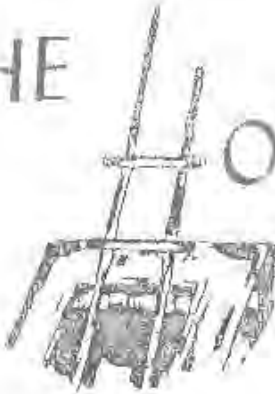
Respectfully,



L. Leigh Kuyuwiswims, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Office of the Chairman
Clay Hamilton, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
Maxine Seletstewa, SWCA

THE HOPI TRIBE



Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

Elgean Joshevama
VICE-CHAIRMAN

April 11, 2002

Patrick J. Schumacher, Manager, Four Corners Division
Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, Western Colorado Area Office
2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-8785

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 29, 2002, regarding an enclosed National Historic Preservation Act Programmatic Agreement and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Plan of Action for the Animas-La Plata Project, Colorado and New Mexico. As you know, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric groups in the Animas-La Plata project area, and therefore the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office appreciates the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office also appreciates that Reclamation is committed to implementing this important Indian water rights settlement project in a culturally sensitive manner. We have reviewed Programmatic Agreement and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Plan of Action, and wish to assist you in fulfilling the Bureau of Reclamation's responsibility to identify cultural resources, in addition to identifying potential impacts to them, so this project adequately addresses adverse impacts to cultural resources.

Hopi clans migrated to and settled in areas throughout southwestern Colorado before migrating to and settling on the Hopi Mesas. The Hopi Tribe considers our ancestral villages, referred to as archaeological sites, to be Hopi Traditional Cultural Places. Other Hopi Traditional Cultural Places associated with our ancestral and modern Villages include shrines, trails, rock markings, and traditional gathering places. Hopi people consider prehistoric archaeological sites and isolated occurrences to be the "footprints" of our ancestors, and we do not consider our ancestral sites to be "abandoned."

Intensive Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties studies and ethno-history research funded by the Bureau of Reclamation is needed to fully identify Hopi interests and needs in the Animas-La Plata Project. Site visits to area of effect will be requested by the Hopi Cultural Preservation

Patrick J. Schumacher
April 11, 2002
Page 2

Office to fully identify Hopi interests. This is necessary because a Hopi clan member from a clan that migrated through the project area may be able to identify Traditional Cultural Properties, including clan shrines, at prehistoric sites in this project area.

To discuss the Programmatic Agreement and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Plan of Action, and reburial of human remains culturally affiliated with the Hopi Tribe as close as possible to the places from which they will be excavated, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office invites Warren Hurley to an administrative meeting.

Please have him contact Lanell Yeoytewa at the Cultural Preservation Office to confirm an appointment. Thank again you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Clay Hamilton, HCPO
Warren Hurley, BOR, Durango

THE HOPI TRIBE



262

Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

Phillip R. Quochoytewa, Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

August 17, 2000

Laura Paskus, Ethnographer
SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants
8100 Mountain Road, NE, Suite 109
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Ms. Paskus,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 12, 2000, concerning a draft Programmatic Agreement regarding the Animas-La Plata Project. As you know, the Hopi Tribe appreciates your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

As you also know, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has consulted with the Bureau of Reclamation and SWCA on the Animas-La Plata Project since 1996 and on several occasions in 1999. And, as you note in your letter, the Bureau of Reclamation has reason to believe that the Hopi Tribe may be culturally affiliated with sites, human remains, or cultural items that may be affected or excavated as a part of this project.

Therefore, we wish to continue to be consulted and kept informed of the Animas-La Plata Project. Furthermore, the Hopi Tribe wishes to be a signatory party to this Programmatic Agreement, which we are forwarding to our Office of the General Counsel for further review.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Office of the General Counsel w/ draft PA
Warren Hurley, Bureau of Reclamation

Mailed 8/17/00

P.O. BOX 123 — KYKOTSMOVI, AZ. — 86039 — (520) 734-3000



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

trironlee@gmail.com <trironlee@gmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 11:51 AM

1 We are residents who live relatively close to the recreation area . Our concerns were voiced at the many meetings held to determine highest and best use of the lake. We did not feel our concerns were heard then and we hope with this new opportunity they will be heard now.

We feel the size of the lake will not accomadate motorboats . It seems senseless to provide inspection facilities for the numbers of boats this small lake will hold. With limited parking facilities boats and trucks and other users will be in conflict. Boats will be taken out every night causing more confusion in a small area making the likelihood of accidents more possible God forbid it will put children in the area at risk. Hopefully these decisions will be reassessed and proper consideration given to the size and other available options to the use by the community of Lake Nighthorse.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation Management Plan

1 message

Ann Felty <afelty@icloud.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 2:23 PM

I would like to submit a comment on the Lake Nighthorse management plan. I understand that the Wallop-Breaux funding requires gas powered motors be allowed on the lake. I think that the size of the motors and the speed allowed should be consistent with a quieter, no wake lake. I would like consideration given to the following:

- 1) The small size of the lake. If an area of approximately 1,000 acres is used for motorized recreation, many conflicts will occur due to fast speed users in close proximity to quiet, slow users. I sailed for several years at Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland, Colorado. That lake had a 1,700 acre surface. My small (14 foot) sailboat was difficult to sail on the lake because the motorized boats did not slow down around non-motorized users.
- 2) The residential areas surrounding the lake will be affected by noise.
- 3) Other local lakes are available for those who wish to use faster speeds for recreation. Navajo Reservoir, Vallecito Reservoir, and McPhee Reservoir are all large enough to be used for high speed recreation.
- 2 4) The Bodo family intended for the area to be in a conservation trust, to protect the values for wildlife in perpetuity. Respect for their wishes will best be served by a quieter, no wake lake.

I hope that Lake Nighthorse will be managed in a way to preserve the lake as the clean and quiet beauty that it is now.

Ann Felty
78 Highland Hill Drive
Durango, Colorado
afelty@icloud.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

ron lee <trironlee@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 18, 2016 at 9:15 AM

The opportunities involving the Durango community are better served without the inclusion of motorboats on the water. The lake as it stands right now is a refuge for all sorts of wildlife. If motors are allowed the peace and quiet of the lake will be lost. As it is now it could provide Durango with a small lake close enough to town for all to enjoy. It would be a chance to bring children to enjoy a natural setting without the tumult that motorboats engender. Kayaks, canoes, fishermen and swimmers could all relax to enjoy their individual pursuits. Please give thought to what will serve the larger community. Thank You, Ron Lee

Ron Lee
416 Peak Trail, Durango CO 81303
Mobile (520) 730-9759
trironlee@gmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Deborah Paulson <deborah.paulson@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 18, 2016 at 10:06 AM

1 I am a local resident who strongly favors quiet recreation at Lake Nighthorse. In fact, should it become dominated by motor boats, I will not be visiting the lake. I see no attraction in a large body of water devoid of most waterbirds and full of noise.

On the other hand, if it were to have very restrictive use of small motors on a limited area of the lake - or better yet no motors, I would visit the lake frequently, as I do Haviland Lake. I would take visiting family there, and recommend it to visitors I know. It could be a local treasure, if protected for wildlife and quiet recreation.

2 In that regard, I would not favor too many trails along the shore. There should be a large portion of the shore that is not trailed or roaded and is even off limits to canoers, giving water-loving wildlife a place to nest and rest.

Thank you for considering my concerns and desires for this community resource.

Sincerely
Deb Paulson
7852 CR 203
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jane Dunn <jdunnhermosa@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 18, 2016 at 6:41 PM

1 My strong preference is to see Lake Nighthorse be a no motor boat lake. My reasons are countless, and I'm sure have been listed many many times. Please consider the beauty and serenity of the area, and the benefits to keeping it that way.
Thank you.
Jane Dunn



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Potential of LNH

1 message

Anne Markward <amarkward@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 18, 2016 at 8:20 PM

hello -

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Five years ago, I sat through exhaustive hearings on the issue of appropriate usage for Lake Nighthorse. More than 2/3 of the people present were in favor of a non motorized lake, citing the following reasons:

- **Uniqueness.** We have Vallecito and Navajo and McPhee all in easy, motorized reach. We have no other lakes easily accessible to the public that offer a nature-based, non motorized opportunity.
 - It would also potentially take some of the pressure off of the North-of-Durango Animas River stretch from Oxbow to 33rd, where countless tubers go to just cool off. LNH is an artificial reservoir, not a much used wildlife corridor unnecessarily impacted by recreational tubers.
- **Size.** The surface area of LNH, approx 1000 acres, is such that any motorized vehicle, at any other than <5 mph "no wake" speed, will directly impact all surface areas of the lake. A boat going 40 mph - the average for waterskiers - would significantly disrupt all other users, including fishermen, SUPers, kayakers, tubers, and swimmers.
- **Potential profitability.** Bruce D'Andrea and others involved with competitive rowing made an excellent case that LNH could offer Durango/La Plata the same panache / training reputation that the much vaunted - and very controversial and expensive - "repairs" to the Animas River have offered. This could be a world class training facility.
- **Bio-contamination.** Motorized vessels, dipping first into one zebra-filled and quagga-filled mussel lake after another, introduce real risk to this important water supply. Why would we risk that? Instead of paying for an inspection station, staffed FT, for motor boats who want to be on Lake Powell one weekend and LNH the next, why not limit the number and availability of craft? It would save money, and it might well save an important water supply.

1 I understand that Jim Isgar committed boat ramp funding - and thus, motorized crafts - through Wallop Breaux funding. Fine. Make these motorized crafts electric motors, as small as possible, preferably owned by - or confined only to - LNH, not trailered from lake to lake.

I'm from Maine. I grew up on the second largest lake in the state, Sebago. Approximately 200 square MILES, approximately 350 feet deep. In the '60s it was glorious. Today, without regulation but with a whole lot of users, it is algae filled and pretty nasty.

Why can't we keep a few places less developed? You know, for our grandchildren?

Thank you.

Anne

Anne Markward
3254 E 6th Ave, Durango, CO
970 779 8796



May 19, 2016

Justyn Liff (via email)
Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
445 W Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970 248-0625
Email: jliff@usbr.gov

Mayor
Christina Rinderte

Mayor Pro Tem
Dick White

Councilors
Sweetie Marbury
Dean Brookie
Keith Brant

City Manager
Ron LeBlanc

Subject: Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment - Lake Nighthorse
Recreation Plan

To whom it may concern,

Durango has proven very effective at managing recreation for its residents & visitors and in 2012, the City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department received the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the Field of Park and Recreation Management. Durango's success in managing recreation for the community has built strong trust & support from its residents.

The Durango Parks and Recreation Department has the expertise to manage recreation at Lake Nighthorse, but it needs community support in order to be effective in this effort. Accordingly, the Parks and Recreation Advisory (PARA) Board provides these comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) dated March 2016.

The PARA Board consists of residents empowered by the City to review improvements and provide recommendations for any new areas developed for recreation to enhance the natural beauty of the City and provide for the enjoyment, health, and general welfare of its residents. This Board finds that there is strong community backing to open Lake Nighthorse to the public for recreation in a manner consistent with the features outlined in Action Alternative 1- 2011 Recreation Plan and the Proposed Action - 2014 Recreation Plan.

In April 2011 the community developed a comprehensive plan of recreational features at Lake Nighthorse that are outlined in the Draft EA as Action Alternative 1 - 2011 Recreation Plan. The recreational features outlined in this alternative are consistent with the themes in the City of Durango Parks, Open Space, Trails and

May 19, 2016

Page 2

Recreation Master Plan (POST Plan) which was completed in April 2010. The POST Plan established these recreational/organizational themes for the community:

- Trails – Connecting People to Places
- Open Space – Preserve & Care for Special Places
- Parks: Provide Quality Areas for Community Gatherings and Activities
- Recreation: Provide Quality and Diverse Recreation Programs
- Facilities: Provide Quality Facilities for Recreation Activities
- Organizational: Strategic Use of Resources

Furthermore, the Action Alternative I Recreation Plan, the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the City of Durango POST Plan themes correlate well with the Department of Interior mission areas below:

Mission Area 1: Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

- Goal 1: Protect America's Landscapes
- Goal 2: Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources
- Goal 3: Enhance Recreation and Visitor Experience
 - Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage

Mission Area 2: Strengthening Tribal Nations and Insular Communities

- Goal 1: Meet Our Trust, Treaty, and Other Responsibilities to American Indians
- Goal 2: Improve the Quality of Life in Tribal and Native Communities
- Goal 3: Empower Insular Communities
 - Improve quality of life
 - Create economic opportunity

Mission Area 4: Engaging the Next Generation

- Goal 1: Create new, systemic opportunities for outdoor play
- Goal 2: Provide educational opportunities
- Goal 3: Provide volunteers on public lands

1 Durango is prepared to manage recreation in a manner that achieves the guiding principles of the Draft EA. The PARA Board therefore requests that the features in Action Alternative I – 2011 Recreation Plan be included in the Record of Decision. Below are a number of reasons supporting our recommendations:

1. Durango wants to 'connect people to places' by creating a welcoming environment for the community at Lake Nighthorse.
2. Americans' interest in nature and nature-based recreation is growing. Of the top outdoor recreational activities, nearly 75% involve viewing, photographing, identifying, visiting, or otherwise observing elements of nature—flowers, trees, water areas & shorelines, natural scenery, birds, other wildlife, nature exhibits, and wilderness (wildlands generally). In recent years, the growth in viewing and photographing plants and natural

May 19, 2016

Page 3

scenery has been most rapid closely followed by viewing, photographing, and identifying wildlife and birds. The increase in the observation and study of nature is a very healthy trend that reflects rising and widespread interest in the future of natural resources, conservation, and public lands.

3. Cultural resources, including historic buildings, sites and museums, can contribute to the overall functioning of society by helping individual ethnic groups embrace their cultural identities, and by helping residents understand and appreciate our states' diversity. These historic sites help visitors immerse themselves in other cultures and create places for sharing ethnic food, events, languages and traditions.
4. Outdoor recreation plays a significant role in American lives. It provides physical challenges and well-being, helps develop lifelong skills, provokes interest and inquiry, inspires wonder and awe of the natural world, and often provides an alternative to daily routines. Recreation contributes greatly to the physical, mental, and spiritual health of individuals, bonds family and friends, and instills pride in natural and cultural heritage.
5. Studies document the overall health benefits, both physical and mental and demonstrate how physical activity helps to control obesity, boost the immune system, diminish the risk of disease and increase life expectancy. Like improvements to our physical well-being, many studies show that participation in recreational activities is an important contributor to mental health and quality of life. Parks, trails and historical sites provide excellent inducements to physical activity and our scenic views and waterways encourage active visitation. Parks and recreation can also aid in reducing depression, relieving stress, improving self-esteem and personal growth.
6. Studies also outline the social benefits of recreation, such as strengthening communities, promoting social bonds and supporting youth. Participating in recreation activities helps develop our youth, improve their education and deters them from negative behaviors.
7. Recreation opportunities and parks are essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Proximity to parks and recreation facilities leads to safer, cleaner neighborhoods, volunteerism, stewardship and creates a livelier community atmosphere. Social bonds are improved when families recreate together and when seniors and individuals with disabilities are actively engaged in recreation activities. Recreation and park facilities help promote social bonds by uniting families, encouraging cultural sensitivity, and developing social consciousness among our youth.
8. Landscapes in the West are often associated with the sense of place of people who live there, people who wish they lived there, and people who go there for outdoor recreation. Part of sense of place and place meaning is wrapped into the symbolism of these landscapes, especially the symbolism of parks, monuments, forests, lakes and wildlife areas. In this increasingly

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fast-paced world, park and recreation lands, facilities and programs provide the opportunity for something we desire most - the chance to take a breath and to relax - to refresh our mind, body and spirit. The aggregate impact of these health and social benefits makes parks and recreation one of the most cost-effective public services available to decision makers.

9. Public policy implications with this growing interest in nature-based recreation include:
 - a) Communities can convert public interest in nature into active support of and engagement in conservation of natural landscapes and water resources.
 - b) Outdoor activities can contribute to better physical conditioning, as well as better emotional health. There is an opportunity to use interest in nature as a means of stimulating greater physical activity. Trails and wildlife observation sites can be designed to require some physical effort while still accommodating participants with disabilities.

2 More than half of recreational visits to Lake Nighthorse are expected from people who live within 50 miles of the recreation site. Accordingly the primary population served by Lake Nighthorse will be La Plata County residents. Some relevant population numbers for La Plata County and Lake Nighthorse:

- a) La Plata County has population of 53,284 with Durango population of 17,557 (2013); Native Americans making up ~1000 Native Americans at FLC each semester & ~5% of City residents
- b) Southern Ute Tribe has La Plata County population of 695 and overall population of 9,592 (2000 census)
- c) Ute Mountain Ute tribe has overall 2,060 enrolled members across Montezuma County, La Plata County, and San Juan County (2000 census)

Durango is supremely qualified to manage a broad recreational venue at Lake Nighthorse. Our community has a high level of cultural awareness and well-established sense of stewardship. In order to be successful managing recreation at Lake Nighthorse, Durango requires a recreational plan that inspires community support. Action Alternative 1 and the Proposed Action most closely aligns with the communities stated interest and the PARA Board would like to ensure the specific recommendations below are permitted within the Record of Decision:

1. Ensure the Action Alternative 1 recreational features are included in the decision in order to make Lake Nighthorse an attractive site for healthy community & family connections.
2. Commit to the planned implementation, depending on the availability of funds, of the following key elements in the final decision:

May 19, 2016

Page 5

- a) Swim Beach
- b) Day Use & Picnic Area
- c) Natural & Hard Surface Trail(s)
- 3 d) Trailhead(s)
- e) Informational Displays
- f) Campground(s)
- g) Non-motorized Boat Launch
- h) Breakwater(s) (as required)
3. Develop interpretive displays that recognize and appreciate the place value that American Indians associate with the Lake Nighthorse region
4. Reevaluate motorized use, especially related to noise, wakes and speed limits to encourage and inspire appreciation of nature based activity at Lake Nighthorse.
- 4 4. Explore winter season human powered recreation (hiking, cross country skiing, etc.) in order to support year round health and fitness
5. Establish Multi-Modal hard-surface trail access between the Animas River Trail to the Lake Nighthorse Recreational Footprint to encourage community health and fitness in travelling to and from Lake Nighthorse.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment – Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan. The Board would appreciate a response to the comments in this letter and the response can be sent to rec@durangogov.org

Sincerely,

Melissa Youssef, Vice Chair
City of Durango Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Cc: Durango City Council

270

Mr. Ed Warner
Western Colorado Area Office Manager
USDI Bureau of Reclamation
445 W. Gunnison Ave Suite 221
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
RECEIVED BY RWCA
GRAND JUNCTION

MAY 16 2016

CLASS _____
PRJ _____
CNTR. _____
FLDR. _____

CLASS	INITIALS	SURNAME

May 16, 2016

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan
March 2016

Dear Mr. Warner,

Please give consideration to these, my comments regarding the draft EA:

I stand opposed to the proposed action plan as it does not adequately address social/environmental justice issues. The proposed action does a fine job providing for the motorized boating community; and those members who can afford this type of recreation. However it (the proposed action) does nothing for those member of our community who cannot afford this type of recreation. The proposed action does nothing for the non-motorized community. Those canoers, kayakers and sailors who would also like to recreate on the reservoir.

The same injustice applies with respect to folks who want to use the reservoir for swimming. The proposed action addresses only "possible future" swimming recreation; this is unacceptable. Lakes are made to swim in. The way you have created this action plan Lakes are for motor boating only.

Again, I view this plan as being written for the sake of the financially well off at the expense the financially struggling of our community.

Sincerely,


Steve Krest

498 CR 132

Marvel, Colo. 81329



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse comment

1 message

priscilla sherman <priscilla.sherman@gmail.com>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, May 19, 2016 at 4:39 PM

Regarding the proposed action alternatives for the recreational use of Lake Nighthorse. Personal comments from Priscilla Sherman, 560 West Fork Rd. Durango, CO 81303 (Located 3 miles from the lake).

Water Quality for municipal use:

It is my understanding that the original intent for this reservoir was for municipal and irrigation. With that in mind, I am not sure how it made sense to commit to the funding for a boat ramp, thus committing the use of motorized crafts, through the Wallop Breaux funding, which also would require more funds to be acquired to treat the water for municipal use.

1 In October of 2015 I purchased a home in the Rafter J development in a close proximity of LNH. At the time I learned that we would eventually be getting our water supply from LNH, later I learned about the allowance of motorized crafts allowed on the lake. The idea of drinking water that had to be treated for bio contaminants greatly concerns me. Can the city guarantee the municipal water will be free from contaminates, and hazardous spills? Do they have an emergency management plans in place? I understand that we are already committed to motorized crafts, but the size and type of engines is still negotiable. I would like to request that only electric motors be allowed and no wake speeds.

Size of LNH

2 Given the size of the LNH and the close proximity of other larger areas, Vallecito and Navajo and McPhee, that offer opportunities for boaters. I believe LNH should be a "NO Wake" lake. The proposed 40mph speed limit is much to fast for SUPers, canoes and kayakers to be safe in this size of a lake. It would also cause more erosion along the shoreline. Alternatives: LNH offers an excellent opportunity for local businesses to provide water sports training in kayaking, rowing and non motorized boating. What a great idea for our local youth. What a great way to reduce the carbon footprint and reduce the use of fossil fuels. I believe that local non motorized boating community and businesses in Durango would greatly profit from unique opportunities that LNH has to offer without high speed motorized crafts being allowed. I am sure that it would be less for our law enforcement agencies to watch over. Please consider "No Wake" for LNH.

Law enforcement, Rescue and Environmental Protection

3 It concerns me greatly that the City of Durango will have a difficult time sustaining the funds it would require to police, and maintain the facilities proposed. Included in this concern is the distance fire, and rescue crews would have to come to attend to injured boaters, and attend potential wildfires. Also the added requirements of law enforcement agents and fire and rescue agents.

Esthetics

4 The first time I came to Durango was in 1970. I had the privilege of living here for a year. But I never lost my desire to return. I have lived in many beautiful places in my life, I moved to Ouray, Colorado in 2004 after living in Vermont for 20 years. A few years ago I decided to make Durango my home town and moved here from Ouray in 2010. When I drive by LNH I feel the serenity of a quiet, and peaceful lake that I am accustomed to. I especially loved photographing the winter scenes and now the wildflowers that line the highway. I have seen Eagles sitting in the large trees that line the lake.. all of this from my car.. or hiking up Smelter Mountain just to enjoy the scenery. yes, it is hard to not be able to go in and explore all that the lake has to offer.. but I have to say if the only way to protect the water, wildlife and the natural esthetics of LNH is to go with the no use option, then so be it.

In closing

I am asking that a no wake lake be the option, with minimal recreational use. I appreciate all that the Bureau of

5/20/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse comment

Reclamation has done to put together the options for use of LNH. I know it is a huge undertaking. Thank you for extending the opportunity to comment and for considering my suggestions. Please confirm that you received this comment. Thank you!

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Sincerely,
Priscilla Sherman
560 West Fork Rd
Durango, CO 81303
970-749-7894

www.pshermanphotography.smugmug.com

"Forget not that the Earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.." Kahlil Gibran



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Linda <wonwithhim@gmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, May 19, 2016 at 7:16 PM

I am writing to add my opinion on the recreational use of Lake Nighthorse.

I would like to remind everyone that the reason for Lake Nighthorse is to be a municipal and domestic water supply to a specific geographical location in western LaPlata County and to satisfy the treaty with the Ute Tribes.

- 1 This Lake was not built for recreation but would be a great addition for recreation as long as boats are limited to sails, muscle power or electric motors only.

We do not need the petroleum sheen from boats with engines nor do we need the risk of mussels ruining the water system.

This is a very small lake very close to Durango. Let's keep it pristine and quiet by placing these very important limits on boating.

Thank you for listening.

Linda Conner
3047 County Road 126
Hesperus, CO. 81326



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments to the Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment

1 message

Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, May 19, 2016 at 8:22 PM

May 19, 2016**Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM****Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016**

While a creation of engineering, Lake Nighthorse is a scenic gem of a modestly sized and quiet lake nestled in forested hills just south of Durango, Colorado. While its primary purpose is to provide various entities with water, I concur that a secondary purpose should be fulfilled to provide recreational opportunities sooner rather than later.

- 1 The final plan for Lake Nighthorse should fall somewhere between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan.

MOTORIZED BOATS, OR NOT

- 2 Lake Nighthorse is small as compared to more massive lakes in the Four Corners region such as nearby Navajo and Vallecito lakes, as well as Lake Powell—and these three lakes are open to motorized boat recreation. I do not quarrel with the various estimates of visitor days exceeding 100,000 per year. But given the attractions of these other lakes, Lake Nighthorse will not have a significant amount of non-local area visitors, excepting visitors coming to the Durango area for already existing attractions. Since most Lake Nighthorse visitors will be locals or would have planned a local visit without the attraction of Lake Nighthorse, there will be no significant positive impact to the local economy from development of the lake for recreation.

In the tradition of outdoors enjoyment by those that live locally, the majority of visitors want non-motorized water recreational opportunities including swimming, kayaking, use of other floatation devices such as inflatable tubes, fishing, etc. in a scenic, quiet lake not polluted with gasoline. And in particular, a quality public swimming beach is sorely lacking in the immediate Durango area.

- 1 There is little local economic benefit from allowing gasoline powered motor boats or other motorized recreation floating machines. Non-local visitors are much more likely to haul their boats and other floating machines to Navajo or Vallecito Lakes or other larger lakes such as Lake Powell.

I find it unfortunate to learn that a boat ramp is already built and funded with state motor boat tax revenues, supposedly requiring that gasoline motor boats would be granted use of the lake. Alternatives should be explored to make an exception by prohibiting gasoline powered boats. But if that is not feasible, then: (1) a much lower maximum speed limit than the proposed 40 mph speed limit should be imposed, such as 10 mph and/or (2) a very low limit of daily gasoline powered boats on the lake should be required, e.g. no more than 10 boats.

HIKING TRAILS

- 3 Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) love to hike. Providing additional hiking trails such as proposed in the 2011 plan absolutely should be included in the final plan either at the start or if not, for future construction by organizations such as Trails 2000. Expanding trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities that have very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPGROUNDS

- 4 Since the State of Colorado declined to manage the Lake Nighthorse recreational area and given that there are plenty of other government and commercial campgrounds nearby to Durango, there is little need to add campgrounds to the Lake Nighthorse grounds as was proposed in the 2011 plan.

Sincerely,

Bruce E Rodman

16 Ophir Drive
Durango, CO 81301
Tel: 970-385-7899

From: Liff, Justyn
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Bruce E Rodman
Subject: Re: Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment (EA)

Hi Mr. Rodman - Written comments can be submitted by email to jliff@usbr.gov or mailed to: Ed Warner, Bureau of Reclamation, 445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Justyn

On Wed, May 18, 2016 at 5:40 PM, Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com> wrote:
Justin,

By what procedure may I submit comments?

Bruce

From: Liff, Justyn
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 3:46 PM
To: Bruce E Rodman
Subject: Re: Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment (EA)

Hi Mr. Rodman - Here is a copy of the document. Comments are due by May 25.

Thanks,
Justyn

On Sun, May 15, 2016 at 4:05 PM, Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Justyn,

Please return via email a copy of the EA announced on March 25.

Or, a direct link to it would be fine too.

273

Thank you.

Bruce Rodman
Durango

--

Justyn Liff
Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
445 W Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-248-0625

-

Justyn Liff
Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
445 W Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-248-0625



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake nighthorse

1 message

Jo Ann Kopke <yazoojo@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Thu, May 19, 2016 at 9:40 PM

1 Hi, I want to cast my vote that I would prefer lake nighthorse to be for non motorized boats only. I agree with everything Bruce Rodman outlined in his letter to you.

Thank you,
Jo Kopke
261 east valley view drive
Bayfield, Colorado
81122

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Please proceed with the public enjoyment and recreation at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jeanine Puskas <mauijet1@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 19, 2016 at 10:14 PM

- 1 We would enjoy kayaking, hiking, and enjoying the beauty of this pristine lake so close to our homes here in Durango while adhering to rules of non-motorized boats to keep the lake clean.
Jeanine & Randy Puskas 1286 Oak Drive, Durango, CO 81301, 970-385-2303

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Morrison, Charles M. <MORRISCM@uwec.edu>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>
Cc: "berodman@gmail.com" <berodman@gmail.com>

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 7:50 AM

Justyn Liff:

- 1 Bruce Rodham, a friend of mine, submitted comments on lake Nighthorse to you on May 19th. I agree with all of them. In particular, I would like to avoid powered boats on the lake (or if not possible, severely limit them).

Sincerely,
Charles M (Mike) Morrison

Mike Morrison
780 Enchanted Forest dr
Bayfield, CO 81122
970 884 2572



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Mary Rigby <marymrigby@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 8:21 AM

Justyn:

Here are my comments regarding the plan for Lake Nighthorse:

Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016

While a creation of engineering, Lake Nighthorse is a scenic gem of a modestly sized and quiet lake nestled in forested hills just south of Durango, Colorado. While its primary purpose is to provide various entities with water, I concur that a secondary purpose should be fulfilled to provide recreational opportunities sooner rather than later.

The final plan for Lake Nighthorse should fall somewhere between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan.

MOTORIZED BOATS, OR NOT

Lake Nighthorse is small as compared to more massive lakes in the Four Corners region such as nearby Navajo and Vallecito lakes, as well as Lake Powell—and these three lakes are open to motorized boat recreation. I do not quarrel with the various estimates of visitor days exceeding 100,000 per year. But given the attractions of these other lakes, Lake Nighthorse will not have a significant amount of non-local area visitors, excepting visitors coming to the Durango area for already existing attractions. Since most Lake Nighthorse visitors will be locals or would have planned a local visit without the attraction of Lake Nighthorse, there will be no significant positive impact to the local economy from development of the lake for recreation.

In the tradition of outdoors enjoyment by those that live locally, the majority of visitors want non-motorized water recreational opportunities including swimming, kayaking, use of other floatation devices such as inflatable tubes, fishing, etc. in a scenic, quiet lake not polluted with gasoline. And in particular, a quality public swimming beach is sorely lacking in the immediate Durango area.

There is little local economic benefit from allowing gasoline powered motor boats or other motorized recreation floating machines. Non-local visitors are much more likely to haul their boats and other floating machines to Navajo or Vallecito Lakes or other larger lakes such as Lake Powell.

I find it unfortunate to learn that a boat ramp is already built and funded with state motor boat tax revenues, supposedly requiring that gasoline motor boats would be granted use of the lake. Alternatives should be explored to make an exception by prohibiting gasoline powered boats. But if that is not feasible, then: (1) a much lower maximum speed limit than the proposed 40 mph speed limit should be imposed, such as 10 mph and/or (2) a very low limit of daily gasoline powered boats on the lake should be required, e.g. no more than 10 boats.

HIKING TRAILS

Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) love to hike. Providing additional hiking trails such as proposed in the 2011 plan absolutely should be included in the final plan either at the start or if not, for future construction by organizations such as Trails 2000. Expanding trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities that have very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPGROUNDS

Since the State of Colorado declined to manage the Lake Nighthorse recreational area and given that there are plenty of other government and commercial campgrounds nearby to Durango, there is little need to add campgrounds to the Lake Nighthorse grounds as was proposed in the 2011 plan.

Mary Rigby
Broker/Co-Owner RE/MAX Pinnacle
111 W College Drive
Durango, CO 81301
970-259-2255 or 970-946-4975
maryrigby@remax.net
www.HomesInDurango.com
<http://rem.ax/YPhxd9>



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Barb Brown <challengerbrown@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 8:27 AM

Hi Mr. Liff,

A short note to say I totally agree with the comments submitted by Bruce Rodman on May 19, 2016. This is the best plan for this amazing body of water.
Thank you.

Barb Brown
1825 W 3rd Ave.
Durango
720-468-3479



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Night Horse Environmental Assessment

1 message

Cathy Roulstin <cathy@qualityhouseinteriors.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 8:45 AM

To whom it may concern,

I highly agree with the comments submitted by Bruce Rodman on May 19, 2016. I love the peace and quiet of the mountain lakes that do not allow motorized boats to operate on them. Please do not spoil the beauty of Lake Night Horse by allowing motor boats to operate there.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Cathy Roulstin

Design Consultant

Quality House Interiors

970-247-7955



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Wag Between Barks <wagbetweenbarks@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 8:59 AM

1 Please allow us to use lake Nighthorse but allowed no motorized boats and canoes Rafts stand up paddleboard's
2 and camping please.

Pawsitive Thoughts

Traci Moriarty
970-946-9116 Wag Between Barks
970-259-4455 Durango Dog College



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Boating

1 message

Harding Cure <hardingcure@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Cc: Carol Cure <carolcure@gmail.com>

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 10:01 AM

Hi, I am a resident of Durango West II, and am very interested in the rules to be established for use of Lake Nighthorse.

In general, I agree with the comments submitted by Bruce Rodman, with possible modification. I should note that I am the owner of a 14 ft fishing boat with a 40 horsepower 4-cycle motor. I use that boat on various lakes including Navajo, McPhee and Powell. However, I do not believe that motors of that size should be allowed on Lake Nighthorse. Given the relatively small size of Nighthorse, the speed, noise and wake of my boat would be disturbing to kayakers, boarders, swimmers, and fishermen. In my humble opinion, if fishermen need motorized boats to make use of Lake Nighthorse, those boats should be limited to smaller motors, probably no greater than 5 or 10 horsepower, and preferably 4-cycle only, as they produce less pollution than the 2-cycle motors. Bigger motors, jet skis, and other such devices would be very disturbing to the serenity everyone should enjoy at Lake Nighthorse.

Thank you

Harding Cure

747 Oak Drive

Durango, CO 81301

hardingcure@gmail.com

970-382-8286

5/20/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse use

282



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse use

1 message

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 10:19 AM

JAMES SHADID <shadid@wildblue.net>

To: jliff@usbr.gov

- 1 I believe Lake Nighthorse should be non-motorized to preserve the serenity of the lake and also campgrounds
- 2 should not be allowed for the same reason.

Thank You,

Jim Shadid
249 Valle Escondido
Durango, CO 81303



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Assessment

1 message

Katherine Burgess <kaburgess@durango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 10:23 AM

Hello,

I would simply like to support the comments submitted by Bruce Rodman on May 19, 2016 on the subject of recreational uses of Lake Nighthorse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Katherine

Katherine A. Burgess

23 Red Mountain Dr.

Durango, CO 81301

www.ctcvoyages.com

970-903-9250

"You probably wouldn't worry about what people think of you if you could know how seldom they do!"

Oliver

Miller, writer



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake NightHorse

1 message

Melia Chavez <jandmchavez@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 12:51 PM

When the lake began to fill, I became an avid follower of information and updates. I have a vested interest as I own a home in the Rafter J subdivision, just across CR 141. I attended a few meetings and soon realized the vast difference in peoples opinions of " what to do with this lake".

I understand everyone's point of view. I personally see a huge money maker for the county and city of Durango. I am fully aware of what comes with "this lake". I think it will be a work in process while we encounter those hiccups we didn't foresee. I think the recent plan is well done and thought out!

- 1 I own jet skis, kayak and ATV. I am excited to be able to use this lake for my water activities! It is in my
- 2 "backyard". I don't think ATV's should be allowed but horse trails, cross country skiing and snow shoes are a must. Camping, both tent and RV should also be allowed. We must share this beautiful area with others!! Again
- 3 think of the revenue that can be brought in!!!

I think there is enough information for an informed decision to be made. I think a compromise can be made to satisfy all interested parties as well as the good of our tourism based city!!!

Melia Chavez
31 Sawmill RD
970-946-0215



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse EA comments

1 message

Lynne Sholler <lmsholler@q.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 11:49 AM

May 20, 2016

Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM**Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse March 2016 Draft EA**

Understanding that the primary purpose of Lake Nighthorse is to provide various entities with water, I, like most Durangoans, are anxious to see the secondary purpose of providing recreational opportunities come to fruition after lengthy delays.

My preference is for a compromise between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse; it is the most beneficial for the most users.

MOTORIZED BOATS

My personal opinion was against the use of gasoline-powered motorized boats on the scenic and pristine Lake Nighthorse. It is unlikely that Lake Nighthorse will be a target destination for motorboat tourism in light of the other larger lakes in the area such as Navajo and Vallecito, and even Lake Powell, all of which offer motorized boat recreation. Because of the attractions of these other lakes, Lake Nighthorse likely will have little non-local area visitors. Lake Nighthorse visitors will primarily be locals and "incidental tourists" who visit while already here for other reasons. Thus, any fiscal impact to the local economy from development of the lake for motor boats will be minimal. That being said, I understand the prevailing desire from the 2010 meetings was that all recreational uses be permitted at Lake Nighthorse.

To honor that desire for the outdoors enjoyment by those who live in the area, most users also want non-motorized water recreational opportunities including swimming, kayaking, other floatation devices such as inflatable boats, fishing, etc. at this scenic, quiet lake with as little gasoline pollution as possible. A quality public swimming beach is lacking in the immediate Durango area. Pollution by gasoline powered motorized boats should be mitigated by lowering the maximum speed limit below the proposed 40 mph to 20 mph, and/or a limit of daily motorized boats to e.g. no more than 20 boats.

HIKING TRAILS

Public comments from 2010 indicated a strong desire for hiking trails at Lake Nighthorse. Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) and visitors to this area love to hike. Providing the hiking trails as proposed in the Alternative 1 2011 plan, including the loop around the entire lake and the ADA trail, should absolutely be included in

the final plan, not just as a "possibility" but as a plan. Expanding trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities with very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPING, PICNIC DAY USE AND OTHER RECREATION

ONE campground (rather than 3 campgrounds proposed in Alternative 1-2011 Plan), the swimming beach, picnic areas and other recreational uses as otherwise proposed in the 2011 Plan should all be included in the final plan to offer multiple recreational uses beyond motorized boating; not merely as a "possibility" but a plan.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Lynne Sholler

Lynne Sholler
1099 Main Avenue #409
Durango, CO 81301
970-375-7756



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

Matt Turgeon <mcturge@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 2:24 PM

- 1 I would like to request that the total trail plan from the 2011 Lake Nighthorse Master Plan be included in the EIS. By not including the work from 2011, I would question if this would be considered waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money by the USBR. The work that was performed in 2011 regarding the trails around the lake cannot be ignored and it must be part of the new EIS. Thank you.

Matt Turgeon
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Trails

1 message

Jeff Nelson <blnelson@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 2:32 PM

- 1 I am writing in regards to the Lake Nighthorse use plan. I STRONGLY believe that this area should include multi-use trails and that the maximum size motor should be 10 horse for small fishing boats. We have
- 2 numerous places to go with power boats and let's have a few quieter areas.

Respectfully, Dr. Jeff Nelson

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Yes to trails

288



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Yes to trails

1 message

Tim Schaldach <tim@goschaldach.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 3:47 PM

Justyn Liff,

1 I am writing to express my support for trails around Nighthorse Reservoir. Please include the total trail plan from the 2011 Lake Nighthorse Master Plan in the EIS.

Thank you.

Tim Schaldach
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Steve DeBelina <debelina@frontier.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 7:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Lake Nighthorse is in a beautiful serene area and is a small lake. Allowing motorized boating would be terrible
1 and likely dangerous decision. The lake would be much better used by many more individuals if small, non
motorized crafts were permitted. In addition, the amount of likely garbage with both land and water pollution
2 would be much greater if motorized boats were permitted. Allowing hiking, hunting, biking, equestrians on trails
would make it a family and community friendly very enjoyable place to go. Please consider that there are
3 multiple nearby larger and more appropriate lakes that do allow motor boats but that Lake Nighthorse would be a
very poor choice for motor boats.

Thank You,
Mary Jill DeBelina

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

David Johnson <djohnson7800@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 8:07 PM

I agree with the suggestions made by Bruce Rodman for the use of Lake Nighthorse which were included in his email to you. David Johnson, 104 Sierra Vista St., Durango. CO. Djohnson7800@gmail.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse recreational proposal

1 message

Clark Lagow <clagow@mi.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 9:10 PM

Lake Nighthorse Comments Submitted May 20, 2016 to BLM via email to Justyn Liff.

May 20, 2016

Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM

Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016

I do think that Lake Nighthorse should have some sort of recreational plan. The fact that it has been there this long without public access is a tragedy.

I also believe that final plan for Lake Nighthorse should fall somewhere between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan.

MOTORIZED BOATS, OR NOT

The bottom line is that there are very few lakes of any size in the area that don't have motorized boat access, and there is no valid reason to allow it here. There are plenty of other places to put your boat in.

The thing that I don't understand the most is the fact that a boat ramp has already been built is very strange given that there was no recreational plan in place when this was done. Does this mean that you sold out to the motorboat interests? I hope not.

HIKING TRAILS

Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) love to hike. Providing additional hiking trails such as proposed in the 2011 plan absolutely should be included in the final plan either at the start or if not, for future construction by organizations such as Trails 2000. Expanding

trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities that have very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPGROUNDS

Since the State of Colorado declined to manage the Lake Nighthorse recreational area and given that there are plenty of other government and commercial campgrounds nearby to Durango, there is little need to add campgrounds to the Lake Nighthorse grounds as was proposed in the 2011 plan.

Sincerely,

Clark Lagow

559 Columbine Rd.

Durango, CO 81301

Tel: 970-759-3325



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

John Ritchey <dgojmr@gmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>
Cc: John Ritchey <dgoJMR@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2016 at 3:24 AM

REGARDING RECREATION PLANNING FOR LAKE NIGHTHORSE:

Please include the following comments in any decision documents for Lake Nighthorse-

1. The original intent of the gift of this place to the public was to preserve existing values including access to solitude and peacefulness of the surrounding area. Introducing gasoline powered boats is contrary to these values. Gasoline engines will only contribute to noise and carbon pollution.
2. Only a very small minority of people will benefit from gasoline powered engines being allowed on the lake, to the detriment of most users. A compromise would be to allow boats powered only with electric motors or by manual power.
3. If gasoline engines are allowed, their power rating should NOT EXCEED 6 horse power and be 4 cycle only.
4. The entire lake should be managed as a NO WAKE lake.
5. There should be a maximum number of gasoline powered boats allowed on the lake at a time.
- 2 6. Finally, in order to enhance the experience of most users, Overnight camping SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

Sincerely,

John And Glennie Ritchey
37 Lewis Mountain Lane
Durango, Colorado 81301

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Janet Oliver <janetoliver54@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 21, 2016 at 8:10 AM

May 20, 2016

Dear Mr. Liff,

Thank you for extending the comment period for the Lake Nighthorse Draft Recreation Master Plan. I am writing to express my interest in keeping Lake Nighthorse a quiet, no-wake lake.

When the original plan for recreation on Lake Nighthorse was released in 2011, it included infrastructure and guidelines for motorized use of the lake. At the time, I thought the lake would be managed by the State of Colorado and they had guidelines that drove recreational use of the reservoirs they managed, such as the state park near Crawford.

When the state of Colorado and the BLM declined management of Lake Nighthorse recreation, I thought the Southern Ute Tribe might step forward and manage recreation. It has not. Now, it seems, the responsibility for a recreation plan has fallen on the city of Durango with its limited resources.

With that in mind, I believe a quiet lake is the proper solution. It would minimize the expense of initial infrastructure to accommodate motorized craft, including a gas station and a more sophisticated boat ramp. In addition, a quiet lake

would require fewer ongoing expenses for maintenance and staffing the facilities.

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Non-motorized and low-impact boating would allow more basic launch facilities, such as a modest boat ramp. It would provide for popular local activities such as kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, swimming and canoeing. It would more closely reflect the interests of the local boating community in Durango. Ongoing maintenance and staffing costs for such simple facilities would be less of a burden on the Durango tax-base, also.

For boaters interested in water skiing and speed boating, it is only a short drive to Lake Vallecito or Navajo Lake where there are ample opportunities for such activities. The size of Lake Nighthorse does not really warrant the use of motorized craft with, perhaps, the exception of quiet electric motors.

Please don't burden the city of Durango with the long-term expense of maintaining the more expensive infrastructure required to support motorized boating recreation. Make the recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse reflect the needs and interests of the local Durango community who are now assuming the responsibility and expense of providing recreation at this lake.

Sincerely,

Janet Oliver

Durango, Colorado



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Knighthorse comments

1 message

don rabern <donrabern@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sat, May 21, 2016 at 11:08 AM

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Lake Nighthorse recreation plan.

1. The original intent of the gift of this place to the public was to preserve existing values including access to solitude and peacefulness of the surrounding area. Introducing gasoline powered boats is contrary to these values. Gasoline engines will only contribute to noise and carbon pollution.
2. Only a very small minority of people will benefit from gasoline powered engines being allowed on the lake, to the detriment of most users. A compromise would be to allow boats powered only with electric motors or by manual power.
3. If gasoline engines are allowed, their power rating should NOT EXCEED 6 horse power and be 4 cycle only.
4. The entire lake should be managed as a NO WAKE lake.
5. There should be a maximum number of gasoline powered boats allowed on the lake at a time.
6. Finally, in order to enhance the experience of most users, Overnight camping SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

Thankyou for your consideration

Don Rabern
101 Shenandoah Terrace
Durango, CO 81303



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Sharia Sadler <rango2005@yahoo.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 7:14 AM

It appears that the loud fast boat owners are the loud squeaky wheel. We also see that the people running this town will stop at nothing to get more \$\$\$\$\$\$ from residents. We live in Rafter J and can already see the increased traffic, crowds, and noise if this lake is allowed to go for all the potential money Durango is drooling over.

We have seen the type of people with their loud speed boats at all the other lakes that allow it and they are usually young, loud, drunk, rude, with no sense of calm or respect for other boaters and campers. Not that all of them are irresponsible but in general they're rowdy. They have Navajo and other lakes for their speed boats.

We need a quiet lake which has always been what most people want but we also have seen time and again, the opinions of the surrounding community are not welcome by city council when they differ from they're goal of what THEY want. If this lake is allowed maximum use for the purpose of making money they'll still need to raise taxes for the airport THEY want, city art that THEY want, 9R school who cannot operate on their budget even though the \$millions\$ coming in from legal marijuana.

1 We vote for no loud speed boats on this small lake.

S. Sadler



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse plan

1 message

Peter Tregillus <ptregillus@gmail.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 8:19 AM

Noisy boats have access to all other bodies of water in the region. Let Nighthorse be the ONE place where we minimize aquatic noise and hydrocarbon consumption.

1 2.6.1 was "considered but eliminated" because it would result in "reduced spending". I submit that reduced spending is an acceptable outcome in favor of peace and quiet.

The purpose of Nighthorse is to meet obligations to the tribes. There are no obligations to the tourism industry. Crass profit maximization to a privileged employer group that, by and large, resists paying a livable wage is unacceptable.

Peter Tregillus
711 Carriage Place
Durango, CO 81301

—
Peter T.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Re: Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Harald Conradi <haraldconradi@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 8:46 AM

Hi,

1 I'd like to voice my strong opposition to motorized boat recreation on Lake Nighthorse.

It's probably too late, but having returned to Durango after 7 years away, I believe that the boating on lakes Vallecito and Navajo are sufficient to meet the need. Why should we not have 1 quiet lake near town?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harald

Harald Conradi



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Please restrict use of motorized craft on Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Michelle Der Ohanesian <mderohan@hotmail.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Good morning.

I was just now reading the Sunday Durango Herald and seeing that the comment period on recreational use on Lake Nighthorse has been extended.

I have since the beginning of discussions been opposed to any motorized use of Lake Nighthorse. As I understand it that is no longer an issue - that such use will be allowed and now that it is a matter of extent? I am STRONGLY urging the Bureau to recommend the most restrictive use of motorized vehicles as possible.

1 No doubt you have heard all the reasons why but please let me share them again with you; the sound of motors will disturb the peace of those who live in the area and of those who use the lake without motorized vehicles and the sound will surely reverberate in that valley and be heard in locations close to town. The larger number of people it will attract will impact the surrounding environment.

As has already been pointed out recently in the Herald; the region has Lakes Navajo and Vallecito for motorized use, why can't we keep Lake Nighthorse peaceful?

In this day and age with our knowledge of environmental and water pollution, desires to create green communities and protect local flora fauna, I am shocked that we would consider anything less than a total restriction of motorized craft in this beautiful place.

I truly hope you receive many more comments in this vein, as I know my friends and family and so many Durango residents feel the same way.

Sincerely,
Michelle Der Ohanesian
970-903-9536



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

public comment on use of boats at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Michael Wanger <mwanger@gobrainstorm.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:05 AM

Justin,

- I am a pontoon boat owner who rents a slip at Navajo Lake Marina on an annual basis
- 1 Lake Nighthorse is big enough that it can and should accommodate motor boats, however, I believe there should be a limit on the size of the motors on those boats – perhaps 15 or 30 hp. Otherwise, people will be going too fast on the lake for its limited size. Also, there
 - 2 should be slips that boat owners can rent. Perhaps, there can be a lottery if there are a limited amount of slips for all those who would apply for those slips. Thanks for your consideration.

Michael Wanger
Attorney at Law
2212 Kingfisher Court
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 769-0156
mwanger@gobrainstorm.net

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tom Harris <th@wic.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:22 AM

Dear Sir:

I agree with Durango resident Nicolaas van Vonno, who wrote in a recent letter to the Herald that "I would very much like Lake Nighthorse to provide a more peaceful and tranquil alternative with minimal commercialization: No gasoline-powered boats of any kind (electric propulsion is fine), tent camping areas (no RVs), picnic and swimming areas and an off-leash dog area. Hiking, biking, snowshoe and cross-country skiing areas should be provided. Minimal roads deep into the park."

Other nearby reservoirs offer opportunities for motorized recreation. Let us keep Lake Nighthorse a more natural and more relaxing setting. As Durango continues to grow, current and future generations will be grateful for such a special place, especially one so close to town.

Tom Harris
Durango

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

John Montle <jjmontle@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:40 AM

I fully support the comments submitted earlier by Bruce Rodman. The serenity of this area should not be destroyed by power boats, those so inclined have other places to go. John Montle



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Night horse

1 message

W Andrew Janeczek <andyjan25@gmail.com>

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM

To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Hello, I am Resident of La Plata County, and am concerned and opposed to the use of any noisy watercraft in
1 Lake Nighthorse. Obviously, that ramp can still be used for small electric troll motors on boats. Example is "No
wake" boating. The ramp at McPhee reservoir is well used by kayakers so the argument that the ramp at
2 Nighthorse is a component of noisy watercraft use can simply be a ramp for kayaks, canoes, and similar no
wake boats needing off loaded. So it is not wasted money!
The county has two other lakes for motorized use!
Sincerely, Andy Janeczek. Andyjan25@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Ellen Stein <ellenrobinstein@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 10:08 AM

The biggest mistake the USBR has made is accepting funds from the motorized community for the boat ramp. These funds should be returned. Then, a fair and honest planning process can proceed that comprehensively assesses needs of the land with what type of public access should be considered. I am of the mind it should be quiet use. There are already several area lakes and reservoirs that accommodate motors. Lake Nighthorse is another reservoir that is in line to absorb the oil and noise of motor boats that inevitably destroy all quiet users' experience, not to mention the wildlife like some specialist bird species that are sensitive to the noise. Would this not also be what the Utes prefer? Consider the region when making this decision. The quiet use community will help you raise the money to return boat ramp funds to its source. This was the first mistake of the USBR (maybe illegal at the exclusion of all other users??), let's not have a decision to accommodate motorboats, jet skis, and other noise machines the next, worst and final one.

Thank you,

Ellen Stein
3314 East 4th Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
9707498327



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Plan for Lake Nighthorse Recreational Use

1 message

Libbie <durangolibbie@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Libbie <durangolibbie@yahoo.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 10:13 AM

As a camper and hiker who has lived here for 38 years, I am beginning to identify with wildlife which is getting squeezed out by the American obsession with motorized toys. It is increasingly difficult to find quiet places in which to enjoy natural sounds.

1 With such nearby facilities as Vallecito and Navaho Reservoirs open to power boats, do we really need another one that will require expensive enforcement and inspections? I spend my money at Lemon and Haviland to avoid all the noise and hoopla, and I suspect there are many others in the area who do the same, not to mention the tourists who would prefer to escape their noisy lives.

How beneficial is it for humans, much less the other animals, to be subjected to the invasive noise of motors everywhere? Is this a high-quality outdoor experience?

Please, at least confine the use of Nighthorse to no-wake boats if you can't ban motorized craft altogether. Otherwise, it will just be another place I'll *never* use except between November and May.

Thank you.
Elizabeth Baker
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake knighthorse

1 message

Stacey Carlson <staceymcarlson@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 10:17 AM

Hello Justyn,

I live in Durango and would like to express my concern for motorized recreational use on Lake Nighthorse.

1 After reading through the guiding principles under the Recreation and Management section of the Lake Nighthorse conceptual plan, I feel motorized activity is in direct contradiction to many of these:

2 Guiding Principles

- Protection of cultural resources.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal development standards and environmental regulations and requirements.
- Monitor and protect water quality.
- Honor Brunot Agreement/Treaty rights.
- Promote ecological sustainability and preserve wildlife habitat.
- Provide ongoing care, stewardship, law enforcement, and patrol the property consistent with City parks and open space areas.
- Provide improvements within the development area to enable public access to recreational amenities.
- Ensure that recreation management and development does not adversely impact the primary purpose of the ALP Project for municipal and industrial water supply.

I grew up on lakes and rivers in the Midwest. I understand the appeal of motorized use and the tax dollars it could generate. I do however, find it odd that spewing gasoline, oil, and its byproducts into municipal/industrial water supply is promoting water quality, ecological sustainability or helping to preserve wildlife habitat. With its close proximity to Durango, I fear it could turn into a congested reservoir much like some I have experienced near Grand Junction and Summit County.

This reservoir has the potential to be a peaceful place, where people could kayak, swim, canoe, and experience nature without the noise and congestion of motorized boats. This would reduce pollution, be more culturally sensitive, and reduce the impact on wildlife and aquatic life. I feel it could also have a positive impact on the overall safety of the place and potentially minimize crime and the need for a heavy law enforcement presence.

This all being said, I know there is a multi-million dollar boat launch and the plans in place for motorized recreation, but maybe there could be a compromise? How about a few days a week when only non-motorized use is permitted?

Thanks for considering,

Stacey Carlson
Durango, CO

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - nighthorse

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Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

nighthorse

1 message

Gregory Moore <dabbagee@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 10:42 AM

Just a general comment for you...nothing terribly specific. I know that because of the money accepted to build dock facilities, etc, that the lake will be open to motorized watercraft. Please keep in mind that the lake is quite small, really, and due to the geography of the surrounding basin it is going to be really noisy if large motors and high speeds are allowed.

- 1 If we must have motors up there, let's please find a way to keep the motors small, the speeds low and the noise levels down.

Thanks for the job you are doing.

Gregory Moore
Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

comments on Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

aliceo@aol.com <aliceo@aol.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 1:06 PM

Dear Justyn,

I participated in the 2011 recreation master planning process.

At that time, there was a designated long-distance swimming area for swimmers and scuba divers to have the opportunity to use the reservoir even though most of the surface area is dedicated to motorized vehicles.

I do not see a designated long-distance swimming path in any of the current proposals.

- 1 If a designated long-distance swimming path is not explicitly included in the planning process, then (as at Vallecito and Navajo) it won't be safe to do a distance swim in the reservoir.

In addition, I believe that the decision to have motorized boats on the reservoir reflects the will of a small part of the citizenry.

There should be some days every week or some hours every day when motorized boats are not permitted. This would comply with the Wallop Breaux grant restrictions while allowing more people in Durango to enjoy this public resource.

best,

Alice Outwater
Ignacio, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

lake nighthorse

1 message

Lissa Paak/Gordon Henriksen <lpgh@animas.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 3:47 PM

Hi Justyn,

1 I am writing in support of there NOT being motors allowed at Lake Nighthorse (LN). I'm concerned that there was previously a process passed where there was an exchange made between a boat ramp and having motors. This is unacceptable. If that was the deal that was made, then its rather silly to be saying that you are gathering info from people on whether they are for or against motors on the lake, as it is looking like that process is already decided. It was suggested that an alternative route be taken to refund who ever funded the boat ramp.

There are two large lakes that are currently available for motors, Vallecito and Navajo. Thats two lakes for motors and I would ask that one be put aside for NO motors. Multiple types of watercraft should be accepted but only without motors for Lake Nighthorse.

Thanks Lissa

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - No Wake Lake (Nighthorse)

309



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

No Wake Lake (Nighthorse)

1 message

Kim Martin <kimartinkona@gmail.com>

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 5:29 PM

To: jliff@usbr.gov

Cc: Steven Phillips <batyuma1@gmail.com>, Candice Carson <ccarson793@gmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern:

- 1 Please ban wake producing boat from Lake Nighthorse.

Kim Martin
6451 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81326



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Caroline Kinser <caroline@mydurango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 5:35 PM

*I totally agree with the comments of Bruce Rodman!!
Caroline Kinser*

While a creation of engineering, Lake Nighthorse is a scenic gem of a modestly sized and quiet lake nestled in forested hills just south of Durango, Colorado. While its primary purpose is to provide various entities with water, I concur that a secondary purpose should be fulfilled to provide recreational opportunities sooner rather than later.

The final plan for Lake Nighthorse should fall somewhere between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan.

MOTORIZED BOATS, OR NOT

Lake Nighthorse is small as compared to more massive lakes in the Four Corners region such as nearby Navajo and Vallecito lakes, as well as Lake Powell—and these three lakes are open to motorized boat recreation. I do not quarrel with the various estimates of visitor days exceeding 100,000 per year. But given the attractions of these other lakes, Lake Nighthorse will not have a significant amount of non-local area visitors, excepting visitors coming to the Durango area for already existing attractions. Since most Lake Nighthorse visitors will be locals or would have planned a local visit without the attraction of Lake Nighthorse, there will be no significant positive impact to the local economy from development of the lake for recreation.

In the tradition of outdoors enjoyment by those that live locally, the majority of visitors want non-motorized water recreational opportunities including swimming, kayaking, use of other floatation devices such as inflatable tubes, fishing, etc. in a scenic, quiet lake not polluted with gasoline. And in particular, a quality public swimming beach is sorely lacking in the immediate Durango area.

There is little local economic benefit from allowing gasoline powered motor boats or other motorized recreation floating machines. Non-local visitors are much more likely to haul their boats and other floating machines to Navajo or Vallecito Lakes or other larger lakes such as Lake Powell.

I find it unfortunate to learn that a boat ramp is already built and funded with state motor boat tax revenues, supposedly requiring that gasoline motor boats would be granted use of the lake. Alternatives should be explored to make an exception by prohibiting gasoline powered boats. But if that is not feasible, then: (1) a much lower maximum speed limit than the proposed 40 mph speed limit should be imposed, such as 10 mph and/or (2) a very low limit of daily gasoline powered boats on the lake should be required, e.g. no more than 10 boats.

HIKING TRAILS

Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) love to hike. Providing additional hiking trails such as proposed in the 2011 plan absolutely should be included in the final plan either at the start or if not, for future construction by organizations such as Trails 2000. Expanding trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities that have very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPGROUNDS

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

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Since the State of Colorado declined to manage the Lake Nighthorse recreational area and given that there are plenty of other government and commercial campgrounds nearby to Durango, there is little need to add campgrounds to the Lake Nighthorse grounds as was proposed in the 2011 plan.

Sincerely,

Bruce E Rodman

Caroline Kinser

please note my new e-mail address

caroline@mydurango.net



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Deb <schultzd@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 7:34 PM

- 1** My husband and I would like to go on record as supporting non-motorized craft on Lake Nighthorse. We feel that Navajo and Vallecito lakes provide those with the need for noise and speed opportunity to play. Should you need to collect monies to repay the already collected money from those of the motorized world, we'd be happy to contribute.

Very sincerely, Deb and Jeff Schultz

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse usage

1 message

Brian Blanchard <brian@realestatedurango.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:11 AM

1 Mr. Liff and the Bureau of Reclamation, I wish to express my thoughts about the Lake Nighthorse usage and the limitations thereof. My belief is that if you open up the Lake to motorized usage you will create a situation of increased noise, traffic concerns, parking issues, confrontations between boaters and with regulation officers, safety issues, increase in boating accidents, possible over usage and environmental impacts from the motors themselves. For these and other issues and concerns my hope and desire for this fantastic amenity would be to BAN all motorized activity on the Lake. I do realize that there will still be problems even with Non- Motorized usage; however my belief is that they will be minimal compared to motorized usage. There are already large bodies of water within relative close proximity for motorized usage. By keeping motorized usage off of Lake Nighthorse you will help protect and preserve our local environment while adding spectacular usage possibilities. Thank you for your concern and I urge you and the Bureau to stop and think in a common sense manner what motorized usage will do to the Lake and the surrounding environment. Please do the right thing here.

Brian Blanchard



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Carol MILLIET <cfog38@msn.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:51 PM

I am writing in regard to the health of Lake Nighthorse. Being aware of the small size of the lake, the closeness to a well populated area which will provide much usage, aware also that it will provide drinking water for many, and that some are planning to allow motorized boats and other devices in the lake, I strongly object to the last point mentioned.

First is the safety of the public using the lake. A small lake with motorized boats, etc. will need policing as to speed, gasoline residue on the lake, the number of boats on the lake at one time, the sobriety of the boaters, and more.

1 Second, the safety of the water for drinking. There should be an intense and thorough investigation as to the consequences of allowing fuel into the water system. We deal with contamination every day. Don't give us one more area we have to deal with.

Please see this with sensitive eyes looking at the broad view, the healthy view, and the view that will be for the good of all. Don't see this as having to be fair to those who would pollute the lake.

Thank you for reading this,

Carol Milliet
1825 Florida rd # 107
Durango co.

Sent from Samsung tablet

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tom Eskew <tskew@frontier.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 22, 2016 at 9:53 PM

1 I am a twenty five year resident of Durango and I oppose all motorized use of Lake Nighthorse. The lake is too small to have boats doing 40 mph laps. There will be major and constant conflict between motorized and non motorized users. As well it really defies logic to allow internal combustion engines to operate in drinking water. It would be so much nicer to have a pristine quite spot that close to town as opposed to the aquatic bmx track it will be if motorized use is allowed.

The current plan has it backwards- assuming that there must be motorized use allowed- that should take place from November to May.

I visited France two years ago and one of the nicest spots we visited was A large unmotorized use lake that very heavily used and really pleasant not to have motors on it. Let them go to Navajo or Morgan or Powell.

Nightmares is too valuable resource to squander pandering to the vocal motor rights people. Please do the right thing! Sincerely , Thomas Eskew , Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Wes Hartman <wmhartman@mydurango.net>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 7:13 AM

Hello Justyn:

I have over 60 years of boating experience, currently with a sailboat on Navajo lake. I believe it would be a mistake to allow big horsepower boats on Nighthorse. Possibly 25hp fishing craft could be the maximum for that size lake.

Small craft and family fun should be the focus.

Thanks for your consideration-

Wes Hartman

Wmhartman@mydurango.net

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Mgmt of Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jim and Terri <jazzpurbel@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 8:19 AM

Yesterday I hiked to the top of Carbon Mtn with my husband and looked down upon the lake. How beautiful and serene. What an opportunity for swimming, sailing, paddle boarding .

1 I grew up in Miami/Key Largo through the 1970's early 80's, boating with family on a 20 ft. open fisherman style boat for fishing/waterskiing; and I was fortunate to have a 10 ' skiff with a 6 hp outboard motor to fish from and to explore around the mangroves. From my experience with boating, I can say with strong belief, Lake Nighthorse is TOO SMALL for motor craft with engines greater than 6 hp.

Please let me know how or what I can do to help with prompting the opening and judicial use and management of this beautiful resource .

Respectfully,
Theresa Belcher

92 Ute Place
Durango, Co. 81303

970-946-7332

jazzpurbel@gmail.com

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - nighthorse reservoir

317



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

nighthorse reservoir

1 message

Clint Casey <ccasey@sme-env.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 9:44 AM

1 I would prefer no motorized vehicles

5/23/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

318



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

La Donna & Travis Ward <tlward@frontier.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 9:56 AM

Dear Justyn,

- 1 Please note the input of my wife (La Donna) and I as being in favor of a quiet Lake Nighthorse. Being so close to Durango, it would be special to have a tranquil body of water where hiking, picnicking, fishing, birding or just hanging out could be done without the roar of speed boats. Even one noisy motor affects everyone at the lake!!

Travis Ward



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

Donald Busson <busson.donald@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Cc: busson.donald@gmail.com

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 2:10 PM

Jeff,

I am a resident of Trappers Crossing near the lake. I enjoy many outdoor activities including hunting and fishing, and believe that the lake will offer a variety of outdoor activities to those in the vicinity. I do believe however that the introduction of powerful motors to the lake will be a mistake from several standpoints. First it will destroy the serenity of the surrounding area that many of us have sought when we located here. Second the experience sought by many who will potentially use the lake area for outings will be compromised by both the noise and wake that these powerful boats will create. I believe that Lake Nighthorse is simply not big enough to allow for all of the outdoor enjoyment of water skiers, jet skies, etc in addition to anglers, picnickers, hikers and others who are seeking a peaceful outing. Lastly, the potential pollution of the water with gas and oil from the boats will be detrimental to the environment.

1 I strongly encourage the bureau to limited boaters to electric motors only. Thanks for considering my comments.

Donald Busson
1583 Thunderbird
Hesperus, CO 81326

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Knighthorse Comments

1 message

VIRGIL PULLIAM <pulliamco@yahoo.com>

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 2:47 PM

Reply-To: VIRGIL PULLIAM <pulliamco@yahoo.com>

To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: Robert Rosenberg <bob@insight-corp.com>, Marcey Olajos <moita@earthlink.net>, Rob Pope <rpope@miningequipmentltd.com>, John and Angela Wolgamott <snowbird@animas.net>, Jerry Bonnett <jbonnett@bffb.com>

Dear Mr. Liff,

My wife and I have lived on Peak Trail since 2002. We will second the comments of our neighbors, Marcey Olajos, John Wolgamott and Bob Rosenberg who voiced our common desires for a quiet lake which would environmentally friendly to the nearby residential areas and the wildlife populations that have a sanctuary in the "Bodo Wildlife Area."

The purpose for the original acquisition of the land and creation of the lake was understood to be to create a reservoir for collection of clean water for human consumption. Heavy unrestricted use of the lake by motorized watercraft will inevitably produce high levels of noise, air and water pollution and create the potential for introduction of destructive Zebra Mussels. This seems inconsistent with both the best interests of the environment and the original purposes for creation of the lake. If gasoline powered watercraft were not permitted, our small lake could become a unique community prize, a "natural jewel" of peace and tranquility for family picnicking, fishing, canoeing, sailing and other low impact watersports as opposed to becoming "just another lake" like every other lake in the area.

For your additional information, my wife and I attended the planning meetings in 2010 and early 2011 that were supposedly to seek "community input" regarding plans for the lake's development and future use. These "planning meetings" proved to be pretty much a farce. The conduct of the meetings by the consultant group could probably best be described as a process designed for "guided discovery" whereby those of us who were attending could be led to the result the consultant group wanted to reach. Near the end it became clear the consultant group's concept was to open the lake up to the widest range of possible uses, or to use the

consultants' term, transform this small lake into a "destination" which would attract tourists from outside of our area. The practicality and economics of the consultants' grandiose development scheme never seemed to have been adequately considered – which is probably part of the reason this project has been stalemated for the past five years.

I found that there were several different schools of thought represented among the attendees at these early "planning meetings." The power boating enthusiasts seemed to advocate that there be no limits on boat size, horse power, or the use of jet skis. Another group wanted more restricted uses with limitations on types of watercraft (e.g. no jet skis) and limitations on the size and horsepower of any motorized watercraft permitted on the lake. Another group wanted to preserve the natural beauty and tranquility of the lake's setting as much as possible by excluding gasoline powered watercraft entirely. Groups representing these different viewpoints regarding the use of the lake were told to meet and come up with their alternate plans for development.

As those attending the meetings had already been told that we were stuck with the fact that motorized watercraft could not be prohibited because some pre-development commitments had been made to third parties in exchange for the financing of the construction of a boat ramp, I opted to meet with the group that would try to work out a plan for moderate motorized watercraft usage. Our group met and drafted a proposed set of "Rules and Regulations" to govern the lake. Much to my surprise when we returned for the next meeting, I found the consultants totally unwilling to even permit any discussion of the proposals we had drafted. I realized at that point that the consultant group had its own agenda and that further participation in the meetings was going to be wasted effort.

- 1 Several months later, I was contacted by Ken Wright of the Durango Herald who was conducting a survey of public opinion regarding the progress of Lake Knighthorse planning. **A copy of my 6/29/11 email response to Ken appears below. The attachment to the email is a copy of the draft of our study group's "Proposed Rules for Lake Knighthorse Use." These rules which were designed to permit moderate and safe use of the lake by motorized watercraft. Should you have any questions regarding the thinking behind any of the suggested rules, please let me know.**

Virgil R. Pulliam
152 Peak Trail Dr.
Durango, CO 81303
Tel. 970-259-6466 Cell 970-779-2727

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: VIRGIL PULLIAM <pulliamco@yahoo.com>

To: Ken Wright <monkeywrenchdad@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 6:38 PM

Subject: Re: Durango Herald Lake Nighthorse poll

Ken,

We appreciated your recent article concerning the Lake Nighthorse development plan. By coincidence, I had just drafted an email to you on the subject when I received your latest email with information concerning the poll, also coincidentally an idea I was suggesting to get a true assessment of community opinion.

I have been seething about the way the thing was handled ever since the last meeting I attended. This was not the meeting where the "final plan" was revealed, but what was supposed to be a working meeting. I was part of a group that was supposed to be charged with developing proposals relating to a more natural, lower impact, plan for the lake. We met over the Christmas holiday period and outlined a proposal that was pretty much responsive to all of the issues that had been raised in the previous several meetings. (A copy of our outline, "Proposed Rules for Lake Nighthorse Use," is attached.)

- 1 In essence, our proposal was for a "quieter lake," one that permitted family picnicking along the shores, swimming, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, scuba diving and fishing, but one where boats would be limited to 15 m.p.h. with no wakes near docks and swimming areas. When I arrived at the January meeting, I discovered that the die was already cast. Much to my astonishment, the "kid" who was the consulting organization's so-called "moderator" for the group would not even permit discussion of our outline of alternatives. I was immediately intercepted by a female member of the consulting group and asked "who" authorized our group to meet, then only grudgingly allowed me to distribute copies to the attendees at the table. Later, one of the attendees pointed out that all of the issues being posed by the moderator were already addressed in our outline and asked if the outline could not be discussed. His request was denied. I was then forced to a full realization of what I had sensed from the first meeting I attended; from the beginning the deck was stacked to lead all of us to a foregone destination devised by the consulting organization. "Community input" was simply a pro forma exercise. The whole thing was a charade to guide participants to discovery of what the consulting organization believed the outcome should be.

As I am sure you realize, there was never a "vote" in the meetings on anything. Whenever someone said something along the lines of: "Well, how many of us here feel that motorized watercraft should be limited to 15 h.p.?" The proponent would be told, "We aren't taking any votes. This is not a representative group." So, any conclusions or findings derived from the meetings that went into the final plan were not the product of any decisions or recommendations agreed on by the community participants. The so-called "plan" represented only decisions of the members of the consulting organization.

- 2 So, where are we now? We have a grandiose development plan, for an overblown, overly complex, over-administered, recreational project for which no financing exists. Why in God's name do we need hiking trails designed and maintained by some administrative agency? Our home is probably the private residence that is closest to the lake. We have lived next to the Bodo Wildlife Area for over eight years which bounds our property on two sides. The demarcation line between our property and the so-called "public land" is now marked with a new fence and "No Trespassing" signs every few hundred yards.

During the years we have lived here, we have shared the Bodo Wildlife Area (while it was under the benign administration of the BLM) with the hikers, bikers, dog walkers and horse riders during the summer months and cross country skiers, tubers and sledders during the winter months. All of these folks have been good neighbors and have treated the environment with respect. We have been continuously impressed by the cleanliness of the well-established trails they have used. There were never any cans, bottles or trash left behind, nor any signs of campfires or unauthorized camping. When local residents are as responsible as these folks have been, do we really need signs all over the place designating trails and warning people to "keep off the grass?" Do we really need forest rangers patrolling our woods?

My hope is that the community will finally wake up to the understanding that the project as dreamed up by the consulting organization is unwieldy, economically unfeasible and environmentally detrimental. It will involve unjustifiably large capital expenditures to develop and entail excessive year-around administrative costs with little commensurate community benefit. In short, the whole overblown project is likely to be a costly boondoggle whose expenses will land in the laps of taxpayers. Whether the inevitable cost overruns will ultimately fall on local taxpayers or be absorbed by some state or federal giveaway program is anyone's guess, but it will be an unnecessary waste of resources for a bloated recreational project dreamed up by an outside consulting group whose focus was targeted on maximum commercial exploitation rather than a determination as what the majority of the community wanted and needed. I would love to see a real referendum of public opinion in our community: "Which would you prefer (a) a highly developed lake and with recreational areas allowing overnight camping and all forms of boating activity without any limits on the size and speed of watercraft, or (b) a more natural lake with modest user amenities such as Port-a-johns allowing with family picnicking areas along the shores, swimming, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, scuba diving and fishing, but one where motorized craft would be limited to 15 m.p.h. with no wakes near docks and swimming areas?"

- 3 While I cannot speak for any of the others in the planning group I attended, I personally feel a better and more practical development plan would be (a) for the lake and its immediate environs to be developed with only modest and essential amenities (e.g. some toilet facilities and a boat inspection station) and that it be managed by a lake recreational organization which would be supported by user fees and (b) for the remainder of the land turned back over to DOW as a "wildlife area" open to the same public uses that have worked O.K. in the past, i.e. no manicured trail development: no fancy "Keep on Designated Trails" and "Don't Feed the Bears" signage; minimum maintenance costs; and very limited bureaucratic overhead expenses. There would always be an opportunity to expand the scope of recreational development and administrative control later if demand and usage justified.

I believe there has been a lot of money wasted on this project already. It would be a shame to have a lot more go down the drain on a recreational development plan that is very unlikely to be self-supporting on the scale envisioned and very likely to become a burden on local taxpayers if it does not. In this regard, there is some cost data that I would like to confirm which you may know from your study of the history of the project. My understanding is that the cost the boat ramp project involved an astonishing \$2,200,000 in public money derived from a federally funded grant and that the "study" performed by the consulting group cost another \$200,000 which came from a source not known to me. Also, my recollection is that the cost of re-fencing the Bodo Wildlife area was \$600,000 which was paid for by the Bureau of Reclamation from the so-called "Stimulous" funds. (I do not know if this included all of the "No Trespassing" signs that greet us every hundred yards or so.) Do you know if my understanding is correct on the cost of these items and where I could find data to verify this cost information?

Virgil R. Pulliam
152 Peak Trail Dr.
Durango, CO 81303
970-259-6466

— On Wed, 6/29/11, Ken Wright <monkeywrenchdad@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Ken Wright <monkeywrenchdad@gmail.com>
Subject: Durango Herald Lake Nighthorse poll
To: "Bob Rosenberg" <bob@insight-corp.com>, "Brian Brown" <brian@frontier.net>, "Dave Wegner" <EMIWEGNER@aol.com>, "Eilene Lyon" <biotech46@gmail.com>, "Geoff Hickcox" <ghickcox@gmail.com>, "Ginger Hall" <hallginger@msn.com>, "Glenda Toll" <durangodq@yahoo.com>, "Janet Kenna" <raven@kenna.net>, "Jeff Moorehead" <jefe_ray_moo@yahoo.com>, "Jim Mackay" <jsmackay@gmail.com>, "Joe Lewandowski" <joelewski@hotmail.com>, "joss smith" <jossmith@hotmail.com>, "Ken" <ken@sanjuanalmanac.com>, "Kent Ford" <kentford@gobrainstorm.net>, "Matt Kenna" <mattkenna@gmail.com>, "Nancy Jacques" <nan.c.jacques@gmail.com>, "Nancy Loftis" <nkloftis@yahoo.com>, "Ron Lee" <trironlee@gmail.com>, "Sandy Bielenberg" <sandyb@frontier.net>, "scott moore" <yogi.moore@gmail.com>, "Tom Robinson" <robinsondurango@msn.com>, "VIRGIL PULLIAM" <pulliamco@yahoo.com>, "Andy and Abby Snow"

<asn@frontier.net>, "Andy Snow" <snwza1@gmail.com>, "Ayla Moore" <aylamoo@gmail.com>, "Bob Meyer" <skipowder2com@gmail.com>, "Jono Schrode" <jono@majomoves.com>, "Sarah Wright" <bodawright@gmail.com>
 Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2011, 4:05 PM

Please take the Durango Herald poll this week:

How much motorized boating are you in favor of at Lake Nighthorse?

<http://www.durangoherald.com/>

Poll is at the bottom of the page.

Ken.

Ken Wright



* * * *

Chaos is a friend of mine.

— Bob Dylan

* * * *

Signature powered by WiseStamp

— Forwarded message —

From: **Kent Ford** <wkentford@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 29, 2011 at 4:43 PM

Subject: Fwd: NEEDED: decision re attached

To: Matt Kenna <matkenna@gmail.com>, Ken Wright <monkeywrenchdad@gmail.com>, Sandy Blenberg <sandyb@frontier.net>, "Brown, Brian" <brian@frontier.net>

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Please take the Durango Herald poll this week:

How much motorized boating are you in favor of at Lake Nighthorse?

<http://www.durangoherald.com/>

—
 Kent Ford

<http://www.thecalloftheriver.com/>

<http://www.performancevideo.com/>

970-259-1361 home office and cell

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Knighthorse Comments



11NighthorseLakeRules0109.pdf
207K

320

Suggested Rules for Public Use of Lake and Shoreline

1. **Boat Type Restriction** – Types of boats to be allowed on Lake.
 - Motorboating (no Jetskis)
 - Sailboating
 - Canoeing
 - Kayaking
 - Windsurfing
2. **Boat Speed Restriction** – Maximum allowable speed, restricted areas and time limits.
 - Slow – No Wake (>5 mph) within 150 ft of lake shore, docks, boat ramps and designated swimming/diving areas.
 - Maximum allowable speed all other areas of lake – 15 mph.
3. **Boat Size Restriction** – Maximum sized boat allowed on Lake.
 - Powerboats – Limited to boats less than 20 ft.
 - Sailboats – No size limit.
4. **Boat Noise Restriction** – Maximum sound for boat motors allowed on Lake.
 - Subject to compliance with Speed and Engine Restrictions.
5. **Boat Engine Restrictions** – Engine size and type.
 - Electric trolling motors allowed.
 - Outboard, Inboard and Inboard/Outboard (I/O) gasoline engines allowed.
 1. Manufacturer’s standard mufflers required.
 2. Size/Horsepower – Unlimited, but operator compliance with Speed Restrictions mandatory.
4. **Activity Restrictions** – Specific activities allowed, subject to compliance with Area and Speed Restrictions.
 - Swimming
 - Scuba Diving
 - Fishing
 - Cruising
1. **Time of Operation Restrictions** – Hours and times of operation limitations.
 - Gasoline powered boating allowed from dawn to 9 AM subject to compliance with 5 mph speed restriction.
 - Gasoline powered boating allowed from 9 AM to dusk subject to compliance with 15 mph Speed restriction and Area Restrictions.
 - No motorized boating from dusk to dawn.
 - Motorized boats to be removed from lake by dusk.

- 4 8. Area of Operation Restrictions** – Areas of Lake/lakeshore where certain activities would be allowed or disallowed.
- Buoys to be used to mark designated, boat ramp, swimming and diving areas.
 - Swimming not allowed in boat ramp areas.
- 9. Access Permit Restrictions** – Number of permits to be issued for boat operation and boat type, size and engine restrictions.
- All boats operating on the lake require an annual or daily permit.
 - Number of annual and daily permits issued for motorized boats and sailboats to be determined by lake management authority.
 - Unlimited number of permits to be allowed for canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft.
- 5 10. Special Seasonal Restrictions.**
- Subject to DOW recommendations to protect wildlife habitation.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake night horse

1 message

Kevin Jones <deepersolutions@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 3:57 PM

Hello Justyn at Bureau of Reclamation. I have been to meetings on lake night horse and after all of this time nothing is decided. I find it hard to believe that some how some group or individual basically bought the recreational section of the lake by donating a boat ramp. The whole thing is hobbled by this action. We do need a boat ramp for lake access for many reasons, but not just access for a ski boat. The problem with the boats is they need inspection for mussels, and that requires man power and that requires money. I am all for non motorized use at this time and possible motorized use later. Just open the lake for the basics and see where that leads us. Thank you ,Kevin Jones

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Jan Larson <larson911@me.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 4:29 PM

First of all, it seems like years have gone by and no access to the lake has been granted. Am I wrong? Everyone involved should be ashamed of themselves. We constantly read that everyone wants to make the 'right' decision. Well, in my opinion, you are headed in the wrong direction with allowing motorized craft when the lake finally opens to the public. Really; you think this lake is large enough to have big, noisy, fast motor boats? Those interested can go to Vallecito, Navajo and Dolores Reservoir. Why do these people have priority? All sorts of pollution, including noise and gas, will run rampant if this is permitted. The lake use should be limited to day use by picnickers, hikers, kayaker, canoers and paddle boarders. Yes, there should be a swim beach, like hundreds of other communities in Colorado. People should have to pay a fee for day use. Seasonal passes should be available. This money can be put towards upkeep, lifeguards and the creation of a nature trail. Come on, get it together!

Sincerely, Jan Larson,
Durango, Colorado



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Ken Morrow <memorrow1210@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 11:08 PM

Dear Justin,

Please include our comments in the record concerning: **Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 201611**

- 1. The motor boating community has 2 large lakes in the immediate area to supply them with ample recreational opportunities.**
- 1 2. The size of Lake Nighthorse is not conducive to high speed motor boating. Not to mention destroying the tranquility of the environment. If motor boats are to be allowed they should be limited in horse power and 4 cycle only. The entire lake should be deemed no wake.**
- 3. Low impact recreational sports such kayaking, paddle boarding, float tube fishing, fishing from boats powered by electric motors or low horse power gas engines, swimming, wind surfing etc., would all suffer from noisy polluting high horse power motor boats and large wakes. These 2 different classes of recreation would not mix well on this small lake. If power boats are allowed all the other low impact sports would for all practical purposes be eliminated do to conflict of interests.**
- 2 4. There is a great opportunity to add new hiking trails around the lake. Another low impact activity that people enjoy doing in our community. Most people enjoy the solitude of hiking, not listening to the sound of loud motors broadcast across a high country lake and valley. Sound carries exponentially across water.**
- 3 5. Camping opportunities abound in LaPlata County and the surrounding area. If camping is allowed who will police the campgrounds and who will pay for the maintenance and repair the vandalism and who will clean the toilets? Campgrounds should definitely not be in the plan. The BLM and Forest Service resources are stretched to the maximum and campgrounds are closing. How can it make sense to add more. Use the money to maintain the existing facilities.**

My wife and I very much in favor of keeping Lake Nighthorse a tranquil refuge instead of a motor boat destination.

Sincerely,

James K. and Maryellen Morrow
829 East 5th Ave.
Durango, Colorado



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake nighthorse comments

1 message

Jason Aweida <wildmountaintrailworks@hotmail.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 5:26 AM

Hello,

My name is Jason Aweida, and I am a 15 year resident of la plata county. I am writing this to encourage the blm to reconsider motorized boats on lake nighthorse. The proposed area for motorized users is very small, as is this reservoir. Last summer I had the opportunity to learn to wakeboard, and it is great fun. However, this reservoir is too small for more than a hand full of boats to be motoring around at once, and when the visitor numbers are not met for motorized users, the services they require will not be payed in full. It is expensive to monitor boats, both at the launch and on the water. Hikers, swimmers, paddle boaters and fisherman do not require the oversight or cost that motorized boats require.

This needs to be a long lasting resource for the residents and visitors of la plata county, and the best way to make that happen is to eliminate motorized users from the multi-use plan.

Thank you for your time,

Jason Aweida

4631 county road 124

Hesperus, Colorado 81326

9709030137



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Adam Howell <athowell@gmail.com>
Reply-To: athowell@gmail.com
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 7:06 AM

Hello Justyn Liff,

- 1 As a comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, I'm writing you as an advocate for the Action Alternative 1–2011 Recreation Plan. As a divergence from the Action 1 Alternative, I would encourage you to exclude any user-specific trails on the property, as they create unnecessary user conflicts. We do not need any hiker-specific trails at Lake Nighthorse.

Thank You,
Adam Howell



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Public comment for Lake Nighthorse Environmental Review

1 message

Kristine Johnson <johnson.k@bresnan.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 7:55 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subject.

Anyone who attended the public hearings, workshops and open houses five years ago, knows that the high speed power boat issue remained very unsettled and debated. The Durango community appears to be organizing once again, this time for a no-wake, safer lake with less noise pollution and less lakeshore erosion. The Bodo family's original intention that this revered basin be a welcoming home to wildlife in perpetuity haunts this lake.

Questions have arisen from the water based recreation design workshop process and at least one participant has shared how the group was "constantly reminded" by the Park Service facilitator that gas powered boats were required to be on the lake because of the Wallop-Breaux funding source. Of six people consistently at the water based recreation table, only two were in favor of high speed power boats. I have often wished transcripts were available from those break out groups. The open house I attended following the design workshops, ended with a power boat enthusiast, interrupting a soft spoken, respectful woman who was making well stated comments about a quieter, lower powered lake; the motorist was "tired after meeting for two days and he wanted to go home" and then he instructed the woman to make her comments in writing to the Bureau of Reclamation. That is how the meeting ended! Wow. I had never witnessed such disrespectful, unchallenged comments at a public meeting.

- 1 This lake and emerging wetland could be a mecca for quiet boaters, nature enthusiasts and eventually hikers/picnickers/tent campers. Is another water skiing/power boat lake truly needed in this region? As a Coloradan for over forty years I have shared lakes all over the state with power boats and have just stopped going to those areas. I would love to see a lake full of rowers, canoeists, trolling and lakeshore anglers, sailboats, etc., etc. I recently went to two reservoirs in Boulder County. One was a power boat reservoir that was known for being over run by motorists and exhaust on the weekends, and one reservoir was a pristine mountain lake that only allowed car-top water craft. The difference was startling. Why couldn't Lake Nighthorse be a gem of a different stroke and land somewhere in between these two examples?? Why not give it a try?? Too many people have observed that once a lake is handed over to the power boat culture, it could never go back to anything else.

The tribes seem to have ongoing issues with the hunting rights, cultural resources, etc., etc. Keep the recreation simple and have a soft, low impact opening/start—no matter who manages the recreation on this lake.

- 2 A NO WAKE LAKE would make the proposed action plan acceptable and a smart solution for now. A non-motorized boat launch also needs to be a part of the plan. When the lake freezes over, cross-country skiing would be a lovely amenity.

Thank you for your difficult work. This project has too many managers and players. Sometimes it seems that "No Action" would provide the best justice to this beleaguered lake. Surely a middle ground can be achieved.

Respectfully, Kristine Johnson
Edgemont Highlands
Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

no wake zone please

1 message

karsten@durangohomeandyard.com <karsten@durangohomeandyard.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:00 AM

1 make Lake Nighthorse entirely no wake zone

power boats can use lake Navajo

Karsten Andersen
Durango Home and Yard, LLC
970-903-2592
www.durangohomeandyard.com



Durango Home and Yard

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - NO WAKE at Lake Nighthorse

328



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

NO WAKE at Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Donald Triola <36scout@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:06 AM

1 I support a peacefull recreation area lets make Lake Nighthorse a a NO WAKE LAKE like Electra Lake.



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Tom Campbell <campdetti@me.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:11 AM

1 I would like to add my name to those requesting that motorized boats not be allowed on Lake Nighthorse. It would be wonderful to have such a beautiful body of water remain a place of quiet recreation. Thank you.
Tom Campbell, Durango

Sent from my iPad

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Please make Lake Nighthorse No Wake Zone

330



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

1 Please make Lake Nighthorse No Wake Zone

1 message

Stan Johnson <stan@compfinancial.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:27 AM

Stan Johnson



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Todd McKane <todd_mac@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Todd McKane <todd_mac@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:52 AM

I would like to submit the following comments for the Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Planning.

I strongly believe that Lake Nighthorse should be a NON-MOTORIZED reservoir.

- 1 This bucolic setting should not be fouled by the drone of speedboats, skidoos, and the like.
The boat ramp fiasco wherein motorized boats were somehow grandfathered in reeks of fraud.
This is a drinking water supply and should not be tainted with petrochemical contaminants.

Thank you,
Todd McKane
250 W. 16th
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comment

1 message

chris musgrave <goinguphigh@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:03 AM

1 It is my belief that Lake Nighthorse should be managed as a non-motorized recreational facility. The current recreational philosophy of diversifying our recreational resources among various user groups is proving to be a successful and well balanced direction among users. There are several other motorized-approved recreational opportunities for this user group including Lemon, Vallecito, and Navajo. These facilities provide the motorized group with the opportunities they are looking for. Other user groups, non-motorized, such as kayakers, tubers, SUP's, canoes and others seek out a pristine and peaceful boating and water experience. Yes there are small bodies of water that provide this but none that provide the size and opportunities of Nighthorse. Imagine a quiet, serene, nature focused recreational facility so close to town! Let's diversify our recreational opportunities here in Durango and create a space for quiet, reflective, and environmentally focused recreation!

Chris Musgrave
(970)749-9224



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Anne Kernan <annedkeman@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:26 AM

A few years ago I took a trip with my grandson to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. We spent a glorious, peaceful week in a cabin on the shores of a paddle-only lake. No motor noise. We canoed every day, reveling in the gorgeous scenery and sightings of beaver, loons, ospreys, etc. It's a treasured memory for both of us.

Minnesota has lots of lakes, and can afford to set aside some of them for non-motorized use. Canoeing, fishing and other quiet pursuits flourish there, enjoyed by many families.

- 1 Durango is within easy distance of other lakes where motorized boats and jet skis are permitted. Please set aside Lake Nighthorse as a non-motorized lake. Please. We'd really miss a great opportunity if motors were permitted there.

Anne Kernan
Ignacio, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse Management Plan

1 message

Joe Foster <joebfoster@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:26 AM

Hi Justyn,

- 1 I wanted to add my voice to the chorus of Durango area residents with the recommendation that Lake Nighthorse be maintained under a non-motorized management plan. There are plenty of large bodies of water around for the motorheads to zoom about, but very few that allow for a more natural and quiet enjoyment of such things.

Thanks!

Have a great day,
Joe Foster
126 Bear Run
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Rick Sidwell <rsidwell@raisebor.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:37 AM

1 | support no-wake boating



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment on draft Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment

1 message

Ilana Stern <heyheyilana@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 12:04 PM

Dear Justyn Liff:

- 1 As a Durango resident I would like to register my hope that trail development look more like that described in AA1 than in the proposed plan. I would like to see a natural surface trail open to pedestrians, cyclists, and horses, completely looping the lake, as well as a similar trail connecting to the Animas River Trail. Lake recreation consists of a lot more than boating, and many people enjoy the scenic value of riding or running around a lake. Many of them, like me, would appreciate the ability to ride or run TO the lake as well, rather than being forced to drive or share roads with vehicles (possibly pulling trailers), since it's so close by to town.
- 2 I regret the decisions made to ensure that motorized boating will be a priority. I hope that a non-trivial area will be set aside for nonmotorized usage.

Thank you,
Ilana Stern
333 E. 13th St., Durango CO

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Nighthorse Management Plan

337



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse Management Plan

1 message

Heather Erb <heatherlerb@gmail.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 12:06 PM

Hello,

- 1 I wanted to add a comment that there are so many parks and areas that allow motorized boats, such as Navajo Lake, Lemon and Vallecito-it would be great to keep Nighthorse a non-motorized area.

Thanks for your time,

Heather Erb
Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments to the Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment...addendum

1 message

Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 1:28 PM

May 24, 2016**Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM****Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016...addendum**

On May 19, I submitted my comments on the Lake Nighthorse EA. Today, the Durango Herald published a letter to the editor from Melissa Youssef, Vice Chair of the Durango Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which appears to be comments also submitted to the BLM. Assuming that is the case, I find the city's comments complimentary and expansive upon my comments and I generally support the city's comments.

Notably, I especially support the city's wanting "non-motorized boat launch and breakwater(s) as required" as well as the comment to "reevaluate motorized use."

- 1 Different from my May 19 comments, the city is wanting campground(s). While I had commented campgrounds are not needed given the abundance of campgrounds in the area, I now state that if the City of Durango is prepared to manage campgrounds then I feel they would be a worthy enhancement to the Lake Nighthorse recreational area, but only if implemented in such a way as to not further attract campers with intent to use gasoline powered motorized boats on the lake. For example, prohibit overnight buoy or dock tie downs of motorized boats as well as overnight parking of such boats within the recreational area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Bruce E Rodman

16 Ophir Drive
Durango, CO 81301
Tel: 970-385-7899

From: Bruce E Rodman
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 9:22 PM
To: Liff, Justyn
Subject: Comments to the Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment

May 19, 2016**Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM****Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016**

While a creation of engineering, Lake Nighthorse is a scenic gem of a modestly sized and quiet lake nestled in forested hills just south of Durango, Colorado. While its primary purpose is to provide various entities with water, I concur that a secondary purpose should be fulfilled to provide recreational opportunities sooner rather than

later.

The final plan for Lake Nighthorse should fall somewhere between the Proposed Action – 2014 Recreation Plan and the Action Alternative 1 – 2011 Recreation Plan.

MOTORIZED BOATS, OR NOT

Lake Nighthorse is small as compared to more massive lakes in the Four Corners region such as nearby Navajo and Vallecito lakes, as well as Lake Powell—and these three lakes are open to motorized boat recreation. I do not quarrel with the various estimates of visitor days exceeding 100,000 per year. But given the attractions of these other lakes, Lake Nighthorse will not have a significant amount of non-local area visitors, excepting visitors coming to the Durango area for already existing attractions. Since most Lake Nighthorse visitors will be locals or would have planned a local visit without the attraction of Lake Nighthorse, there will be no significant positive impact to the local economy from development of the lake for recreation.

In the tradition of outdoors enjoyment by those that live locally, the majority of visitors want non-motorized water recreational opportunities including swimming, kayaking, use of other floatation devices such as inflatable tubes, fishing, etc. in a scenic, quiet lake not polluted with gasoline. And in particular, a quality public swimming beach is sorely lacking in the immediate Durango area.

There is little local economic benefit from allowing gasoline powered motor boats or other motorized recreation floating machines. Non-local visitors are much more likely to haul their boats and other floating machines to Navajo or Vallecito Lakes or other larger lakes such as Lake Powell.

I find it unfortunate to learn that a boat ramp is already built and funded with state motor boat tax revenues, supposedly requiring that gasoline motor boats would be granted use of the lake. Alternatives should be explored to make an exception by prohibiting gasoline powered boats. But if that is not feasible, then: (1) a much lower maximum speed limit than the proposed 40 mph speed limit should be imposed, such as 10 mph and/or (2) a very low limit of daily gasoline powered boats on the lake should be required, e.g. no more than 10 boats.

HIKING TRAILS

Residents of La Plata and surrounding counties (including in New Mexico) love to hike. Providing additional hiking trails such as proposed in the 2011 plan absolutely should be included in the final plan either at the start or if not, for future construction by organizations such as Trails 2000. Expanding trails available at the lower elevations near Durango would be a significant addition to local hiking opportunities that have very low environmental impact. This would also provide more hiking opportunities in the immediate Durango vicinity to visitors.

CAMPGROUNDS

Since the State of Colorado declined to manage the Lake Nighthorse recreational area and given that there are plenty of other government and commercial campgrounds nearby to Durango, there is little need to add campgrounds to the Lake Nighthorse grounds as was proposed in the 2011 plan.

Sincerely,

Bruce E Rodman

16 Ophir Drive

Durango, CO 81301

Tel: 970-385-7899

From: Liff, Justyn
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Bruce E Rodman
Subject: Re: Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment (EA)

Hi Mr. Rodman - Written comments can be submitted by email to jliff@usbr.gov or mailed to: Ed Warner, Bureau of Reclamation, 445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Justyn

On Wed, May 18, 2016 at 5:40 PM, Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com> wrote:
Justin,

By what procedure may I submit comments?

Bruce

From: Liff, Justyn
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 3:46 PM
To: Bruce E Rodman
Subject: Re: Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment (EA)

Hi Mr. Rodman - Here is a copy of the document. Comments are due by May 25.

Thanks,
Justyn

On Sun, May 15, 2016 at 4:05 PM, Bruce E Rodman <berodman@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Justyn,

Please return via email a copy of the EA announced on March 25.

Or, a direct link to it would be fine too.

Thank you.

Bruce Rodman
Durango

—
Justyn Liff
Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
445 W Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-248-0625

—
Justyn Liff
Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
445 W Gunnison Ave., Suite 221

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Comments to the Lake Nighthorse Environmental Assessment...addendum

Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-248-0625

338

5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse Comments

339



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>


Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

Mary Karraker <jkarraker@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Mary Karraker <jkarraker@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 1:46 PM

Mary Karraker
2212 Forest Ave.
Durango, CO 81301
970-259-0428

 **Lake Nighthorse Submission.doc**
24K

Lake Nighthorse Comments

As former National Park Service Ranger, I lived in National Parks for 40 yrs. During the 2011 public meetings, on the lake, I was a member of the Park and Recreation Board. The discussions could be heated on the subject of boating. The majority of the attendees felt that boats should be limited to sails, muscle power and electric motors. On a later field trip to the lake, I was surprised to see a large parking lot and boat ramp. I was told that Wallop-Breaux funding meant motorboats had to be allowed. Why this was never discussed at length with the Board is a question that I have. By the recent flurry of letter to the Editor of the Durango Herald, there were many citizen attendees at the meetings, who still question the decision by the Staff and City.

At the time there were many questions about the management of the lake and where the funding and staff would come from. I'm sure the City wanted to be a part of it, but there was no money. There were consultations with the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Southern Ute Tribe about operations, but the discussion always came back to finances and it seemed there was no extra money to run the park.

- 2 Lake Nighthorse is a small lake > 1,000 acres. Regulations say that, "all boats would be required to operate at safe speeds, not exceeding 40 mph in open use zones and not exceeding 5 mph in no wake zones". The plan says that, "potential pollutants from combustible engines (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes) would be monitored on a regular basis". No information about who will enforce or monitor is made of who will enforce or monitor the recreational rules on the lake. From my experience, you need trained staff to run a recreational area. It won't run itself. Life/safety issues are foremost, but personnel should be educated about the cultural and natural resources and be ready to respond to all types visitor needs. Who will handle law enforcement issues and medical response? If fees and permits are required, who will manage that program?

- 1 There is to be an expensive inspection station to deal with boat inspections. These stations are not a cure-all to maintain a healthy lake. Zebra and quagga mussels have found their way into many of our recreational lakes and ruined corresponding water systems. Lake Mead and Lake Powell have inspection stations and both are infested. Motorboats traveling from these lakes could bring the pests to Lake Nighthorse. Often motored boats owners bring their way to life to the lakes. On board picnics bring much waste, which often ends

up in the water. Sometimes, this is by carelessness, but also by gusting winds or choppy water.

I've seen the degradation of many lakes throughout the U.S., we need to take another look at our lake. Do we need styrofoam cups, paper plates, cigarette butts and that fine iridescent sheen of petroleum on our lake? Some boats may anchor and fish for the day, but many race up and down the water endlessly. I am a camper and looked forward to meeting friends for an overnight at the lake. Bird watching is also a pastime enjoyed by many locals. What a shame, if these users will have no peace during their time at the lake. We don't need the noise. There are other larger lakes in SW Colorado for the motorized craft.

- 1 If and when Lake Nighthorse is opened to the public, staffing must be considered, unless it is deemed a primitive experience. In this day of multiple lawsuits, that probably won't be the case. We will need a Recreation Ranger on hand for information, education and safety. We will need maintenance personnel to keep things clean and in working order. It will take money and a management team to assure success. Perhaps the money for the inspection station could be put to better use. We need a discussion. A Friends of Lake Nighthorse group could help determine how next to proceed.

Mary Karraker
2212 Forest Ave.
Durango, CO 81301
970-259-0428



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Knighthorse Comments

1 message

Jerry Bonnett <jbonnett@bffb.com>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 11:18 AM

To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: "pulliamco@yahoo.com" <pulliamco@yahoo.com>, "moita@earthlink.net" <moita@earthlink.net>, "rpope@miningequipmentltd.com" <rpope@miningequipmentltd.com>, "John and Angela Wolgamott (snowbird@animas.net)" <snowbird@animas.net>, "bob rosenberg (bob@insight-corp.com)" <bob@insight-corp.com>

Mr. Liff,

My Durango home is at 304 Peak Trail Drive. I have lived in The Peaks subdivision for many years. I split my time between Durango and Scottsdale, and my office is in Phoenix. I am a lawyer, admitted in both Arizona and Colorado. I appreciate the opportunity to endorse the views of my fellow residents in The Peaks regarding the proposed recreational plan for Lake Knighthorse. I'm most concerned about the allowance of gasoline powered boats, which can have a very negative impact on the pristine environment for which Durango is known and of which all residents are rightly proud.

Jerry C. Bonnett**BONNETT FAIRBOURN
FRIEDMAN & BALINT PC**

2325 E. Camelback Rd.

Suite 300

Phoenix, Az 85016

(602) 274-1100 (Office)

(602) 776-5900 (Direct Line)

(602) 274-1199 (Fax)

jbonnett@bffb.com

From: VIRGIL PULLIAM [mailto:pulliamco@yahoo.com]**Sent:** May 23, 2016 1:47 PM**To:** "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>**Cc:** Robert Rosenberg <bob@insight-corp.com>; Marcey Olajos <moita@earthlink.net>; Rob Pope



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments

1 message

Mary Monroe Brown <mary@trails2000.org>
To: "Liff, Justyn" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 2:06 PM

Dear Justyn:

Attached please find public comments from Trails 2000 regarding the Lake Nighthorse EA.

Thanks for your time. Will we be provided a response to our comments?

Happy Trails,
MaryMary Monroe Brown | Director, Trails 2000
PO Box 3868 | Durango, CO 81302
P: 970-259-4682 | mary@trails2000.org
www.trails2000.org | connect on Facebook | follow us on twitter @trails2000

This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

2 attachmentsThe Trails 2000 logo consists of the word "TRAILS" in a large, bold, sans-serif font above the word "2000" in a similar font. A small circular icon containing a stylized mountain range is positioned to the left of the "2000".

trails2k_new_sm.png
9K

A small icon of a document with a folded corner, representing a PDF file.

LakeNighthorseCommentsMay2016FINAL.pdf
97K



April 22, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation
445 West Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501

To whom it may concern:

Trails 2000 is a 501c3 non profit in Durango, CO with a mission to plan, build and maintain trails; educate trail users; and encourage connectivity on road, path, and trail. As a partner with local land agencies, Trails 2000 provides over 4000 volunteer hours of trailwork on City, County, Forest Service and BLM lands to provide our community with world-class trails. Recognized by the Forest Service as the "Recreation Partner of the Year", Trails 2000 serves as a model of private public partnership.

The Department of Interior's strategic plan encourages "Enhanced Recreation and Visitor Experience" to enhance the enjoyment and appreciate of our natural and cultural heritage. We feel by including the trails plan developed by the City through a thorough public process, the Bureau of Reclamation actively assists in achieving these goals.

Expanding trails for our community celebrates the great outdoors and maximizes community appreciation for the area. Trails engage the next generation to maintain a healthy level of fitness and support outdoor play. Establishing a robust trail system serves to maintain Durango's effective government/community partnership & a helps reinforce a partner attitude that encourage Durango citizens to attentively support rules that protect the environment.

1 Approval of the trails studied and developed through a robust public process is an effective management approach to plan, develop and build a sustainable trail network. We respectfully request specific inclusions of trail related amenities to Alternative 1.

- 1) Inclusion of multi use trail on the north side of CR 210 (and therefore, studied under NEPA)
- 2) Allow Trails 2000 to plan, build and maintain an initial phase of trails (10 miles) north of CR 210 in the same year the EA is approved
 - ¥ Trails 2000 to provide trail planning, development and maintenance

Trails 2000 participated in the Lake Nighthorse public process in 2011, helping develop the proposed trails slated for the area and listed in the 2011 plan as outlined here:

"...interested persons to express concerns, share ideas, and identify issues related to the project. Workshops were held on December 7 and 8, 2010, to identify specific issues and develop shared solutions to water and shoreline recreation and land-based recreation, respectively. A two-day

design workshop was held on January 11 and 12, 2011, to further develop recommendations for recreation at Lake Nighthorse. This workshop specifically addressed water-based recreation, trails, camping, shoreline recreation, education and interpretation, and financing and management of recreation. A public open house was held on April 11, 2011, to review the Draft Recreation Master Plan, answer questions..."

The current 2014 draft Recreation Master Plan is scaled down substantially from the 2011 plan requested from the public. Page 14 of the plan currently states:

Natural Surface Trail

A natural surface trail may be constructed to connect Lake Nighthorse to the Animas River Trail, and a looped natural surface trail system would be constructed on the east side of the Lake linking recreational amenities and enhancing the user experience. Opportunities for linkage with other trail systems outside the project area would be considered."

The public comments and support for trails were very positive. The survey on page 91 includes a chart where the public stated the top three activities they'd like to see at Lake Nighthorse: the top choice (by 70% of the respondents) was trails. Trails are a cost effective and managed way for the public to begin enjoying the area. Since the beginning of the lake plan, Trails 2000 has offered to plan, build and maintain the trail system at virtually no cost to the project as noted on page 46 of the 2011 plan (6.1 #19).

Planning for trail use is a more positive approach for the land manager and the public. Planned trails are more navigable and easier to maintain, help avoid protected areas and preclude user-created trails, connect the public to key areas and allow more individuals to experience the landscape. La Plata County is an outdoor recreation community, highly interested in hiking, trail running, equestrian use, and mountain biking, all of which are closely tied to the trails.

Page 17 of the 2014 Environmental Analysis states:

Possible future recreation development under this alternative may include interpretive displays and education, a natural surface trail connecting Lake Nighthorse to the Animas River Trail, a looped natural surface trail system on the east side of the reservoir, potential linkages with other trails outside the project area, a public swim beach and picnic area, a trail connecting the swim beach to the overflow parking area, breakwater structures at the boat ramp and swim beach, a public campground with access near the entrance station, a permanent entrance building, and day use picnic and/or parking areas along the east lakeshore.

Page 20 of the Recreation Plan Draft EA states, Active Alternative I-2011 Recreation Plan:

This alternative would implement the Draft Recreation Master Plan developed for Lake Nighthorse in 2011 (DHM Design 2011). This draft plan was initiated by ALPWCD and developed through a collaborative public involvement process that took place from March 2009 through April 2011 and included open houses, a public forum, issues and design workshops, which identified a public desire for a variety of recreational opportunities, including boating, swimming, multi-use trails, fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, other activities, and special events. Under this alternative, implementation of the improvements would occur in phases, as available funding allowed. For the initial phase, specific locations are identified for a 2.4-mile ADA-accessible trail and trailhead; a non-motorized boat launch area; a swim beach; a parking area to service the proposed swim beach, trail, and non-motorized boat launch area; a vehicle turnaround and limited ADA parking at the end of the swim beach area access road; and a courtesy dock and breakwater at the existing boat ramp. For subsequent phases, proposed facilities include a boat ramp overflow parking area; a proposed fishing and picnic area with

access road, parking area, and trail; multi-use trails; a trailhead on the north side of CR 210; a trailhead at the west end of the lake off CR 211; three campgrounds;

The Summary of Alternatives also states Alternative 1 would include:

4 miles of ADA accessible trail in initial phase. Additional multiuse trails in possible future phases, resulting in a total of 28.6 miles of trail, forming complete loops around the lake.

- 1 We support the full inclusion of trails as listed in Alternative 1 and would like to see an initial phase of 10 miles approved for phase 1 and all 26.8 miles studied in NEPA. Outdoor Recreation is a major economic driver in the region. We believe the recreation aspects deserve higher priority and more importance in the final decision of the Lake Nighthorse Plan. The EA has identified the value of economic benefits associated with enhanced recreation at Lake Nighthorse. The community and public desire access to the Lake Nighthorse area. Recreation is a major, natural economic driver for this project. It presents a welcome opportunity to increase visitors to the area, given the natural and beautiful surroundings.

Page 51, Section 3.3.2 clearly states the benefits of enhanced recreation:

The Proposed Action would support continued growth of the tourism sector and would provide additional opportunities for water based recreation for visitors and local residents, resulting in direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits.

- 2 We kindly request the word "trails" be included after water-based recreation in the above paragraph to identify the tourism driver the trails provide.
- 3 The missing trail opportunities not included in this plan will clearly decrease the tourism opportunities and sales tax dollars generated to La Plata County; we highly agree with this statement notated below: *Increased economic output under the Proposed Action would stem primarily from increased tourist spending in the warm season, and the majority of additional spending would be for retail goods. Increased tourism spending would also result from recreation sales occurring on-site at Lake Nighthorse, and sales at local restaurants and lodging establishments. Due to fewer campsites, trail miles, and day-use areas overall, the Proposed Action would result less direct spending and smaller total economic output compared with the 2011 Recreation Master Plan (Action Alternative 1).*

The following paragraphs on page 52 spells out the loss of tourism due to the lessened recreation plan currently listed. We highly recommend the final EA address the economic benefits to enhanced recreation and include an initial phase of 10 miles of trail on the north side of CR 210 to kick the project off, increase tourism and provide a planned, non-motorized multi use trail system for the community.

Page 52, adds:

Action Alternative 1–2011 Recreation Plan

Economic Setting

Action Alternative 1 would enhance tourism, one of the main economic drivers in La Plata County, by providing additional recreational opportunities for visitors and local residents. As discussed under Section 3.2–Recreation, this alternative would generate an estimated 163,197 average annual user days at Lake Nighthorse, representing about 14 percent of the regional market share (RPI Consulting 2010a). User days would be expected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.3 percent to nearly 200,000 estimated annual user days by 2025 (RPI Consulting 2010a). This alternative would support continued growth of the tourism sector and would provide additional opportunities for water-based recreation for visitors and local residents, resulting in direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits.

Retail Sales and Economic Output

Action Alternative 1 would result in direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits to La Plata County from visitation to Lake Nighthorse by recreationalists, primarily through an increase in retail sales. An economic impact study (RPI Consulting 2010b) estimated that implementation of the 2011 recreation plan would result in an additional \$7,798,000 (in 2010 dollars) in average annual expenditures in the county based on direct impacts (jobs and earnings for lodges, restaurants, and businesses where visitors spend their money) and a total annual economic output of \$12,718,000 when a multiplier is applied for indirect and induced effects (jobs and earnings for linen services, food distributors, maintenance contractors, and other businesses that support primary tourism industries).

Page 91, Trails 2000 agrees to partner on the project as listed here:

Table 12. Mitigation measures and commitments common to all action alternatives.

Mitigation Measures and Commitments

Issues/Resources Targeted

Trail development in the project area shall be coordinated with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Trails 2000, the City of Durango, La Plata County, ALPOMRA, and the CPW, and opportunities for linkage with other trail systems outside the project area may also be considered.

In conclusion, Trails 2000 supports Alternative 1 2.2 ACTION ALTERNATIVE 1–2011 RECREATION PLAN:

This alternative would implement the Draft Recreation Master Plan developed for Lake Nighthorse in 2011 (DHM Design 2011). This draft plan was initiated by ALPWCDwhich identified a public desire for a variety of recreational opportunities, including boating, swimming, multi-use trails, fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, other activities, and special events. Under this alternative, implementation of the improvements would occur in phases, as available funding allowed. For the initial phase, specific locations are identified for a 2.4-mile ADA-accessible trail and trailhead; a non-motorized boat launch area; a swim beach; a parking area to service the proposed swim beach, trail, and non-motorized boat launch area; a vehicle turnaround and limited ADA parking at the end of the swim beach area access road; and a courtesy dock and breakwater at the existing boat ramp. For subsequent phases, proposed facilities include a boat ramp overflow parking area; a proposed fishing and picnic area with access road, parking area, and trail; multi-use trails; a trailhead on the north side of CR 210; a trailhead at the west end of the lake off CR 211; three campgrounds; 40 boat slips for campers at the existing boat ramp; and a day-use area south of the existing boat ramp. Figure 5 depicts the general location of the facilities proposed under all phases. Figure 6 shows the location and configuration of the swim beach, the ADA-accessible trailhead, the non-motorized boat launch, and associated parking areas under this alternative.

As under the Proposed Action, development and operation of recreational facilities under Action Alternative 1 would occur through the establishment of a management authority under contract with Reclamation. Funding for development, maintenance, and management of the recreational facilities would come from user fees, grants, and subsidies. Low-impact commercial activities such as boat rentals, scuba lessons, rescue classes, and children's day camps would be allowed under this alternative and would add revenue and expand the spectrum of recreational opportunities.

4 We request a few inclusions into Alternative 1:

- 1) Include multi use trail on the north side of CR 210 in the EA (and therefore, studied under NEPA) to be approved for an initial phase of construction, rather than at a later date
- 2) Allow Trails 2000 to plan, build and maintain an initial phase of trails (10 miles) north of CR 210 in the same year the EA is approved
- 3) Add the word 'trails' to the recreation amenities
- 4) Allow Trails 2000 to provide trail planning, development and maintenance

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Monroe Brown

Mary Monroe Brown
Executive Director

The Trails 2000 Board of Directors:

Daryl Crites
John Baxter
Terryl Peterson
Melissa Youssef
Julia Levy

CC:
Ron LeBlanc
Cathy Metz
Durango City Council



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

brian@frontier.net <brian@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 2:45 PM

Lake Nighthorse Comments

Attention:

Bureau of Reclamation,

I would be most in favor of the Proposed Action 2014 Recreation Plan. But whichever plan is utilized, unregulated powerboat usage will make the reservoir unusable for SUP's, canoes, kayaks, sculls, Kiteboarding etc.

This small reservoir would be crowded with only 20 powerboats pulling wakeboarders, yet the plan's estimate of an average of 50 powerboats per day would be utter mayhem. This would effectively eliminate the non-power users from the lake. Even a 50 ft no wake zone next to shore would have little effect since a powerboat going 40 mph 50 ft from shore would still flip SUPS and swamp canoes etc. and it would keep non power users from venturing across the lake if on the lake at all.

We were assured after the scoping meetings that the power boaters would be using only the southeast corner of the lake, this appears to not be the case, with little to no regulation in ANY of the plans.

I think that the majority of the lake should be no wake. Perhaps the southeast corner could be an area that would allow powerboats to create a wake but protect other users in the rest of the lake from the incompatibility/dangers of high speed craft. Another high option, which has been used on other reservoirs in the state, would be to have 3-4 days a week devoted to no wake use only. Power boats could still use the lake on these days but no wake allowed.

The bottom line is that there is no acceptable way of including unregulated powerboats in a multiuse universe that includes SUP's, canoes, kayaks, kiteboards, fishing etc. at the same time in the same place. It would be a lake for powerboat use only, by default. That would cut down on user days much more dramatically than regulating the estimated 50 powerboats per day on the reservoir.

50 powerboats a day would create a large impact on this small body of water, however you could have 2000 non power users on the lake and not even realize it. But if you allow unregulated powerboats on the lake, that would eliminate most of the non power users who would have a much smaller impact AND generate more revenue.

The Animas River trail does not allow motorized use because of the inherent conflict between user groups...but Lake Nighthorse can allow virtually unregulated motorized use?

- 2 Much noise about prioritizing the main purpose of the reservoir as a municipal water source, which I will count on for my own water source in Rafter J, but the one single use that puts that in jeopardy from the pollution of oil and gas spills not to mention the inevitable introduction of the Quagga mussel is Powerboat usage...really? This does not constitute a good management plan and can only reflect a vested interest.

Brian Brown

2030 W. Meadow rd

Durango, CO 81303

970-259-2694



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Rudy Davison <r_a_davison@frontier.net>
To: Justin Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 4:20 PM

Dear Mr. Liff, I am writing in support of a quiet Lake Nighthorse. As a 22 year resident of Shenandoah that looks directly at the lake and top of the dam, it has been a concern of my wife and I that the noise from power boats will have a direct path to our house. Currently, there is no noise, but that can all change. We know that road noise from County Road 141 (Wildcat Canyon) has increased over the years. So the use of power boats is destined to do the same.

1 You might think that we have a "Not in my back yard attitude", but quite the contrary, we welcome quiet recreational uses of Lake Nighthorse. I am a native Coloradan that has seen every new reservoir from Cherry Creek in the Denver area to the Ridgway Reservoir become entirely too cluttered with recreational motorized boats. Why can't the citizens of Durango adopt a new direction that respects the lake for its quieter natural attributes like hiking, animal watching, and non motorized craft rather than create the same old picture of speed boats that belong on these already designated lakes? I do not view the attitude that motorized boats have a fundamental right to destroy the ideals of other people. You might as well let jet boats roar up the Animas River through Durango, but somehow that river still maintains a charm characterized by rafts, kayaks, and inner tubes. It has already been stated that the size of the lake is too small for high powered craft and more suited to trolling or paddles. I have always wondered how the concept of a nature preserve conceived by the Bodo family can be so disrespected by the addition of power boats that are so contrary to nature. I think you know where my wife and I stand on the issue of having power boats on Lake Nighthorse. Yours truly, Robert and Alexandra Davison, 174 Blue Ridge, Durango, CO 81303



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Draft EA for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Laurie and Dan Parkinson <danandlauriep@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 5:20 PM

I appreciate the opportunity for public comment on the Draft EA for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan.

My main concern in the management of recreation at Lake Nighthorse is that motorboats will be allowed at the lake. I understand that with the funding of the boat ramp the option of no motors is not on the table - a very unfortunate circumstance. I believe that a great deal of public input was disregarded in allowing motors on the lake. The management plan puts limits on speed and noise; these regulations are going to be VERY hard, and in my opinion nearly impossible, to enforce. Who/how will enforce them? Specifically, how will noise be measured,

- 1 This lake is small and better suited to non-motorized uses. We have three lakes - Vallecito, McPhee, Navajo - that are available and suited to speed boats. If we have to have motors on Lake Nighthorse I strongly urge that the entire lake be kept to a no-wake zone, allowing non-motorized users to recreate in waters that are not choppy, noisy and dangerous.

Speed boats and the waves that they create also cause increased erosion at the shoreline, contributing to sediment in the water and deterioration of the shoreline.

Motorized boats will very likely bring invasive species into the lake, and necessitate inspection stations, a costly addition to management of the area.

- 2 Finally, it appears that the Proposed Alternative is mainly for the benefit of those who have the financial means to purchase a motorized boat, a trailer and vehicle to pull that boat. There are no picnic facilities, no swim beach, no non-motorized boat launch, so the family that wants to go up and enjoy a QUIET day at the lake has very limited options.

Thank you,
Laurie Parkinson
Bayfield, Colorado



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Nick Spence <nick@marketingdurango.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 5:38 PM

Hi,

As a local resident in La Plata County with a business based in Durango, I'd like to take a moment to comment on the Lake Nighthorse recreation plan.

While I would be pleased if no motorized craft were permitted on our little lake, if you must allow them, let's make them have little motors. A "no wake" requirement allows those who do need a motor to get to their favorite fishing spot while keeping the serenity that should come with with the lake. That way fishermen, sailboaters, paddleboarders and swimmers will all be able to enjoy the lake equally. If power boaters want to water ski, there are plenty of places within a short drive--Navajo Lake being just one.

Thanks you for your consideration.

-

Sincerely,

~Nick

I care about the success of my friends and clients.

Nick Spence
Principal & Creative Director
The Marketing Department
595 E. 7th Avenue
Durango, CO 81301-5632
phone: 970.259.4027
toll-free: 1.888.246.3614
fax: 970.259.7504
e-mail: nick@marketingdurango.com

Company Pages:
[Web Site](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [YouTube](#)

Personal Pages:
[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [LinkedIn](#)



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse public comment

1 message

Christopher F George <stpaul@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 7:10 PM

Dear Justyn Liff,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion regarding the public use of Lake Nighthorse.

Our personal preference would be that Lake Nighthorse remains a non-motorized lake. There are very few options in this region for paddle or wind powered watercraft to operate without the danger of motorized watercraft.

- 1 If by chance the final decision includes motorized watercrafts, they should be definitely confined to low speeds such as trolling for fishing purposes.

The very idea of opening such a small lake to high power speedboats and personal watercraft presents the possibility of a highly dangerous situation. Furthermore, the use of high-powered expensive watercraft robs many folks in the community who have modest means and simpler less expensive craft of the opportunity to enjoy the amenity of a local lake.

- 2 Finally, the effluent produced by power craft could hardly be considered conducive to the quality of water intended for domestic use.

Sincerely,

Chris and Donna George
Durango CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

PipZip@aol.com <PipZip@aol.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 7:39 PM

To all those involved with the rules regarding the recreation and public use of Lake Nighthorse:

I am a concerned neighbor of Lake Nighthorse. To have this be a power boat free lake would be the obvious first choice of nearly all who live near this great resource. I have attended public meetings concerning the types of use the public would like to see on this lake. I have heard the Coast Guard representative, whose job it would be to conduct rescues of boaters on the lake, testify that the size of the lake should prohibit large motorized boating from a public safety standpoint. I have heard that because there is a boat ramp, motorized boats have to be allowed. Of all the interested people and neighbors to this lake that I have talked to, absolutely no one remembers any public meeting regarding this boat ramp, and all object to having power boats or gasoline powered equipment being allowed on this lake. Because of its small size, location within Ridges Basin, the overwhelming desire is to have this be a motorless, quiet lake. The pollution of gasoline powered vehicles, and the noise factor within the bowl that is Ridges Basin, are the majority concerns. There are also concerns for the wildlife, eagles' nests, migration patterns, wintering grounds that should not be disturbed. The respect that should be accorded tribal lands is deserving of consideration as well. There are traffic concerns alluded to, and not just on county roads 210 & 211, but also on our private road thru Lake Durango. This is a very big concern of our residents in Lake Durango.

- 1 The hopeful possibility of this being a "quiet lake" with kayaks, rowers, sailboats and swimmers is a wonderful idea, for a very small lake in a pristine, quiet natural area. The county should allow such a unique and special area to remain unique and special. For those that feel the need for speed, there are existing lakes for them to use, but there is no lake that is wake free, and predisposed to the quiet users who would love to have that option. Power boaters, jet skiers and other forms of noise and environmental pollution should be excluded from this lake as there are other larger bodies of water already available to them.

Please consider the desires of a considerable population of residents, taxpayers and voters who will feel maligned and ignored if the money that was used to put in a boat ramp, and the boaters who feel entitled to every last drop of open water in the county, prevail over an overwhelming majority of residents who desire keeping this a pristine natural area in our county, and a remarkable landmark showing respect of and for our natural state.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Rostker, 1250 S. Lakeside Dr. Hesperus, CO 81326



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake "Quiethorse"

1 message

JEFF PRATT <jpratt58@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 8:10 PM

- 1 I think the entire lake should be a NO WAKE ZONE. If that is not possible, then designate every other weekend a non-motorized boating weekend.
Please & thank you

Sent from Windows Mail



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse

1 message

James & Marilyn Monger <jmonger@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:03 PM

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft environmental assessment

Dear Mr. Liff,

- 1 In concurrence with Bruce Rodman, I highly request that Lake Nighthorse be dedicated to Non-motorized water recreational opportunities, and especially to a quality public swimming beach, that would add a much needed opportunity that is needed in the local vicinity if Durango.

Or If you cannot revise the motorized boat provision, then Please greatly reduce the speed limit to 10 MPH and limit the # of motorized boats on the lake to no more than 10 at a time

- 2 Additional hiking trails at these lower elevations Should be included in the final plan. This would provide hiking and fitness opportunities to locals and visitors alike, and would reduce the altitude stressors on those from sea level, and on those with reduced blood oxygen levels (which occurs for many as we age).
- 3 There are plenty of campgrounds in the Durango vicinity, there is no need to add campgrounds to Lake Nighthorse. Funding and Management would be serious issues to address if any campground is considered.

Thank you for this opportunity. Sincerely, Marilyn Monger Durango



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Bill Abshagen <abshagenb@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:23 PM

Dear Justin,

Please include our comments in the record concerning: **Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 201611**

1. The motor boating community has 2 large lakes in the immediate area to supply them with ample recreational opportunities.
2. The size of Lake Nighthorse is not conducive to high speed motor boating. Not to mention destroying the tranquility of the environment. If motor boats are to be allowed they should be limited in horse power and 4 cycle only. The entire lake should be deemed no wake.
3. Low impact recreational sports such kayaking, paddle boarding, float tube fishing, fishing from boats powered by electric motors or low horse power gas engines, swimming, wind surfing etc., would all suffer from noisy polluting high horse power motor boats and large wakes. These 2 different classes of recreation would not mix well on this small lake. If power boats are allowed all the other low impact sports would for all practical purposes be eliminated do to conflict of interests.
4. There is a great opportunity to add new hiking trails around the lake. Another low impact activity that people enjoy doing in our community. Most people enjoy the solitude of hiking, not listening to the sound of loud motors broadcast across a high country lake and valley. Sound carries exponentially across water.
5. Camping opportunities abound in LaPlata County and the surrounding area. If camping is allowed who will police the campgrounds and who will pay for the maintenance and repair the vandalism and who will clean the toilets? Campgrounds should definitely not be in the plan. The BLM and Forest Service resources are stretched to the maximum and campgrounds are closing. How can it make sense to add more. Use the money to maintain the existing facilities.

My wife Sharon and I are in favor of keeping Lake Nighthorse a quiet spot close to town and being able to enjoy the tranquility of this special place.—There are not many lake environments other than the high country where one can bond with nature and enjoy a peaceful experience without the noise of power boats.—We encourage the powers that be to disallow gas powered boats on lake Nighthorse.—We would welcome quiet non-polluting electric powered trolling motors as a compromise.—Lake Navajo and Lake Vallecito offer great opportunities for the use of gas powered boats, and they too are close to Durango.

Most Sincerely

Bill (Beatie) and Sharon Abshagen
9 Sunridge Circle
Durango, Colorado 81301
970-749-5960

Sincerely,



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse comments

1 message

Tiffany Mapel <tiffmapel@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Tiffany Mapel <tiffmapel@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:23 PM

Hello,

- 1 I agree with the proposed action on the recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse. Motorized boating should definitely be allowed. Also, the closure to motorized boats from mid-November to mid-May is absolutely reasonable. Day-use only is the way to go.
- 2 My concerns lie with the possibility of someone introducing the invasive Zebra or Quagga mussels into Lake Nighthorse. Is the city willing to staff the boat ramp with a qualified individual to decontaminate boats as they arrive? Will the launch ramp be locked at sundown so no one can launch after dark?

I know that the motorized boating is a big issue for some people who desire a motor-free lake. Perhaps a compromise can be reached? Maybe no motors over 100 horse power? That would eliminate the huge, loud, fast boats that people fear will take over the waterway.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Mapel
Durango, CO



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

JEFF PRATT <jpratt58@msn.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:36 PM

I wish to comment on the recreational use for the lake.
I favor for non motorized boat use only. Possibly for electric motors only.

- 1 The lake should be open to public for fishing, hiking, swimming, paddle boards and canoes immediately!! The public has waited long enough! The lack of leadership from all the agencies is disgraceful.

Jennifer McKigney
469 Rainbow Rd
Durango, CO 81303



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Input from Fred Ochsner

1 message

Fred Ochsner <ochsner@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 9:47 PM

Justyn Liff,

I would like to voice my recommendation for very limited motorboat activity at Lake Nighthorse. This could include an engine size limit, wake restrictions etc. Larger power boats enjoy numerous other options in the area. There are other large lakes in the area with similar restrictions that work well; Heron Lake in Northern NM comes to mind. There is a large local contingent of flat water, non motorized aquatic enthusiasts that deserve strong consideration. I have proposed to Kathy Metz (Durango City Park/Rec. Director) a flat water aquatic club concept that I have participated in elsewhere. These folks are best suited for a quieter lake. They include canoeists, kayakers, SUP, wind sailors etc and rowers/scullers (the oldest collegiate sport and one of the original Olympic sports).

In fact I was a collegiate rower in my youth and my daughter just completed a NCAA D1 All American rowing career in California. Durango would make an excellent high altitude training site for competitive rowers and flat relatively undisturbed water is important. Crew teams have coaching launches but they are designed to be relatively wakeless. Of course the health benefits of human powered craft is tremendous. Thanks for your consideration. Don't hesitate to contact me for further input. I am a long time Family Physician in the Durango community.

Frederick Ochsner MD

C 9707693783

H 9703820448



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Honisch-Mcadams <honisch@mydurango.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 11:29 PM

To Bureau of Reclamation spokesman Justyn Liff,

We are writing this letter in response the draft environmental assessment for Lake Nighthorse Reservoir.

We DO NOT SUPPIORT:

- 1 • Motorized boat/recreation use We feel the size of the reservoir and the close proximity to existing residential areas precludes motorized boat/recreation use. There are other larger local lakes and reservoirs that currently allow motorized boat recreation. Restricting motorized recreation at Lake Nighthorse will provide the only quiet, non- motorized lake experience in the region. As residents of Rafter J we have noticed an increase in noise pollution with the increase in the county/city population growth. If motorized recreation is allowed at Lake Nighthorse this will further increase noise pollution and affect our quality of life.
- 2 • Campground We fully support day use only for the lake but have concerns about a campground considering the city has no experience in managing, operating, maintaining , and policing campgrounds. We are concerned that the close proximity to town will encourage abuses afflicting other local public campgrounds such as Junction Creek.

We SUPPORT:

- 3 • The trail plan for multi-modal use.

We realize that if motorized boats are not allowed that the grant to install the existing boat ramp would have to be reimbursed. We support increasing the day use fee to allow for repayment of the grant.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Bruce Honisch and Patti McAdams

5/25/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Comments for Lake Nighthorse

110 South Elk Run

Durango, CO 81303

354



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Re: Lake Nighthorse

1 message

C J Kummel <kummelcj@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 4:15 AM

Mr. Wamer,

As a resident of Durango and frequent user of Lemon Lake I would like to see Lake Nighthorse to be open to the public.

- 1 I will gladly pay a fee for kayaking and I do NOT support motorized boats.
Carlos Kummel



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: Lake Nighthorse Comment

1 message

Janet <jwolvin@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 7:20 AM

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

—— Original message ——

From: Jan Wolvin <jwolvin@hotmail.com>
Date: 05/25/2016 6:33 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: jliff@usbr.gov
Subject: Lake Nighthorse Comment

Dear Sir,

2 I, like many other Durango residents, wish to comment on recreational plans for Lake Nighthorse. This Lake is going to be a major source of drinking water for thousands of residents that live in the southwest corner of La Plata County. The less this water is contaminated by petrochemicals that arise from the gas powered boats the better. I would ask you to follow the history of Boulder reservoir that did initially allow for motorized vehicles then had to close off the lake to their use when levels of contaminants became worrisome.

1 This Lake was not constructed for the purpose of boating . . . and all of us who live in its vicinity had no say in the construction of the boat dock from the Wallop Breaux funds. I love the old adage that two wrong do not make a right despite the fact that mathematically a negative multiplied by a negative makes a positive. Please do not force the acceptance of large motorized boats on us with attendant noise, traffic tie ups (have you actually seen the intersections of what the large trucks and boats would negotiate?), the necessity of building as well as funding maintenance and staffing of a boat inspection station, and unfortunately the policing of human behavior and detritus. My husband and I were involved in the design workshop held in 2011 and our take away was that there was only a very small minority that wanted this a full access lake; however, they were very vocal as to their "wants" and "rights". Not dissimilar to ATV riders who claim they have the "right" to ride anywhere on government land.

I, we, can only strongly request that this body of water be left a quiet Lake for all the residents and users including local wildlife. The Bodo family must be appalled at how the wants (not needs) of the few are compromising those of the many. With Vallecito Lake and Lake Navaho so close, by why not limit use of motorized vehicles to trolling motors only if it is absolutely necessary to put such vehicles on the water.

In an ideal world this Lake would be left as pristine as possible and be use by human powered craft only. What it draw this would be for Durango to be able to say this Lake is open only to wind surfers, kayakers, paddle boarders, canoers, etc.

Please, please, do not be held hostage to funding that the residents had no say in being utilized. Let's work together to make this Lake a crown jewel of recreation in Durango in keeping with all of our outdoor adventure sports.

Sincerely

William and Janet Wolvin

116 Wildcat Trail

Hesperus, CO 81326



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan comments

1 message

Julie Yarsa <julie.yarsa@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 7:23 AM

Dear Mr. Liff,

I am writing to express my opinion on the recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse currently under review and discussion. I am a Durango resident, living in the Rafter J subdivision which is very close to Lake Nighthorse. In fact, I can see a small bit of the lake from my house.

1 In short, my view is "less is better". I would love for the plan to be the No Action Alternative as described in the draft plan. That alternative would eliminate so many logistical problems and would be best to protect the natural/archeological features of the area and preserve the reservoir's water quality.

Barring no action, I favor a proposal with provisions to limit excess noise from lake users:

- day-use only
- seasonal closures
- no gasoline-powered watercraft (or limited to certain days); mufflers required
- no alcohol

The 2014 Recreation Plan proposal is better than the 2000 or 2011 proposals in this regard. I strongly encourage a "no alcohol" regulation, as sober people seem to be much quieter and respectful of their surroundings.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Sincerely,
Julie Yarsa
550 Saw Mill Road
Durango, CO 81303
970-259-4323



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Elaine Stephenson <ems181@mydurango.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 7:45 AM

We support the comments submitted by Bruce Rodman on May 19th, 2016. Lake Nighthorse can be a jewel for the local surrounding area if managed correctly.

Thank you,
Elaine Stephenson
Lynn Tollar



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse recreation

1 message

Gary Truax <gary.truax@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 9:37 AM

Please consider these thoughts/suggestions regarding recreation and capital improvements at Lake Nighthorse:

1. Management needs to be reactive to what is working and what is not after the lake opens. Seek public input after use begins. Volunteers having discussions with users and suggestion boxes should be available.
2. Can you return the money for the boat ramp and regain independence for policy making and operation of the lake?
3. It will be much easier to add days of motorized boat use than to try and reduce those days of use.
4. In my 50 plus years of boating, I have never seen the speed of a boat measured. In my experience, a speed limit is only a request. Compliance is up to the individual.
5. Who is liable if mussels are introduced?
6. In my personal experience, ramp checks are inconsistent and do not insure that boats are dry upon arrival or completely drained upon exit. The rule sounds good but the reality is that there are too many variables in boat construction, cooling systems and inspection personnel to make inspections as accurate as they need to be.
7. Water skiing has dwindled in popularity and activities that require a large wake have gained in popularity. These large wakes erode the shoreline, require a powerful boat and create unwelcome choppy waters for other lake users. Boaters often add weight (in the form of water ballast) to the rear of the boat to enhance the size of the wake.
8. These ballast bags should not be allowed on the lake. These add another layer of possibility for mussel



9. Consider maintaining a fleet of rental boats instead of allowing the public to bring their own. Electric "Duffy's" and gas powered fishing boats (limited horsepower). This would keep the lake quiet and clean. This would allow the public to reserve a boat, show up and be on the water in a very short amount of time, perfect for after work fishing or entertaining.
10. A rental fleet gives boating access to those that do not own a boat.
11. If rentals only were the policy, no mussel inspection team required.
12. If rentals only were the policy, no chance for mussel introduction.
13. If rentals only were the policy, there would be a reduction in the parking area required for boat trailers.
14. Buildings should be constructed with natural materials. Adobe would be a great choice blending with the environment and being respectful of the area where the lake was created. A beautiful example of this architecture is the Amerind Museum in Dragoon, AZ. <http://www.amerind.org/index.html>
15. Interpretive areas are desirable for both school field trips and the general public. Provides a natural

interaction between lake management and visitors. This also introduces young family members to various activities available at the lake thus introducing the rest of the family to these activities.

6. Consider marketing opportunities derived from convention attendees. Folks attending events at local hotels have large budgets for activities. This could contribute considerable income for the lake and result in new users returning. This would also support the rental fleet.
7. Make it easy (affordable) for locals to show off their new lake. Taking a visiting guest up to the lake just to walk around and see what there is to do would payoff in additional use.
8. Ease into capital expenditures. Wait for the users to show where the demand is for additional facilities.
19. Rowing club? Would this develop into a new sport for local schools? Low impact, reasonable cost for equipment. A healthy activity that encourages adult/adolescent interaction.
20. Much easier to add uses and activities than to take them away. This is especially true considering the expense some folks go to to own and maintain boats and sporting equipment.
21. What is a "Duffy" electric boat?



359



Thanks for your consideration,

5/25/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse recreation

Gary Truax

359



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: Comment for Reclamation

1 message

Andreason, Anee <aandreason@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 10:30 AM

To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: Marlon Duke <mduke@usbr.gov>, Christopher Watt <cwatt@usbr.gov>

Justyn,

I believe this will be one of many. Will you please respond to the inquiry below?

Thank you,

Anee Andreason
Bureau of Reclamation
Public Affairs
(801) 524-3769

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <gail@aaha.com>

Date: Tue, May 24, 2016 at 6:29 PM

Subject: Comment for Reclamation

To: lmeredith@usbr.gov, rgabour@usbr.gov, psoeth@usbr.gov

From Gail Aalund (gail@aaha.com) on 05/24/2016 at 06:05:24MSGBODY:
Lake Nighthorse Comment - deadline Ma 25, 2016

As a citizen of Durango, I fully support the Durango Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's recommendations in total. Please open the area to the public with the nature-based approach advocated by our local representatives. Thank you for your attention.

Previous Page: <http://www.usbr.gov/main/comments.cfm>



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse public comment - again?

1 message

Donna Suggs <happydayz@bresnan.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 10:38 AM

Hi Justyn –

I hesitate to comment on Lake Nighthorse (again) in light of the fact that I attended the evening public meetings a couple of years ago, and found it ultimately to be a facade. (98% of those present voiced a strong opposition to motorized watercraft, then the actual planning groups were later formed at a meeting held mid-day during the work week when most people were at their jobs, and the planning group for water use conveniently ended up being almost completely composed of those who wanted motorized use which was totally contrary to the community hearings) In addition, for some reason, money had already been accepted for a boat ramp, (prior to "public input") which HAD to be used even though the community input was for non-motorized? This entire planning process has reeked of deception wouldn't you say? The Durango Herald references "officials are expected to ask that multiple types of watercraft be accommodated besides motorized boats". Whereas the community hearings firmly and strongly expressed that there be multiple types of watercraft WITHOUT or with very LIMITED motorized use. Here we go again!!!!???

Seriously??? Big money bought a boat ramp and now we are still in the "bought out / obligated" phase of planning vs what the community has already stated it wanted.

- 1 Anyhow – for what it's worth, and I doubt it is worth much based on what happened after the evening "community hearings"..... I would prefer that Lake Nighthorse not allow motorized craft. Banning it from mid-Nov until mid-May? What's the point in that? Banning it from mid-May to mid-November sounds more appropriate based on what I heard voiced at the community hearings. Maybe BLM should give back that boat ramp and then we can start over with what the public has already stated they want. Oh wait – that was suggested at the "community meetings" and we were told that was not an option because the boat ramp was a "done deal".

I hope you can understand my frustration. It all seems to be such a hoax doesn't it? Politics Here we go again. I'll never attend another public meeting. What's the point? And I question if this "opportunity to voice my opinion" by emailing you is yet another façade to pretend the BLM wants public input when in fact they have already made their decision. Shame shame shame!

Thank you for the chance to voice my frustration and disappointment in this "planning" process. And the game goes on? Oh how I'd so love to be wrong.....PLEASE!
Regards, Donna Suggs



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comment letter on Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

1 message

Jan MayerGawlik <Jan.MayerGawlik@co.laplata.co.us>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 10:30 AM

Hello Ms. Liff,

Please accept the attached letter from the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Animas-La Plata Project.

Thank you, and have a good day.

Jan

Jan Mayer-Gawlik

Asst. to the Board of County Commissioners

La Plata County

1101 East 2nd Avenue

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 382-6219

jan.mayergawlik@co.laplata.co.us

**Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan Comment letter 5-24-16.pdf**

947K



La Plata County
EST. 1871

Board of County Commissioners

Bradford P. Blake, Chair • Julie Westendorff, Vice Chair • Gwen Lachelt, Commissioner

1100 East 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
Phone: 363-6219

May 24, 2016

Via e-mail @ jliff@usbr.gov

US Bureau of Reclamation
Ms. Justyn Liff
Western Colorado Area Office

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Animas-La Plata Project

Dear Ms. Liff,

The Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County has reviewed the proposed draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Animas-La Plata project. We have the following comments regarding the draft proposal.

Policy Comments

- 1 • The Commissioners would like the EA to consider mitigating impacts (including noise and trespass issues) to property owners on the west side of the management area in the Trappers Crossing Subdivision. For example, there is a trail that crosses into the Trappers Crossing Subdivision and back onto Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) lands. That segment proposes crossing private property and any use of such a trail would need to have legal access issues addressed appropriately.
- 2 • The County requests that the recreational facilities and regulations accommodate multiple types of water crafts ensuring non-motorized uses have the opportunity to enjoy the lake as well as motorized boats. Adequate no-wake areas and horsepower limitations could protect non-motorized uses and help prevent erosion.
- 3 • As a community that has experienced devastating wildfires in the past, La Plata County is acutely aware of the risks posed by unsafe fire conditions. Whatever uses are ultimately approved, the Commissioners strongly urge the BOR and recreation operator to mitigate and manage wildfire risks, particularly in any day use and camping areas.
- 4 • The BOR needs to contact the La Plata County Planning Department regarding the possible need to conduct a Location and Extent review under La Plata County Land Use Code Sec. 82-9.
- 5

Technical Comments

At the request of the Board, County staff reviewed the proposed draft EA for the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Animas-La Plata project, and would like the BOR to address the following technical comments.

- 6 • The additional traffic from vehicles initially towing boats and ultimately also towing campers will have significant impacts to the U.S. 550-160/Frontage Road intersection and the anticipated substandard level of service (LOS) by the year 2020..

The EA summarizes this by stating:

"A traffic monitoring plan may be implemented to verify the assumptions of the completed traffic study, update the study as necessary, and identify when corrective actions are required. Design and implementation of the traffic monitoring plan and development of corrective actions would be coordinated with Reclamation, ALPOMRA, the City of Durango, La Plata County, and CDOT." (emphasis added)

This solution is open ended with no formal commitment to participate, while the EA acknowledges this intersection will be a problem.

"Implementation of a recreation plan under the action alternatives would contribute to a substandard LOS in 2020 of the U.S.550-160/Frontage Road intersection. The contribution of the action alternatives to Friday evening peak hour traffic at this intersection would be up to approximately 9 percent, and this intersection is expected to reach a substandard LOS in 2020 even if no recreation plan is implemented (Russell Planning and Engineering 2011)". (bottom of PDF page 88, top of 89)

The County would like to see a more concrete commitment to address this issue.

- 7 • Added traffic to County Road 210 and the associated impacts to the chip seal surface is a concern. This road was chip sealed upon completion of construction in 2010, in anticipation the road would require asphalt paving at some time in the near future. The chip seal surface has started to fail and consideration should be given to the need for a long term durable asphalt pavement capable of handling the anticipated increased traffic associated with the development of recreational uses at Lake Nighthorse.
- 8 • There is insufficient information to determine the level of impacts to County Road 211, if any, from the proposed west end trail head and fishing access.
- The consideration of no motorized boats was eliminated from the alternatives based on the receipt of a \$3 million Motorboat Access grant from the state for construction of a boat ramp, parking area, a vault restroom, and an access road. Construction of the boat ramp project was

completed in 2012. The purpose of the alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act is to minimize impacts to human health and the environment. Since the boat ramp was already constructed under grant money, non-motorized boats were placed under alternatives considered, but eliminated, based on the grant funding and a potential reduction in visitor spending during summer months. Non-motorized boats should be explored as an alternative as a way to minimize impacts or cause the least amount of damage to the biological and physical environment.

La Plata County appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan, Animas-La Plata project.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Brad Blake
Chair



Julie Westendorff
Vice-Chair



Gwen Lachelt
Commissioner

Cc: Joe Kerby, La Plata County Manager
Sheryl Rogers, La Plata County Attorney
Jim Davis, Public Works Director



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

SUT comments - ALP Recreation EA

1 message

Atencio, Lena <latencio@southernute-nsn.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 11:26 AM

To: "Louis (Ed) Warner" <LWarner@usbr.gov>, "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: Scott McElroy <smcelroy@mmwclaw.com>, Cathy Condon <ccondon@mmwclaw.com>, "Whiteman, Steve" <swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov>

Ed/Justyn:

Attached is the Southern Ute Tribe's comments related to BOR ALP Recreation EA, due 5/25/2016.

**20160523 SUT comments_ALP Recreation EA.pdf**

1079K



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

May 23, 2016

Ed Warner, Area Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
445 West Gunnison Ave Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
lwarner@usbr.gov

970-248-0600

Re: ALP Recreation Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Warner:

Thank you for providing the Southern Ute Indian Tribe ("Tribe") with the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Environmental Assessment Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan* (March, 2016) ("DEA"). As you know, the Animas-La Plata Project ("ALP" or "Project") is a key component of the settlement of the Tribe's and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's water rights. As part of the settlement, the Project provides the two Tribes with a reliable and firm supply of water to meet their present and future needs. ALP also provides important drinking water supplies to the Navajo Nation and local non-Indian communities in New Mexico and Colorado.

While Lake Nighthorse and adjacent Project lands have the ability to provide additional recreation opportunities to the surrounding area, recreation has always been at most a secondary purpose that cannot interfere with the Project's primary water supply purpose. Over the past few years, the Tribe has worked with the Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") and other interested parties to try to develop a recreation plan that does not interfere with Project's primary purpose to provide a municipal and industrial water supply to the Tribe and others.

- 1 The Tribe has four principal concerns related to recreation development at Lake Nighthorse.
- 2 First, such development must not interfere with the Project's primary water supply purpose.
- 3 Second, the significant cultural resources in the area must be protected and respected. Third,
- 4 Tribal lands adjacent to the Project lands must be protected from trespass. Fourth, issues regarding the Tribe's Brunot rights must be resolved with appropriate deference given to those rights.

Ed Warner
May 23, 2016
Page 2

The proposed action, the 2014 Recreation Plan (“2014 Plan”), reduces the chances of Lake Nighthorse recreation interfering with the Project’s primary water supply purpose. It is critical, however, that all of the commitments and mitigation measures described in the DEA be fully implemented and enforced to ensure the compatibility of the proposed limited recreation development with ALP’s primary purpose as a municipal and industrial water supply project. In particular, the provisions to monitor water quality and to address any adverse effects of recreation on the Project’s water supply are critical to ensure that recreation development is carried out in a way that is consistent with ALP’s water supply purposes. In addition, the City of Durango (“City”) as recreation manager must be prepared to respond immediately to spills and other emergency situations as described in the DEA.

The issues surrounding protection and respect for the cultural resources on the ALP lands are more difficult. It will be important for the Cultural Resources Management Plan for the area be fully developed and implemented to protect those sensitive resources in the event recreation development occurs as contemplated. Despite the protection that should be afforded by such a plan, many members of the Ute Tribes believe that recreation should not occur on the ALP lands in light of the cultural resources on site. Those concerns are partially addressed by the 2014 Plan’s reduced footprint which avoids certain of the more sensitive areas. The proposed effort to inform the public of the need to respect these resources is also helpful. However, the 2014 Plan fails to adequately address the issue of law enforcement on the ALP lands which are not part of the area proposed for recreation development and annexed by the City. Additional security must be provided for that area. The Tribe proposes that Reclamation contract with the Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to allow tribal rangers to patrol the area and provide an added presence to ensure that the cultural resources are protected and respected.

The lack of adequate enforcement on the non-annexed land may also contribute to problems with trespass on adjacent tribal lands. Again, a tribal presence on the non-annexed lands may help in ensuring that recreation participants remain in the annexed area and do not wander on to the closed portions of the Project lands or adjacent tribal lands.

4 Finally, the Tribe contends that the 2014 Plan must recognize that the Tribe’s right to exercise its Brunot Treaty rights in an appropriate manner on the ALP lands. Section 6 of the “final draft” lease agreement between Reclamation and the City, dated November 18, 2015, provides that prior to opening the recreation area, Reclamation, the City and the two Ute Tribes will agree on the terms for the exercise of Brunot Treaty rights within the area as well as address the question of the payment of fees by tribal members. The language in the DEA deferring consideration of the issues associated with tribal exercise of Brunot Treaty rights is inconsistent with that

Ed Warner
May 23, 2016
Page 3

7 commitment. The final EA should recognize that such rights will be exercised on the ALP lands, and Reclamation should act promptly to resolve the issues related to such activities. As a practical matter, it would be helpful if at the same time, Reclamation would commit to working with Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife ("DPW") to address the question of public hunting on the ALP lands.

As you know, the issue of recreation development at ALP has been highly contentious over the past few years. Working together, the affected parties have addressed many of the controversial issues and a plan for moving forward with limited recreation has been developed. It is critically important, however, that all of the mitigation measures and other commitments be fully implemented if the 2014 Plan is to avoid the problems that plagued more ambitious development plans. Moreover, additional work is needed before the opening of the Project lands to address the issues surrounding the Tribes' exercise of their Brunot rights on those lands. The Tribe is ready to work with the City and Reclamation to address those issues.

Sincerely,



Clement J. Frost, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

cc: Lena Atencio
Scott McElroy
M. Catherine Condon
Peter Ortego



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Plan

1 message

Tom Morrissey <tmo1@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 11:58 AM

Dear Justyn,

First of all I want to thank you and the Bureau for extending the timeline.

- I participated in the 2011 Community Meetings regarding Lake Nighthorse. I completed my house in Trappers in 04; moved in full time in 2007. I have been hiking the entire Ridges Basin since purchasing the property in 2000 until it's closure.
- One of the things that disturbed me was being shouted down and called names by power boat owners, proponents. It was not handled well by the facilitators.
- In 2008 we queried the State about the number of registered boats in LaPlata County.
- It came out to just under %5 of the county population. Note this also includes any non-motorized craft e.g. sailboats. Even if you doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled that to estimate families and friends that would still be less than 20%.
- It seems patently unfair (maybe even unethical) to let that small of a population segment have SO MUCH impact on the plan.
 - Subject: FW: La Plata County Boat Registrations
Date: Mon, 30 Mar 2009 14:21:28 -0600
From: Tania.Hale@state.co.us
 - All we have is by county for the 2008 year – La Plata is 2,140 vessels

Of all the options, I am in favor of (as in least opposed to) **2.1 PROPOSED ACTION—2014 RECREATION PLAN**

- 2 • I pleased to see only day use is planned, and camping is not.
- 3 • PLEASE consider the option of having NON-MOTORIZED (or no wake) time periods on the lake so kayakers, sailors, windsurfers, paddle boarders, don't have to worry about dodging motor boats and wakes.

My main concerns:

- 4 • Water Quality, Noise Pollution as a result of
 - Gasoline Motor boat usage:
 - I am most concerned about the impacts of motorized gasoline engines on water quality as our Water comes from Lake Durango; which as I'm sure you know will be purchasing Lake Nighthorse water in the near future.
 - I am also concerned about noise pollution, and how to deal with excessive noise once the lake is open.
 - 5 ○ How will this be patrolled, and how will complaints be handled.
 - I can hear the train whistle on calm mornings

Fire Danger

- 6 • As a longtime resident, I know how often and strong the wind blows through Ridges Basin. There are days when it seems we are in a wind tunnel. I had 3 patio umbrellas weighted down with water and rocks blown away before I gave up.
 - The wind does not always blow from east to west.
 - In the event camping is offered in the future
 - **NO OPEN FIRES SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**

Thanks again for the extended opportunity.

5/25/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Comments on Lake Nighthorse Plan

364

Regards,

T-mo, Tom Morrissey

970-403-5656

425-765-5430



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Lynndee Beller <lynndee@inbalance.work>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 11:59 AM

I feel that this "in town lake" is best suited for low impact recreation.

1

Like Electra Lake the entire area could be classified as a "NO WAKE ZONE"

this allows fisherman, sailboats, windsurfers, rafts, and swimmers to enjoy recreation without the noise and pollution that power boats generate.

Lynndee Beller



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

jenlibera <jenlibera9@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 12:30 PM

Lake Nighthorse is a small lake, less than 1,000 acres.

I feel that this "in town lake" is best suited for low impact recreation,

Like Electra Lake the entire area should be classified as a "NO WAKE ZONE" this allows fisherman, sailboats, windsurfers, rafts, and swimmers to enjoy recreation without the noise and pollution that power boats generate.

We already have quite a few options in La Plata County for motorized recreation, it would be nice to have another non-motorized option.

Thank You for your careful consideration!

Jen Libera



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

Kelly Ray Mathews <jenlibera9@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 12:30 PM

Lake Nighthorse is a small lake, less than 1,000 acres.

I feel that this "in town lake" is best suited for low impact recreation.

Like Electra Lake the entire area should be classified as a "NO WAKE ZONE" this allows fisherman, sailboats, windsurfers, rafts, and swimmers to enjoy recreation without the noise and pollution that power boats generate.

We already have quite a few options in La Plata County for motorized recreation, it would be nice to have another non-motorized option.

Thank You for your careful consideration!

Kelly Mathews

5/25/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake

368



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake

1 message

Laura <riverstone@frontier.net>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 12:34 PM

1 Please make it a "no wake zone" so more people may enjoy it!!! Thank you,
Laura Stephens

Sent from my iPhone



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

Orien McGlamery <orien_mcglamery@hotmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 3:36 PM

Attn: Justyn Liff, BLM

Re: Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016

BOATING & SWIMMING

- 1 I would like to see motorized boats allowed. It would be so nice to go out on the water after work. I lived in Arizona and there are much smaller lakes that allow ski boats. Many different users were able to enjoy the lakes together; ski boats, sail boats, sups, canoes and swimmers. These lakes also served as municipal water sources.

Swimming should be allowed at the lake. Families need a place to swim outdoors that is not on a river.

Lake Nighthorse if fed from the Animas and unfortunately the Animas is not pristine.

TRAILS

- 2 Hiking and biking trails will also be nice to have at Lake Nighthorse.

CAMPGROUNDS

- 3 If Lake Nighthorse had nice camp grounds I would camp there, even though I live in Durango. I think a nice camp ground is a good idea.

CONSESIONS

- 4 I would like to see boat rentals at Lake Nighthorse. This would cut down on the number of boats and SUPS that would need to be inspected because the boats would not leave the vicinity of the lake.

Sincerely,

Orien McGlamery

522 Jenkins Ranch Road

Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments on Lake Nighthorse Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), March 2016

1 message

Matthew McGlamery <matthew.mcglamery@gmail.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 4:12 PM

Boating and Swimming

- 1 Lake Nighthorse is of sufficient size to handle multiple boating types. Motorized boats should be allowed on the lake as a form of recreation and will provide a positive economic benefit to the Durango area. I would support limiting PWC to certain areas of the lake, speed limits and wakeless areas which are common practices.
- 2 I fully support allowing swimming in the lake and see no reason it would need to be prohibited. The lake is already being fed from the Animas river which allows swimming. A nice swimming and picnicking beach would be a benefit to the the area and gives our youth and young families additional low cost recreation opportunities.

Trails

- 3 I believe an official trail system would be beneficial and would reduce renegade trails from forming.

Campgrounds

- 4 Official campgrounds would provide an additional benefit to the area and would reduce any renegade camping and impact that will occur. Even though I live in Durango I would use a campground during the summer and would be happy to pay a reasonable fee.

Concessions

- 5 I would like to see a marina with boat slips, dry storage and buoys. Boats stored within the marina would lessen the load on the boat inspection and provide a service and economic benefit.

General Comment

Lake Nighthorse is an incredible resource to have within minutes of Durango. I think it should be developed to provide the most benefit to the community and area. Multiple recreation forms coexist on many many lakes across the US. Let's make the most of Lake Nighthorse and not prevent or limit public use of the lake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew McGlamery
522 Jenkins Ranch Road
Durango, CO 81301

5/26/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - (no subject)

371



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

sue berkhahn <soozieq05@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 5:18 PM

- 1 I am in support of this lake being no wake.
Thank you.
Sue Berkhahn



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

CPW Comment on Lake Nighthorse Recreation EA

1 message

Thorpe - DNR, Matt <matt.thorpe@state.co.us>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 5:20 PM

Justyn:

Attached are CPW's comments on the recreation EA for Lake Nighthorse.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Matt

-

Matt Thorpe
Area Wildlife Manager
Area 15- Durango**COLORADO**

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

P 970.375.6770 | F 970.382.6642 | C 970.903.0619
151 E. 16th Street, Durango, CO 81301
matt.thorpe@state.co.us | cpw.state.co.us

5 attachments

- Attachment 1_LNH Rec Comments 01-2016.pdf**
227K
- Attachment 2_Lake Nighthorse master Rec Plan.pdf**
53K
- Attachment 3_Lake_Nighthorse_PDEA_October_2012[1]_CPW Comments 5Nov2012.pdf**
1935K
- Attachment 4_ALP Cultural Resource Plan Comment letter.pdf**
166K
- LNH Rec Comments05-2016.pdf**
213K



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Durango Area Office
151 East 16th Street
Durango, Colorado 81301
P 970.247.0855 | F 970.382.6672

372

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Durango Field Office
835 East Second Ave, Suite 300
Durango, CO 81301-5475

5/20/2016

To Whom It May Concern,

- 1 Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the **Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)** dated March 2016. CPW made comments on the Preliminary Draft EA in January 2016 (Attachment 1). In addition, CPW commented on the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan in December 2011 (Attachment 2), November 2012 (via notes in the PDF provided for internal stake holder review (Attachment 3), and in November 2014 (Attachment 4). We have reviewed the proposed recreation alternatives outlined in the Environmental Assessment. Portions of Action Alternative 1 (2011 Recreation Plan) do not conform to the FEIS, the effects from this action would significantly impact the human environment, and these effects have not been fully analyzed in the EIS. Thus, portions of this alternative cannot be tiered to the EIS under 43 CFR 46.140. Please refer to previous comments for more discussion regarding Action Alternative 1 (Attachment 1 and 2). Our comments below focus on the lack of analysis and failure to include hunting recreation at Lake Nighthorse in the EA.

CPW is disappointed that BOR did not include hunting (Tribal Brunot Treaty Hunting Rights and public hunting) in the Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse (LNH). The Tribes and CPW have repeatedly requested that hunting be a key component of the Recreation Plan at LNH. Hunting provides important recreation opportunity for the public, restores a historical use of the property, and fulfills cultural and legal obligations to the Tribes and to the public. Hunting is a low impact activity that does not require additional facilities, construction, or vegetation/habitat impacts to accommodate this recreational and cultural use at LNH. In addition, hunting is compatible with project purpose and can be conducted in a manner that protects the health and safety of the public, infrastructure, and personnel. Consequently Tribal and public hunting conforms to the Proposed Action (2014 Recreation Plan), Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 in the EA.

Non-conformance with Reclamation Policy

There has been no consideration or discussion of hunting in the Recreation Plan EA despite repeated requests to analyze and include hunting in the recreation plan. As a result, the draft EA seems to be in conflict with Reclamation Policy, Reclamation Directives and Standards, and Presidential Executive Order 13433. The relevant sections of the referenced documents are detailed in the attached appendix. CPW feels that the information provided demonstrates that hunting should be a part of this analysis and we ask that you include it as you move forward.



Suggestions for modifying the EA

- 1 The 2014 Recreation Plan (Proposed Action) specifically mentions the fact that the Brunot Treaty preserved the right of the Ute Tribes to hunt within the Brunot Area. Honoring the Brunot Agreement/Treaty Rights is listed as a "Guiding Principal" in the October 2014 Recreation Plan, yet hunting or any discussion of hunting is absent in the EA.

CPW requests that hunting be identified as an integral component of the Proposed Action described in the EA for the LNH Recreation Plan before the Final EA and the ROD are completed and signed. Although this planning effort is chiefly designed to allow limited recreation by the public within a smaller footprint of the total project area, CPW feels that addressing hunting within the EA is necessary. We understand that the specific regulations of hunting at LNH require additional discussions between the stakeholders; however, it is a disservice to the Tribes and the public to forgo inclusion of hunting in the Recreation Plan EA at this point in the process. Therefore, at a minimum, we recommend modifying *Table 1. Commitments common to the action alternatives* and Section 3.7.1, 3.7.2 to include the following language regarding hunting at LNH:

- 2 *Public hunting and the exercise of Brunot Treaty Hunting Rights by the Tribes will be allowed at Lake Nighthorse. Property specific regulations of hunting on any or all parts of Project Lands will be developed in coordination with the Tribes, CPW, the recreation manager, Reclamation and other stakeholders.*
- 3 Seasonal Closures

CPW is supportive of seasonal closures to protect terrestrial wildlife species during critical times per the FEIS. The west side and south side upland closures will ensure that these areas continue to function as big game winter habitat and as a migration corridor. We are also supportive of the proposed golden eagle nest closures.

We do not think it is necessary to close the lake itself to recreationists November 16-May 15. While this period is not the peak season for flat water based recreation there are still opportunities for hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, non-motorized boaters and others to enjoy the reservoir during this time while having minimal impacts to other resources. The closures along the south and western portions of the property would still provide habitat and a corridor for wildlife movement to the Bodo SWA. We encourage the BOR to modify the EA to allow lake use during this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with you on appropriately managing recreational hunting at LNH.

Sincerely,



Matt Thorpe

Area Wildlife Manager, Durango

Xc: Stephanie Schuler District Wildlife Manager, Brian Magee SW Region Land Use Coordinator, Area 15 File, Patt Dorsey SW Regional Manager, Regional File

APPENDIX A- Reclamation Policy, Reclamation Directives and Standards, and Presidential Executive Order 13433 Pertinent to Hunting and Recreation

- Reclamation Manual Policy (LND P04) states: Reclamation will give *full* [emphasis added] consideration for the inclusion of outdoor recreation opportunities in project planning that is commensurate with public needs and Reclamation responsibilities, objectives and authorities.”
- Reclamation Manual LND 01-03 Directives and Standards 9.E states:“...recreation planning or any comprehensive planning study conducted by Reclamation, manager will ensure that appropriate actions are taken, where appropriate, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat...”.
- Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards LND 01-03 #23 states:“Reclamation will provide for public use of lands in accordance with state and federal laws and will allow public hunting, fishing and trapping...hunting, fishing, trapping, will be in consultation with the appropriate state game and fish agencies and will include a public involvement and NEPA process...”.
- Presidential Executive Order 13433-Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation- Section 2 Federal Activities. Federal agencies *shall* [emphasis added], consistent with agency mission:
 - A) evaluate the effect of agency actions on trends in hunting participation and where appropriate address declining trends, and implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public;
 - B) consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;
 - C) manage wildlife and wildlife habitat on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances opportunities, including through the use of hunting in wildlife management planning;
 - D) work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources;
 - E) establish short and long terms goals, in cooperation with State and tribal governments, and consistent with agency missions, to foster healthy and productive populations of game species and appropriate opportunities for the public to hunt those species;
 - F) ensure that agency plans and actions consider programs and recommendations of comprehensive planning efforts such as State Wildlife Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl management Plan, and other range-wide management plans for big game and upland game birds;
 - G) seek the advice of State and Tribal fish and game agencies, and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council and other organizations, with respect to the foregoing Federal activities.



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Durango Area Office
151 East 16th Street
Durango, Colorado 81301
P 970.247.0855 | F 970.382.6672

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Durango Field Office
835 East Second Ave, Suite 300
Durango, CO 81301-5475

January 19, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA). The CPW has made previous comments on the Lake Nighthorse recreation plan in December 2011 (Attachment 1), November 2012 (via sticky notes in the PDF provide for internal stake holder review, Attachment 2), and November 2014 (Attachment 3). We have reviewed the proposed recreation alternatives outlined in the Environmental Assessment. Portions of Action Alternative 1 (2011 Recreation Plan) do not conform to the FEIS; and thus, the anticipated recreational and facility development impacts cannot be tiered to that NEPA document. Please refer to previous comments for more discussion regarding Action Alternative 1 (Attachment 1).

4 Unmitigated loss of public land hunting opportunity

The reservoir and surrounding area were formerly managed by the CPW as Bodo State Wildlife Area (SWA) for wildlife habitat and low-intensity, wildlife-related recreation, namely hunting. This area was critically important to CPW's wildlife management efforts in Game Management Unit (GMU) 741 and provided the only public hunting opportunity in that GMU. The Animas La Plata Project (ALP) has resulted in the loss of a unique public hunting area in this GMU. BOR acquired a "Mitigation Area" (MA) to offset the loss of habitat from the ALP project, but the MA has never been opened for public hunting.

Over 15 years has passed since portions of Bodo SWA were condemned and closed to the public and sportsmen for the ALP Project. CPW has repeatedly and publically expressed our desire to open public hunting of the Reservoir and the MA to help offset impacts to wildlife resources and wildlife-related recreation opportunities from the ALP project. If the MA cannot be opened for public hunting, BOR should seek other opportunities to restore to sportsmen this unique public land hunting opportunity in GMU 741. The Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse needs to include recreational hunting opportunities. Depending on the alternative selected, Lake Nighthorse could support waterfowl hunting and the surrounding BOR lands could support small game and some limited big game opportunity. Hunting can occur at LNH and the surrounding BOR lands in a manner that is safe, benefits the community, helps achieve the Project's Propose, and is compatible with other recreational opportunities at LNH.



6 Waterfowl Hunting

In La Plata County there is very limited public land waterfowl hunting opportunity. Currently the only public land waterfowl hunting at lower elevations is Pastorius SWA, located on the Florida Mesa. In most years this SWA is iced up by mid-late December and no longer provides essential habitat or hunting opportunity for waterfowl until ice melts. However, Lake Nighthorse could provide extended season waterfowl hunting opportunity due to its size and lack of ice cover in most years.

Waterfowl seasons run from October-January which generally is a low use period for other water based recreational activities. There are numerous examples of other reservoirs that allow waterfowl hunting in addition to traditional boating recreation and fishing (Navajo State Park, Vallecito Reservoir, Lemon Reservoir). Management of these reservoirs include some restrictions on where you can hunt in proximity to other recreational facilities (e.g. boat ramp, camp grounds, etc.), but for the most part these areas are open and conflicts with other users are rare.

6 Hunting not only adds additional recreational opportunity but it brings income to the area by creating this opportunity. During the fall season, La Plata County has an influx of sportsmen and women visiting the area for hunting season and fishing opportunities. These sportsmen and women bring in approximately \$43 million in direct and secondary expenditures in La Plata County in 2008 (BBC Research and Consulting 2008).

7 In addition, some stakeholders have raised the concern of waterfowl contributing to degradation of water quality at LNH, and have expressed their desire to allow hunting at LNH as a water quality control measure. Geese can pose a human health problem and *will* contribute nutrients to the body of water if they are allowed to concentrate for extended periods of time. Goose feces on the shore and in the water can cause e-coli outbreaks which can be contracted by humans. Fecal e-coli is also a serious regulatory issue for water treatment plants. CPW recognizes that it would be difficult to predict the impact of geese and other waterfowl on water quality at LNH. However, hunting provides a management tool to control the waterfowl populations, it functions as a hazing mechanism to keep waterfowl from concentrating and becoming residents, and it is a relatively low cost/no cost solution to a problem that *could* cost millions to remedy after-the-fact.

CPW would like to see, at a minimum, waterfowl hunting added into all of the action alternatives prior to the EA going out for public review and comment. CPW, USFWS, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the public have made repeated requests to the BOR to allow hunting at Lake Nighthorse. The BOR recognized and advocated for hunting in its response (1997) to the USFWS recommendations under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The public has a desire to hunt in this area; it was committed to in the FEIS and should be a central focus of any recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse.

8 Brunot Treaty Hunting Rights

CPW recognizes that the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes wish to exercise their hunting and fishing rights under Brunot at LNH and on the surrounding BOR lands. We support hunting and fishing activities in these areas. We feel that it is BOR's responsibility to ensure that these activities continue, and are promoted for the benefit of Tribal Members and the public.

Section 2.5 Commitments Common to all Action Alternatives

3 Seasonal Closures

CPW is supportive of seasonal closures to protect terrestrial wildlife species during critical times. The west side and south side closures will ensure that these areas continue to function as big game winter habitat and as a migration corridor. We are also supportive of the proposed golden eagle nest closures.

However, we do not understand the rationale for closing the lake to recreationist beginning November 16-May 15. While this period is not the peak season for flat water based recreation there are still opportunities for hunters, fisherman, wildlife watchers, and others to enjoy the reservoir during this time while having minimal impacts to other resources. We encourage the BOR to modify the EA to allow lake use during this time.

9 Trails

As previously noted some trail development in the Action Alternatives exceeds the impacts disclosed in the FEIS. Should trails be developed north of CR 210, we request that the BOR fence its boundary with Bodo SWA. Protecting deer and elk should be the primary driver for SWA lands and Bureau lands north of CR 210. These lands should be restricted or at a minimum have extended seasonal closures to protect wintering animals. If trails are constructed and open seasonally, we recommend mitigation measures e.g., setbacks, use of natural barriers such as vegetation and/or topography, wildlife friendly fencing, etc., to assure that social trails and additional trail development do not degrade the habitat values on Bodo SWA (Attachment 1).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Matt Thorpe

Area Wildlife Manager, Durango

Xc: Stephanie Schuler District Wildlife Manager, Brian Magee SW Region Land Use Coordinator, Area 15 File, Patt Dorsey SW Regional Manager, Regional File



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southwest Region
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303

372

Mr. Ed Warner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office
445 W. Gunnison Ave., Suite 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

17 November 2014

Mr. Warner:

10 Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) DRAFT RIDGES BASIN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, OCTOBER 2014, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Cultural Resource Plan.

CPW is pleased to see a plan that considers the needs of facility development and recreational activities on the property while protecting the cultural sites in the Animas-La Plata Project Area. CPW offers the following comments on the Draft Plan:

The Draft Plan states:

"Recreation activities may include boating, fishing, swimming, and camping. In addition, hiking, mountain biking, and/or horseback riding may be approved on existing roads and trails."

The Ridges Basin area was formerly managed by the CPW for wildlife habitat and wildlife-related recreation. The FSEIS commits that "Wildlife-related activities will be encouraged." In addition to fishing, wildlife related activities include hunting and wildlife viewing activities. We suggest modifying the language in the Draft Plan to include hunting and wildlife viewing under the Recreation and Development Section.

The commitments, in the FSEIS (page 3-88 of the FSEIS), to limiting recreational facility development to the northern side of the reservoir, and the seasonal closure of areas to human activities protects wildlife habitat and will reduce the chance of damage, theft, or vandalism of cultural resources. We encourage the BOR to include these commitments in the Draft Plan.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. Dorsey
Southwest Region Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

xc: Area 15, SWRO





Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Nighthorse reservoir

1 message

wendy pollak <pollak_wa@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: wendy pollak <pollak_wa@yahoo.com>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 5:55 PM

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our opinion regarding usage of Nighthorse Reservoir. Given it's relatively small size, and abundant surrounding wildlife, it seems prudent that motorized boat traffic be kept strictly to trolling motors. Since nearby Navajo and Vallecito reservoir's are open to motor boat and jet ski traffic, we feel that more consideration should be given to Lake Nighthorse for quieter recreational pursuits such as canoeing, paddle boarding, kayaking and rowing.

The funding and building of the boat ramp should be irrelevant in determining the future course of recreation at the reservoir. Was this not a case of putting the cart before the horse?

Thank-you for your consideration in re-visiting this issue.

Wendy Pollak 2955 West 3rd Ave, Durango, Co
Hollis Hassenstein 351 E 31st St, Durango, Co



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comment

1 message

Paul Edwards <pedwards100@hotmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 6:45 PM

1 I would like to comment on the Lake Nighthorse recreation plan. The recreation plan from the beginning has included powered motorboats on the lake and should continue to do so. The fact that a vocal minority are attempting to change the rules of the game at this late juncture is very wrong. Apparently these people never learned to play nice with others when they were young. They are very much of the "I'm taking my ball and I'm going home if I can't have my way" crowd. They believe that people who own boats should not be able to use the lake just because it is not the type of recreation they participate in. Multiple public meetings have already been held and motorboats were always included. In addition, there should not be arbitrary limits placed on the boats. Enforce existing laws such as noise levels and leave the rest alone. In no way should there be length limits, horsepower limits, or type of boat limits. Boat registration dollars funded the boat ramp.

It is just wrong to now limit the type of boats that are allowed on the lake. It is not correct or just to limit the boats allowed on the lakes. The slightly bigger boats cost even more in registration dollars. Those same registration dollars paid by boat owners should be repaid by allowing those boats on the lake.

The size of the lake will self police itself. There will not be cigarette boats on Lake Nighthorse, no matter what the activists say.

Please remember all of the negotiations that have already been held and do not allow this small, vocal minority to limit the recreation activities of the majority.

Thank you,
Paul Edwards
24 Kennebec Drive
Durango, CO. 81301

Sent from my iPad



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Comments

1 message

Byrd, John <John.Byrd@ucdenver.edu>
To: "jliff@usbr.gov" <jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 6:47 PM

Dear Mr. Liff:

I would like to comment on the recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse, near Durango, Colorado.

Before the dam was built Ridges Basin was a wonderful quiet area.

There were herds of elk and flocks of turkeys. I believe that the Bodo family, when it signed the land over the Nature Conservancy, wanted to area to stay wild.

In fact, I found an article that says:

1 The Bodo family, whose homes and ranch buildings still stood in the basin before A-LP's flooding, worked this land since 1914. The family gave up ranching in the 1970s but not their love of the land. In 1974, they sold their ranch to The Nature Conservancy with a clause in the deed: that Ridges Basin stay wild for wildlife forever. When The Nature Conservancy turned over the basin to the Colorado Division of Wildlife, creating the Bodo State Wildlife Area - read: public property owned by all Coloradans - that clause remained intact: Forever.

Durango Herald, May 23, 2010

I would argue that this implies only quiet recreation, i.e., either non-motorized or low-horsepower electric motors.

That would seem to fulfill the wish of the Bodo family. If the Bureau of Reclamation decides it can abrogate this promise to the donating family, why would anyone ever

make any more land donations to a conservancy group?

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- 2 Personally, I have an interest in having a wake-free lake. I row a single shell so need wake-free early morning glass. We also paddle stand-up paddle boards occasionally. Again, these are better with no wake.

In the Durango area that there are many people who use paddle boards, rowboats, canoes and flatwater kayaks

It would be wonderful to have a place where we don't have to compete with motorboats.

It turns out that on a relatively small lake, a single fast motor boat can ruin the day for all the human-powered craft.

I hope that you consider these comments as you make decisions about recreation on Lake Nighthorse.

At a minimum there should be some times/days when it is wake-free.

Sincerely yours,

John Byrd

64 Oak Valley Drive

Durango, Co 81301

john.byrd@ucdenver.edu



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse Management Plan

1 message

Emily Gates Olson <emilia_gatos@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Emily Gates Olson <emilia_gatos@yahoo.com>
To: "Jliff@usbr.gov" <Jliff@usbr.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 8:26 PM

Greetings from Durango,

1 Just a quick note to make a comment on the Lake Nighthorse Management Plan. I would really enjoy seeing Lake Nighthorse become a non-motorized use area. There are multiple reservoirs in the region that provide an opportunity for motorized use (i.e., Lemon, Vallecito, etc.). I believe a non-motorized areas would draw many for the opportunity to recreate in a place where one's mind and body can truly be at peace.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emily Olson
Durango Resident
emilia_gatos@yahoo.com



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse opening. .

1 message

Joanne Costa <jcosta2016@icloud.com>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 8:33 PM

1
2
3 Sent from my iPad. We feel slow speed boating should be allowed on a lake this size. There are four major lakes in the area that allow high speed boating. Wake surfing creates a 4 ft wave that is not compatible with all the other water activities. Hiking and biking trails were expected by the community and should be included. The swimming beach should be separate in a protected area out of the wind in the original spot. All the land between the lake and Wildcat canyon should be open for hiking as it was for years. Why are all the decisions and changes being made by Cathy Metz and the tribe without community involvement. There was already a detailed plan already developed with community input. The lake should be open for at least swimming and day use now. If this was Farmington or Cortez, this lake would have been open right after it was filled. Joanne and Ed Costa



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Comments Lake Nighthorse EA

1 message

Rose Chilcoat <frankcoat1@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 11:56 PM

Please accept these comments regarding the Lake Nighthorse EA and proposed action.

I have followed this process, attended meetings and provided input and comment and for the most part support the concept of the proposed action. This relatively simple plan fits with most Durangoans desires for a more natural, simple water experience.

- 1 I am pleased that jet skis, houseboats, open air exhaust boats are not to be allowed BUT feel that the proposed action misses the stated community desires by authorizing motorized boats (gasoline) and the speeds that are authorized. Lake Nighthorse is a relatively small body of water and is positioned to provide a unique recreational niche close to Durango...that of a "NO WAKE LAKE". Small electric trolling motors could be allowed but speeds would be slow and not impact other users such as the stand up paddleboarders, canoers, sailboats, crew, etc.

The idea of potentially large numbers of motorboats at speeds of up to 40 mph towing water skiers on this small body of water is truly frightening and it will simply be a matter of time before accidents and injuries to other motorized users and non-motorized users occur.

- 2 Additionally, there are concerns about toxic spills from motorized boats...gas, oil, etc. As a municipal water supply for the tribes water quality maintenance should be a high priority. There is no mention of this risk, or the risk of using the lake for swimming on water quality. Air quality impacts from gas engines are mentioned but minimized as are noise impacts. Our public lands should provide experiences that cannot be found elsewhere, not just another motorized, noisy, degraded natural place.
- 4 The EA touches on economic benefits to the local community of allowing motorized use BUT does not even mention the potential economic benefits of potentially making Lake Nighthorse a unique non-motorized recreational mecca. There are already several large reservoirs in proximity to Durango where motorized boaters can recreate...Vallecito, Ridgeway, Lemon, Electra, McPhee and Navajo all provide extensive opportunities for motorized recreation. McPhee is extremely under-utilized in spite of extensive recreation developments, boat launch, etc. It is not the economic driver that was envisioned and touted and simply finding someone to operate the marina has been a challenge. Similar challenges have happened at Vallecito Lake.

There is no economic information on the non-motorized boating community as relates to potential user days and visitor spending. Why? I would imagine non-motorized boating would greatly exceed that of motors and would represent an even larger percentage of visitor spending. The use of funding provided by the state (illegally as no NEPA was conducted regarding construction of the boat ramp) to construct the boat ramp should not preclude making this a non-motorized lake. Funds could be raised to repay the state and relieve the "obligation" for motorized use. If motors must be allowed then small electric trolling motors or small horsepower skiffs could meet that requirement with the least disruption to other lake users.

The motorized boating community has plenty of opportunity but what opportunities exist for the quiet/non-motorized non-river boater? A handful of small, small lakes such as Haviland, Mancos State Park or Pastorius. There are some private lakes such as Turtle Lake...no public access. There is great demand and hope for a decent size body of water for sailing, canoeing, paddling boarding, kayaking, etc. To be able to experience a beautiful lake that is not dangerously large, that would have no dangerous wake from motorized users or water-skiers to be watching for....that would truly be a dream come true for many of us.

At a time when America is fighting obesity and climate change from increasing CO2 emissions, we should be prioritizing non-motorized recreation activities and reduction of gratuitous fossil fuel burning for recreation purposes. Also, given that Durango is an expensive place to live with low income levels and higher than average poverty levels, providing lower cost recreation (no fuel purchase, lower maintenance, etc. of non-motorized watercraft) is desirable for the local population.

There is no mention in the EA of Climate Change and how increasing motorized recreation, increasing tourism, etc. will add to the overall impacts of climate change. Federal projects should be leading minimization of activities that would contribute to climate change. This discussion and analysis must be included.

One additional omission in the EA is any mention of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail designated by Congress in 2002. This nationally significant route passes from east to west through Lake Nighthorse and the dam. There should be consultation with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management regarding management and mitigation for this trail. This is a serious oversight that must be remedied.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Rose Chilcoat
2914 Junction St
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake night horse

1 message

Shubert Plumbing, Inc. <shubertplumbinginc@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 26, 2016 at 12:06 PM

To Whom it may concern

I am a lifelong resident of Durango. When the public was first sold on the idea that the lake would also have recreational use, I would be pleased if the Government kept it word on this matter.

1 When the community was ask for comment everyone I know wanted to have recreation area.

I for one am in favor of it.

I would like to run the marina if possible.

With 40 years of boating experience I think I would be a good fit.

Thanks

Kenneth Shubert

Bookkeeper Sec Treasurer

Shubert Plumbing Inc

970-259-0991

www.shubertplumbinginc.com

5/26/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lake Nighthorse

380



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

jeni mimmack <jenicolorado@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 26, 2016 at 4:25 PM

1 Please open to day use for swimming, hiking and non motorized craft ASAP. Thanks



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse plan

1 message

Susan Ulery <susan.ulery@gmail.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Thu, May 26, 2016 at 4:53 PM

Dear Justin,

I wrote this earlier this week and thought I sent it, but then discovered it in my "draft" box just now. I know that yesterday was the cut off date, but if you can accept my comments, please do.

Thanks.

-
- 1 Please count my voice as one of the many in La Plata County who feels very strongly that Lk Nighthorse would be better off - on all levels - without motorized craft of any kind. Motorized water recreational opportunities abound (McPhee, Vallecito, Navajo, Lemon, Havilland...) and there is no significant, comparable lake where people can recreate without the noisy, odorous presence of motorized boats and jet skis.
 - 2 Besides, it seems obvious that the contamination of motor fuel shouldn't be allowed in a drinking water reservoir. The area is currently not noisy, and that has a very high value. Truly quiet places removed from the sound created by the "engines of our ingenuity" are rare and restorative - we all benefit from spending time in such environments.
 - 3 I'd like to see development funds directed to:
 - 1) A couple of swimming beaches. Perhaps one designed to be especially kid and family friendly, and another offered for adults 18 and older looking for a more restive atmosphere.
 - 2) Hiking trails of different difficulties.
 - 3) Mountain biking - Varied difficulty singletrack - ranging from easy to moderate and intermediate trail loops. Not many trails in the immediate Durango area offer moderate single track - think of all the fit, over 50 riders who aren't willing to risk breaking their leg or whatever, but still like to ride (Phil's World and Boggy Draw are examples of what I'm suggesting).
 - 4) Picnicking spots (with nearby restrooms), grouped fairly closely together to keep the impacts from adversely affecting a large area.
 - 5) Limit car access to the Picnicking and boat ramp areas, with very limited public access roads elsewhere.
 - 6) Non motorized boat access would not need to be designed for large craft; the use would be by kayaks, canoes, SUPs, fishing cataracts or row boats. All small, mostly and maneuverable. I didn't list tubes, because they're not navigable...and suggest making a special portion of the swimming beach areas for tubers.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Susan Ulery

590 Animas View Drive, Unit A
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Fwd: Comment for Reclamation

1 message

Andreason, Ameer <aandreason@usbr.gov>

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 10:38 AM

To: Justyn Liff <jliff@usbr.gov>

Cc: Christopher Watt <cwatt@usbr.gov>, Marlon Duke <mduke@usbr.gov>

Justyn,

Will you please answer the inquiry below?

Thank you,

Ameer Andreason
Bureau of Reclamation
Public Affairs
(801) 524-3769

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Soeth, Peter** <psoeth@usbr.gov>

Date: Fri, May 27, 2016 at 10:18 AM

Subject: Fwd: Comment for Reclamation

To: Ameer Andreason <aandreason@usbr.gov>, Christopher Watt <cwatt@usbr.gov>, Marlon Duke <mduke@usbr.gov>

Peter Soeth | Public Affairs | Commissioner's Office | Bureau of Reclamation | 303-445-3615 (o) | 303-910-7473 (c)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <dave@malcolmnet.com>

Date: Thu, May 26, 2016 at 6:59 PM

Subject: Comment for Reclamation

To: lmeredith@usbr.gov, rgabour@usbr.gov, psoeth@usbr.gov

- 1 From Dave Malcolm (dave@malcolmnet.com) on 05/26/2016 at 06:05:22MSGBODY:
I am in favor of using the Night Horse reservoir for swimming, picnics, trails, camping, and non-motorized boats, with a caveat. Sailboats need a small motor to bring the boat back to shore when the wind dies. Without that use, there are no sailboats. Sailboats are clean, quiet, and pretty crafts. For a small body of water, power boats and jet skiing would ruin the ability to do much else with it. I agree with other comments saying that there are other, larger lakes for power boats. But I do request that sailboats be allowed.

Thank you,
Dave MalcolmI thought this went out earlier but found it in the out box today.
Thanks
DavePrevious Page: <http://www.usbr.gov/main/comments.cfm>



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Lake Nighthorse

1 message

elseware@frontier.net <elseware@frontier.net>
To: Jliff@usbr.gov

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 8:54 PM

I know my comments might be a little late, but I wanted to voice my opinion anyways.

- 1 I would like to see gas powered boats banned from Lake Nighthorse. People have already mentioned that those types of boats are allowed on all the other lakes around here (evidence of which at some lakes is seen by the rainbow sheen on the surface of the water), and it would be nice to have just one easily accessible lake where people can enjoy non-motorized craft in a safe environment. I paddleboard and live by the Animas River, and would appreciate a beautiful lake on which to stay upright on my board without fear of boat wakes. I hesitate to paddleboard on the Animas due to the fast-flowing current at this time of year. The safety of the banks of the Animas also concern me due to the mine spill last summer.

I would like to have a lake close by where the young folks in our community can learn to kayak, scuba dive, swim, paddleboard, etc. without worries about fast-moving vehicles in the water.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Patti Else
3281 E 4th Ave.
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 759-1081



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

No motorized craft for Lake Nighthorse

1 message

William LeMaire <blemaire@icloud.com>
To: jliff@usbr.gov

Sun, May 29, 2016 at 9:09 AM

1 Please reconsider the allowance of motorized craft on Lake Nighthorse. Can we leave no waterway non-motorized in this country? Under the guise of equal use, the motor craft industry has bullied its way onto too many waterways. Equal opportunity for what exactly, the opportunity to ruin a unique resource?

Please strongly consider rejection of all motorized craft on this lake or, at the very least, a no-wake, no noise restriction. Let the big boaters go to the many, many other water venues available to them in this region.

Bill LeMaire
1140 Carbon Junction
Apt. 17
Durango, CO 81301



Liff, Justyn <jliff@usbr.gov>

Future opening of Lake Nighthorse to the public

1 message

Jan Radcliff <greatmessage17@icloud.com>
To: wcaoinfo@usbr.gov

Sun, May 29, 2016 at 7:56 PM

- After reading proposals and information regarding the future opening of Lake Nighthorse, I am very impressed
- 1 with the City of Durango's attempts to work with the various agencies to assure that the water and land included in the Lake Nighthorse area will remain pristine. With this intention, I would like to suggest that the City and all stakeholders entertain the idea of not allowing any motorized boats or vehicles on the lake. This would prevent any gasoline-related chemicals from being introduced into the water. Electric motors could be allowed, but water
 - 2 quality should still be checked regularly for various contaminants. Perhaps this idea has already been proposed, but after driving by the Lake this week, it is very apparent that this beautiful area commands our respect and diligence in protecting the water and surrounding lands for use by all who are considerate of preserving the Lake.