



SWEETWATER LAKE

2022 Season



- The Sweetwater site was operated jointly using two EVLT funded USFS temporary staff and A.J. Brink Outfitters
- There was a slight increase in use of the site over the course of the 2022 summer and fall season
- Site staff provided users with background on the changes in ownership of the site, as well as to inform on the process to determine the long-term management plan
- Additional public input opportunities have been provided via QR codes posted around the site
- The site remains open for public access with minimal recreational opportunities during planning/development

Resource Inventory Surveys



Photo Credit: eaglevalleywild.org



Photo Credit: EVLT



Photo Credit: NPS



Photo Credit: Virginia DWR

- Survey data gathered throughout 2022
 - Plants: Harrington's Penstemon
 - Bats: Townsend's and Hoary
 - Birds/Raptors: Bald Eagles and Peregrine
 - Will need to be considered in the creation of buffer zones
 - Mammals
 - Likely will consider area closures for winter habitat
 - Herptiles
- Resource reports are currently being finalized
 - Will aid in the development of a park Stewardship Plan as well as to guide long-term management and planning decision making

Public Engagement

Sweetwater Lake Working Group

- ~12 self-appointed community members
- Delineate roles and responsibilities
- Identify timelines
- Promote open lines of communication and transparency between groups
- Informs long-term decision making for the property
- Objective to meet bi-weekly to help make recommendations on Proposed Action for NEPA process



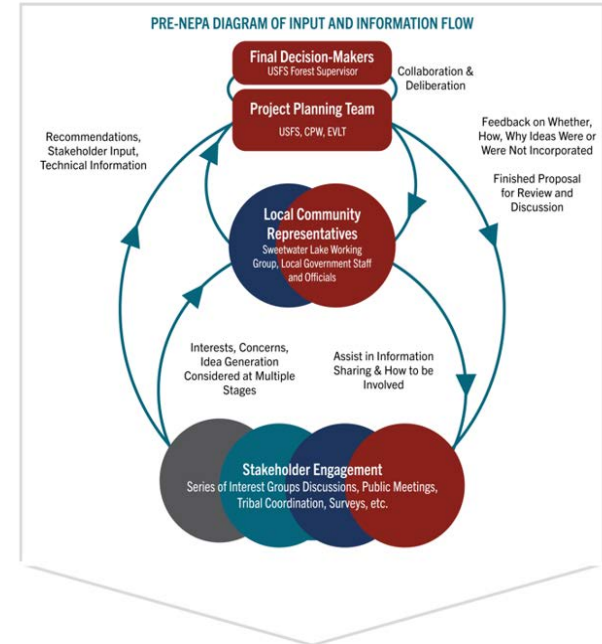
Public Engagement

Facilitation and Public Engagement Consultant: CDR

- Partnership messaging group
- Updates to public information on the EVLT website
- Currently working to engage an expanded list of stakeholders and special interest groups
- Will host virtual and in-person open houses

Garfield and Eagle Counties

- Both counties have signed Cooperating Agency Agreements with the USFS for the NEPA process
- Garfield County is observing and listening, but have declined to participate until NEPA officially begins



Cultural Update



Photo credit: Rocky Mountain Property Inspections

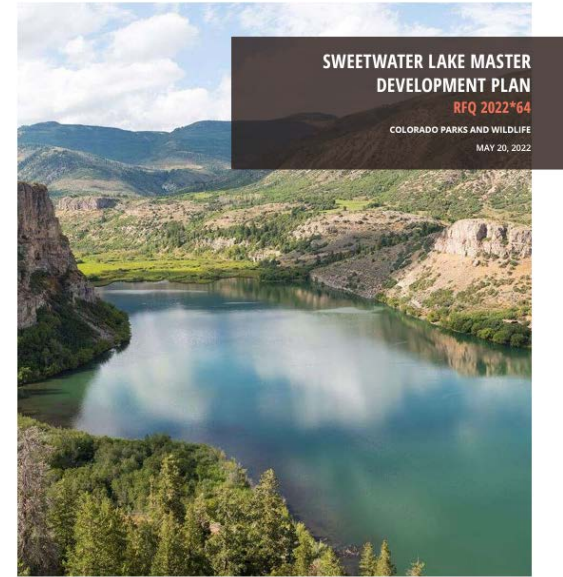


Photo credit: gjhikes.com

- USFS led cultural assessment reports to be submitted to State Historic Preservation Office by February 14th
- Re-evaluation of eligibility of buildings of the resort and Determination of Effect
- Due to date of origin of some buildings, only three have been deemed to contribute to the historical eligibility of the site
- USFS to prepare a map showing Special Resource Areas of avoidance (prehistoric/historic polygons)
- Will need to develop a Cave Management Plan
- In conversation with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs
- Consulting on site naming and plans for tribal engagement

Master Planning

- Confluence was selected through a competitive process
- Gather available site data to prepare a base map for preliminary site discussions
- Surveying, geotechnical investigations, utility evaluations, traffic analysis, water systems, financial analysis, etc.
- Prepare preliminary Master Plan and alternatives to initiate the NEPA process



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Permit Update

- Special Use Permit with the White River National Forest (25 year permit)
- Drafting the permit has been an extensive process between the COAG and the USFS Office of General Council
- Anticipate final version will be ready for signature this month



“Welcome to your...”

- Working to establish a proposed name for the site
- Best practices: cultural, historical, ecological, geographical considerations
- Will be back for PWC approval



Outfitter/Concessionaire

- USFS is currently working to issue a 2023 permit to A.J. Brink Outfitters
 - Operations plan, grazing plan, facility use, etc.
- Once CPW holds the permit for recreation management, we will issue a concession permit to outfitter
- CPW in conversation with A.J. Brink to determine what opportunities exist for CPW/outfitters/others
- Sweetwater Community Club (501 c3)
 - Submitted a proposal to USFS for minimal repairs to four existing facilities for short-term outfitter use



Photo credit: CDR Associates

Tentative Planning Timeline (November Update)

	2022				2023						July & Beyond	
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
(Phase 1) Defining the Project, Roles, Planning, Brainstorming												NEPA Process
(Phase 2) Draft Concept Plan						☐						
(Phase 3) Final Concept Plan										☐		
NEPA (Plans for Action Alternatives)							☐					
Resource Inventory (Environmental)					☐							
Cultural Analysis (Tribal, Historical)						☐						
Partnership												
Partnership Workshop / Checkins			☑		☐			☐				
Sweetwater Recreation Planning Team (Weekly)												
Communications Workgroup												
Stakeholder Engagement												
Draft Engagement Plan		☑										
Sweetwater Lake Working Group (SLWG) (Bi-Weekly)												
Public Meeting Round 1 - Resource Inventory, Data Collected												
Interest Groups / Listening Sessions												
Survey												
Public Meeting Round 2 - Draft Concept Plan												
Site Visits with Stakeholders												
Public Meeting Round 3 - Final Concept Plan, NEPA Alternatives												
Comment Form / Messaging												



QUESTIONS

