

| Date Rec'd | Last Name          | First Name           | Comment  |
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| 02/08/22   | ?Unknown           | Dany                 | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>   |
| 05/10/22   | ?Unknown           | Billy                | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 05/10/22   | ?Unknown/illegible |                      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 05/12/22   | ?Unknown/illegible |                      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 05/12/22   | ?Unknown/illegible |                      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 05/04/23   | Abell              | Tracy                | <p>I am very opposed to the proposed changes to Bear Creek Lake Park. This area is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna and is a beautiful area that provides many, many people with a kind of natural mental health therapy. In our increasingly stressful world, we must do all we can to maintain such spaces. Both people and planet need Bear Creek Lake Park to remain intact.</p> <p>PLEASE do the right thing and look at alternative water storage, preferably underground so that there's less evaporative loss. We must protect ALL our resources.</p>  |
| 1/31/2024  | Adams              | Jay, Annabel, Noelle | <p>I live in Denver, Colorado, and wanted to express how deeply concerned my family is about the potential reallocation of the water in Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>The park is about 20 minutes from my house and it is where I hike and mountain bike around 30 times every year. The best part is walking and riding through the wooded areas along Bear and Turkey creeks. On a hot summer day, I can’t tell you how refreshing it is to go through this urban oasis and cool off.</p> <p>Bear Creek is where I learned to mountain bike and also where I taught my daughters to mountain bike as the trails along the creek in the wooded areas offer one-of-a-kind beginner trails. We often just sit along the creek bank and just watch the water go by and love to watch all the birds.</p> <p>Another favorite spot is the “turtle” pond along Turkey Creek. There is a beautiful dock stretching over this small pond that is great for watching wildlife.</p> <p>Whenever we are feeling stressed and need to get back to nature to relax, we always go to these trails as our “happy place.”</p> <p>We have also ridden horses on the trails as well and have seen numerous scouting groups and other educational groups going through these trails.</p> <p>When I told my daughters that these trails and our favorite pond may be destroyed forever through inundation, they could not believe it.</p> <p>There is no other place like the trails at Bear Creek Lake Park that are open to the public along the entire Front Range of Colorado and so close to Denver. With development across Colorado, most riparian zones have either been built on or are not accessible to the public. Bear Creek Lake Park is a such a unique place that we as a society cannot afford to lose and must protect it not only for the 800,000 visitors but also for all of the wildlife that calls it home.</p> <p>I understand that Colorado’s population is growing and water is a scarce resource, but we must look at alternative solutions that don’t destroy why so many of us moved to Colorado to begin with.</p> <p>Conservation and water efficiency must be used as a way to preserve our water resources. There are also better ways to store water including underground through aquifer storage and recovery as well as in old sand and gravel pits. Our community can also recycle much more water than it is doing now. These are all completely doable, modern alternatives to flooding Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>I also have serious concerns about the water available to fill the reservoir to the proposed higher level. We would likely go about 10 years in between filling due to the availability of water and the junior water rights of the communities interested in storing water in Bear Creek Lake. This would mean we would destroy the habitat for countless wildlife and ruin the incredible trails for people across the Denver Metro area. Park users would be left with mud flats for extended periods of time due to lack of water just so people many miles away could plant non-functional, water-guzzling Kentucky bluegrass lawns.</p> <p>I would like to see modeling studies to calculate how often the reservoir would be able to fill given these factors. Even if it is determined that the dam could hold more water, it’s critically important to look at the hydrology. It is also important to remember the dam’s core function of being ready to handle a flooding rain.</p> <p>With climate change making Denver hotter and drier in the summer, more people are looking for shady places to cool off in the summer. Eliminating this area would reduce the number of places for people to recreate and creates more inequity for people of color who may not have the economic means to go to a pool or take a trip to the mountains.</p> <p>I encourage the members of the Army Corps’ Bear Creek Lake Study Team to visit Bear Creek Lake Park on a summer day and see it’s incredible natural beauty and see why the trails are worth saving. It is time we as a society look at new ways to solve our water crisis instead of using ways of the past.</p> <p>Please take all these comments into consideration and vote against the Bear Creek Lake reallocation and leave the water usage as it is today.</p> |

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| 02/25/22   | Alcorn    | Bryan                 | It was brought to my attention that hundreds of acres of BCLP could be flooded in the proposed expansion of the Reservoir. Please help save our already limited outdoor space and protect BCLP. We don't need an expansion, what we need is to take every step necessary to ensure the protection of this habitat.  |
| 07/08/22   | Alesch    | Ric                   | I ride my bike at Bear Creek Lake Park up to 3 times a week and my favorite trails are in the riparian areas along either side of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek just upstream of the reservoir. Therefore, enlarging the reservoir would wipe out my favorite mountain bike trails near my home in Lakewood. Trails with tree cover are at a premium and especially desirable in hot sunny weather. I also occasionally do fly fishing for trout on this stretch of Bear Creek. I saw your sign at the trailhead and decided to get involved.<br>Please include this input for the record and add me to your email and physical mailing lists for the project.<br>Please also confirm you got this email.   |
| 10/19/21   | Allin     | Laurie, Jay and Megan | <p>My family attended the virtual Public Scoping Meeting last week but did not comment at that time. We wanted to mull over what we heard before taking the time to comment. We live directly south of the park and with a quick 2 mile bike ride and we're on the trails. Our family alone uses the park at least a couple of times each week. We love the park and all it has to offer: hiking/running/mountain bike trails, roads for road riding, trails for dog walking, lakes for kayaking and paddleboarding, and various programs, events and races that are held within the park. We have thought of moving several times over the past 20 years we've lived in this house and we always stay because geographically it doesn't get more perfect and access to the park and its trails are a major component of that. We can recall twice over those years that there has been significant flooding due to rainfall in the park, but nothing to the magnitude that is being proposed here.</p> <p>We have 2 main takeaways from the meeting that leave strongly against this expansion.</p> <p>1. Our understanding is that this expansion will retain more water for the communities many miles north of the park. We are facing giving up a major portion of our park and trails so that other communities can develop homes and communities which undoubtedly will come with new parks and trails. Who determines that these communities are deserving of recreation areas more than our community? This seems wholly unfair to give up a cornerstone to our community when there is plenty of land near these new communities where the land developers can build their own reservoir.</p> <p>2. While we have twice seen flooding in the past 20 years, what we see most often is the low water levels leaving an unattractive mud ring around the west and south side of the reservoir. We can only think that should this plan go through that either it will never get used to capacity (leaving a scar across the land and loss of habit and trails for no good reason, or it will get used on occasion only to watch water levels fall again leaving a larger mud ring around the lake, limiting access to the water via the shoreline and still no trails.</p> <p>We would be open to seeing more about a plan which extends the dam around to the south where there is very little in the way of trails and any active recreation. But as this plan is currently being presented we are absolutely in opposition to any expansion to the reservoir.</p> <p>Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.</p> |
| 02/26/22   | Andersen  | Douglas               | <p>I am a 30-year resident of the City of Lakewood. I have been using Bear Creek Lake Park as a wonderful recreational resource for most of that period. The current footprint of the reservoir relative to the total size of the park results in a large area of streamside riparian habitat, which is one of the rarest and fastest disappearing types of wildlife habitat in Colorado. The mature cottonwoods along Bear Creek downstream of the town of Morrison, relatively isolated from heavy traffic and human disturbance, provide excellent habitat for migratory songbirds, and provide nesting habitat for Great Horned Owls and undoubtedly other birds of prey. The system of roads and bike paths, along with the system of trails through the expansive uplands surrounding the reservoir provide wonderful views of the reservoir within its broader landscape of riparian and upland vegetation to runners, hikers, cyclists and motorists. Increasing the size of the reservoir would destroy more of Colorado's (and Lakewood's) diminishing riparian wildlife habitat, negatively affect the ecological balance within the park, and reduce the appeal and aesthetics of a park used by thousands of non-water oriented recreationists.</p> <p>I urge you NOT to increase the size of Bear Creek reservoir.</p>  |
| 06/05/22   | Anderson  | Francie               | <p>I read you are interested in comments about potential changes at Bear Creek State Park.</p> <p>The park is an invaluable asset to west Denver at a time when the population and subsequent development are explosive. The park offers a quiet getaway that doesn't require driving on I-70 or 285. It's big enough to handle many visitors without feeling crowded. It's a beautiful area for walks, biking, water sports and birdwatching.</p> <p>I use the park weekly and would be saddened to lose the trail system. I understand the need for more water and we all need to make sacrifices. I hope there is a better way.</p>  |
| 10/5/2025  | Anderson  | Sharolyn              | <p>Please stop the process of expanding Bear Creek Lake. The important and original purpose of Bear Creek Lake dam and reservoir IS FLOOD Control. It exist to protect lives and property downstream from a repeat of massive floods that devastated the region in 1965.</p> <p>City of Brighton wants water but their inadequate planning should not be bailed out at the expense of the City of Lakewood who actually is trying to plan for the future and the upcoming climate events from a changing climate or even just a repeat of the 1965 flood. Bad planning should not be rewarded - hence let City of Brighton find a place in their town limits to deal with their planning decisions.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for protecting and keeping Bear Creek Lake Park a beautiful, ecosystem for thousand of visitors.</p>  |
| 10/21/21   | Andrews   | Brian                 | Hello, to whom this may concern. I am a homeowner at 4246 s. ELDRIDGE st. #205 Morrison Co. 80465. I am not happy to hear about the changes that the city is trying to do to our ears Creek Lake park. Lots of money was spent on the trails and pathways to make this park useful, and now you are trying to do just the opposite of this. This is a park that has almost everything you could think of doing. I will fight this to the very end, as mental health issues are on the rise, especially with covid still lurking in the background. We need our parks to stay parks. I will not stop fighting this!  |

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| 02/28/22   | Andrews     | Charles    | <p>I am opposed to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake. Flooding an additional 615 acres of the park and a mile of Bear Creek is unacceptable.</p> <p>What are "new" water rights? This is laughable and probably not legal.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to reconsider this boondoggle of a project.</p>   |
| 03/02/22   | Andrews     | Jaron      | <p>I was wondering if it is possible to add my email to a distribution or announcement list for the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project and associated NEPA analysis? I am interested in learning more about the project, attending public meetings, providing input, and reviewing documents when available for public review. Please let me know if you need any further information and thank you.</p>   |
| 05/10/22   | Andzuzewski | Stephen    | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". (No added comments)</p>  |
| 01/20/22   | Armstrong   | Karlynn    | <p>Attached are Colorado Parks and Wildlifes' comments on the Bear Creek Reallocation Feasibility Study. CPW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this process; please feel free to contact me with any questions.</p> <p>Thank you for meeting with agencies and the public on October 14th, 2021 regarding the Bear Creek Reallocation Feasibility Study and for providing Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) the opportunity to review and comment on this process.</p> <p>The mission of CPW is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado and to promote a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Colorado. One way CPW achieves this goal is by acting as a cooperating agency on projects such as this so that we may provide information, comments, and technical expertise on environmental resources and the mitigation of environmental impacts. Bear Creek Reservoir provides important local terrestrial and aquatic habitat, as well as valuable recreation opportunities. Terrestrial species found near the Reservoir include white tailed and mule deer, mink, pine marten, burrowing and screech owls, bobcat, beavers, chorus frogs, and woodhouse toads. Bear Creek also provides important habitat for native aquatic wildlife and sportfish. Bear Creek is classified as an aquatic sports fish management water. Both Bear Creek and nearby Turkey Creek have been designated as native species conservation waters under the High Priority Habitat program. CPW is interested in ensuring that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the proposed Bear Creek Reallocation Project is transparent regarding potential fish and wildlife impacts and that the project provides thoughtful and meaningful avoidance, minimization, and mitigation strategies. Through the public scoping meetings it is CPW's understanding that USACE currently anticipates completing NEPA for the Bear Creek Reallocation Project concurrently with the Feasibility Study, resulting in a USACE decision on whether to execute the Bear Creek Project Reallocation at the end of the Feasibility Study. CPW has no objection to the development of a Reallocation Feasibility Study at Bear Creek Reservoir. However, CPW is concerned that there is not enough information regarding the project participants or operations of the project to disclose project impacts through the NEPA process or to support the development of a Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan at this time. Specifically, CPW has a number of questions about the proposed process for the Bear Creek Reallocation Project and the feasibility study: • CPW remains unclear on the identity of the proponent of this project. While CWCB is facilitating this project and has received letters of interest, it does not appear that there are clear committed users of the project. How will secondary impacts to hydrology related to storage and releases be evaluated in the NEPA process if specific committed project users have not been identified? • CPW is uncertain of the purpose and need for this reservoir reallocation project. If there are no committed users of this project, why is reallocation of Bear Creek Reservoir the preferred water supply alternative for these as yet undetermined water users? • Assuming there are dredge and fill activities associated with the project, what will be the scope of the Clean Water Act alternatives used for the LEDPA determination? • USACE indicated it will be using the Colorado Water Plan for the NEPA alternatives analysis. CPW would like more information as to how the broad range of alternatives from that document will be screened to determine reasonable alternatives to the project for the committed water users involved in the project. Another way CPW achieves its mission is through compliance with Section 37-60-122.2, C.R.S., ensuring that a state-level Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan is developed by a water project proponent and approved and adopted by both CPW and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Ultimately, the Mitigation Plan becomes the official state position with respect to project mitigation, and is intended to be considered in the federal Record(s) of Decision issued by agencies issuing a permit, license, or other approval for the proposed project. This plan also serves as CPW's consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. [continued below]</p> |
| 01/20/22   | Armstrong   | Karlynn    | <p>[continued from above] CPW's work towards the development of Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans is significantly aided when committed water users and proposed project operations are identified at the beginning of the NEPA process. For example, CPW appreciates that the proposed project's plans currently include an Environmental Pool to help protect the downstream environment. Conversely, not knowing the ultimate end users and planned project operations could place a significant additional burden on CPW staff in understanding the proposed project and determining what additional mitigation measures should be in a Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan. CPW requests that USACE consider pursuing a sequential process whereby the Feasibility Study is completed prior to the NEPA analysis, and that the NEPA process and any related permitting analyses take place after the project participants and operations are determined. Sequencing the process in this manner would resolve CPW's questions and concerns at this time. CPW looks forward to your response to our questions about this project and continuing to work with CWCB and the USACE to address these and other questions related to the proposed Bear Creek Reallocation Project as it moves through the federal permitting process.</p>   |
| 02/17/22   | Arvin       | David      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a priceless recreational asset in this urban area. It needs to be preserved.</p>   |
| 04/14/22   | Arvin       | Brigitta   | <p>Please take into account the health and well being of the surrounding Lakewood community. I am a 80 year old resident of Lakewood, with an annual pass to Bear Creek Lake Park. I walk there weekly for my enjoyment of the surroundings and wildlife, and for my health. A 20,000 acre feet expansion would flood many of the trails and destroy a large portion of wildlife habitat. I, and other senior citizens who can no longer handle the more rigorous up-hill trails in other parks, would lose a resource that has tremendously contributed to our health and quality of life. I am aware of the need for water in Colorado but please balance the home community’s needs against the theoretical needs of distant entities.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>   |



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| 7/6/2023   | Arvin     | David      | <p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Feasibility Study.</p> <p>My wife and I visit Bear Creek Lake Park nearly every day and enjoy walking along the Creek and the Lake and seeing the change of seasons the many plants and animal including Deer, Owls, and Eagles. This area west of Denver in Lakewood is becoming increasingly crowded and the park is a gem for the area, a place to get in touch with nature and enjoy a great hike.</p> <p>If the reservoir is expanded it will be a greatly diminished park. The land and trails will be greatly decreased, loss of 12 miles of trail and other trails will be segmented. Loss of wildlife, as wildlife habitat will be much reduced.</p> <p>There are over 800,000 annual park visits and they are increasing and housing is currently being built and increasing very close to the park at the present time. The park is serving a valuable recreational need in this growing area. At this time the water is high in Bear Creek Lake as we have had a rainy Spring and early Summer and the Dam and the Lake are full and serving their purpose. The Dam on the Lake was built for short term flood control and not long-term water storage. One suggestion is to deepen the Lake to be able to store additional water without increasing the size of the Lake and hurting the Park. I feel that Bear Creek Lake and the Park should stay at its current size as it is an irreplaceable nature and recreation asset in an increasingly urbanized area west of Denver.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my opinion.</p>   |
| 11/10/21   | Ash       | Margaret   | <p>I want to thank you for hosting the Project Scoping meeting, concerning the reallocation of Bear Creek Lake, on October 14, 2021. It was well organized and obviously well attended. It was clear from the participation and comments made during the meeting that the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project is a critical issue for the people of Lakewood, Jefferson County, and even the City and County of Denver. It is such a unique resource to have in the immediate vicinity of a large urban area that the review and analysis must be intense and detailed. To be clear I am opposed to the reallocation of this flood control dam with its unique qualities and resources. A few comments regarding the issues I see are provided below. 1. Cost Benefit The cost benefit does not add up even at this point of the project. We have an area that includes significant wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and a vast number of recreational activities all within easy walking/biking distance or a short drive for many suburban and urban residents. The wildlife habitat, based on an IPaC report, includes a list of trust resources including habitat for six endangered species, migratory birds, and lists several types of wetlands that will be impaired or destroyed by the proposed project. When you compare the above list of resources to the proposed expansion of the lake, which does not even have a purpose, you can see that it makes no sense. It is essentially a project without a cause. The DNR-CWCB has been searching for partners but does not have one. The possibility of managing senior water rights was mentioned but senior water rights holders already have a way to manage their water rights; they have been doing it for a hundred years. Another possibility is to supply water for northern exurban communities. However, there is no justice in this. Why destroy the rights and resources of one community for the benefit of poorly designed areas that include planned water wasting activities such as golf courses, water parks, irrigated green belts and houses with yards covered with blue grass. The discipline for managing water should be with those communities and should not require the destruction of another community’s resources.While at the Lake I have met many people that are from lower socio-economic areas of southeast Denver that picnic and fish at the Lake. It is not acceptable that people in a lower socio-economic class sacrifice recreational activities for wealthy communities to the north. I believe this is an issue of Environmental Justice that must be part of your review. Lower class people should not lose a valuable resource because of the poor planning of a surface developers and the lack of leadership in a few oil rich northern Colorado counties. 2. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) The USACE appears to be looking for loopholes or at least ways to bypass the needed level of NEPA analysis. This is an important project and a full Environmental Impact Statement including, Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impact Analysis should be conducted. The dam which, even according to CWCB will only even possibly fill a few years out of every twenty, will leave barren mud flats that turn into sources of dust and particulates. Will these particulates include arsenic, selenium, cadmium, boron, and or radionuclides? According to USGS it is common for heavy metals, metalloids, and radionuclides and other trace elements, which can be toxic, or cause cancer, to make their way into surface waters. Geologic formations in the Morrison area have significant amounts of radiation and metals. A detailed public health assessment is therefore imperative. It is not clear whether aesthetics area being considered but it is unconscionable that residents will go from having beautiful riparian areas, shrublands and a lake to look at to nothing but mudflats turning into sources of toxic particulates. In the meeting mitigating the trails that will be destroyed by the new lake was discussed. However, that is impossible. What would the plan be? Build trails through the dust bowl or build new trails in exurbia that people in Lakewood would have to drive to? The US Fish &amp; Wildlife also appear to be approaching this project with less than objective professionalism supplying trite and snide comments about wildlife habits at the Lake even though the IPaC lists six endangered species. USFW do not get to ignore this just because it might create a little bit of work for them. Current planning seems to be using a FEMA document from 2003 and this document references data from 1969 and 1974 which makes it essentially useless. Many changes in Jefferson County and the Bear Creek Drainage have occurred since 1969.</p> <p>[continued below]</p> |
| 11/10/21   | Ash       | Margaret   | <p>[continued from above] The 2003 document dismisses flood risk by saying residential areas downstream of the dam are elevated above the flood plan. However, a subdivision and many new apartment complexes now exist on the north side of Bear Creek that are not elevated about the flood plain. The increased risk for flooding and the impact on these areas could devastating. At a minimum the increased costs and need for flood insurance might be substantial. 3. pact on Colorado Water Management Plan There is no significant on impact on Colorado Water Storage. The data is clear that this dam would fill, at most three years, out of 20. 4. Dam Safety The discussion on dam safety was unacceptable. The freeboard is inadequate, and the dam is listed as having significant consequences from failure of the embankment. Intentionally putting people in harm’s way for a meaningless bureaucratic project is unacceptable. 5. Communication I find it unacceptable that the City and County of Denver is listed as a main contact in your Communication Plan but neither the City of Lakewood nor Jeferson County is included. The city is losing an amazing resource and getting nothing but increased flood risk and impacts to public health. Lakewood should the main contact as we will suffer all the impacts and receive zero benefit. In closing it is hard to even understand why this project is under consideration. It does not change anything for Colorado Water Storage, it rewards poor planning and inadequate water management in exurbia, increases flood risk for thousands of Lakewood residents, and destroys an amazing area full of recreational opportunities and extensive wildlife habitat. During the covid lockdown and even Colorado’s Safer at Home period this area was a refuge and release for thousands of people daily. They could safely get to it without violating the stay within 10 miles of your home policy and had enough room to socially distant all the while being able to exercise and experience a beautiful area. To destroy this resource is simply not acceptable. The federal government should at a minimum approach this with all due diligence, conduct NEPA analysis in an open-minded manner, and not just check a few meaningless boxes.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | Ash       | Margaret   | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.   |

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| 2/8/2024   | Ash       | Margaret   | <p>Lake Park is a special place. It provides a wide variety of activities such as walking, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, fishing, and wildlife watching. It is also located near a large urban area. It is so close that many people can walk or ride bikes directly into the park from their neighborhood. The park, even though it is located near a major urban area, provides many types of natural environments including two riparian areas that support significant wildlife habitat. These riparian zones provide pleasant opportunities for walking, picnicking and bird watching. In the core summer months when the Denver urban area is experiencing high heat and even heat advisories you can still walk in the cool shade of the tree canopy and listen to a rippling stream. The park also has grasslands and steep hill slopes for exciting hiking and mountain biking.</p> <p>I personally visit the park three to four times a week. In the winter months, even with snow accumulation, the walking conditions on the roads and improved trails are good and provide a safe area for long walks. In spring and fall I hike the unimproved trails that wind throughout the park, and as mentioned, in the summer the riparian trails provide perfect environment for walking and hiking even during a brutally hot summer. During covid when the guidance was to stay within 10 miles of your home and the Denver area was experiencing record heat for months I went to the park and walked in the shade, picnicked at one of the small shelters near Bear Creek and sat for hours quietly reading a book or taking my dog for walks around the creek. This beautiful park was not only an amazing refuge from the heat but also from the stress of limited movement and the ongoing restrictions required during the pandemic.</p> <p>One of the things about this park that some people do not recognize is the near world class recreation opportunities that it provides. Some people may think that is irrelevant considering how blessed Colorado is in terms of recreational opportunities. However, Bear Creek Lake Park is convenient to a large metropolitan area. It can be reached by thousands of people with a short drive (or bike ride) and without having to use a busy interstate or highway.</p> <p>I also hope the ACE considers greenhouse gas issues when working on the feasibility study. The destruction of these recreational areas that would occur from the proposed expansion will push more people onto busy highways in an attempt to find similar recreational opportunities. Forcing people to drive further on already congested roadways will create significant safety issues and could potentially increase greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>I am not sure if I understand where the ACE is in the timeline for the project but do have some concerns about why it seems like an Environmental Impact Statement is not being completed. There are a number issues that a full EIS would address but appear to have been overlooked. These issues are briefly presented below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A series of wetlands, both FreshWater Forested/Shrub and Freshwater Emergent are in the proposed inundation area.</li><li>2. A review of Department of Natural Resources maps indicates that there are high priority habits along the riparian areas that will be inundated. The habitat is for Aquatic Native Species.</li><li>3. There are three historic coal mines that would be within the proposed larger pool.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. DNR ID 1358, Name unknown, Coal Field-Foothills, Formation-Laramie</li><li>b. DNR ID 1261, Name-Ketchum &amp; Murphy, Coal Field-Foothills, Formation Laramie</li><li>c. DNR ID 1379, Name-Williams, Coal Field-Foothills, Formation Laramie</li></ol></li><li>4. The regional area is known to have had significant occupation by Indigenous Peoples dating back to 4-5000 BCE. An archeological site (Lodaiska) is located nearby. A detailed archeological survey of the proposed</li></ol> |
| 2/8/2024   | Ash       | Margaret   | <p>(CONT FROM ABOVE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. According to USGS records (Historic Trail Map of the Denver 10x20 Quadrangle Central Colorado, Geological Investigation Series I-2639) there were two historic railroads and an historic wagon/stage road, along with a station, in the area that is now Bear Creek Lake Park. A survey should be conducted to assess the historical significance.</li><li>7. A review of Division of Water Resource (DWR) records shows more than fifteen permits for water wells within the park including some located in the proposed inundation area. The status of these permits along with a review of well construction and operations should be completed to make sure access will be provided for active wells and that other wells have been plugged according to DWR rules and regulations.</li></ol> <p>When conducting the feasibility study, I hope the ACE takes alternative methods into consideration including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Groundwater infiltration galleries.</li><li>2. Excavation and deepening of the current pool.</li><li>3. Use of gravel quarries along the South Platte River.</li><li>4. Northern towns and suburbs should investigate the use of underground coal mines from the Boudier/Superior Coal Field. For example the City of Arvada currently stores water in the historic Leyden mine.</li><li>5. A major focus should also be on conservation of water such as using more efficient and modern irrigation technologies.</li></ol> <p>Thank you for your time and effort in reviewing my letter. I do hope that the ACE recognizes that the proposed additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park would come with significant quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County and even the entire Denver metro area. It will also cause significant degradation of wildlife habitat and riparian areas.</p>   |
| 4/1/2025   | Aujla     | Olivia     | <p>I am reaching out as a concerned Morrison, CO community member and as someone who treasures Bear Creek Lake Park. My daughter and I visit the park every day—we bike, run, and paddleboard there. It’s not just a park; it’s our second home, a place where we connect with nature, and a sanctuary for so many in our community.</p> <p>The proposed reservoir expansion would strip away over 500 acres of this beautiful land, destroying critical wildlife habitats, recreational trails, and beloved spaces. I can’t imagine losing the trails that so many of us depend on for exercise, mental health, competition, and connection to nature.</p> <p>Beyond personal loss, this plan doesn’t even seem viable. Historical data shows that Bear Creek doesn’t have enough water flow to maintain the reservoir at 20,000 acre-feet, meaning we could be left with barren mudflats instead of a usable lake. There are smarter, less damaging solutions, like deepening current reservoirs or using underground water storage—why are these not being prioritized?</p> <p>Please reconsider this project. Bear Creek Lake Park is irreplaceable, and once it’s gone, it’s gone forever.</p>  |

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| 4/3/2025   | Aujla     | Olivia     | <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park into a 20,000-acre-foot reservoir. As a local resident and frequent visitor, I am deeply concerned about the environmental, recreational, and economic consequences this project will have on our community.</p> <p>The proposed expansion would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The loss of over 500 acres of parkland, including critical riparian corridors.</li><li>•The destruction of 12 miles of trails and multiple park amenities, including picnic areas, equestrian facilities, and regional bike routes.</li><li>•Significant disruption to local wildlife habitat, reducing biodiversity in the area.</li><li>•A loss of access to a beloved recreational area that hosts over 800,000 visitors annually.</li></ul> <p>Additionally, data suggests that Bear Creek's inflow is inconsistent and may not support long-term water storage needs. Since 1986, annual inflow has averaged just 9,171 AF—far below the proposed storage of 20,000 AF. This raises concerns about the feasibility of the project and the potential for large areas of deforested mudflats during dry years.</p> <p>There are alternative water storage solutions that would mitigate the need for such an environmentally damaging project, including deepening the existing pool, aquifer storage and recovery, and repurposing gravel pits along the South Platte. I strongly urge the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider this proposal and explore these less destructive alternatives.</p>   |
| 11/01/21   | Babcock   | Susan      | <p>I am greatly OPPOSED to the current plan for expanding the water storage capacity at Bear Creek Lake Park from 2,000 acre feet to 22,000 acre feet. This plan will destroy habitat for animals and recreation area for people. [Image attached of water surface at 22,000 AF]</p>   |
| 05/04/23   | Bair      | Kurt       | <p>Any proposal to increase the size of Bear Creek Lake needs to FULLY account for the potential lost value of recreation and habitat that would occur. This gem of a park adds so much to the quality of life in the area and the species that call it home.</p>  |
| 05/31/22   | Baker     | Todd       | <p>I know you've received a number of emails/letters, so I'll keep it short.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park really is a gem. I think I can fairly safely say that there are very few places like it ANYWHERE that have so much to offer in the way of recreation (hiking, biking, horseback riding, running, bird watching, archery, etc, etc) in such a small place in the middle of the suburbs. It's actually pretty amazing!</p> <p>Consideration of any alternatives would be greatly appreciated.</p>   |
| 02/07/22   | Banders   | Wayne      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).</p>   |
| 12/09/21   | Banowetz  | Hannah     | <p>I am writing today about the proposed reallocation and expansion of Bear Creek Lake Reservoir in Lakewood, Colorado. I am currently a senior student at the Metropolitan State University of Denver studying Conservation Biology. I am also a lifelong Denver, Colorado resident who has lived in Lakewood for the past five years. For the last few years I have enjoyed kayaking, biking, and hiking in Bear Creek Lake Park. I also intimately understand and respect Colorado’s vital relationship with water. My concerns about this project stem from the impacts it will have on the riparian zone and wetlands, animal habitat, and the impacts on a beloved community recreation area. This project is part of an overall goal to increase water storage in Colorado by 400,000 acre feet by 2050. It has been compared to the expansion of Chatfield Reservoir, which was an expansion of 20,600 acre feet. This comparison is not a fair one, given the original size of both reservoirs, and their potential capacity. In a memorandum to the mayor and city counsel of Lakewood, Director of Public Works Jay Hutchison (2017) compares the two projects. Chatfield has a total storage capacity of 350,000, while Bear Creek is only 77,000. A 20,600 acre feet increase is 5.9% of Chatfield’s total capacity, while a 20,000 acre feet increase is 26% of Bear Creek’s total capacity. To properly compare these projects, Bear Creek would need a smaller increase of just that 5.9% of its volume, increase of 4,543 acre feet. The surface area difference will also have much larger impacts. Chatfield’s water area increased 600 acres. Bear Creek would see a water surface increase of almost the same amount(493 acres), even though it is a third of its size. For Chatfield Reservoir, this was a water area increase of 39%, versus Bear Creek Lake, which would be a much larger increase of 450%. This is not an equitable increase to merely add 20,000 acre feet of water to every reservoir indiscriminately. This increase also comes with very different results for the vertical water fluctuation than Chatfield. According to the memorandum from the City of Lakewood, the storage change will result in a vertical water fluctuation of 12 vertical feet in Chatfield and a difference of 53 feet in Bear Creek in low years. The full 22,000 acre feet worth of water will not be available every year, in fact it is only estimated to be available 25% of years. This potentially leaves up to 53 vertical feet of mud flats 75% of years. This destroyed area would leave room for the emergence of invasive plants. As of now, native plain cottonwoods, narrowleaf cottonwood, peachleaf willow, and sandbar willows dominate the habitat(Cross 2015). Changes to these habitats allows for tamarisk, purple loosestrife, and Russian olives to take hold and out compete native plants. Russian olive trees are capable of fixing nitrogen in their root systems, they can do well in these bare substrates left on low fill years. Although Russian olive trees provide edible fruit to birds, studies done by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado State University found that bird species richness is still higher in riparian areas dominated by native vegetation (2021). Purple loosestrife is a List A species according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires that List A species be eradicated. Russian Olive is a List B species, which is required to be, “eradicated, contained or suppressed.” Invasive plants have costs to ecosystems and financial costs of removal. Long term monitoring and management of these sites would need to be implemented to keep these areas free of infestation in low water level years. This habitat is also important to many bird species in Colorado. Bear Creek Lake Park provides mating, nesting and migratory habitat to species both state endangered or threatened and state special concern. According to research done by the city of Lakewood, over 200 bird species can be found throughout Bear Creek Lake Park (2012). Bald eagles, burrowing owls and peregrine falcons are all listed as using the park as habitat. Burrowing owls are listed as threatened in Colorado. In addition to the birds, Bear Creek Lake Park is home to an enormous amount of wildlife. Black-tailed prairie dogs are found in this area, an animal listed as a special state concern (Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2021). These animals have fewer and fewer places to go as we develop areas. In Bear Creek Park we have an area that is animal habitat, functional as a reservoir and useful to humans in other ways as well. There is focus on the expanded area for watersports, however this aesthetic and navigational nightmare caused by mud flats does not lend itself to peaceful recreation. One of Bear Creek Lake’s draws is its proximity to the city. Yet Bear Creek Lake Reservoir feels far from the multiple highways it is surrounded by because of how low it sits. This added height would mean the lake would no longer be protected from the sounds and sights of highways CO 470, Highway 285, and Highway 8. The public scoping meeting pointed out this increase could also mean an increase of e. coli and fecal coliform bacteria contamination (US Army Corps of Engineers 2021). [continued below]</p> |



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| 12/09/21   | Banowetz  | Hannah     | [continued from above] These issues lead to a decline in water quality in the reservoir and can harm human health. Both do not lend themselves to continued recreational uses of the Bear Creek Lake Reservoir. This water storage project is due to the growing population of Colorado. But one of the reasons so many people want to live in Colorado is because of parks like Bear Creek. It is a delicate balance to protect these areas for future generations while also ensuring we have water to maintain that population. I hope the Army Corps of Engineers will seriously consider at least a compromise of a smaller expansion. I understand the park is maintained by Lakewood and not owned by it, but time, money and infrastructure has been put into the park since the dam and reservoir were completed in 1977. In addition to habitat destruction, flooding this area would destroy 12 miles of trails, piers, picnic structures, toilet and water amenities, parking, and the entire equestrian area. According to the City of Lakewood, environmental education programming for young Coloradans will be affected, leading to more children disconnected from nature and its deep importance. Please consider the profound ecological, educational, and cultural importance of Bear Creek Lake Park as you move forward with plans to expand its reservoir. Thank you for your time and consideration  |
| 03/14/22   | Bauer     | Robert     | <p>I am writing this letter since I am strongly OPPOSED to the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>First and foremost it is my understanding that the lake in his current function has served as a vital flood control protecting those downstream from the extremes of floods such as experienced in 2013. I fear that the expansion of the lake would imperil those downstream and require them to be in a flood zone.</p> <p>The lake and park host over 600,000 visitors each year in a vital land for recreation for those in Lakewood and the larger Denver metro area. I use the park regularly and see many road and mountain bikers, runners, hikers, horseback riders, archery enthusiasts, bird watchers, picnickers, and overnight campers. The children's programs introduce kids to nature. Many organized running and riding events are hosted in the park.</p> <p>The park also serves as a vital riparian ecosystem near a large metro area as humans continue to expand into other habitats. The park has woods, wetlands, meadows, and prairies. I have seen an amazing variety of birds including owls and eagles, migrating birds and other animals both large and small living in this rare habitat.</p> <p>I am absolutely convinced that the value of the prior public investments to the Bear Creek Lake Park infrastructure that accommodates recreation must be preserved. Especially during such unprecedented times of a worldwide climate change it is of up most importance to preserve existing eco-systems and maintain their recreational usefulness for the benefit of the whole community of the Front Range.</p>   |
| 01/10/22   | Baumgardt | Don        | I am writing to you to express my opposition to the plan to change the authorized purpose of Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, Colorado from Flood Control to Multi-Purpose Storage and increase the allocated space from 2,000 to 20,000 acre feet. I am opposed to this plan to virtually destroy Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) for five broad reasons: Riparian Corridor and Wetlands, Water Inflows (average, low and high), Recreation & Transportation, Alternative Storage Options and Fiscal Responsibility. Riparian Corridor and Wetlands: There are four primary water sources flowing into the Denver metro area: Clear Creek, Cherry Creek, Bear Creek and the South Platte River. The Clear Creek and Cherry Creek corridors have been altered/destroyed to the point that there is very little natural area left for wildlife, biological diversity and human enjoyment of the natural environment. The South Platte corridor upstream and downstream of Chatfield Reservoir is well preserved and a popular example of what can be done for natural resource conservation and flood control. The Bear Creek corridor is currently well preserved, but this plan would destroy prime habitats that cannot be replaced. This proposal would ruin nearly two miles of stream (along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek), 72.29 acres of wetlands and 615 acres of the overall park. With so little natural areas, with flowing water, like Bear Creek Lake Park remaining inside the metro area, this loss would be catastrophic. Water Inflows (average, low and high): From the Brown and Caldwell report, during the 31 year period from 1986 through 2016, these historic numbers are relevant to the reservoir expansion plan: The lowest annual inflow was 356 acre feet (AF) in 2006, the highest annual inflow was 27,121 AF in 2013, the average (mean) annual inflow was 9,171 AF and the average (mode) annual inflow was 8,063 AF. All of these numbers point toward the expansion as being unnecessary and unproductive. In low inflow years the reservoir could be largely empty even if water is held over from higher previous years. The resulting large, dusty bathtub ring will help noxious plants flourish and dust to blow into the metro area, decreasing air quality. In average inflow years less than 50% of the proposed capacity is even needed. Water could be stockpiled if back to back above average years take place, but it’s unwise to approve and construct a project such as this on the hopes of multiple back to back years will create the need to put anywhere close to 20,000 AF of water in Bear Creek Lake. High inflow years are probably the most concerning. Flooding in 2013 and 2015 caused inflows of 27,121 and 19,049 AF respectively. In both of these years the water flowed down Bear Creek from the mountains in rain events, not as snowpack melt. Large rainfall events are impossible to predict more than a few days in advance and are likely to become more frequent because of climate change. If one OR TWO large rainfall events were to happen at a time when the reservoir were at anywhere near the new multi-purpose capacity of 20,000 AF, the devastation downstream could be catastrophic. I request that you stand on the current dam and look downstream, and that you tour Bear Creek Trail from the dam to the S. Platte River to personally see that there’s no safe place for any overflows to go. Bear Creek Lake Dam is the last dam before the creek reaches major population areas. Utilizing a dam in this location, with this surrounding topography makes sense for flood control, but not for significant water storage.Recreation & Transportation: Attendance at Bear Creek Lake Park was recorded at over 650,000 people in 2020. This number does not include those who walk or bike in, so actual attendance is actually significantly higher. People go to BCLP for a large variety of reasons including hiking, biking (road and mountain), birdwatching, boating, paddle boarding, fishing, horseback riding, archery, educational programs, camping, picnicking and, most importantly, to just connect to nature. All of these activities would be greatly impacted by an enlargement of the lake that would destroy over 600 acres and 15 miles of trails in the park. Two reasons BCLP is so popular can both be labeled “accessibility”. The park’s size and location cause it to function almost as a state park, especially for residents of the southeast metro area. BCLP is easy to reach for tens of thousands of people - many in lower socio-economic levels. If it were to lose most of its amenities, those residents/taxpayers would lose a beloved resource and be left without access to open space or be forced to use other open spaces, increasing overcrowding. Additionally, the terrain at the park - especially the area that would be destroyed by this plan - is relatively flat when compared to other open space options in the area. The gentle slopes make BCLP a popular choice for younger, older and physically challenged users. We should not be decreasing accessibility to those with few options already. Destroying BCLP can easily be called an environmental justice issue. People living nearby with limited means to travel farther and those in need of “easier” trails would be disproportionately effected. Many users of the trails through BCLP use the trail network for transportation. [continued below] |

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| 01/10/22   | Baumgardt | Don        | <p>[continued from above] The paved trails are the connection that bike riders use to travel through the city, from the S. Platte River Trail to Bear Creek Trail and the C-470 Trail (and all the neighborhoods along those routes). Local governments are working to make alternative transportation better and this plan would make it more difficult and less appealing to use bikes for transportation and recreation in southwest metro Denver. Alternative Storage Options: A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative surface water storage exist. One alternative currently being considered at BCLP is to excavate the current pool and remove accumulated sand and silt that have reduced its capacity over time. Excavating to bedrock could further deepen the pool. This would increase storage capacity and reduce the footprint of impact. Another very promising alternative is the increasing use of gravel pits for water storage. Dozens of such pits exist along the South Platte, and in fact, the City of Brighton withdrew from their interest in the Chatfield expansion to store water in their local gravel pits. These pits continue to be created as development demands more sand and gravel. Another innovative and growing means of storing water is ASR- Aquifer Storage and Recovery. The more we utilize this approach, the less we will impact places like BCLP. Unlike old-school surface water storage, ASR is not susceptible to evaporation. Fiscal Responsibility: I haven't seen detailed cost projections for this plan, but with all the reasons I've outlined it's difficult to see how changing the designation and increasing the size of Bear Creek Lake could be a good use of significant taxpayer dollars. There's not enough water to utilize an enlarged reservoir (until there's, catastrophically, too much water), the environmental damage is too significant and the loss of such a valuable recreation amenity is too great. For all these reason (and more), I plan to vigorously encourage and support public opposition to the plan. I would welcome any comments you have for me relating to my positions in this letter.</p>  |
| 5/23/2023  | Baumgardt | Don        | <p>I am writing this comment as Colorado's Front Range and Plains are still dealing with the effects of a large rain event that occurred earlier this month. Several inches of rain fell in two days causing swollen waterways and flooding.</p> <p>The good news is that the Corps' Tri-Lakes Projects - Bear Creek, Chatfield and Cherry Creek reservoirs - all did their jobs. Although there has been damage inside the parks associated with those reservoirs, flooding downstream has been minimized (so far, at least). It's been two weeks since the rains, and waters at Bear Creek Lake have yet to recede. Outflows from the reservoir are barely keeping up with inflows even after the Corps opened the dam gates to send an increased flow toward the S. Platte.</p> <p>The Tri-Lakes Projects were built in response to the terrible loss of life and property damage from flooding caused by the historic 1965 storm. Since then, and prior to this year, at least two storms have tested the flood control capabilities of the Bear Creek project (2013 and 2015). I have read news stories and watched video accounts of each of the events dating back to 1965 and all were described as 100- or 500-year events. Yet each occurred in the last 58 years. It seems realistic to assume that more such storms could impact the region in any given year.</p> <p>There are many dams upstream of Chatfield on the S. Platte River that can help capture and control the flow of water from storms and snowmelt in that watershed. Bear Creek Lake and Cherry Creek Lake are the only significant reservoirs on their respective creeks. That makes Bear Creek Dam and Cherry Creek Dam vitally important points of defense from downstream flooding. The need for Flood Control seems to greatly outweigh any potential benefit of Storage in Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>It's irresponsible to believe that this month's storm is the biggest punch Mother Nature could deliver to the Metro Denver area. If additional water is being stored in Bear Creek Lake and then a large storm occurs, the results could be catastrophic. Add snowmelt season into the equation and you could have the proverbial "perfect storm". In light of this most recent event, the Corps needs to add an evaluation of this storm to its in-progress feasibilty study of Bear Creek Lake. This storm did not mirror what happened in previous events and surely provides new data for interpretation.</p> |



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| 09/01/22   | Baumgart  | Don        | <p>Several months ago I submitted a comment letter about the feasibility study to change the designation of Bear Creek Lake from flood control to storage. Since the comment period is still open and new information is available, I am submitting a second comment.</p> <p>The non-federal sponsor for this study, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, recently released its draft update of the Colorado Water Plan. The draft identifies four action areas: Vibrant Communities, Robust Agriculture, Thriving Watersheds and Resilient Planning. After studying all 239 pages of the draft, I’m confident that the number of reasons to NOT change the Bear Creek Lake designation greatly outnumber any dubious reasons to even consider such a change.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a hub of the vibrant community of Lakewood and the southwest Denver metro area. The park sees over one million visitors annually, most of whom spend time in the area that would be effected by an increase in the reservoir size. It is an amenity that adds significant value to the region. The City of Lakewood, the Town of Morrison and the active citizens group, Save Bear Creek Lake Park, have all spoken loudly about the value of the park as it now exists.</p> <p>The healthy riparian corridors along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek inside the park represent the last piece of a thriving watershed before Bear Creek enters a much more urban environment. As the CWCB draft plan states, “The health of watersheds affects agriculture, downstream communities, recreation, tourism and ecosystem function.” Destroying these riparian corridors would damage the watershed and adversely impact recreation, tourism and ecosystem function.</p> <p>One component of resilient planning is storing as much reliable source water as we can, but another component is dealing with climate change. Scientists agree, and the CWCB draft states, that storms will be more frequent and severe in the future. The current designation of Bear Creek Lake for flood control should not be compromised in the hope that on rare occasions significant water could be stored there for potential use far downstream.</p> <p>Add to these reasons the issue of dependable yield. The numbers over recent decades just don’t show enough water flowing into the reservoir (not already secured by existing water rights) to justify trying to store water for municipal or agricultural use.</p> <p>The Army Corp of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board should promptly conclude this feasibility study with a decision to NOT change the reservoir designation and instead spend time and money on projects that have a greater probability of success and that citizens will support.</p> <p>As one of the student activists involved in the Save Bear Creek Lake Park movement told the media, “the juice ain’t worth the squeeze.”</p>   |
| 8/19/2025  | Baumgart  | Don        | <p>Flood Control. That’s the original and current purpose of Bear Creek Lake dam and reservoir. They exist to protect lives and property downstream from a repeat of massive floods that devastated the region in 1965.</p> <p>The tragic events now taking place in the southern New Mexico town of Ruidoso provide a timely reminder of why flood control is so crucial and reinforce that it is difficult to predict the severity of future weather events. The Ruidoso area has a total year-round population of under 15,000 people but it often swells with tens of thousands of visitors, especially on summer weekends. It’s situated at just over 7,000 feet above sea level and on the southeastern flanks of 11,981 foot Sierra Blanca, the tallest mountain in the region.</p> <p>Large wildfires swept through the area in 2022 and 2024, burning over 30,000 acres in total. Decades of fire suppression throughout the west, coupled with warming temperatures are increasing the frequency and size of wildfires. Some of these fires burned hot, hot enough to change the soil’s composition and make it hydrophobic - less able to absorb rainfall. The Ruidoso fires were that type. Last year and this year heavy rains upstream of populated areas have repeatedly sent suddenly rising waters in the Rio Ruidoso through the heart of the town. Three people have died and several hundred homes were damaged or destroyed. The Ruidoso Downs horse racing track was even forced to close for the remainder of the summer season and possibly forever because of damage received.</p> <p>How does this relate to Bear Creek Lake? The watersheds of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek - the two sources of water entering Bear Creek Lake - are significantly larger than the landmass above Ruidoso. And, as in Ruidoso, there are no other flood control structures above Bear Creek Dam. Read the news. Larger wildfire and flood events are happening everywhere these days.</p> <p>A December 8, 2022 memorandum from the USACE Risk Management Center (SUBJECT: Bear Creek Dam Periodic Assessment 01) expressed concern about undertaking the reallocation study, noting that it may recommend trading flood risk management benefits for water supply benefits. The memo referenced the 2019 disapproval of the Aquilla Lake, Texas Reallocation Report and cautioned that while risk neutral alternatives likely exist, they would require significant infrastructure investment. Even with such investment, the risk of fire in and above the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) surely increases potential for more sudden and devastating flood events in the Bear Creek Watershed. Has this risk factor been considered in the Feasibility Study?</p> <p>How much of Bear Creek Reservoir’s capacity can be reallocated to water storage without increasing flood risk? Save Bear Creek Lake Park has primarily focused on the environmental and recreational impacts of a reallocation on the park itself. However, flood risk is also a major concern in the broader community. It’s hard to see how increasing water storage in the reservoir, thereby reducing its capacity to absorb and store floodwaters, is risk neutral.</p> |
| 4/15/2025  | Becker    | Chuck      | <p>I support the expansion of the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, Colorado. With the expansion of population in the Denver area, water supplies are a major concern. Combining the additional water availability with continued flood control will be a benefit to the area both present and future.</p>  |

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| 10/15/21   | Bedard    | David      | <p>My name is David Bedard . I live near Bear Creek Lake Park. I moved to Colorado ten years ago. I have been enjoying the park for ten years. The park is so special to me that when I retired six years ago I started volunteering in the park. I do trail maintenance , wildlife monitoring , raptor monitoring and bluebird box monitoring. I (along with thousands of people) run in the park , bicycle in the park and relax by hiking and observing wildlife.</p> <p>The park is an oasis in the town of Lakewood. Last year , when Covid raised its ugly head , the park became a sanctuary (similar to our national parks) . The park set new attendance records. When you folks do the feasibility study to determine if the lake should be vastly expanded to hold more water , you will not be looking at the intangibles , the peace and tranquility that the park brings to its guests. As you know , the proposed new water depths will wipe out half of the park.</p> <p>Lastly , my significant other has had Parkinson's disease for twenty-one years. It has been medically proven that bicycling helps people who have Parkinson's with their symptoms. It is too dangerous for Margaret to bicycle on the streets so I bring her bicycling in Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Mr. Shelman , I am totally against going forward with the proposed water expansion project for Bear Creek Lake Park !!! [Duplicate received 10/18/21]</p>   |
| 03/01/22   | Bedard    | David      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br/>I love running and biking in the park. I volunteer at the park. I want to be able to bring my grandchildren to the park to use the trails (5 and 10 years old). Thank you.</p>   |
| 2/11/2025  | Benjamin  | Carole     | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. I am an avid Bear Creek Lake Park user and I do not want to see any changes to the park. I annually run with the Lakewood trail runners in the Fall and it is always something I look forward to. I like running on the trails with this group – they push me to run faster and further. I LOVE getting on the trails that I have come to LOVE and have seen numerous wild life including, owls, deer and bull snakes.</p> <p>I also ride my mountain bike throughout the park and always up on Mount Carbon. It is challenging but amazing to be out in nature.</p> <p>I ride my road bike there weekly and always sit up on Mt. Carbon and enjoy the view while having a snack.</p> <p>I take my disabled daughter to the park and we go for long walks. I push her in her wheelchair on the paved paths as we enjoy the wildlife, horses, cyclists, lake, water activities, etc.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park has become a daily place for me to go. I live on Green Mountain and it would largely affect my life if there were changes. Please look at other alternatives in storing water.</p>   |
| 02/01/22   | Bentley   | Debra      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)</p>   |
| 02/07/22   | Bentley   | Charles    | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br/>Fishing.</p>   |
| 04/11/22   | Beshel    | Judith     | <p>I oppose any re-allocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that has a significant impact on the park. I realize what "significant" can differ depending on who you speak to. I am a Lakewood resident of 13 yrs and own a home in Ward 5. I have several significant concerns:</p> <p>1) Social impact - not only out of state and county, but this is an international rec site that has 1 million visitors a year. The Park hosts multiple programs for families, of all ages. It is an oasis in the dense metro area.</p> <p>2) Environmental impact - ecen a 10,000 acre feet expansion would destroy a mile of the Beer Creek riparian corridor. The ecosystem would disintegrate and wildlife would have no other place to go, as this site has non like it within miles.</p> <p>3) Economic impact - visitors bring in \$1 million in revenue to the park as well as spending resources in the entire county. Additionally, as a resident who saw how close the water came after the 2013 floods, I know we cannot get flood insurance. Many homes would be vulnerable and would not have insurance protections. If this passes and is done, there would be an exodus of residents looking to sell before completion. We do not have confidence in statements that promote arguments that say otherwise.</p> <p>I recommend that the state take a step back to explore and plan for strategic growth in the areas that this Reservoir is planned to help. Not only is there NO current need, the estimate of population was over by 1/4 million people. In addition residents in Dacono, Brighton and Berthoud do NOT want the kind of expansion that this project is anticipating!</p> <p>Sounds like politics to me.</p> <p>What is needed is compromise with less impactfull alternatives. Examples are deepening the current pool and construction of a secondary pool on the south embankments. I'd prefer none of course but realize that's not an alternative.</p> |

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| 05/04/23   | Beshel    | Judith     | <p>I am making a statement on the consideration in process as part of your feasiblity study on the Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (expansion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of land area by over 500 acres</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation affecting humans and all ecosystems in the park!</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li></ul> <p>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including: Equestrian area • Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County on paved road that crosses the dam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits (not counting people who walk or bike in)</li><li>• Low Dependable Yield</li><li>• Unallocated yield from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool. Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21).</li></ul> <p>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values.</p> <p>There is also dam Safety Concerns: Increased lake levels may impact outlet structure and require other renovations that are more expensive than alternatives as this dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Also the infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</p> <p>PLEASE consider these concerns during your study!</p> |
| 6/30/2023  | Beshel    | Judith     | <p>I am writing to tell you how Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood is such a positive aspect of my personal mental and physical health as well as the social health and integrity of our community.</p> <p>I moved to CO for the nature, and used to live in Durango but came closer to Denver for work. I need to be out in nature and part of the eco cycle for my balance of work and play (my health). This area has been built up and developed so much over the past 20 years, it is loud and busy.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park truly is a sanctuary in the city. This is necessary for our bodies to wind down and restore our central nervous systems. The water, animals, birds and elder trees provide a whole teaching environment for children, and an oasis for adults.</p> <p>Also is the thriving wildlife eco system. Changing this to a storage would literally kill this ecosystem. There is no where for them to go, they will not survive. And that holds true for the flora and fauna that have found their niche here.</p> <p>You are in a position to maintain and sustain this priceless sanctuary for many species including humans. There are resourceful options that your agency has access to working with. You can be leaders and show how to make a shift in how we use our resources, not another holding tank that will eventually run dry.</p> <p>We are depending on you. We are pleading with you. Please be creative, resourceful, and consider keeping Bear Creek Lake Park the treasure that it is in its current state. Thank you.</p>   |
| 6/30/2023  | Besu      | Sarifina   | <p>I am writing to tell you how Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood stands out as my number one personal mental and physical health, and also for the social health and integrity of our community!</p> <p>This area has been built up and developed so much over the past 20 years, it is loud and busy. WeI need to be out in nature and for our health. Bear Creek Lake Park is a sanctuary, it is necessary for our bodies to wind down and restore our central nervous systems. The water, animals, birds and elder trees provide a whole teaching environment for children, and an oasis for adults. A place to learn, recreate, restore and meet new people!</p> <p>Bear Creek lake Park is a thriving wildlife eco system. Changing this to a storage would literally kill this ecosystem. There is no reason to do so, USACE has the resources to create alternative options. Please let our voices be heard.</p>  |
| 02/12/22   | Blair     | Julia      | <p>Conservation groups, who have long argued it’s time to trim nonnative grass watering that Colorado State University experts estimate makes up most of the 55% of Front Range urban water used on the outdoors, hail the statewide buyout idea as a great first step that they hope will expand.</p> <p>From THE SUN</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Tired of mowing the lawn? Colorado could pay you \$2 a square foot to rip it out.</p> <p>Turf buyout programs could start to solve some of the water shortages during long-term drought. A bill would expand grass buyouts statewide and double local payments.</p>   |



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| 04/25/22   | Blair       | Julia       | Bear Creek Lake Park is a frequent destination for me, and visiting it contributes to my well-being, physically and emotionally. Please allow us to enjoy this precious resource. Thank you.   |
| 06/11/22   | Blassingame | Wyatt       | <p>I live in Morrison, and use the Bear Creek park on a regular basis. It's such an incredible outdoor jewel, and so many people take advantage of it. Go to the park on any summer weekend and you'll find a million people. And they're now in the process of building a huge dense development just across the street to the north. All those people need a way to get outside -- there's nothing like walking those dirt trails among the cottonwoods with the river running nearby. There's even a hidden little bmx park in there that the local kids have built. It's just a wonderful place.</p> <p>I realize people need water. But if there is ANY other viable alternative, please try to focus on that. It would be such an awful shame to lose all that beautiful habitat.</p>  |
| 05/04/23   | Block       | Barbara     | I strongly oppose the expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park. Flooding this wonderful recreation area would have a huge negative impact on many people who use this park for biking, swimming, fishing, archery, camping, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, dog walking, picnics, and just having a safe and beautiful place to enjoy the outdoors. Please do not take away this amazing resource. By flooding this park, you will see a spike in mental health needs. The park provides an escape for so many people to enjoy life and destress. Please save this park and figure out a solution that does not take something away from our life but adds to our life and well-being.  |
| 03/15/22   | Blodgett    | Brandon     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". (No added comments)   |
| 02/25/22   | Bodenhamer  | Susan       | <p>I am writing this letter to address the study of feasibility of the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>In my opinion the quality of life of residents in a community balances on the presence of nature and opportunities to meander or run on trails that border a creek with an abundance of trees and wildlife. For me, such an escape is essential! I gather, from the number of people also using these trails, that others feel the same way.</p> <p>To take such a beautiful park away from this community would be a travesty, and should weigh heavy on the individuals responsible.</p>   |
| 05/03/22   | Bookout     | Sami        | <p>I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to respectfully express my concerns with the Bear Creek Reservoir expansion project as I am a resident of the area and my family and I use the trails and lake frequently.</p> <p>As avid runners we use the trails at least twice a week. My dog and I enjoy running in a safe place (that offers plenty of drinking water for my dog) without traffic and a feeling of safety knowing that the park rangers are always close by. My daughter runs the trails with her running club and high school friends freely and safely. If the reservoir expansion project happens trail users will lose 12 miles of trails within the area, not to mention, the amount of wildlife that will be lost. This would be a travesty!</p> <p>As residents we love spending time at the lake on hot summer days, we enjoy paddle boarding and even camping at the campground. Our children also love to learn about the wildlife within the area, as well as how to preserve the wildlife habitats and keep the trails clean. In addition to the trail and wildlife concerns there would be a huge loss in park amenities, such as the loss of the equestrian area, the campground and picnic areas would be lost and the access for bikes to go between downtown Denver and Jefferson County safely.</p> <p>I have read that there are alternative water storage solutions without flooding the area. I am sure you are aware of such solutions and appreciate your willingness to explore those options.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a priceless community resource that would be a devastating loss.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration</p>  |
| 04/26/22   | Boswell     | Christopher | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives.</p> <p>The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |

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| 03/31/22   | Bowen     | Peter G. (Jeff)   | <p>This regards the proposed increase in the water capacity for Bear Creek Lake, which, with the surrounding land, is leased by the City of Lakewood, Colorado. It is located in central Jefferson County; Colorado, which is a mixed residential and commercial county west of Denver. Colorado-and much of the West need access to water, partly for agricultural purposes, partly for human consumption, and partly for the advantages which lakes or reservoirs offer: proximate recreation and open space. Certainly Cherry Creek Reservoir, Chatfield, Aurora and other reservoirs offer a good balance of those uses. And on a smaller scale, Bear Creek Lake and the park which surrounds it offers excellent recreation, riparian acreage, flood control and reasonable water storage. The basin in which Bear Creek Lake sits is narrower and smaller than either Cherry Creek or Chatfield, and the dam was built primarily for flood control. That creates the first issue: there is significant residential and commercial development below it and thus to significantly add water storage, the dam would have to be re-built to a significantly higher standard to provide safety for the uses below it.</p> <p>But what also concerns me is to add water storage, it would destroy balance of the current reservoir and surrounding natural acreage. The balance promotes the riparian corridor, recreation which is easy to reach for residents of Jefferson County and flood control which also offers reasonable water storage. To significantly increase the water storage will destroy that balance. Further, the location of Bear Creek Lake Park is central to significant residential development and it has become a recreational hub. Though there were 650,000 recorded visitors in 2020, that number is woefully short: many of the visitors arrive on foot, horse or bicycle, and are thus not counted in gate receipts. Bear Creek Lake Park has truly become a needed center in Jefferson County for recreational activity. Though this opinion is mine, since Eastern Colorado is naturally high desert, I think there is a limit to how many people metropolitan Denver can realistically provide water to. That number is approaching. The competing need for water is agricultural: much of Eastern Colorado has farms and ranches which are mostly irrigated. Agricultural production will become critical with the forthcoming loss of grain production in the Ukraine. Thus new water storage facilities need to be in Eastern Colorado. For these-and many other reasons which others have elucidated, I strongly urge you to deny any increased water storage at Bear Creek Lake.</p> |
| 06/02/22   | Bradley   | Jeffrey           | <p>Good morning. Thank you for allowing our input on the above matter. We support the additional water storage in Bear Creek Reservoir, (Mt. Carbon Dam). A few of our observations follow.</p> <p>1) A fuse plug should be considered in the earthen (emergency) spillway east of drainageway J commonly known as "Coyote Gulch". This would allow not to decrease the emergency storage and would alleviate earlier increased releases. If in fact sediment were to be removed from the existing reservoir, the sediment could be used to build this fuse plug.</p> <p>2) We have been involved with this project since the mid-1970's when the Army Corps condemned part of our dairy operations. We could continue to be a part of this project if we were allowed to more efficiently store 60 acre feet of water yearly that we are currently entitled to store immediately to the north.</p> <p>3) If true, would it be wise to emphasize that this increased storage is similar to the increased storage in the recently-completed project at Chatfield which was generally well received by the public?</p> <p>4) Would not existing trails and other amenities for the local residents be relocated andexpanded for current and additional users? . . . ' .</p> <p>5) Would there not be an increase in wildlife due to the fact that increased water is a three-dimension type of benefit where surface area is generally a two-dimension type of benefit?</p> <p>Please let us know if we may be of help.</p>   |
| 05/23/22   | Breeden   | Thomas and Andrea | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments) Attachment Provided: Talking Points  |
| 07/11/22   | Brehmer   | Wanda Robinson    | <p>I am a concerned resident of Lakewood, CO over the proposal to flood bear creek park. We buy a pass every year to support the park. We bike hike and paddle board in the park. One of the trails we use weekly is the Cottonwood trail which will be flooded under the proposal. Please don't flood this park. The population density of the area is ever increasing and there are not enough parks and recreation for the existing population much less the hundreds of homes now being built and proposed. I believe taking away the hiking and biking trails will harm the health of the population left without open space to recreate in. As a medical professional I could site study after study of the need for open space to ensure the mental and physical health of urban populations but I am sure you have that information already. As a concerned citizen I am begging you to find another answer to the water needs you are sighting in this study.</p>  |
| 6/7/2023   | Brey      | Lauren            | <p>I am reaching out regarding Bear Creek Lake Park, this park is so dear to me and my soon to be husband. We spend tons of time running on the trails, it's easily accessible from our home. It would mean the world to us if this park stayed open, having an open space close by was one of the reasons we choose Lakewood. Please save Bear Creek Lake Park, and do not disregard this message. It is our special place to run and bike!</p>  |
| 03/27/22   | Brigham   | Robert            | <p>It is my understanding that The Army Corp of Engineers is studying increasing the capacity of Bear Creek Reservoir (Morrison/Lakewood, CO) from about 2,000 Acre Feet to up to 22,000 Acre Feet. I just want to express my opposition to this project. While I understand the desire for more water capacity, increasing the capacity of this reservoir by any significant amount will destroy habitat that I, and many others, visit and use regularly. I live just downstream from the reservoir and regularly ride my bike and hike on the trails throughout the park. One of the major reasons I live where I live is the accessibility to Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Quite frankly, there is no other park in the southwest Denver metropolitan area that offers what Bear Creek Lake offers. Bear Creek and Turkey Creek, as they flow into the reservoir today provide natural forested areas with beautiful trails for hiking and biking, and lots of great picnic areas, in an area that feels rural. It is an oasis in the shadow of the city. A major expansion would kill this off.</p> <p>In short, this proposal would impact the recreational opportunities for tens of thousands of residents in the heavily populated Denver/Lakewood metropolitan area. Any increase in water capacity should occur in an area that does not impact such a large portion of Colorado’s population. Thanks for your consideration!</p>  |

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| 6/27/2023  | Brookman   | Maureen            | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>We're newer to this area of Lakewood, but in the year that we've lived here we have found endless activities and interest in Bear Creek Lake Park. We visit the park several times a week and enjoy bike riding and hiking/walking through the park most.</p> <p>The park is one of the main reasons we moved to this area because we wanted to enhance our ability to enjoy the outdoors and open space areas as we age. We have also enjoyed and valued seeing so much diverse wildlife and have taken part in many of the activities offered by the Park Rangers service (hikes, night hikes, bon fires, learning about the riparian area..etc). The diversity of the trails and areas to bicycle seem unmatched in the area.</p> <p>We're very concerned about the potential for loss of land area and loss of some of the riparian corridors and those impacts both on wildlife and even our home. The flooding concerns with increasing the size of the water storage capacity could impact us directly as we live next to the park and along Bear Creek. This park &amp; surrounding area has truly meant a lot to our family and our health.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and allowing the community to provide comments for your study</p>  |
| 03/31/22   | Browell    | Samantha and Derek | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See above. Added comments:<br>Frequent users and lovers of our community park.   |
| 10/27/21   | Brown      | Cheryl             | <p>Hi John. My name is Cheryl and I hike at Bear Creek Lake Park every morning. I just want to share a few pictures with you of the wildlife and incredibly beautiful scenery that I get to observe. If the expansion were to take place these interactions would never have happened, as the areas would be completely under water. One of the animals that I observed recently is a very rare Pine Marten which is usually not seen at such a low altitude. Thank you for looking. I'm keeping this simple on purpose. I know you're aware of the devastating effects and possible complete loss of habitat for these magnificent creatures should this proposed project come to fruition. I have hundreds and hundreds more photos that I could share, as do many of my Park friends, but I'll limit it to 10 as that's the maximum I can attach ☺ Thank you, Cheryl [ATTACHMET - 11 JPEG photos] Duplicate/additional comment received 10/29/21 My name is Cheryl Brown and I'm a frequent (daily) guest at Bear Creek Lake Park. I'm attaching a few pictures from some of my forays into the park and I hope you enjoy them.</p> <p>The loss of habitat for the animals that reside within the park would be devastating. I've attached pictures of a Pine Marten (VERY rare to see), Great Horned Owls, a Screech Owl, and bucks and does. The areas where I took these pictures would literally be underwater if this proposal comes to fruition!! The loss of 12 miles of trails, loss of the Horse Arena, numerous picnic shelters and areas and the Turtle Pond to name a few is simply incomprehensible to me. Isn't there a high flood risk associated with the current proposal? What about surface water evaporation? Wouldn't it make sense to dig deeper instead of wider?</p> <p>BCLP is a refuge to animals and humans alike.....thanks for reading and looking at my pictures. [9 photos Embedded]</p> |
| 01/30/22   | Buffington | Vicky              | <p>ABSOLUTLEY NOT<br/>The park is ALL there is left for residents, that's it. How in the HELL could you take away THAT park when it's all there is LEFT.</p> <p>GET THE HELL GONE with YOUR project and LEAVE ALL that is LEFT for the residents of Lakewood. It is the MOST precious area we have. Combined with Red Rocks, with have the only bit of heaven left.</p> <p>DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW PRECIOUS and IMPORTANT THIS AREA IS FOR ALL OUR WELL BEING.</p> <p>We have been pushed and pushed and pushed out of existence for new housing, animal life has disappeared.</p> <p>STOP</p>   |



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| 01/30/22   | Buffington | Vicky         | <p>STOP destroying Lakewood<br/>DO NOT TOUCH BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK</p> <p>It is ALL we have LEFT. IT is there for the residents to have the outdoors apart from other crowded parks. It is our well being, and the well being of wildlife that it REMAINS EXACTLY the way it is. Campers come from far and wide for the serenity, and people off season have a beautiful place just to breath the air, walk with families and their pets. It's the ONLY haven LEFT!</p> <p>WE have been pushed out from every corner in this city for building and building and building and yet the city still is a dump of old, which should be improved upon. Broken down parking lots with businesses, grasses/weeds uncut. Wildlife GONE</p> <p>WHAT in the HELL is Lakewood or the STATE thinking by ripping this area up that allows great outdoor recreation, the paths, the campground, archery, horseback riding. Its peacefulness is the ONLY place LEFT AS IT IS. It's the ONLY place where there is a small area for wildlife to live because of CONSTANT building of houses and condominiums, all the while, the services/businesses in Lakewood SUCK because there could be even better shopping of independent owners. The services and stores are FAR behind the times in upgrading the aesthetics of the roads, such as mediums on the roads that could have plantings, and broken down parking lots and businesses SHOULD not be allowed to remain ramshackled, rundown. Nothing is fresh and up to date. I've seen a large outdoor mall that NEVER has any aesthetics, just huge ugly parking lots.</p> <p>Now you want to FLOOD the Park for progress. Simply get the hell out, flood a place that's FAR away from this beautifully managed area of the Bear Creek Lake Park. Find a piece of useless land. It is precious and beautiful and ALL that is LEFT.</p> <p>How can the state and the city constantly be so irresponsible to bring down a city, destroy wildlife, all for profit. It has been nonstop corruption with the city of Lakewood, nonstop.</p> <p>Improve what Lakewood HAS. Flooding the park is NOT an answer, and who the hell in the first place would sit in their precious building and even THINK this crap UP. It is so destructive it goes right along with everything we are seeing now in the country being run by Democrats. NOTHING about this makes sense, nor does taking every strip of land that wildlife have to escape to, and people have to recreate. WE DONT WANT TO GO OUT AND BUY BOATS because you flooded the park!</p> |
| 02/06/22   | Buffington | Vicky         | How can this idea ever be entertained to wipe out this one and only resource left for residents and animals. The growth is the fault of developers, and wiping out the Bear Creek Park is saying we All have to pay the price of overdevelopment. Put your water supply Elsewhere! There is No reason to wipe out the Bear Creek Park. There will be Nothing left for All the people now there. No reason to live in the area! This is the truest travesty of its kind.   |
| 04/25/22   | Buffington | Vicky         | It is our Last resource for a multitude of outdoor resources and wildlife. That's it. Houses and interstates is all there is now! Stop Any developments impinging Bear Creek Park<br>Thank you  |
| 03/15/22   | Burkhardt  | Julie         | <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my opposition to the reallocation. I am opposed to this action due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the Park, excluding golf course)</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails • Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:</li><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks)</li></ul> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County</li></ul>  |
| 02/14/22   | Burkman    | Hank          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).   |
| 02/14/22   | Burns?     | Elizabeth     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>I am opposed to this expansion because it will take away trails and bird habitat.  |
| 02/12/22   | Burzynski  | Frank & Cathy | The park supports a variety of wildlife and my wife and I walk there often, it is an oasis here along the foothills. Please allow it to remain at the current levels so we can continue to have this important habitat preserved.   |

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| 10/19/21   | Caldwell   | Dave       | Please reconsider expanding the volume of Bear Creek Lake. This park and its trails are very important to myself and my family, not to mention the community as a whole. Loss of access would be devastating  |
|            |            |            | <p>As a Lakewood resident since 2011, I am writing to express my concern over the planned reservoir in Bear Creek Lake Park. When my family moved to the area South of Green Mountain in 2011, the proximity of outdoor recreation at Bear Creek Lake Park was a key part of our decision. Although our kids are grown now, my wife and I continue to enjoy the park on a weekly basis for mountain biking and hiking. I typically ride my mountain bike in the park 3-4 days each week.</p> <p>Reviewing the planned expansion of the reservoir, most of our favorite trails will be underwater so it is hard to imagine that recreation in the park would be even remotely like it is today. After the floods in 2013, the park trails were mostly unusable for months afterward and those trails which were not underwater lead nowhere so a contiguous ride/hike wasn't possible.</p> <p>Every day I ride in the park I pass 10 to 40 other people on the trails: cycling, horseback riding, running, hiking or walking their dogs. On warm weekends the park is often at capacity with people having family picnics, camping, and enjoying a variety of activities - of course also including kayaking, paddle boarding and lounging at the beach which might still be possible with an expanded reservoir. Many of the most beautiful trails and areas of the park are along Bear Creek in the park's basin.</p> <p>Every Summer there are occasional cross country mountain bike races in the park. When my youngest son was in middle school, he attended Avid for Adventure cycling camps in the park and I still see these and other group activities occurring frequently during the Summer months.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a gem for the City of Lakewood. Some of us are lucky enough to live within riding/walking distance of the park, but the number of cars I see at the entrance gate or parked along Morrison road on a daily basis shows how popular the park is for recreation for both Lakewood residents and the broader Front Range region.</p> |
| 11/05/21   | Carlson    | Andy       | I would urge you to not destroy this multi-use park by expanding the reservoir.   |
| 02/07/22   | Carlton    | Sue        | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br>I love this park! So beautiful! The people that walk here are SO nice. Best park to walk yours with other responsible dog walkers!  |
|            |            |            | As a long-time user of Bear Creek Lake park, I appreciate the recreation opportunities it provides. As a professional geographer, I also understand the need to secure water supplies for an ever growing west with scarce water supply.  |
| 07/05/22   | Castagneri | Jim        | I would support the expansion of the reservoir as depicted in your plan if the USACE could include a re-aligned park road to circumnavigate the reservoir. As a nearby resident and cyclist, I use the network of paths and the old Morrison road to cycle several times each week.   |
|            |            |            | I have lived in Morrison for 13 years and have run in Bear Creek Lake Park almost every day. I value it deeply for its beauty, peacefulness and untold natural variety. I am ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to this massive and irrational overreach in expansion of the lake.   |
|            |            |            | 1. The dam was built for flood protection and has served its purpose well. In the 2013 flood, which was only a 25 year flood in this area, the lake rose approximately 57'. Expanding and increasing the lake, as proposed, would endanger the dam and seriously endanger the communities below the dam. Should they now be forced to purchase flood protection?  |
|            |            |            | 2.As we are well aware, climate change brings extreme weather conditions. Last year the creek was at historic lows and at one point the cfs actually hit 0! With no water feeding this massive lake what will happen to all the small flooded low areas? Of course, they will dry out and become mosquito breeding grounds as well as scars to this beautiful park.   |
|            |            |            | In 2013 the cfs went to over 2000 in a matter of 2 days. I think it can be virtually guaranteed that this swing of drought and flood will continue and increase.  |
|            |            |            | 3. An expansion of such size will obviously create wasteful evaporation.  |
|            |            |            | 4.This is a magnificent example of a riparian area - the juncture of the plains and the foothills along a creek. It is home to a large fascinating variety of animals and birds and trees and plants - all of which depend on one another. The flooding will destroy ALL of this. No ground rodents means no raptors or coyotes. Where will they go? The coyotes will probably move to the nearby communities and bring with them all the dangers we so often hear about in the news.   |
|            |            |            | 5. There are many technical points that prove this expansion illogical and dangerous. My perspective pertains primarily to the quality of life that will be destroyed - irrevocably destroyed. The park will lose many, if not most, of its ancient cottonwoods and along with that its fascinating wildlife. It will be condensed bringing with that less of the extraordinary peacefulness it now offers. There will be more people using the same few trails, more conflict between bikers and walkers, more cars, and more parking lots.  |
| 11/08/21   | Ceaser     | Margaretta | I am only one of thousands who adore this park and desperately want you to consider canceling this overreaching, inappropriate project.   |
|            |            |            | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:  |
| 02/07/22   | Ceaser     | Brewster   | A lot of us monitor the Great Horned Owls which nest here - please don't destroy their habitat & nesting areas!   |

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| 03/15/22   | Chapman   | Kris       | <p>I am emailing to voice my significant concerns about the potential expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir. I understand that the Park currently sees over 650,000 users each year most all for recreations purposes that would be destroyed by the expansion. Those users would be pushed to other already crowded open space areas creating more overuse issues, more parking issues, and generally less appealing spaces. We need more (much more) open recreational space, not less. The demand for this resource continues to grow and eliminating a highly used one like Bear Creek will just cram more users into less space.</p> <p>And it isn't like the expansion is the only way to address the water issue. Yes, we need more water storage but not at the expense of limited recreational space. I understand that there is a potential to deep/excavat the current pool and forebays with less park impact and less evaporative loss (an important consideration in sunny Colorado). I also am concerned that not all alternative were carefully vetted. Have underground water storage options been fully explored?</p> <p>Even if the current expansion goes through, will there be enough unallocated yield to maintain the large storage pool that is planned? If not, then in lower water years, the reservoir will be left with a wasted ring of dead, deforested mud flats that support neither recreation nor wildlife. It seems mostly what we have are lower water years which does not bode well for the planned expansion.</p> <p>Further, the dam was not constructed with this type of water storage in mind. Expensive renovations would likely be required for it to safely transition from the short term flood control structure that it was designed to be to a long-term storage function.</p> <p>There must be a different way to balance the storage needs with the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and restoration values.</p>  |
| 07/16/22   | Chapman   | Audrey     | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 3/9/2024   | Chapman   | Carol      | <p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed reallocation of water within Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, Colorado. The original intention of the park was for flood control, not for water storage. There are better means available to reduce water usage in nearby communities. The proposed 20,000 acre feet expansion would inundate nearly 500 acres, including 12 miles of trails and over a mile of Bear Creek. Cottonwood trees along Bear and Turkey Creek would be removed, destroying significant stretches of riparian habitat. These inner regions of the park, where the surrounding highways are not seen or heard, will be destroyed.</p> <p>This is the third year my husband and I have had an annual pass to better enjoy the park. I love hiking its trails and observing the birds and other wildlife within the park. There are over 300 different bird species that make use of that park. My husband frequently rides his bike through the park. Our inability to enjoy these roads, trails and wildlife would be a huge disappointment.</p> <p>As population density increases, it becomes harder to find areas set aside to enjoy nature and relative solitude. I hope your organization will reconsider and preserve this park in its current form.</p>   |



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| 02/14/22   | Chase       | Christina  | <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the 20,000 acre feet expansion proposal being considered as part of the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. This could reduce the land area of the Park by 615 acres. For both environmental and cultural reasons I am opposed and in favor of finding alternatives to water storage allocation that would reduce such an impact.</p> <p>I have been a resident of Lakewood Colorado for thirteen years and have been a regular visitor to Bear Creek Lake Park during that time. Exactly those parts of the park that I and my loved ones have so enjoyed visiting will be inundated—all the trails along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek will disappear and a huge lake, not unlike Chatfield, could take its place. So my heart sank when I heard of the proposal. I have been to Chatfield, walked through it and kayaked on the lake. I don't care for it and I never go there. The motor boats create noise and exhaust fumes. Trash littered most of the shore areas I visited. I would hate for Bear Creek Lake Park to become a treeless, arid and barren park with a huge lake and the potential for motorboats.</p> <p>There is no other park in Lakewood that compares to the riparian zones along Bear Creek in particular—the access to nature, the babbling stream, the quiet places of refuge along the creek. It is a priceless community resource for those of us living in a dense metropolitan area. These areas are the heart of the park and the most cherished and sensitive acres in the park. They also support the habitat for much of the park's abundant wildlife. I understand that even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> <p>Thank you, respectfully,</p> |
| 02/14/22   | Chase       | Christina  | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>Why I love the park as it is -- hiking, biking trails, especially love Cottonowood Trail at ALL times of the year; photography, do lots of paintings of the park.   |
| 04/25/22   | Cheshire    | Catie      | My name is Catie Cheshire and I'm a reporter with Denver Westword. I'm writing a story about the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study and I'm wondering if anyone from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would have availability tomorrow to comment on the story. Specifically, the City of Lakewood is issuing this proclamation at its council meeting tonight and I'd like to know how that might impact the study, if at all.  |
| 05/12/22   | Choboian    | Max        | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 03/16/22   | Christensen | Dave       | I am concerned about the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake Park Damn and water storage. This area has become a hub for recreation and there are better alternatives than destroying this habitat for the few years where there may be enough water to fill the damn. The rest of the years would leave an ugly scar to look at and the loss of great habitat and trails.  |
| 04/26/22   | Claussen    | Saige      | I am currently a student preparing a public comment and I was wondering if there is a development plan for the bear creek reservoir expansion?   |

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| 05/04/22   | Claussen  | Saige      | <p>Bear Creek Reservoir is looking to expand the storage of the reservoir. This would increase the area of the reservoir drastically causing changes to the landscape and the recreation of the area. The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed to add 20,000-acre feet of storage added to the area for various uses such as flood control. This storage may be useful, for municipal purposes however it would impact the recreation and overall state of the ecosystem. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has concluded the 400,000-acre feet of water storage will be necessary for the state, and the Bear Creek Reservoir is a candidate project to try and meet this storage assessment. The proposal is necessary to provide the risks and create safety measures for the expansion process, and the damages that may follow the water reallocation process. The Army Corps of Engineers provided a scoping meeting presentation that states the character of the park may be difficult to maintain. Also, the water supply reallocation could cause n increased reservoir hypolimnetic volume which could inversely impact the water quality and cause more waterfowl to reside in the area and cause E. coli bacteria contamination as well. As the presentation maps provide, the expansion would completely swallow existing wetlands in the area and impact the plants and wildlife that use them. There are six known threatened or endangered species in the affected area as well as fourteen migratory birds according to CODEX. The expansion provides impacts and alterations that will change along the way to continue to accommodate the recreation in Bear Creek Lake Park. The rise in water levels may severely impact trails and recreational activities. This may change how people utilize the area from biking, wildlife watching, and hiking. The impact states that this could permanently cancel recreational activities that may impact the public from utilizing the park. Adding additional parking lots, restrooms, and horseback riding stables will the 20,000-acre foot addition will significantly impact. The upper and lower pelican point will have permanent impacts to the volleyball court, picnic shelters, and fishing piers. Most of the northern park will be cut off from access, and access will be cut off at south park road as well. It is not just an impact to the wildlife in the area, but also impacts the well being of the public to utilize this park that has already been well established. that the park may receive reduced income from lower visitation for things such as recreation and wildlife watching with the various impacts in place. The reallocation study states that hiking is a popular activity in Bear Creek Reservoir. Many of the trails will be unusable by the public after the reallocation of the water to the reservoir. The trails that will no longer exist in the reservoir would be Fisherman’s Trail, Cottonwood trail, Red Tail Trail, Coyote Gulch Trail, Mountain View Access Trails, Turkey Creek Trail, and many more. This will impact 12.2 miles of trails in total. While this project is beneficial in some manners, the overall acre feet it provides to the state is miniscule and causes more harm than good in the long run. With moderate biodiversity significance in the area, this requires more protection than it is currently receiving. The park area also provides a connection to the Audubon important bird areas too. There is development surrounding the park area already and provides herbaceous and woody wetlands to the plants and animals that inhabit the area. The unfortunate portion of the reservoir expansion plan is that it is on local land, and therefore lacks stringent ideology for better development practices. The disturbance area of the entire park lists itself as a high indicator and will add to the detrimental factors of expanding the reservoir storage according to the reallocation study. The study that is also worried about this expansion was able to contact me with additional species of concern that I would like to highlight. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has conducted a study on the Bear Creek Reservoir. It is a reallocation study and EIS. The threatened mammals, birds, and plants in the area include Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse, Canada Lynx, Piping Plover, Ute Ladies'-tresses, and the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. There are various species that are endangered in the area as well. The study states that currently there are no critical habitats in the area, but that wetland impacts may be subject to regulations. Using the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for Colorado various species shows that there may be various species disturbed by this change even farther than they already have been. Callophrys mossii schryveri (Moss’s Elfin) is a species of butterfly that resides in the area and is impacted by housing, urban areas, recreation, and ecosystem modifications in the park area. With a larger basin for water in the reservoir this would expand recreation and limit the habitat for the butterfly. [continued below]</p> |
| 05/04/22   | Claussen  | Saige      | <p>[continued from above] The Colorado SWAP portrays that Cynomys ludovicianus (Black-tailed prairie dog) will also have further implications due to expansion of the reservoir. If the reservoir expands, the recreational area will need expansion as well and cause for the movement of these prairie dog colonies in the process. One of the larger impacts mentioned in the Colorado SWAP would be the Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens (Big-eared Bat). This species may be hunting for their diet near the reservoir. Due to the expansion of the reservoir this would also expand the recreation in the area. These bats are extremely sensitive to recreation and may abandon areas completely due to the presence of humans. Perhaps a solution to this may be to prevent human interaction with portions of the lake ad to manipulate park operation time depending on the feeding times of the bats. This public area is a CNHP potential conservation area and should be taken into consideration for the expansion of the reservoir. With many types of wetlands in the area, the land may be highly impacted with the expansion of the reservoir, and vegetation of these wetlands should be considered in the process. These wetlands include lacustrine, palustrine, and riparian. Another location could be sufficient since this reservoir is so small. Maybe consider Standley Lake instead. Another solution may be to move a smaller amount to the reservoir, so it is less damaging to the ecosystem and recreation. Overall, most impacts are to the public as well as the plants and wildlife that live there. As previously mentioned, some other considerations may be looking at other water sources, cutting back on water use, utilizing more efficient ways to use water, and expanding bear creek reservoir but on a much smaller scale. Draining our reservoirs year after year will not change our habits. Changing our consumption level is a better way to go, and help save water in the long run. While I do support the need for more public water over the upcoming years, it is best to consider how we can reserve our water in the first place rather than continuing to use the same amount of water. These considerations may be at a local scale such as xeriscaping to a larger scale such as better farm practices in this dry state of Colorado. Preserving this park for the people for years to come is essential for its revenue and continued preservation of the park.</p>  |

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| 06/07/22   | Clayshulte | Russell    | <p>The Bear Creek Watershed Association attached letter provides comments on Bear Creek Lake feasibility study scope of work. LETTER:</p> <p>The Bear Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) is a Colorado and federally recognized water quality management agency with a diverse membership (BCWA Factsheet 1 BCWA, Attached). The BCWA, formed in 1981, manages diverse water and environmental quality programs within the Bear Creek Watershed, which is an area drained by Bear Creek and Turkey Creek that extends from the Mt. Evans Wilderness Headwaters to an area below the Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>The BCWA has been involved in the scoping meetings dealing with the reallocation study of Bear Creek Reservoir. As the water quality management agency for the reservoir and watershed, the BCWA will continue involvement in this Bear Creek Study as a cooperating agency. The BCWA has reviewed the scoping letter from May 3, 2022. The study purpose and need reflects the conversations that have been in progress (2nd Planning Iteration Meeting, 31 August 2021). The alternatives listed also incorporated most components of those discussions. The minimum increment for alternative analyses was established at 550 acre-feet and increasing to 20,00 acre-feet. A minimum increment for the analyses sequence would be 2,500 acre-feet increasing to the maximum of 20,000 acre-feet.</p> <p>It was the understanding of the BCWA that the option to excavate the reservoir to increase storage capacity was excluded for further consideration. The BCWA doesn’t oppose adding this alternative back into the scope, but this alternative was noted as prohibitively expensive, and haul and disposal costs were a large part of that cost. Dredging would have the most dramatic affect on the current water quality management program and could significantly alter the current water quality standards and classifications. This alternative would require the development of a new water quality model.</p> <p>The BCWA has noted that any maximum pool reallocation will have significant implications for water quality and environmental management within the reservoir, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nutrient management (phosphorus and nitrogen associated with the adopted total maximum annual loads)</li><li>• Dissolved oxygen management and aeration system upgrade. The aeration system is sized for current reservoir levels and would need to be upsized for reservoir raise, including upsizing compressors and adding aerators.</li><li>• Colorado water classifications and standards (e.g., the increase in pool supply could affect the cold-water designation). At maximum elevation, the reservoir probably would no longer meet the Aquatic Life Cold 1 Standards and classification because there would be significantly more shallow water area in the reservoir.</li><li>• Changes to the fishery (Warm water/cold-water) and type of fishery</li><li>• Alteration to the Coyote Gulch project used to reduce the nutrient inputs. Several alternatives would impact several acres of wetlands on Coyote Gulch and require mitigation.</li></ul> <p>[END - Appears to be missing pages, USACE requested clarification/pages on 7/1/22]</p> <p>[7/7/2022 Clayshuttle's reply: "Just this for now for scoping." Provided an additional attachment of Talking Points.]</p> |
| 05/03/22   | Clements   | Wm         | <p>As witness to the original construction of the dam &amp; as frequent visitor to the park during it's entire existence - I support storage expansion.</p> <p>City of Lakewood has enjoyed great revenue managing the park while falling short of potential in many aspects of providing quality visitor experience &amp; maintaining/improving the park's future viability.</p> <p>Wildlife habitats, angling opportunities, model rocketry, hiking/biking, picnicking/camping, public education activities, water sports, bird watching, litter control, etc. can all be provided - and improved upon - in an expanded storage configuration of the facilities.</p> <p>While I haven't particular expertise in logistics of execution - I do have wide, and fairly uniform, history of enjoying better visitor experiences at comparable facilities for much lower fees.</p> <p>My firm opinion is that this facility, if expaded, can provide much improved utility &amp; opportunity with better management.</p>   |
| 04/14/22   | Cobb       | Larry      | <p>I fully concur with all the points expressed below. Furthermore, I don't understand such a drastic measure....expanding by 1000%....when even a 2 or 3 fold increase could be accomplished without decimating virtually all of the park. Surely a compromise could be attained.</p> <p>[Forwarded email chain with previously received comments from Walt Pierce - see above - and Marsha Faulconer -see above - ]</p>   |
| 03/19/22   | Cockayne   | Linda      | <p>To whom it may concern I have been going to this park for the past many years the improvements that you are talking about are not improvements leave the park as it is you don’t need to cut down any more trees you don’t need to mess up any more land if this comes to vote I will be voting it down with a lot of other people ,that have lived here in Lakewood their whole lives. Enough is enough</p>   |
| 12/09/21   | Coogan     | Jim        | <p>The Army Corps of Engineers needs to consider lower-volume alternatives to the maximum 20,000 acre-ft Bear Creek Lake Reallocation plan. I am a twenty year user of the Bear Creek Lake and park. I'm not pleased that a reservoir and dam originally designed for flood control is being changed to water storage and would cut 1/3rd of the park's recreational land area in an increasingly developed part of the Denver Metro area. This is a bait-and-switch move and does not honor the purpose of the original tax appropriation for the park. Long-term water storage would detract from the flood control capacity of the reservoir. As an earth scientist, I note that the annual water inflow of Bear and Turkey Creeks is insufficient to maintain a 20,000 acre-ft storage reservoir. You would be building a large bathtub without the required inflow plumbing for your proposed storage volume. It would be a white elephant paid for with taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>I recognize that the Denver area will grow in population and require more water for human consumption. I do not agree that it is the job of the Army Corps to unilaterally determine how that demand is met, particularly when options like conservation of non-culinary water usage are much less expensive and have only been marginally implemented in Colorado (relative to more successful programs in Nevada and southern California).</p> <p>Given that the Corps has presented alternatives to the 20,000 scenario, I urge you to consider lowering your storage target to something more realistic for the average annual inflow from Bear and Turkey Creeks, and for average annual downstream demand. For example, you have presented an alternative that will deepen the existing reservoir, which would increase storage without inundating as much recreational land and without reneging on the public promise for the original intended use of the park.</p> <p>I request that the Army Corps drop the 20,000 acre-ft proposal and present a proposal that has a smaller footprint, that is more realistic for the annual water budget of Bear and Turkey Creeks, and that has a lower recreational and environmental impact on the valuable existing riparian habitat within the park.</p>  |



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| 6/6/2023   | Cook      | Samantha   | <p>I'm writing to express my deep concern in regards to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek reservoir.</p> <p>I've been a Lakewood resident for 40 years and one of the best things about this area is the green space and parks. Bear Creek is one of my favorite parks. I hike, trail run, bike and paddle board here. I also drive by it frequently and just take in its beauty.</p> <p>I've seen so much wildlife here and I know it is a corridor for elk and deer.</p> <p>It provides a much needed buffer and green space for animals and nature and people.</p> <p>I understand the need to increase our access to water and I know that there are numerous alternatives that are being discussed that would be so much less impactful.</p> <p>-Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss.</p> <p>-Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado.</p> <p>-Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I really feel strongly that we need to fight for our natural areas. They are beneficial for the environment, the climate, and for the health and well being of the people who live close by.</p>   |
| 2/14/2025  | Cook      | Samantha   | <p>I am a neighbor and friend of Bear Creek Lake Park and am writing to express concern over the proposed flooding of the park.</p> <p>I go to this park regularly and it is full of wildlife and healthy native grasses and trees. The water is clean, people fish in the creek and recreate on the lakes. I ride my bike, trail run and hike on the trails. It would be devastating to the environment to flood this park. I've seen multiple deer and elk use it as a corridor and I'm sure countless other animals call it home.</p> <p>It would also be devastating to the well being of those who have grown to love it or live near it. Our open natural spaces are dwindling and can't be replaced. It is flanked by Chatfield Park which was flooded recently and also the Rooney Valley which has been decimated by housing subdivisions and strip malls. It is the only remaining wild area in the vicinity and it needs to stay that way.</p> <p>We should be working on water conservation rather than ruining more wild areas. Water shortages are only going to get worse and this isn't the answer.</p>   |
| 2/12/2025  | Cooper    | Noah       | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the impacts that a reservoir expansion will have on the trail systems and wildlife habitat within the park. There are very few options along the front range that compare to BCLP for introducing people to walking/hiking and mountain biking. The terrain is exceptional as it is not extremely steep or rocky like many other tails in the area. Having access to this park and its trail systems greatly improves the lives of my friends and family.</p>   |
| 01/11/22   | Craig     | Anne       | <p>I write to object to deepening the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>I am a frequent user of Bear Creek Lake Park whose visits may not be counted among those of the official visitors (I presume you count only those who enter by car). Most of the time, I enter Bear Creek Lake Park by bicycle.</p> <p>My husband and I have ridden the Mt Carbon Loop dozens of times, probably more than a hundred times, over the three years we have lived in Lakewood. Of course the trail itself is pure joy to ride. But we also pack binoculars, and we have been delighted by the wildlife.</p> <p>We report sightings to eBird. For example, here:</p> <p><a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S99200173">https://ebird.org/checklist/S99200173</a></p> <p>We've been particularly delighted by the nesting Great Horned Owls along Cottonwood Trail.</p> <p>Deepening the reservoir would destroy this habitat, as well as the trails that allow the public to appreciate the land and wildlife.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a jewel of Lakewood. Please keep it that way.</p> <p>Who am I?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* A Bear Creek Lake Park annual pass holder</li><li>* A member of Bicycle Colorado</li><li>* A Lakewood resident</li></ul> <p>*A daily user of the Bear Creek Greenbelt, who cares enough to offer comments about plans to widen the Bear Creek Trail: <a href="https://www.lakewoodtogether.org/BearCreekTrail/news_feed/site-plan">https://www.lakewoodtogether.org/BearCreekTrail/news_feed/site-plan</a> and who has been following the wildlife there for the past three years: <a href="http://www.naturallyjax.com">www.naturallyjax.com</a></p> <p>Thanks for reading this.</p> |

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| 04/09/22   | Curtis    | Marianne   | <p>I think it's terrible for you to take away the area of recreation that the community has been using for decades .</p> <p>I have been looking to buy a house near bear creek lake and if you do this change in water storage you will destroy a lot of the trails and benefits that attract people to the area .</p> <p>i can say for a fact I won't be looking for a house near there any longer .</p> <p>why would you destroy something that we already have and enjoy!!</p> <p>why can't you put the water somewhere else and leave well enough alone . go expand chatfield or cherry creek. !</p> <p>infact , why not reduce the demand of water by imposing restriction on planting grass and landscape ?</p> <p>why ? becuae someone wants the developers to make a lot of money !!</p> <p>the developers have lobbyists and sway your opinions .</p> <p>When are people in the Denver metro going to face the fact that we live in a desert and can't be watering grass ? its crazy we have grass.</p> <p>we need to xeriscape!!!!!! it should be mandatory on new construction .</p> <p>DON'T TAKE AWAY OUR RECREATION AREA , THIS WILL DEVALUE OUR QUALITY FO LIFE</p> <p>THINK OF THE FAMILIES THAT USE THIS PARK ,</p> <p>DONT RUIN OUR BIKE TRAILS !!!!</p>  |
| 07/10/22   | Daehnick  | Debbie     | <p>The impetus for this Bear Creek study is based on an identified significant water supply shortfall in Colorado (i.e., shortfall of400K ac-ft by 2050).</p> <p>The answer to water supply shortage is not to increase the size of reservoirs. This is an unsustainable, short-sighted solution to our water problem.</p> <p>The supply-demand cycle indicates that increasing water supply leads to higher water demand, which can quickly offset the initial benefits of reservoirs. This supply-demand cycle can trigger an accelerating spiral towards unsustainable exploitation of water resources and environmental degradation. Moreover, reliance on reservoirs increases the potential damage caused by drought and water shortage.</p> <p>The expansion of reservoirs often reduces incentives for preparedness and adaptive actions, increasing the negative impacts of water shortage (Di Baldassarre, G., Wanders, N., AghaKouchak, A. et al. Water shortages worsened by reservoir effects. Nat Sustain 1, 617–622 (2018). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0159-0">https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0159-0</a>).</p> <p>Governments and companies should view clean water not as a commodity to exploit, but as a precious resource (<a href="https://www.circleofblue.org/2010/world/experts-name-the-top-19-solutions-to-the-global-freshwater-crisis/">https://www.circleofblue.org/2010/world/experts-name-the-top-19-solutions-to-the-global-freshwater-crisis/</a>).</p> <p>Just a few of the high level solutions that experts agree upon include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educate to change consumption and lifestyles</li><li>• Invent new water conservation technologies- innovate</li><li>• Recycle wastewater</li><li>• Improve irrigation and agricultural practices</li><li>• Appropriately price water</li><li>• Improve water catchment and harvesting</li><li>• Look to community-based governance and partnerships</li><li>• Develop and enact better policies and regulations</li><li>• Holistically manage ecosystems</li><li>• Improve distribution infrastructure</li><li>• Shrink corporate water footprints</li><li>• Population growth control.</li></ul> <p>Expanding the size of the Bear Creek Park reservoir is not sustainable and is not the solution to the water problem in municipalities that continue toward unlimited population growth without adequate resources.</p> |

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| 10/18/21   | D'Agostino | Dr.Lynn       | <p>Thank you for your presentation and the public forum last Thursday. You listened and treated those attending with great respect. That is much appreciated.</p> <p>I am a 30+ year resident of Lakewood and strongly oppose the re-allocation of Bear Creek Lake Park. My reasons include:</p> <p>1. Recreation, community, and quality of life<br/>Bear Creek Lake Park is an amenity that enhances the community of Lakewood. It is one of the reasons, I moved to Lakewood years ago. I, personally, use the park for mountain and road biking weekly. The park provides thousands of people yearly with the chance to bike, hike, connect with nature, having family outings, among other activities. It is heavily used and intensely loved by the community. It provides a safe place to bike in an age when bike-car incidents are on the rise. To destroy this local gem to provide water for the unrestricted growth of outlying areas would reduce the value and quality of life of our community. I, also, know that changing the park from land-based recreation to a primarily water-based recreational area will severely limit the number of Lakewood’s residents who can use the park. It is my hope and desire that you elevate the social/recreational value of Bear Creek Lake Park to be a higher concern as you go through the decision-making process.</p> <p>2. Environmental Impacts<br/>The destruction of the riparian ecosystem and the 8 wetland areas that are a large part of Bear Creek State Park would be a tragedy. These last remaining pockets of riparian land need to be protected. The park provides a home and a wildlife corridor for a wide range of animals including, birds, pollinators, small mammals, and deer. I won’t go into this issue further but want to stress its importance.</p> <p>3. Inferior solution<br/>Re-allocating Bear Creek State Park to a water source for Colorado’s unrestricted growth and destroying a beloved center of activity for Lakewood is not a solution to the state’s water problem. At best, it would only provide a small fraction of the water needed. Better solutions should be investigated that provide larger areas of water storage constructed ( and paid for by developers) in those communities that are growing or initiating growth containment policies. Thank you for your time and consideration</p> |
| 02/01/22   | D'Agostino | Lynn          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 03/01/22   | D'Agostino | Andy          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 04/05/22   | D'Agostino | Lynn and Andy | <p>We are writing to you to voice our concerns about the proposed flooding of Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, Colorado. And also to thank you and The Corps for seriously studying this proposed flooding and for your interest in public comments.</p> <p>As avid cyclists and hikers, we use Bear Creel Lake Park extensively. It is a local gem that 650,00+ residents from Lakewood, Jefferson County, and beyond use each year.</p> <p>BCLP is a beautiful riparian area, containing a large variety of wildlife, plants, and bird species. It is a place of learning, recreation, quiet, and solace. This is now so rare in the front range of Denver.</p> <p>There are a variety of concerns that are being raised to the Army Corps of Engineers. Our main concerns are:</p> <p>Loss of the Turkey Creek and Bear Creek Riparian corridors.<br/>Loss of the current recreation, numerous mountain bike, and hiking trails, wildlife viewing, birding, etc...<br/>Loss of a main road bike connection between Denver, Lakewood to Morrison, and Evergreen.<br/>Historically, low dependable yield: On non- maximum water storage years, the lake would be surrounded by a “bathtub ring” of deforested mudflats.<br/>In the “50-year flood years”, the flood storage capacity of the lake would be eliminated or diminished. The dam was built for short-term flood control, not long-term water storage.</p> <p>These are but a few of the concerns being raised by the citizens of Lakewood and Jefferson County. If you have never taken a walk along the creeks in the park, we urge you to go and see why this place is special and needs to be saved.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and support.</p>   |

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| 07/31/22   | Davis     | Scott      | <p>I am writing to express my concerns about a project under study, to expand Bear Creek Reservoir at the cost of some 615 acres of urban-accessible recreational park lands. While I understand that water storage is an important investment objective for Colorado, I disagree that this particular site is either a cost-effective option or an equitable one. Expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir is not cost effective, because it will impose extraordinary costs on the tens of thousands of people who have invested significant premiums to build or buy homes in the area specifically for the value of convenient access to recreational lands in the Park — lands, that will be rendered completely worthless for such purposes by the proposed expansion of the reservoir. Predictably then, the loss of access to the inundated lands within the Park will severely damage property values in the surrounding neighborhoods. As a community, it is essential that we consider the FULL cost of our proposed projects, not just the costs that are readily budgeted for direct infrastructure work and operation. In this case at Bear Creek Lake Park, the indirect costs of reservoir expansion will dwarf the direct costs by perhaps an order of magnitude, making the project profoundly uneconomic when properly analyzed in its full context.</p> <p>The second point is now obvious: the overwhelming majority of the cost of this project will be borne unfairly by a small number the people. It is not in the nature of a healthy civil society to ignore massive, real financial costs imposed on a few citizens in the name a marginal benefit for the community overall. We share the benefits; we share the costs. This is why Eminent Domain is not a free ride.</p> <p>I urge you to incorporate into your financial calculus the significant impact on property values in the adjacent neighborhoods like Solterra, Red Rocks Ranch, Bear Creek Village, Bear Creek, Lockwood, Kendrick Lake, Green Mountain, and others. I am certain that local homeowners and their attorneys will. Expansion of this reservoir cannot be the most cost-effective solution to water storage for Colorado or the Front Range, when accounting for the full costs of the project, including costs beyond the infrastructure work itself.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and consideration.</p> |
| 11/09/22   | DeCaluwe  | Heather    | <p>Please preserve Bear Creek Lake Park. The park has become a very important place for our family as we have visited it almost weekly through the pandemic for creek exploration, biking, canoeing, and many park sponsored activities. Through our many visits, my kids now 7 &amp; 9 have developed a passion for nature and the outdoors. It is a very special place that is serving a very special need for the surrounding community. There is truly nothing like it in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Further, the space is incredibly important ecologically. The riparian corridors that would be flooded provide critical wildlife habitat for a wide range of species. Equestrian areas, fishing ponds, countless picnic shelters and trails would all be destroyed. With over 600,000 visitors annually and such a dense surrounding community, Bear Creek Lake park serves a huge community need.</p> <p>I realize we need to store more water to meet the needs of a growing population, but now is not the time to sacrifice the Bear Creek Lake Park for a mere 10,000 or 20,000 AF when other less impactful, more beneficial options exist.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this complicated issue, I hope you will preserve Bear Creek Lake Park for future generations.</p>   |
| 10/30/21   | Delporte  | Martha     | <p>Thanks John for allowing me to comment on the new proposed expansion of water storage at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>- It looks like wetlands would be lost. And possibly habitat for migratory bird species. I would want to know how both of these would be mitigated.</p> <p>- I understand water is limited in the area, but the recreation that this site provides is without comparison. I would also like to see mitigation for the loss of hiking and biking trails, birding, other general water/land activities that this area provides.</p> <p>- I also don't see any information about where the water would come from, and how it would be distributed to those communities in need. We continue in a drought in Colorado, and along the front range. Are thousands of acres gong to be sacrificed in hopes that it will start raining again?</p> <p>- By the way, a massive housing development is taking place just north of the site. Where will their water come from? Where will these people go to recreate?</p> <p>The ecological impacts to this area by this proposal are difficult to realize. The importance of Bear Creek Lake Park to the community of Lakewood, and surrounding areas is enormous. Water, wildlife, space are at a premium in this urban environment. Please be sure to evaluate all possible alternatives and don't just do "what the government can get away with!" And I didn't even mention the risk of floods to those downstream.</p> <p>You have your work cut out for you. Please keep me involved!</p>   |
| 03/17/22   | Dempsey   | Sharon     | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". Added comments:</p> <p>Resident Bear Creek Village</p> <p>Frequent user of the Beark Creek Lake Park Trails.</p>   |



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| 11/29/2023 | Deneen        | Mike       | <p>I oppose the Bear Creek Lake expansion proposal to provide additional water supplies for Colorado. There are probably many technical problems with this project as well as continued downstream needs for South Platte River flows for supply and recreation purposes. My main reason for opposition is the recreational use of Bear Creek Park.</p> <p>I am retired and live 6 miles north of Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). One of my primary recreation pursuits from March through November are bike rides I take in the west metro area which often are 20-30 mile loops. One of my favorite loops includes Bear Creek Lake Park. I always bike into the park, so my visits may not show up on surveys of BCLP use. My bike is designed for dirt trails and I often ride the easier dirt trails of BCLP through much of the riparian areas which will be inundated by the expanded pool. The combination of easy dirt trails and relatively extensive wild areas which are so close to the densely populated west and northwest Denver metro area is very special to me. It is one of the few such areas in this part of Denver that I can bike to from my house. While there are other nice areas in metro Denver, they require me to take my bike by car which is a hassle for me as well as contributes to the global warming problems.</p> <p>Based on my numerous rides through BCLP, there are many bike riders and hikers who share this experience. Please reject the proposal to expand the Bear Creek Lake storage pool.</p> <p>Please let me know when you have future public meetings in the metro area concerning this proposal.</p> |
| 04/11/22   | Des Lauries   | Cynthia    | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your Bear Creek Lake Park plans. Please see my attached letter.</p> <p>I would appreciate knowing you received this email.</p> <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have an impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>I know you will receive many letters about important technical issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposed 20,000 feet expansion will reduce the land area by 615 acres.</li><li>• Dam safety concerns - short-term flood control vs. long-term storage.</li><li>• Low dependable yield; given climate change and Colorado’s history of drought, will it fill?</li><li>• The loss of almost two miles of riverbank; 12 miles of trails and nearly a square mile of wildlife habitat.</li></ul> <p>I trust you will also consider the impact to the community. A visit will show you that development on all sides of the Park make it even more important as a haven to people and wildlife. While almost a million visitors were recorded, scores more pedal, walk and run into the Park. The 615 acres/12 miles of trails/square mile of wildlife habitat you plan to cover is where we teach our kids to ride their bikes; where families hike together on gentle dirt trails under huge old trees; where we run and train for races; where we camp under the stars; and, where we reconnect with nature.</p> <p>I know your organization is full of smart people who can come up with a better solution. Please listen to the input you receive and let it help you do so.</p>                           |
| 05/14/22   | deSeguin-Hons | Suzan      | <p>I live close downstream from the Bear Creek reservoir and oppose expansion of the reservoir. We regularly use the resources of Bear Creek Park. As we do not drive into the park, we are among the many local visitors who are not counted.</p> <p>Trails, paths and nature areas in and close to the Greater Denver metro area, such as those in Bear Creek Park, already face pressure from overuse. These resources are limited and cannot be replaced. To remove hundreds of acres of park space and miles of trails will impose a hardship on those of us using these spaces, as well as future users and future generations</p>  |
| 05/10/22   | Didato        | Angela     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 03/29/22   | Dietz         | Alexander  | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See above. Added comments:</p> <p>The proposed changes would also hurt me financially. My property sits directly beside the Park. The proposed changes would likely lead to reduced property values given the loss of nearby recreational opportunities.</p>   |
| 8/4/2024   | Dillion       | Taylan     | <p>I'm a native to Colorado, I currently frequent Bear Creek quite often to walk along the trails. I am being made aware of a concerning proposal to increase water storage at Bear Creek Lake, thereby flooding a lot of infrastructure and recreation that exists there currently. Being not just native to Colorado but native to Hasty, Colorado, which sits right next to the John Martin Reservoir State Park which is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, I am baffled as to why anyone would even propose increasing water capacity storage in Bear Creek Lake while the water levels at the John Martin Reservoir have been falling for over a decade now?</p> <p>I'm sure many people submitting comments don't even realize that we have a beautiful state park that has always been the largest by area water storage in Colorado that is drying up meanwhile they are being asked to give up their recreational trails, horseback riding, etc in order to satisfy state water storage goals, but it definitely seems wasteful and inefficient.</p>  |
| 11/02/21   | Dimler        | Andrew     | <p>My name is Andy Dimler. I am a water treatment operator at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>My home is right along the banks of Bear Creek below the dam. Should reallocation occur, I would like to know precisely what is being done to insure that the flood control capabilities (the reason the dam was built) are not compromised Should the dam fail, or the reservoir overflow I will lose my home. Will you be sharing the process and data with the public? I am very concerned that the flood control safety of the dam is being compromised to scrape up more water for the water commission. They made their own bed by over allocating the entire area. My opinion. Thank-you very much for you time and consideration.</p>  |
| 03/01/22   | Dixon         | Cindy      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Protect habitat! Owls, pine marten, elk, deer, coyotes, mt. lions, EAGLES. Where are you going to get the water to fill out the area wou are going to flood?</p>  |

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| 01/18/22   | Dolci     | Julie              | <p>My name is Julie Dolci, and I live at 3183 S. Indiana St. in Tamarisk Townhomes, just across the street from Bear Creek Lake Park on the north side. I moved here from Chicago almost 10 years ago. I bought my home without ever seeing it first. I moved here with my mom (I am her fulltime, live in caregiver) to be closer to my sister and her family (who live in Evergreen).</p> <p>As I was driving down Morrison Road to our new home, I could not believe to my left, the breathtaking beauty of Bear Creek Lake Park. I had no idea this large park, with it's numerous trails, wildlife and vegetation, was just across the street from me! Colorado was delivering on it's promise of nature and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>I have walked every trail (even up Mt. Carbon -- and I am afraid of heights) alone, with friends and with my dogs. I have encountered coyotes, owls, hawks, geese, ducks, pelicans, squirrels and deer. I am always in awe in what Bear Creek Lake Park reveals to its visitors. As a caregiver and a person who also works fulltime, my time at Bear Creek Lake Park has given me much needed respite in nature, to recharge to take on the challenges of my life. The thought of losing most of this gem-of-a-park is devastating to me.</p> <p>It is nutty the building frenzy and population growth in Colorado, and especially in Lakewood. And with our ongoing drought, I understand the need for water storage. However, I respectfully ask you to consider alternative water storage solutions. Bear Creek Lake Park means so much to me and my neighbors. It would be a huge loss to nature and my community not to preserve Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>  |
| 10/21/21   | Donckels  | Heidi              | <p>I am a resident that lives at the South portal of Bear Creek lake Park. And I am writing you with my comments and concerns about the proposed expansion of the reservoir.</p> <p>I have lived here for 9 years and use the park on a regular basis. Not only to ride my bike from my home through the park but also to hike on the trails available. I have seen the expansion maps and I'm very concerned about how much of those areas will be underwater.</p> <p>The wildlife that live in those areas would be destroyed! And It would be a tragedy to all of the people in this area that utilize the park as it is. It is heavily used by not only people in this immediate area but also many who come from a distance to enjoy this wide open space.</p> <p>I pray that you will have consideration about this expansion.</p>   |
| 10/8/2024  | Donen     | Samantha           | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Hiking in Bear Creek Lake Park is a big part of my life and how I take care of my mental health.</p> <p>What I value the most is the close proximity to Bear Creek Lake Park and that I can go there on a daily basis to immerse myself in nature.</p> <p>The hustle and bustle of the city of Denver has grown at such a rapid pace, that attempting with traffic to get out of the city and up to the mountains is not feasible during the work week.</p> <p>I visit Bear Creek Lake Park on an everyday basis with my senior dog to take long walks. We love walking and hiking around Turkey Trot as it is so beautiful and feels as if you are in the middle of the mountains.</p> <p>The serenity of the Turtle Pond is the most magical place in the world, and often I am inspired by the peace of the area to find solutions to problems.</p> <p>My main concern is the reduction of land area by over 500 acres in the area I spend the most time at Bear Creek and Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor.</p> <p>I observe wildlife all year long that have built homes on and around the lake, beautiful trees, flowers that bloom like a fireworks display from spring through fall, animal nests, and much more.</p> <p>If the land was reduced, where would this wildlife live? What would happen to the towering trees that have lived there longer than three times our lifetimes.</p> <p>My secondary concern is the impact that land reduction had on Cherry Creek Reservoir when they chose to expand that reservoir approximately 5 years ago. That expansion resulted in much decay of the trees, and natural land surrounding the reservoir.</p> <p>In addition, every year, the reservoir does not fill up to the expected expansion and often, it smells, the land is in decay, and the water is unclean and often filled with toxic algaeas.</p> <p>Thank you respectfully for reading my concerns as a concerned home owner in Jefferson County.</p> |
| 2/20/2024  | Dove      | Suzanne and Family | <p>I am a long term resident in Fox Hollow Village and am writing to protest the expansion of Bear Creek reservoir. With the recent addition of Red Rocks Ranch and other communities, Colorado's wildlife has no where to go, except for towards the increasingly busy Morrison Road.</p> <p>We have seen a growing number of dead animals along Morrison, coyotes, elk, deer, foxes and water fowl.</p> <p>This potential expansion not only impacts the local residents, it continues to reduce the space that our wildlife has to roam.</p> <p>Please pursue an alternative that keeps our residents and wildlife safe.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | Downs     | Jill               | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>I'm a frequent trail user &amp; it's a great escape close to the city - would be a shame for the wildlife habitat to be disrupted. I would be devastated for the trail loss, it provides much enjoyment for families!</p>  |

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| 06/26/22   | Draper    | Janet      | <p>save water. We understand water is a limited and precious natural resource. Please explore the Lower-impact alternatives which exist and which could provide additional water storage while preserving some of the irreplaceable assets of the Park and its ecosystem. The current authorized purposes for the dam/BCLP reservoir are flood risk management, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation. This function is working very well! On paper attractions of Bear Creek Lake Park include “a campground, fishing and picnic areas, archery range, and a golf course. Winter activities include ice fishing and cross-country skiing.” What you don’t see is the smiles on kids and teen’s faces as they head to or from the reservoir/park for paddle boarding, water-skiing, swimming, hikes, and graduation picnics. Students from Denver inner-city schools regularly take lessons or meet friends at BCLP. We and friends camp at BCLP. We ride bikes on the trails through the trees which would be underwater if the expansion is fully put in place. Owls live in the trees at BCLP. Much of this riparian habitat would be lost if the 20,000 -22,000 acre feet Reallocation/expansion is approved. These owls and other birds kill mice, eat mosquitos, and protect our local ecosystem by keeping “pest” animal populations in balance. We and the kids rush outside to hear the owls hoot at night, or to see the hawks or geese fly near our tree tops. I fear the project is threatening to our quality of life - not to mention the loss of wildlife habitat. The proposed increase in the size of the Bear Creek Lake Reservoir from 2000 acre feet to 22,0000 acre feet, will have serious negative impacts on the BCLP. Why must future growth in areas of Colorado bring negatives for the BCLP, Lakewood, and metro Denver current residents? If Thornton doesn’t have water, why not limit growth in Thornton, instead of stretching our resource thinner and thinner? Personally, I’d like to see clean water limited to supporting the existing population and those downstream of the Colorado River and waters which come from the continental divide’s spring run-off. Coloradans should already be xeriscaping and cutting water usage. Why must more water be secured for even more population growth? It seems unwise to build and try to meet greater and greater water demand in our semi-arid western states. I ask for reasonable limits. I ask for the minimal expansion of water storage capacity in Bear Creek Reservoir if it is to be reallocated to water supply. If BCLP must be expanded, then I am in support of a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. Please do not destroy the existing benefits to local residents, Denver Metro area visitors and wildlife animals and plants. My other concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li><li>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values. We see this at Dillon and other mountain reservoirs in drought years. Currently, the park and area are well-used and appreciated by Denver area people: Over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in.</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley - human population growth already approved and in-progress. I’m against the “oversize our reservoir” due to the following: Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the Park, excluding golf course)</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:</li><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam</li></ul> <p>Please look into Alternative Water Storage Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County. Lakewood resident, nature lover, and water-conscious human.</li></ul> |
| 05/04/23   | Drinane   | John       | <p>Hope this email finds you well</p> <p>There is a lot of developers in the area with billions of dollars of capital. There is plenty of money to develop water towers and maintain the current state and improve and enhance the parks in this country, county and state.</p> <p>Find a way to push the cost of additional residents to the primary grifters. The developers.</p>   |
| 7/1/2024   | Dubey     | Marty      | <p>I saw the study being conducted on expanding the water storage capabilities at Bear Creek Lake Park. We visit the park several times each spring/summer to attend mountain bike races. In its current form, it’s a great venue and the staff has been awesome to work with. We enjoy the trail system there. I respectfully ask that you allow the lake to remain as it is and seek other options for expanding storage.</p>   |
| 09/30/22   | Dwork     | Peter      | <p>I am writing this expressing my strongest possible opposition to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake / reservoir.</p> <p>Expanding the lake would do irreparable harm to the wonderful recreational opportunities and to the environment; particularly along the small but precious riparian area.</p> <p>With all of the development going on in the surrounding area; it is imperative that we save the character of the lake which would be destroyed.</p> <p>Aside from the strict cost – effectiveness for this option; there is something perhaps more important; the value of beauty and tranquility of this location which is very hard to find within the Denver metro area. How can you put a dollar value on the benefits of being able to walk/bike along the shaded trail adjacent to a beautiful stream?</p> <p>I would favor more efforts be directed towards conservation efforts, agricultural soil management and alternative water storage options.</p> <p>Kindly re-consider this proposal and be an advocate for our environment - and the people who enjoy this special place and the plants and animals that reside in this area.</p>  |
| 03/23/22   | Eager     | William    | <p>I live 2 miles from Bear Creek Park in Lakewood, CO and I have to tell you that it is the only large park serving hundreds of thousands of people. Lakewood alone has 155,000 people. During the COVID Pandemic the park was full every day, often closing because of reaching capacity. The plan to flood it basically eliminates a significant area of trees, paths and habitat for wildlife. It would be a wildlife disaster and also a disaster in terms of providing quality recreation and outdoor space in a metropolitan area.</p>   |

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| 10/18/21   | Eberl     | Jeff       | <p>I am writing to tell you that I really enjoy Bear Creek Lake park (everything except for the name) and in the images I see of the increased size of the lake, the best parts of the lake are underwater. My children are 3 and 6 and we are teaching them to enjoy the outdoors, hiking, and mountain biking at BCLP. We celebrate events like birthdays and holidays at the picnic areas. It has been a great family meeting place during this pandemic. I plan on taking them there for years to come. My dad also lives nearby. He is 68 and he rides his bike through BCLP multiple times per week. It is keeping him independent, healthy, and it's something all three generations can share.</p> <p>The trend is only going to get stronger as more open areas are converted to houses, more people move into those houses, and more people that already live here get greater interest from the bike and ebike boom.</p> <p>I know it is a water reservoir first. But it would be irresponsible for me to not point out the huge sacrifice this flooding would be taking on the recreational, educational, and emotional capabilities of this park. I really hope you can factor in these concerns when trying to create a plan for our lake. Please think of us.</p> <p>If you're ever in town and want to see what I'm talking about, we can bike (or ebike) the trails together and I'll show you the special places that would be under water.</p>  |
| 4/28/2025  | Eberl     | Jeff       | <p>We live in Jefferson County and love biking and hiking around Bear Creek Lake. Our kids are learning to bike there and parents like us need a place that holds their interests and gives us a mental health break.</p> <p>Please don't flood our park. I know water needs are growing. But this is more than a municipal water supply. This is a special place where nature meets citizens and it shapes the perspectives of these future leaders. I want them to be in proximity to these great places and fall in love with the world. Flooding it and reducing the trails to barren trails near the highways is going to completely destroy what makes bear creek lake special.</p>  |
| 11/13/2023 | Eklund    | James      | <p>Conservation Board (CWCB) to provide perspective and comments on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) and the CWCB’s proposal to reallocate storage capacity in Bear Creek Lake (“Lake”) within Bear Creek Lake Park (“Park”) in Jefferson County, Colorado. As the former director of the CWCB from 2013 to 2017, I was the lead in developing the Colorado Water Plan (“Water Plan”), the state’s first comprehensive statewide water planning guidance, which was first issued in 2015. This background gives me a unique perspective on the realities, and the challenges and opportunities, of water management in the state. SBCLP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization that was created in 2019 to monitor, review, educate, and provide comment upon the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project (“Project”). As part of my representation of SBCLP, I offer the following comments on the Feasibility Study currently being conducted to examine reallocating water storage capacity at the Lake. As you know, construction of Bear Creek Dam (“Dam”) was completed by the Corps in 1982 to provide flood control along Bear and Turkey Creeks in Jefferson County, Colorado. As such, it has successfully performed this function—including during large storm and runoff events in the watershed upstream of and proximate to the Dam. In performing this function, water flowing into the Lake during high flow and precipitation events has not permanently or severely negatively impacted the environment, wildlife habitat, and recreational assets and amenities of the Park and Lake. In short, the fluctuating water levels in the Lake from flood control have become understood, accepted, and manageable. Adding a water storage component to this facility as contemplated by this Project—especially the proposed 5,000- to 20,000-acre feet (AF) of additional storage capacity and the resultant water level fluctuations thereby—will pose significant impacts to the Lake and Park. This is especially so due to the shallow topography of the Park land around the Lake and the limited acreage of the Park. Thus, any alternative that considers additional storage above 2,500 AF without including dredging to deepen the Lake’s vertical volume will eradicate much of the wetlands, wildlife habitat, and recreational features along Bear and Turkey Creeks and along the Lake’s shoreline, as these cannot be mitigated or replaced at the Park once these components are flooded and subject to large and frequent volumetric fluctuations. For this reason, hereinafter when referring to the Project, this term will mean any alternative that considers a storage reallocation of 2,500 AF or larger that does not include dredging of the existing Lake bottom. The Corps and CWCB have collected much data and input during this Feasibility Study from its own staff, other federal agencies, as well as state and local agencies, community leaders, and the general public during the ongoing scoping process. These entities and others will continue to provide the Corps and CWCB with data and analysis on the specific impacts to the environment, wildlife habitat, and recreational features of this community asset from this Project. As such, myself and SBCLP would refer you to those comments. Through this letter, we seek to provide more general perspectives and comments on the water needs of the state and region and how this Project relates to these larger concerns. The Project’s Relation to Colorado’s Water Plan From the information provided by the Corps and CWCB, this Feasibility Study is being conducted to help reduce the water supply gap identified by the Water Plan. The Corps and CWCB identified the Lake and Dam as an existing water impoundment facility that could be evaluated for additional water supply capacity in the South Platte River Basin, hence this Project. However, it is important to emphasize that the Water Plan, both when it was first released in 2015 and as it has been revised at the beginning of this year, does not specifically propose or advocate for the development of any particular water project or initiative to address the water supply gap. The Water Plan itself does not justify—or act as the basis for—this particular Project. As a result, the proposal to add a storage component to this Lake and Dam must be reviewed on its own merits and should not be viewed as a Water Plan mandate. Acknowledging this reality in no way diminishes the importance and utility of Colorado’s Water Plan. The Water Plan describes the water situation in Colorado, identifies our water needs and challenges, and promotes collaboration and cooperation in meeting these realities. Importantly, it also outlines goals and objectives that projects and initiatives should be measured against as the state addresses our water needs. It is these goals and objectives that, when applied to this Project, should inform the Corps and CWCB as they evaluate its merits, consider mitigation measures, and explore alternatives. (continued below)</p> |



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| 11/13/2023 | Eklund    | James      | <p>The Project’s Relation to the South Platte Implementation Plan</p> <p>Since its development and issuance, the Water Plan has encouraged and facilitated existing collaborative efforts in the state’s various water basins to address water issues and needs. One specific outcome of that effort has been the development of basin-wide implementation plans. These documents are produced by each basin to provide a more detailed look at the water challenges and needs—and to focus on the realities of—each specific watershed.</p> <p>As you know, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (“South Platte BIP”) applies to this Project. The latest version of the South Platte BIP was released in January 2022 and is contained in two volumes. In Volume 2, Appendix C, 187 projects and initiatives at various stages of development and implementation are listed that relate to and have an impact on water resources in the basin. This Project is listed on page 8 of Appendix C. As was noted regarding the Water Plan, the fact that this Project is listed in the South Platte BIP does not indicate that it is an essential project to reduce the water supply gap. It, like all of the other 187 projects and initiatives listed, simply relates to the overall activities and planning in the basin that can impact water resources.</p> <p>Both volumes of the South Platte BIP contain the same 12 specific goals that are intended to be applied to water projects and initiatives in the basin (Volume 1, pp. 26-40; Volume 2, pp. 69-93). The initial Feasibility Study of this Project includes a range of alternatives associated with a storage capacity reallocation of 5,000 AF, 10,000 AF, and 20,000 AF. Given the specific realities and conditions at the Lake, Dam, and Park (specifically the low topography and relatively small acreage of Park land), any alternative that would increase storage at the Lake above 2,500 AF, without dredging to deepen the Lake to accommodate this additional volume, would compromise many of the 12 goals in the South Platte BIP.</p> <p>Specifically, the following goals would be implicated by this Project (again, that is, any alternative that would increase storage above 2,500 AF without dredging of the current Lake bottom):</p> <p>Goals 1 (Encourage Implementation of Projects) and 2 (Maximize Development of Native South Platte Supplies) envision projects that are multi-purpose—that is, that they provide for and accommodate municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational needs and objectives. As this Project would inundate many acres of the Park containing wetlands, wildlife habitat, and recreational features—features that will be difficult to mitigate or replace due to the confined space and limited acreage of the Park—it would compromise these goals of striving for multi-purpose objectives.</p> <p>Goals 3 (Maintain and Promote Municipal and Industrial Conservation and Efficiency) and 4 (Maintain and Promote Reuse) would also be compromised by this Project as it exclusively considers storage and not water reuse, conservation, or efficiency measures that could be implemented in concert with or in lieu of this storage option.</p> <p>Goals 6 (Protect and Enhance Watershed Function) and 7 (Protect and Enhance Environmental Attribute) would be the most compromised by this Project as it would inundate and thereby eradicate many acres of wetland and wildlife habitat associated with Bear and Turkey Creeks, and around the Lake’s shoreline. Thus, the degree to which the Project’s reallocation would inundate the riparian and wetland areas associated with the Park should be a significant consideration in assessing impacts of reallocation volumes.</p> <p>In addition, as the Corps is aware, this Project must comply with Presidential Executive Order 11990 regarding wetlands protection (see 78 FR 68719, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands). This Order directs federal agencies to consider wetlands protection in decision making and to evaluate the potential impacts of any new construction that would affect a wetland. Specifically, federal agencies are directed to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out major federal actions affecting federal lands and facilities.</p> <p>As noted, given the limited acreage of the Park, and the limited opportunities for establishing replacement wetland acres on the remaining Park lands post-inundation of the existing riparian and wetland lands, mitigation of this lost wetland habitat will be challenging.</p> <p>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has noted in the past the importance and scarcity of wetland areas in the arid West, as a former EPA official noted:</p> |

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| 11/13/2023 | Eklund    | James      | <p>(continued from above)</p> <p>Goal 8 (Protect and Enhance Recreational Attributes) would be compromised by this Project. This is so as most of the trails that would be impacted are currently within the Park’s riparian corridors. Replacing them with trails in open areas between fluctuating Lake pool levels and nearby roads and/or highways would dramatically change the character of these assets. Principally, in the riparian corridors, visitors and recreationalists are sheltered by shady cottonwood trees, cooled by breezes carried along the creeks, and thereby surrounded by the diverse wildlife of riparian habitat and immersed in the sounds of flowing water, rustling leaves, and birdsongs. While sacrificing some of the Park’s riparian areas may be inevitable, this should be kept to a minimum. Unlike trails, riparian areas cannot be replaced.</p> <p>In addition, the City of Lakewood has assessed recreational trail impacts under the Project’s various reallocation volumes. This can be found at: <a href="http://www.Lakewood.org/BCReservoir">http://www.Lakewood.org/BCReservoir</a>. Essentially, this assessment found that under a 20,000 AF reallocation level, about 12.2 miles of trails would be impacted; at 10,000 AF, about 8.4 miles would be impacted; and at 5,000 AF, about 6.45 miles would be impacted. This does not even take into account the overall impact to trails, as under these various reallocation levels most of these trails will be segmented in a manner that may make them unusable. It’s also likely that this lost trail mileage cannot be replaced within the Park due to the topological constraints and other hindrances. The Corps should take into account how the Project will impact these goals in the South Platte BIP and strive to develop an alternative that will address any deviations from these goals and avoid these impacts entirely, or at least mitigate them to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>The Project’s Relation to Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project</p> <p>As the Corps and the Denver-metro area has had experience with a similar reallocation effort at the Chatfield Reservoir, there may be an inclination to see that effort as a model to be applied at this Project. However, it’s worth noting the important differences between these two and why the specific realities at the Lake, Dam, and Park here present significant challenges that were not present at Chatfield Reservoir. Principally, the Chatfield Reservoir reallocation involved a reservoir with a different topological profile and thus less impact to surrounding environmental features and social factors. The much larger size of Chatfield Reservoir and its surrounding land area provided for significantly more on-site mitigation. Additionally, Bear Creek Lake Park is closer to densely populated and rapidly growing residential neighborhoods as compared to Chatfield State Park. The chart below quantifies the increased impact a similar reallocation would have on the much smaller Lake and Park.</p> <p>In addition to these landscape issues, other realities of this Lake and Park make comparisons with the Chatfield Reservoir reallocation more tenuous. For example, as the topography of this Lake and its surrounding lands is so flat, allocating a storage volume of 2,500 AF or more (without dredging) will significantly increase the Lake’s surface area. This, along with the shallow depths of the resulting pool, will likely present significant evaporative losses as well as create water quality concerns due to the resulting higher water temperatures. In this respect, it’s important to note that blue-green algae blooms in the Lake have become more prevalent in the years since the reallocation study was initiated. Such impacts are likely to be more pronounced with a reallocation alternative of 2,500 AF or more (without dredging). With the added influence of global climate change which is increasing ambient temperatures and reducing soil and atmospheric moisture content, evaporative losses could be exacerbated by increasing the shallow surface area of the Lake.</p> <p>As an example of the impacts of shallow water storage and increasing climate change on important water storage infrastructure, we offer the example of the Three Lakes Watershed in Grand County, Colorado. Many examples of water quality exist there; chief among them is Shadow Mountain Reservoir, which is shallow (but likely deeper than the expanded Lake proposed under the Project). Its shallow depth results in increased water temperatures and the proliferation of nutrients (algae and weeds) that are then transported upstream during certain times of the year into Grand Lake, one of the crown jewels of the Colorado River headwaters— especially due to its historic water clarity depths. As a result, Grand Lake’s clarity is compromised across a significant portion of its volume in most years.</p> <p>And, unlike at Chatfield Reservoir with its deeper pool and larger volume, this Lake and Park area are less likely to absorb fluctuations in the storage pool—particularly during periods of drought. As a result, the impact to the environmental and recreational assets at the Lake and Park will be much more pronounced, obvious, and disruptive. (continued below)</p> |

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| 11/13/2023 | Eklund    | James      | <p>We are aware that the Corps, through a 2021 policy directive and subsequent policy research papers, has noted the limitations of focusing narrowly on the benefit-cost analysis of water projects such as this Project (see Memorandum for Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Policy Directive – Comprehensive Documentation of Benefits in Decision Document, 5 January 2021, R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (“Directive”). The Directive specifically “emphasizes and expands upon policies and guidance to ensure the USACE decision framework considers, in a comprehensive manner, the total benefits of project alternatives, including equal consideration of economic, environmental, and social categories.”</p> <p>As provided in this Directive, the Corps is directed to consider other social effects of projects that can include a wide range of factors, such as “urban, rural and community impacts; life, health, and safety factors; displacement; and long-term productivity.”</p> <p>As has been highlighted above, there are a number of such social effects of this Project that are not typically quantifiable in a benefit-cost analysis but would be captured by the analysis articulated and outlined in this Directive. The Park hosts an estimated 800,000 user visits per year, likely more, as many visitors enter on foot, bicycle, or horseback and are therefore not counted at the fee entrance. The Lake and Park, and its operation heretofore as a flood control facility, has produced a wide variety of social benefits at the local and regional level, such as outdoor education activities, wildlife viewing and experiencing, opportunities for appreciation of natural ecosystems, and mental and physical health improvement—all aspects affected by this Project that should be considered as the Corps evaluates this Project and explores mitigation measures and alternative options.</p> <p><b>Examination of Other Options</b></p> <p>To reemphasize, SBCLP is not opposed to considering some reallocation of the Lake for water supply benefits. But any option selected must take into account the special nature of this Lake and Park. That is why the Corps should consider an alternative of 2,500 AF or less, irrespective of dredging, so as to lessen the inundation of critically important wetlands, wildlife habitat, and recreational assets, reduce evaporative losses, and reduce water quality degradation. SBCLP strongly prefers utilization of water storage options that would result in a reallocation of less than 2,500 AF. However, should the Corps seek an alternative that exceeds 2,500 AF, we would urge the Corps to consider a dredging component to create additional capacity such that the inundation footprint does not go beyond that which would result from a reallocation of 2,500 AF or less without dredging.</p> <p>Because of these significant impacts, the Corps should also consider other alternatives beyond this Project that could help increase water supplies in the South Platte Basin. These include groundwater recharge (conjunctive use) and gravel pit storage.</p> <p>Regarding groundwater recharge, the South Platte BIP notes in a number of sections the value of conjunctive use as an option for addressing water supply needs in the basin (see, e.g., Volume 2, pp. 26, 49, and 102), and in Goal 2 (Maximize Development of Native South Platte Supplies), Strategy 2.B. specifically encourages conjunctive use where appropriate (Volume 2, p.71). The Corps is encouraged to consider this alternative so as to mitigate or avoid the impacts to the Lake and Park from this Project.</p> <p>Another option to consider that could mitigate or avoid impacts to the Lake and Park is water storage in gravel pits along the South Platte River. Denver Water, the water utility servicing the Denver-metro area, recognized this opportunity and established the Downstream Reservoir Water Storage Program so as to take advantage of gravel pits along the South Platte River north of Denver. Other Colorado entities have also recognized the value of this option, such as Water Education Colorado (see, e.g., <a href="https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/publications-andradio/headwaters-magazine/spring-2021-storage/south-platte-reclaiming-gravel-pits-asreservoirs/">https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/publications-andradio/headwaters-magazine/spring-2021-storage/south-platte-reclaiming-gravel-pits-asreservoirs/</a>).</p> <p>SBCLP and I wish to continue to provide constructive input as the Corps proceeds with the Feasibility Study for this Project. We seek to advocate for alternatives and mitigation strategies that will lessen and, if possible, avoid the loss of cherished values at the Park and Lake. As growth and development continue to occur in the surrounding communities, open space and outdoor opportunities and experiences provided by the Lake</p> |
| 08/08/22   | Elbel     | Fred       | <p>I am strongly opposed to the proposed Bear Creek water expansion project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- I live near Bear Creek and have enjoyed the park for decades, including hiking, kayaking, and biking. The park offers recreational facilities to thousands. The park is an extremely valuable resource to the residents of Lakewood, Littleton, and Morrison, including the new cluster of a thousand homes being built directly to the north.</li><li>- The expansion will destroy essential riparian corridors. This represents a significant loss, as there are no other equivalent areas to which wildlife can migrate. Indeed, the riparian corridors with their inherent wildlife contribute to the overall quality of the park and to enjoyment by visitors.</li><li>- The attractiveness and visual appeal of the park will be destroyed by the expansion. A huge bathtub ring is the last thing people want to see in their park.</li><li>- The dam was authorized and constructed for flood control. Expanding the water volume by a magnitude will increase flood risk to the downstream metro area.</li><li>- The proposed expansion is a consequence of Colorado's implicit "growth at any cost" policies. Residents of Dacono, Berthoud, and Brighton do not want the huge population growth being imposed on their communities. In order to provide water for this growth, Bear Creek is scheduled for sacrifice.</li></ul> <p>What about the next round of growth, and the next? What will we be forced to sacrifice to provide water for unending population growth in Colorado? There are indeed limits to physical growth. The answer to Bear Creek reservoir expansion is quite simply: NO.</p>  |

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| 10/14/22   | Elwood    | Leslie         | <p>I'm providing this email for your planning purposes for this project. The Preble's mouse was a big factor for the Chatfield Reallocation Project.</p> <p>However, the Bear Creek Reservoir is within the Preble's Block Clearance Zone for Metro Denver Area, which means that we do not consider it to be present in the block clearance area and therefore, we do not need to do ESA consultations in the block clearance area for the Preble's mouse. You can google Preble's meadow jumping mouse Denver Metro block clearance zone to see the boundaries of this area (this boundary is along C-470, so close to your project area).</p> <p>Let me know if you'd like to discuss this or other T&amp;E species at this time.</p> <p>Hope this information helps with some of your project planning.</p> <p>Also, I'm attaching the map of the Preble's block clearance area.</p>   |
| 08/17/22   | Erkfitz   | Erwin          | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 6/10/2023  | Esteban   | Jim            | <p>I am a 77 year old road biker. I like riding around the park as it's part of a 25 to 32 mile ride I take once every couple of weeks. There's a lot of bike riders that ride through the park. My guess is that bikers and fishermen are the largest population of users for the entire park. But I appreciate any path that keeps me away from cars.</p> <p>No matter what you change it will always cause some discontent but if you can store 10X water that's a significant amount and would be worth it. In the end if we can still have access roads to access boat ramps and accommodate riders probably no one will even care 5 or 10 years after it's complete. I probably won't be around much longer so it doesn't matter to me that much but I bet that the people drinking the water will appreciate having it.</p>   |
| 06/10/22   | Evans     | William & Beth | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |



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| 2/22/2024  | Eversman  | Cari and Jeff | <p>I am writing to express my profound concerns and opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park's water storage capacity. My family and I have been using the park for over 15 years. We have enjoyed the park's nature trails and shelters during Cub Scout and Boy Scout excursions and camping trips. My 16 year old son uses the park's trails for mountain biking, and we even hosted my boys' birthday party there when they turned 6 and 8. It was a lovely spring afternoon of GeoCaching with friends and family along Bear Creek followed by cake and ice cream at the Skunk Hollow Shelter. My daughter loves the horse camp and the trails they ride during the summer. It is a beautiful, wildlife-filled area in a suburban part of Denver that is quickly losing open space that we all need in our lives.</p> <p>While I appreciate the need for water management strategies, the proposed expansion presents significant negative impacts on both the environment and the recreational amenities of the park. Below, I outline key reasons why the expansion should not proceed as planned:</p> <p>Impacts of a 20,000-acre feet Reallocation (expansion):</p> <p>1.Reduction of Land Area and Loss of Riparian Corridors: The proposed expansion would result in the reduction of over 500 acres of land area and the loss of crucial riparian corridors, including over one mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor and three-quarters of a mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor. These corridors are vital for wildlife habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>2.Loss of Recreational Amenities: The expansion would entail the loss of approximately 12 miles of trails, disrupting recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Additionally, numerous park amenities, including the equestrian area, turtle pond fishing, and picnic shelters, would be compromised.</p> <p>3.Impact on Regional Connectivity: The expansion would disrupt access for major regional bike routes between downtown Denver and Jefferson County, affecting not only local residents but also tourists and recreational enthusiasts who frequent the area.</p> <p>4.Threat to Wildlife Habitat: The inundation zone of the expanded reservoir would encompass nearly a square mile of wildlife habitat, leading to a significant reduction or loss of diverse species within the park.</p> <p>Low Dependable Yield:</p> <p>1.Uncertainty of Water Supply: The unallocated yield from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool. Historical data indicates that annual inflow to the reservoir has often fallen short of this capacity, raising concerns about the feasibility and sustainability of the proposed expansion.</p> <p>2.Potential Environmental Degradation: During non-maximum water years, the reservoir could experience substantial reductions in water levels, resulting in deforested mud flats and diminishing both wildlife and recreational values.</p> <p>[cont. below]</p> |
| 2/22/2024  | Eversman  | Cari and Jeff | <p>[cont. from above]</p> <p>Dam Safety Concerns:</p> <p>1.Infrastructure Challenges: Increased lake levels may pose risks to the outlet structure and necessitate expensive renovations to ensure dam safety. Moreover, the dam's original purpose for short-term flood control may not adequately support long-term storage requirements, requiring further infrastructure investments.</p> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions:</p> <p>1.Exploration of Less Invasive Options: Alternative solutions such as deepening the current pool and forebays or utilizing underground water storage merit serious consideration. These options offer the potential for increased storage capacity with minimal environmental impact, preserving the park's wildlife, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.</p> <p>2.Utilization of Gravel Pit Storage Potential: Repurposing sand and gravel mining sites along the South Platte for water storage presents a viable alternative that warrants exploration. Such initiatives could provide additional storage capacity while mitigating the adverse effects associated with expanding Bear Creek Lake Park's reservoir.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park's water storage capacity in light of the aforementioned concerns. It is imperative that any water management strategies prioritize environmental conservation, recreational enjoyment, and the long-term well-being of the community. I implore you to explore alternative solutions that strike a balance between water storage needs and the preservation of precious natural resources.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I look forward to your response and hope for a decision that aligns with the best interests of both the environment and the community.</p>  |
| 03/01/22   | Ewing     | Robert        | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Please save our park and quality of life!</p>  |

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| 10/23/21   | Faecher   | Barry           | <p>I don't envy your position. You are,basically,in the proverbial."between a rock and a hard place." Somebody is going to be upset either way. I would like to give you a bit of my perspective.</p> <p>I am a 74 year old,retired,man.Most of my life I have some sort of depression,but only in recent years have I been diagnosed as clinically depressed.I am on antidepressant medication.I tell you this because that therapy is relatively ineffective by itself. What has kept me above ground and less depressed is Bear Creek Lake Park. I ride my mountain bike there between 4-7 days /week.The rewards I get from riding there are:</p> <p>1) The endorphin effect,which biochemically takes me out of depression and into a calm,happy and satiated state way better than the anti depressive medication.</p> <p>2) Enjoying the beauty of the many dirt trails that wind through the trees and very near the lovely streams. I will see much wildlife,including deer,coyotes, rabbits,foxes and others. Generally,I am smiling and grinning being in nature.</p> <p>Unfortunately,if the proposed expansion of water storage is realized,ALL OF THESE TRAILS THROUGH THE TREES WILL BE UNDERWATER. I no longer will be riding there.The deer,coyotes,foxes and others will not have their homes and probably will relocate into nearby residential communities,where they would not be welcomed.</p> <p>You might ask,well,why don't I ride in other parks and open spaces:</p> <p>1) I am a 74 year old man with Atrial Fibrillation,which means I cannot take my heart rate up in those more difficult parks(way less flat areas but many more steep hills) without going into A-Fib and risking stroke.These are my personal reasons for wanting to save Bear Creek Lake Park. Many of the other thousands of users have similar stories.</p> <p>In addition BCLP has about 500,000 paid users/year.And that is NOT including the thousands upon thousands of hikers and bikers who walk into the park.There aren't any statistics on how many.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <p>1) concerns for downstream homes getting flooded and destroyed if the constant increase of water pressure on the dam weakens and destroys it. Which was the reason the dam was originally constructed.</p> <p>2) If the expansion goes through the actual amount of water for sale to other communities would be a rather small percentage of the estimated water needs in 2040,as compared to the devastating impact on the park including the animals,flora and people effected. Other lakes /reservoirs that have a larger surface area would yield way higher returns of water storage with, relatively, less impact.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to my position , [Duplicate received 12/6/2021]</p>   |
| 04/03/22   | Fanyo     | Lee and Katrine | <p>This email relates to the proposed Bear Creek Lake Reallocation in Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>My wife, Katrine, and I are writing (1) as residents of the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood, which is immediately east of the dam, and (2) as frequent users of Bear Creek Lake Park on foot, bike, and horseback.</p> <p>All of the comments submitted by Katie Gill at Save Bear Creek Lake Park are incorporated in this email by reference.</p> <p>We are not in support of expanding the reservoir to raise the pool above the current elevation because doing so would eliminate valuable and scarce riparian open space in the West-Denver metro area and would endanger homes that families have invested substantial sums to improve and maintain (as well as the lives of individuals living in those homes).</p> <p>Digging holes for water storage on the eastern portion of the Denver Metro Area (thru gravel pits or otherwise), where the water will be used, is a better option than expanding the pool, as described in the comments submitted by Katie Gill at Save Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>The first concern and issue to address in the Bear Creek Lake Park study is the potential impact to residents east of the dam who could be harmed physically and financially if the pool is raised above the current elevation and the dam experiences any failure. When we purchased our home in 2018, it was not in a flood plain. Expanding the pool of Bear Creek Lake could certainly put our home, and hundreds of others, in peril.</p> <p>This risk was not assumed by any homeowner in the Bear Creek Ranchettes because the pool is approximately level with the neighborhood today.</p> <p>As part of any plan to expand the pool, the Government should include provision to pay for a periodic appraisal of all homes lying below the level of an expanded pool and provide payment for land remediation and full at-cost replacement of all homes and personal property if the dam fails. In the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood alone, the property damage from a dam failure likely exceeds \$100 million today.</p> <p>The second concern of Bear Creek Lake Park impacts is addressed well by the Save Bear Creek Lake Park group. There are few riparian recreational areas in Denver that are less urbanized than Bear Creek Lake Park. That is what makes it so attractive and valuable to visitors. Most of the park’s visitors who do not go to the beach congregate along one of the incoming creek corridors, which are full of trees, vegetation, wildlife, and peace. If the pool is expanded as proposed, most of the creek corridors will be destroyed forever.</p> <p>Third, applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidance states that it is “during the feasibility stage that [National Environmental Policy Act] compliance takes place and environmental documentation is prepared. The Corps uses the NEPA process and documentation to tie the impact analysis together and discuss effects and compliance with other environmental laws.” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers SMART Planning Feasibility Studies: A Guide to Coordination and Engagement with the Services (2015). No notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been published in the Federal Register and it does not appear that the Corps has initiated the NEPA process. Any attempt to pre-judge alternatives outside of the NEPA process or commit to a certain course of action prior to completing NEPA review would violate federal law. See, e.g., Forest Guardians v. U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Serv., 611 F.3d 692, 714 (10th Cir. 2010) (“an agency may violate NEPA, and consequently the APA, when it predetermines the result of its environmental analysis.”).</p> <p>Thank you for your service and consideration of the comments above. My wife and I are hopeful that the Government will find a way to protect lives, protect private property, and preserve the gem that is Bear Creek Lake Park in the form it exists today.</p> |

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| 04/12/22   | Fanyo     | Lee and Katrine | <p>This letter relates to the proposed Bear Creek Lake Reallocation in Lakewood, Colorado. My wife, Katrine, and I are writing (I) as residents of the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood, which is immediately east of the dam, and (2) as frequent users of Bear Creek Lake Park on foot, bike, and horseback. All of the comments submitted by Katie Gill at Save Bear Creek Lake Park are incorporated by reference. We are not in support of expanding the reservoir to raise the pool above the current elevation because doing so would eliminate valuable and scarce riparian open space in the West-Denver metro area and would endanger homes that families have invested substantial sums to improve and maintain (as well as the lives of individuals living in those homes). Digging holes for water storage on the eastern portion of the Denver Metro Area (thru gravel pits or otherwise), where the water will be used, is a better option than expanding the pool, as described in the comments submitted by Katie Gill at Save Bear Creek Lake Park. The first concern and issue to address in the Bear Creek Lake Park study is the potential impact to residents east of the dam who could be harmed physically and financially if the pool is raised above the current elevation and the dam experiences any failure. When we purchased our home in 2018, it was not in a flood plain. Expanding the pool of Bear Creek Lake could certainly put our home, and hundreds of others, in peril. This risk was not assumed by any homeowner in the Bear Creek Ranchettes because the pool is approximately level with the neighborhood today. As part of any plan to expand the pool, the Government should include provision to pay for a periodic appraisal of all homes lying below the level of an expanded pool and provide payment for land remediation and full at-cost replacement of all homes and personal prope1ty if the dam fails. In the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood alone, the prope1ty damage from a dam failure likely exceeds \$100 million today. The second concern of Bear Creek Lake Park impacts is addressed we! I by the Save Bear Creek Lake Park group. There are few riparian recreational areas in Denver that are less urbanized than Bear Creek Lake Park. That is what makes it so attractive and valuable to visitors. Most of the park's visitors who do not go to the beach congregate along one of the incoming creek corridors, which are full of trees, vegetation, wildlife, and peace. If the pool is expanded as proposed, most of the creek corridors will be destroyed forever. Third, applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidance states that it is "during the feasibility stage that [National Environmental Policy Act] compliance takes place and environmental documentation is prepared. The Corps uses the NEPA process and documentation to tie the impact analysis together and discuss effects and compliance with other environmental laws." U.S. Army Corps of Engineers SMART Planning Feasibility Studies: A Guide to Coordination and Engagement with the Services (2015). No notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been published in the Federal Register and it does not appear that the Corps has initiated the NEPA process. Any attempt to pre-judge alternatives outside of the NEPA process or commit to a ce1tain course of action prior to completing NEPA review would violate federal law. See, e.g., Forest Guardians v. U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Serv., 611 F.3d 692, 714 (10th Cir. 2010) ("an agency may violate NEPA, and consequently the APA, when it predetermines the result of its environmental analysis."). Thank you for your service and consideration of the comments above. My wife and I are hopeful that the Government will find a way to protect lives, protect private property, and preserve the gem that is Bear Creek Lake Park in the form it exists today.</p> |
| 12/08/21   | Farley    | Steve           | <p>Tens of thousands of people use Bear Creek park every year. Hikers, bikers, picnickers and people who want a respite from the mayhem of the metro area all enjoy the park. The potential plan I’ve seen will flood all of the trails and picnicking areas surrounding the lake. There will be little left of the park as we know it today and regardless of future recreation trails and sites built, it will no longer be the escape to nature we seek. Bear Creek reservoir is a crown jewel for the City of Lakewood, don’t destroy it. It is wrong to displace the recreation afforded by Bear Creek. There is more to recreational activities than boating.</p> <p>Are you taking in account in the budgeting of new recreation sites and build-up of the park after the water has flooded it? As a taxpayer the expenditure proposed is morally and ethically wrong. It isn’t necessary in any respect.</p> <p>The current dam and reservoir is for flood control not water storage. Regardless of any study done and strengthing of the current dam, what happens if the dam fails? The downstream flooding would be catastrophic.</p>   |
| 1/23/2023  | Farley    | Steve           | <p>As a resident of the Denver metro area I urge you to not destroy Bear Creek Reservoir with more water storage. the reservoir was built for flood control not water storage, don’t spend my tax dollars. If residential locations being planned and anticipate needs for drinking water there are locations nearer those areas that should be the first consideration. Transporting water great distances is not necessary. There are a number of other water storage locations available without the destruction of another recreational area, Chatfield, Cherry Creek, Aurora and others can be modified for those needs.</p> <p>Bear Creek is a necessary park for non-motorized recreation and should be left as is.</p>   |
| 10/2/2025  | Farley    | Steve           | <p>As a resident of Lakewood who lives below the dam I'm concerned about the dam being able to withstand long term storage of water at the levels proposed by the project. What will happen when there is large run-off in the spring and great amounts of rain? The dam and reservoir were built to capture flood water. We residents of the area who utilize the park as it is now will lose a great and important natural area.</p>   |
| 03/01/22   | Farrar    | Janet           | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |

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| 10/30/21   | Faulconer | Marsha     | <p>I am strongly OPPOSED to the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>The lake has served as a vital flood control lake protecting those downstream from the extremes of such floods as 2013. Expansion of the lake would imperil those downstream and require them to be in a flood zone.</p> <p>The lake and park hosts over 600,000 visitors each year in a vital land for recreation for those in Lakewood and the larger Denver metro area. I use the park regularly and see road and mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders, archery enthusiasts, bird watchers, picnickers, and overnight campers. The children's programs introduce kids to nature. Many organized running and riding events are hosted in the park.</p> <p>The park also serves as a vital riparian ecosystem near a large metro area as humans continue to expand into other habitats. The park has woods, wetlands, meadows, and prairies. We have seen an amazing variety of birds including owls and eagles, migrating birds and animals both large and small animals living in this rare habitat.</p> <p>Added via 3/12/22 email chain: I have attached the emails that Walt and I sent to strongly oppose the expansion of the water capacity, if you would like to also send your thoughts and use our letters as an example. Ask your friends and family to send similar letters if you are inclined. Send to cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil</p> <p>Also, the Denver Post had an article today about the proposal. Water capacity expansion at Bear Creek Lake Park could lead to loss of popular trails (hyperlink: <a href="https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/07/bear-creek-lake-water-capacity/">https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/07/bear-creek-lake-water-capacity/</a>)</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | Feerst    | Adam       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.  |
| 05/31/22   | Felidae   | Lydah      | <p>Don't flood Bear Creek</p> <p>there has to be somewhere else to store your water, Denver Metro is already critically low on places to enjoy just a hint of nature without leaving the city area. This place gets more and more depressing every year with all this cheap-development-before-all attitude. In times like these, we need to be smart about our natural resources. they're harder to get back than anyone seems to think.</p>  |
| 5/16/2025  | Ferguson  | Karen      | <p>My name is Karen Fergason and I live in Lakewood near Bear Creek Lake Park. I've been paying attention to the proposal to expand the water storage capacity in the lake but have not provided comment on the plan until now. I understand that the Denver area has grown considerably and that water sustainability is extremely important here in the Mountain West. I grew up in California under severe drought conditions and I know what it means to have to conserve water. I've never forgotten those lessons of my youth and I continue to limit my water usage where possible.</p> <p>When I heard about the study evaluating the impact to expand the lake my heart sank because I love Bear Creek Lake Park dearly. The park is truly a jewel on the Front Range for hikers, bikers, bird watchers, equestrians, and many more. Not only that but its precious riparian habitat is critical for so many species being pressured by urban expansion.I did not want to succumb to NIMBY-ism, however, because I also understand that we are a part of a greater need within the Denver region and we need to work together to develop community solutions for a sustaining water future.</p> <p>After much consideration, I believe that the expansion of the lake would be too devastating to the ecology and recreation and I cannot support the plan. I plead for the evaluation team to consider other water planning measures which would be less destructive as the Bear Creek Lake Park landscape is too precious to destroy. I do not come to this decision lightly and please know that I believe in the mission to protect our urban infrastructure from flooding as well as uncertain water futures. I urge you to consider other options which will meet the needs of our community without sacrificing our beloved Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider input such as mine as you make your decision</p> |
| 06/11/22   | Fessenden | Kim        | <p>I am a 35 year old resident of Lakewood and have lived in this area most of my life. I have long enjoyed the Bear Creek Park, especially for trail running and bike riding. I remember some of my favorite Cross Country Races in highschool at this park.</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to enlarging the reservoir capacity. There are few spaces i the entire Denver Metro area like the trails and open space along the creek, where you can feel somewhat removed from the city. A larger reservoir would flood these areas. I am concerned about the loss of wildlife habitat as well as the impact to surrounding open space parks as people no longer recreate in the same way at Bear Creek.</p> <p>I am also not convinced that this an effective strategy for water conservation. It seems like we are just taking water from other users and not really increasing capacity system wide.</p> <p>Thank you for your work, I know you are carefully studying the environmental impact and the various communities that will be impacted in this project.</p>  |
| 05/16/22   | Fickle?   | Linda      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:</p> <p>P.S. I have been visiting the park for many years 3-4 times/week &amp; purchase a yearly pass. If this project passes, I would not be inclined to visit any longer.</p>   |



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| 02/07/22   | Fifer       | Tracy      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>The ability for communities to recreate in neghoring parks is essential to the ,aintenance of good mental health. BCLP has provided access of 30 years of recreation to myself, my family and my community. Please reconsider your impending decision to keep BCLP open to the public.   |
| 01/15/22   | Fink        | Theresa    | I AM OPPOSED TO THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS FLOODING BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK.<br><br>Please do not do this. I use this park weekly. I do not want to see valuable park land overcome by water storage for people who need to quit moving to Denver and quit building homes in Denver.<br><br>Thank you for listening.   |
| 6/3/2023   | Fitzpatrick | Ellen      | Please do not expand the reservoir and do not ruin this multi-use Bear Creek Lake Park, Lakewood, situated in the heart of the Denver metropolitan area. As a bicyclist, hiker, birder, and overall recreational user, I love going here to get away from the city and have a quiet place close by (that I don't have to drive to) to enjoy the trails, wildlife , and overall natural environment. We need to be in harmony with nature and not increase the size of this reservoir that would overwhelm and reduce the trees and habitats of the wildlife and the sustainable ecosystem now in place. Don't ruin what we now have and enjoy. I thought we were already on a path of understanding how damming up the rivers ruins the natural order and wellbeing of all. We need to reduce our water use by other means.<br><br>To keep me updated on the issues and plans concerning this Park, please add me to any email lists for hearings and updates as to the proposals and status of this ongoing project . Thank you.   |
| 05/05/23   | Fitzsimmons | Christy    | I'm deeply concerned about the the reallocation of BCLP;<br><br>First, for all the wildlife that reside in the park and all the migrating birds and mammals. This park is an island, surrounded on all sides by busy roads/highways, residential areas (a new housing development directly across Morrison Rd.) This would be a definite lose of habitat for many species of Owls, Red Tail Hawks, Cooper's Hawks just to name a few of the Raptor species that nest and live in the park year round, along with countless species of Song Birds, many mammals and amphibians also.<br><br>It would be devastating for many of us humans to lose this treasure, but for all the wildlife it would be life threatening, as there's no surrounding area for them to move to.<br><br>Thanks for taking the time to read this.  |
| 12/09/21   | Flaska      | Jane       | My name is Jane Flaska, I am a Lakewood and Edgewater resident and frequent user of Bear Creek Lake Park<br><br>I just heard about the proposed modifications to the park to increase the size of the reservoir to address water shortages, and am really distraught about it.<br><br>With our two kids, our family has really enjoyed this little nook of wilderness so close to the city. We love the hiking/biking/birding trails, and all the amenities the park provides, all within such a short drive.<br><br>I sure hope you would reconsider the plans to change the parks' structure.<br><br>I understand the growing Lakewood area needs water for more residents, but I feel that by flooding parts of the park to increase its water carrying capacity will likely still not be enough, and you will destroy a valuable resource in the process. Would the city explore other options?<br><br>On another note - some day there will really just not be enough water, and it's incumbent on individuals to be better stewards of our current resources - but that is a topic for another day... :)<br><br>Please reconsider |
| 10/15/2024 | Flaska      | Jane       | Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of BCLP.<br>Although I live in Edgewater, my family and I travel frequently to enjoy what we call "our hidden gem of a park" at Bear Creek Lake Park.<br>We love the swimming beach and water access, but also the hiking and biking trails, birding options, and just the natural beauty of it,<br>I love that Lakewood has historically preserved this space, without relying on incorporating it into the State Parks program.<br>I am very happy to support the park with my annual membership.<br>I am saddened to hear that the city is considering increasing the storage capacity of this lake, and concerned when reviewing what impact it might have on the park's current footprint and natural beauty.<br>I would hope local citizens and governments can find ways to be water smart instead of flooding this beautiful park.  |

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| 05/06/22   | Fleurant  | Gary       | I am a student at Metropolitan State University of Denver. I am studying Environmental Science with hydraulics concentration. I have read the bear Creek reallocation project, and I would like to present my opinion on the project, and its impact on the environment.  |
|            |           |            | Expanding the Bear Creek Lake from 2000 acres feet to 22000 acre feet means that a large amount of the park will be inundated, and our dear phreatophytes like the cottonwoods trees that are along the creek would be destroyed.   |
|            |           |            | As you know, Cottonwoods provide habitat for wildlife throughout their range which mean that a lot of birds, bats, and other animals depend on the Cottonwood trees for survival. Removing these Cottonwood trees means that you are removing preventing multiple species from having a home where they can live, nest, and survive. Jim Bottorff, in his article”what good is a Cottonwood tree” stated that large cottonwoods make excellent nest platforms for a variety of predatory birds. Eagles and ospreys commonly select large branches or broken-top cottonwoods as platforms for nest construction. Eagles frequently use cottonwoods for night roosts and for hunting perches. Great horned owls will commandeer other bird and squirrel nest platforms in cottonwoods and use them as their nest sites, as will red-tailed hawks. In drier environments, cottonwoods will be relegated to stream bottoms and are often the only large tree for long distances. In these environments, turkeys select cottonwoods for night roosts. Without suitable night roosts some flocks of turkeys would likely disappear. We need to preserve the birds as well as the other animals’ habitats, and to do so, we have to refrain from removing the cottonwoods at Bear Creek. |
|            |           |            | According to John Shelman from USACE, two hundred twenty different bird species have been found in the corridor of Bear Creek. Of these, 153 species, about 55%, are neotropical migrants. Observations have confirmed that 95 of the species breed in the Bear Creek corridor. Teams have observed 167 of the species in specific habitats and for levels of breeding and abundance during the migrating and breeding seasons. This means that there are a lot of species in risk of losing their home if the cottonwoods are removed to expand the lake.  |
|            |           |            | Building or expanding a dam replace the wildlife habitat. According to the Colorado SWAP, The operation of dams directly affects the timing, volume, and temperature of flows, and indirectly affects many closely related habitat characteristics, including transfer of sediments, oxygen levels, support of riparian vegetation, and a host of others. Golden Eagles are listed as top tier bird on the SWAP, and they are also living in these cottonwoods, so removing these cottonwoods is putting these birds in more danger.  |
|            |           |            | I feel like it’s better to not sacrifice our environmental, and natural resources we don’t have to. I know that the dam is being built to control floods, However, I believe that there are better way to control floods without destroying our wonderful species’ habitats. Instead of sacrificing one for the other, let’s find a different approach that will both preserving our natural resources, and providing good water storage, and quality flood control.  |
| 05/06/22   | Fleurant  | Gary       | Thank you for your Attention!   |
| 02/11/22   | Ford      | Tom        | I live very close by bear creek lake park and during the spring, summer and fall I go to the carbon trail to ride my bike and enjoy the park. I believe that the amount of water being considered would put some of the best parts of that trail under water. Please don’t do that! I love it there. Flood chatfield more or somewhere else.  |

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| 02/21/22   | Forsha    | Jennifer   | <p>Please save Bear Creek Lake Park I'm just about to go enjoy my day by taking a run at Bear Creek Lake Park. However, Bear Creek Lake Park is in danger. I am very passionate and I get very emotional when I think about how important it is to me to save this park. Bear Creek Lake is a 5 minute drive from my house. My family uses the park all the time. I run there twice a week and my family likes to bike there on the weekends. We can bike from our house. I like to run there because it is close, beautiful and I have bad knees so it is the ONLY place near my house that I can run up hill on dirt. The park gets so much use as there is not another trail system around our house. Red Rocks, Apex and Matthew Winters are 15 minutes away. One of the reasons we bought our house in the current location is because of wonderful Bear Creek Lake park. Please do not take this wonderful park away from us. This park means so much to my family as well as all the other families that live in this soon to be very overcrowded neighborhood. This park is always happily crowded. There are so many people moving here, we need more trail systems, around our house. Please do not take this one away. Where will all the animals that happily live in this park go? Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to save this park. Thank you for your service and dedication to the State of Colorado. There are several alternatives to destroying the trails at Bear Creek Lake Park. Here is the background. The Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Study, which began during the summer of 2021, is looking into the feasibility of expanding the Bear Creek Reservoir for the purpose of water storage. Alternatives being investigated range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the 2,000 acre feet pool (a tenfold increase). The latter would flood approximately 615 acres of Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). The Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) are coordinating on this three-year study. More than a mile of Bear Creek and 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek would be inundated in a 20,000 AF expansion. As you can see, even the 10,000 and 5,000 acre feet increases would impact significant stretches of Bear and Turkey Creek. These riparian corridors are the core of the Park. They provide wildlife habitat and shady creekside trails where the din of traffic is replaced by the sounds of flowing water, rustling leaves and singing birds. The shaded blue in the map above eclipses thousands of cottonwood trees. The public voiced overwhelming opposition to this expansion during the first public scoping meeting in October of 2021, which was extended to accommodate two and a half hours of public comment. This Feasibility Study is part of the Colorado Water Plan. It is important to note that The Plan does not automatically support every proposal in it. Rather, it calls for consideration of each, recognizing that some of the projects will not be built. A goal was set in 2015 to increase the State’s water storage capacity by 400,000 AF by the year 2050. Over 475,000 AF of water storage assets have already been built (Chatfield), permitted, or are in the permitting process. The maximum reallocation being proposed for Bear Creek Lake would have an outsized and negative impact on the Park for a relatively small contribution to the statewide goal. Alternatives and compromises under consideration include No Change. The negative environmental and recreational impacts of a significant increase in the Bear Creek Reservoir are dramatic. As drought and population increase, this price might be worth paying, but other less impactful storage solutions ought to be built first. While the reallocation of Chatfield Reservoir is often compared to the proposal for BCLP, the expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir would be dramatically more devastating than the expansion of Chatfield Reservoir. For example, the loss of shoreline trees at Chatfield was mitigated by planting more trees elsewhere, but it is impossible to mitigate the loss of nearly two miles of flowing creeks and the ecosystem they support. Additionally, the proposal at BCLP would consume approximately one third of the Park’s land area. The primary municipal partners at this time are the Cities of Brighton, Berthoud and Dacono (via water rights exchange). As the state’s population grows and development marches on, demand management must be part of our water supply solution. We can’t just store more and more. We must also use less. A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative surface water storage exist. One alternative currently being considered at BCLP is to further excavate the current pool. This would increase storage capacity and reduce the footprint of impact. Another very promising alternative is the increasing use of gravel pits for water storage. Dozens of gravel pits exist along the South Platte and several have been repurposed for water storage [continued below]</p> |
| 02/21/22   | Forsha    | Jennifer   | <p>[continued from above] These pits continue to be created as development demands more sand and gravel. Another innovative and growing means of storing water is Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). It is less impactful on places like BCLP, and unlike old-school surface water storage, ASR is not susceptible to evaporation. A serious challenge to this project is supply, or rather the lack of it. Inflows are not expected to support 22,000 AF every year. The Corps is analyzing yield potential from Bear and Turkey Creeks to estimate how often a higher volume could be achieved. After stored water is drawn out of the reservoir, a periphery of mud flats could remain. In drought scenarios, these barren, deforested regions could persist for years. I realize we need to store more water to meet the needs of a growing population, but now is not the time to sacrifice the BCLP for a mere 10,000 or 20,000 AF. Other less impactful, more beneficial options exist. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk in are not counted. Tens of thousands of people visit the BCLP on a regular basis. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Furthermore, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. Finally, a five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. Dam safety related to a significant expansion is being assessed by the USACE. Thanks for your consideration of this complicated issue. I hope you will lend your voice to opposing the proposed reallocation. Volunteers at Save Bear Creek Lake Park would love to tour you and others through the Park so you can experience the places that are at stake. For more information visit <a href="http://SaveBearCreekLakePark.org">SaveBearCreekLakePark.org</a></p>   |

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| 4/6/2024   | Forsha    | Jennifer    | <p>I love Bear Creek Lake Park so much. I can't even sit in one of the "Save Bear Creek Lake Park" meetings without crying because I can't stand the thought of losing my favorite park. I use Bear Creek Lake Park about twice a week to go for a run. My mental health depends on this. The roundabout on Simms just North of Quincy is less than a 5 minute drive from my house. I park there and run up the big hill into the park. I love this hill. I do laps on this hill for my workout and my mental health. In the winter I run on the amazing, large, cement path. In the summer, when it is dry, I run on the dirt trail and do laps on the frontside and backside of the hill. There is no other place like Bear Creek Lake Park that is convenient. It is absolutely beautiful and there are many people that are there enjoying the park with me. This park gets a ton of use. There are no other places that are so close that you can go and escape the hustle and bustle of society. And this is absolutely the only place to do so in the winter (when it is wet). There are no other cement paths in nature that are nearby. I can't even think of the nearest cement path that is in nature. Please do not take this park away. We need these trails for our mental health. Colorado is getting more and more crowded and there are less and less places to escape. Please don't take away one of my favorite Colorado places.</p> <p>The reason the hill specifically is so special to me is because I have bad knees so I can only run uphill, and then I walk the downhill. Without Bear Creek Lake Park I would not be able to run nearly as often as I do. I love to run twice a week. There is no good hill besides Bear Creek Lake Park near me (and none anywhere that are paved for use when it is wet). I love going for a good run out in nature.</p> <p>There are more reasons why this park is so special to me. My family loves to mountain bike but the biking in the Denver area is much too hard except for Bear Creek Lake Park. I have a 15 year old and a 10 year old. We ride our bikes from our house to the park in the summer. We enjoy the challenge of the trails (but not too much of a challenge) and the beauty of the area. We stop to dip our feet in the stream for fun and to cool off. We feel so lucky to have this beautiful place just a bike ride away. Please do not take the trails away.</p> <p>We bought our house based on the proximity to the park because we knew that I needed a place where I could quickly escape for my mental health. There are several alternatives to filling Bear Creek Lake Park with water that would be better suited for this water. Please consider preserving my favorite park, I've tried, but I can't even begin to express what this park means to me. I can't even write this letter without crying about possibly losing this wonderful park that I use as my escape.</p> |
| 8/26/2024  | Forsha    | Jennifer    | <p>I love Bear Creek Lake Park so much. I can't even sit in one of the "Save Bear Creek Lake Park" meetings without crying because I can't stand the thought of losing my favorite park. I use Bear Creek Lake Park about twice a week to go for a run. My mental health depends on this. The roundabout on Simms just North of Quincy is less than a 5 minute drive from my house. I park there and run up the big hill into the park. I love this hill. I do laps on this hill for my workout and my mental health. In the winter I run on the amazing, large, cement path. In the summer, when it is dry, I run on the dirt trail and do laps on the frontside and backside of the hill. There is no other place like Bear Creek Lake Park that is convenient. It is absolutely beautiful and there are many people that are there enjoying the park with me. This park gets a ton of use. There are no other places that are so close that you can go and escape the hustle and bustle of society. And this is absolutely the only place to do so in the winter (when it is wet). There are no other cement paths in nature that are nearby. I can't even think of the nearest cement path that is in nature. Please do not take this park away. We need these trails for our mental health. Colorado is getting more and more crowded and there are less and less places to escape. Please don't take away one of my favorite Colorado places.</p> <p>The reason the hill specifically is so special to me is because I have bad knees so I can only run uphill, and then I walk the downhill. Without Bear Creek Lake Park I would not be able to run nearly as often as I do. I love to run twice a week. There is no good hill besides Bear Creek Lake Park near me (and none anywhere that are paved for use when it is wet). I love going for a good run out in nature.</p> <p>There are more reasons why this park is so special to me. My family loves to mountain bike but the biking in the Denver area is much too hard except for Bear Creek Lake Park. I have a 15 year old and a 10 year old. We ride our bikes from our house to the park in the summer. We enjoy the challenge of the trails (but not too much of a challenge) and the beauty of the area. We stop to dip our feet in the stream for fun and to cool off. We feel so lucky to have this beautiful place just a bike ride away. Please do not take the trails away.</p> <p>We bought our house based on the proximity to the park because we knew that I needed a place where I could quickly escape for my mental health. There are several alternatives to filling Bear Creek Lake Park with water that would be better suited for this water. Please consider preserving my favorite park, I've tried, but I can't even begin to express what this park means to me. I can't even write this letter without crying about possibly losing this wonderful park that I use as my escape.</p> |
| 11/22/2024 | Forsha    | Judy & Mike | <p>We are dumbfounded that the Corps would attempt to fill in the treasured Bear Creek Lake Park. It is an amazing resource for thousands of people, many of whom use the Park daily. We have seen that there is an option and would hope that every option is considered, so that this fabulous Park filled with trails, nature and open space is not lost to the residents of this urban area. Please take into account the many people who stand to lose so much if you completely change the nature of this Park. Thank you for your consideration.</p>   |



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| 05/10/22   | Fortman   | Denise and Rollie | <p>We Love Bear Creek Lake Park</p> <p>"I hope we see some deer today. And, we must stop by the owl nest and check on the owlets."</p> <p>That's how we start out almost every day, depending on the season. We, my husband and I, plan a visit to the park. We drive slowly hoping for some deer sightings and coyotes too. We watched one coyote trying to catch something under the snow for his/her dinner. After a few jumps and pounces...success.</p> <p>We enjoy all the waterfowl and are excited to see the Blue Heron or the Pelicans. I'm especially fond of the antics of the magpies. I saw my first Turkey Vulture in BCLP and more since then. There are many hawks and an occasional visit from a Bald Eagle or two. I would love to spend more time in the park and we'd probably see other species.</p> <p>One thing we have missed are the prairie dogs. We are watching for signs of new tenants. It's tender to see the pups with their parents and the loving nature of the families.</p> <p>Once we rented a pavilion for our family reunion and it was perfect. Close to the water but not so close as to worry about little ones falling in. The paddleboarders and swimmers loved the lake. Oh, and those horses at the stable are such a hoot to watch. I worked at a stable similar to Bear Creek's for a summer which started my love of horses</p> <p>What I haven't told you is that I am on oxygen 24/7 and can't walk very far. Bear Creek Lake Park has been my oasis that grants me peace and calm for some time each day. I can be feeling horrible, but just driving into the park makes me feel so much better. Luckily I have the perfect husband who does the driving.</p> <p>If you flood the Bear Creek Lake you will take away those simple pleasures and joys from me, my family and many people. They will never know the calming effect the area can have on visitors. Then at night we return the Park to nature.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this and taking it into your considerations.</p> |
| 11/04/21   | Foster    | Mike              | <p>This Project grew out of a Feasibility Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It proposes to increase statewide water storage at Bear Creek Lake Park from 2,000 acre feet to 22,000 acre feet.</p> <p>I write to oppose this Project, for two reasons. First, in inundating almost 500 acres of the Park it would destroy most of the riparian habitat along Turkey Creek and Bear Creek, which provide prime habitat for fish, mammals, rodents, reptiles, numerous arthropods, and especially birds. To focus just on birds, the Park currently attracts approximately 250 species.</p> <p>Most of those species would have to find other places to live, at a time when their habitat is diminishing all around the country, indeed the globe. We are in the midst of the “sixth great extinction:” animals, plants, trees and valuable bacteria and other microbes are disappearing for lack of habitat, and from over exploitation by humans. Most of the materials and products humans depend upon come from the natural world, so we are gradually eroding the basis of our own livelihood and prosperity.</p> <p>Secondly, building more dams and enlarging reservoirs is, at best, a short term fix. What is needed are long term solutions. As the human population of the planet continues to grow, there is not enough water. Over a billion humans currently have about a gallon a day for all their water needs. This is not sustainable. Humans must take responsibility for conservation of water, and other valuable resources. Communities, states, and nations must cooperate in conservation, rather than compete in exploitation.</p> <p>Cancel the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project, and instead use your resources, connections, and intelligence to promote and enhance water conservation.</p>   |
| 03/15/22   | Foster    | Jeff              | I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). The park is a gem of our community and local ecosystem. Please consider less negatively impactful alternatives for increasing water storage in metro Denver.   |
| 09/25/22   | Fowler    | Kathleen          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 03/30/22   | Frey      | John              | <p>I am against expanding the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, CO. The expansion would flood riparian habitats and destroy the foliage and wildlife over a large area. It would also harm hiking, equestrian, archery and other activities in the park.</p> <p>We should be conserving water and not be looking to expand water supply that damages the environment.</p>  |

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| 05/26/22   | Frieler   | Vanessa    | Thank you for your service and dedication to our state. The Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Study, which began during the summer of 2021, is looking into the feasibility of expanding the Bear Creek Reservoir for the purpose of water storage. Alternatives being investigated range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the 2,000 acre feet pool (a tenfold increase). The latter would flood approximately 615 acres of Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). The Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) are coordinating on this three- year study. More than a mile of Bear Creek and 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek would be inundated in a 20,000 AF expansion. As you can see, even the 10,000 and 5,000 acre feet increases would impact significant stretches of Bear and Turkey Creek. These riparian corridors are the core of the Park. They provide wildlife habitat and shady creekside trails where the din of traffic is replaced by the sounds of flowing water, rustling leaves and singing birds. The shaded blue in the map above eclipses thousands of cottonwood trees. The public voiced overwhelming opposition to this expansion during the first public scoping meeting in October of 2021, which was extended to accommodate two and a half hours of public comment. This Feasibility Study is part of the Colorado Water Plan. It is important to note that The Plan does not automatically support every proposal in it. Rather, it calls for consideration of each, recognizing that some of the projects will not be built. A goal was set in 2015 to increase the State's water storage capacity by 400,000 AF by the year 2050. Over 475,000 AF of water storage assets have already been built (Chatfield), permitted, or are in the permitting process. The maximum reallocation being proposed for Bear Creek Lake would have an outsized and negative impact on the Park for a relatively small contribution to the statewide goal. Alternatives and compromises under consideration include No Change. The negative environmental and recreational impacts of a significant increase in the Bear Creek Reservoir are dramatic. As drought and population increase, this price might be worth paying, but other less impactful storage solutions ought to be built first. While the reallocation of Chatfield Reservoir is often compared to the proposal for BCLP, the expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir would be dramatically more devastating than the expansion of Chatfield Reservoir. For example, the loss of shoreline trees at Chatfield was mitigated by planting more trees elsewhere, but it is impossible to mitigate the loss of nearly two miles of flowing creeks and the ecosystem they support. Additionally, the proposal at BCLP would consume approximately one third of the Park's land area. The primary municipal partners at this time are the Cities of Brighton, Berthoud and Dacono (via water rights exchange). As the state's population grows and development marches on, demand management must be part of our water supply solution. We can't just store more and more. We must also use less. A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative surface water storage exist. One alternative currently being considered at BCLP is to further excavate the current pool. This would increase storage capacity and reduce the footprint of impact. Another very promising alternative is the increasing use of gravel pits for water storage. Dozens of gravel pits exist along the South Platte and several have been repurposed for water storage. These pits continue to be created as development demands more sand and gravel. Another innovative and growing means of storing water is Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). It is less impactful on places like BCLP, and unlike old-school surface water storage, ASR is not susceptible to evaporation. A serious challenge to this project is supply, or rather the lack of it. Inflows are not expected to support 22,000 AF every year. The Corps is analyzing yield potential from Bear and Turkey Creeks to estimate how often a higher volume could be achieved. After stored water is drawn out of the reservoir, a periphery of mud flats could remain. In drought scenarios, these barren, deforested regions could persist for years. I realize we need to store more water to meet the needs of a growing population, but now is not the time to sacrifice the BCLP for a mere 10,000 or 20,000 AF. Other less impactful, more beneficial options exist. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk in are not counted. Tens of thousands of people visit the BCLP on a regular basis. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Furthermore, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. Finally, a five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. Dam safety related to a significant expansion is being assessed by the USACE. Thanks for your consideration of this complicated issue. I hope you will lend your voice to opposing the proposed reallocation. Volunteers at Save Bear Creek Lake Park would love to tour you and others through the Park so you can experience the places that are at stake. For more information visit <a href="#">SaveBearCreekLakePark.org</a> |
| 03/15/22   | Fruhworth | Loren      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 03/25/22   | Fruhworth | Jill       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 02/07/22   | Frye      | Liz        | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.   |
| 11/22/2024 | Fuller    | Scott      | The Bear Creek Lake Park is a wonderful riparian area. There aren't very many gems like this in this area. My understanding is that 400,000 acre-feet are going to be needed for the Front Range near Denver. This expansion will only provide 5% of the necessary capacity and will destroy this natural area. Why start here?   |
| 10/25/21   | Gadway    | Casey      | I as well as at least 20 of my friends have used Bear Creek Park for at least the last 30 years for picnics, hiking & mountain biking.<br><br>Flooding Bear Creek would be against my wishes as well as my fellow park users for the following reasons:<br><br># 1 The area is easily accessible to all as it does not require a long commute to get there.<br>It is probably the most easily accessible area to participate in a variety of recreational activities in the metro area.<br><br>#2 The hiking & biking trails are very un=demanding & do NOT require extreme physical fitness to use as they are relatively flat.<br>They are also great for beginner hikers & mountain bikers as evidenced by the mountain bike workshops that are done there.<br><br>#3 Even on a really hot day the park stays cooler than the areas around it because the wind coming off the lake keeps the park temperature cool.<br>Plus riding & hiking through the trees also negate the temperature on a hot day.<br><br>#4 The area's wildlife would also be impacted by flooding the area.<br><br>I strongly urge you to reconsider the plan to flood Bear Creek Park .<br>I would think there are other water resources that could be used to meet the increased demand?  |

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| 05/11/22   | Gallo     | Leigh      | <p>I oppose the 20,000 acre feet expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir given the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-An increase in volume of that magnitude could result in increased flood risk for the Denver Metro area, especially for the areas immediately surrounding the park such as the Town of Morrison and the City of Lakewood.</li><li>-Removing trails currently used for outdoor gatherings, biking, running and hiking would restrict access to open space, which is vital to the health of individuals and the community as a whole.</li><li>-The City of Lakewood is growing at a faster rate than the state of Colorado and it is imperative that the increase in residents and home building, such as Red Rocks Ranch, Solterra and Green Gables as well as large apartment complexes off Union Blvd, is balanced by open space in close proximity to encourage local recreation and thus, shorter vehicle trips/lower gas pollution for outdoor activities.</li></ul> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.</p>   |
| 10/3/2025  | Garrett   | Tanner     | <p>I believe that Bear Creek Lake Park is a unique recreational area for the front range community.</p> <p>Around the foothills, we have numerous steep, mountainous parks that can be challenging for those that are less able. Bear Creek Lake Park is a special place because it provides a large continuous natural area that all different ability levels can enjoy. Nowhere else in the front range can a person spend hours hiking within an area like this while keeping the total elevation minimal. Combine this with the many activities this park offers including water sport, biking, birdwatching, hiking, picnicking, archery, all in the middle of a densely populated community and it is easy to see the value of this park to the Denver metro.</p> <p>Water storage is an important topic that affects us all, but I believe BCLP should only be used for water storage as a last resort.</p>  |
| 02/11/22   | Gasser    | Michael    | <p>The metro area and Colorado in general need to expand water storage in the state. The expansion of Bear Creek storage capacity, in the short term, will reduce riparian environment, but in long term increase it. Look at Dillion Res. and the amount of shore line and habitat.</p> <p>Without further water storage, Colorado will water limiting growth and increased sacrificing rural farmland to harvest the water rights. This will change drastically change the Colorado we love. Look at South Park and what will happen with diversion of water to Douglas County. The destruction of a 200 years of a way of life.</p> <p>Having worked on 24 different dams, graduate degree in hydrology, and experience with water right grabs from out of state sources, we need to capture our water and keep it in state.</p>   |
| 10/17/21   | Gease     | Elissa     | <p>I was unable to attend the virtual meeting on the proposed Bear Creek Lake expansion, and I wish to register my strong opposition to it.</p> <p>The park is an important wildlife and recreation area, and it's value and beauty would be destroyed by reducing its acreage for storing water that might not even be there, leaving the area barren and blighted. As a long-time resident of Lakewood, I hope to be able to continue to enjoy the park as it is.</p> <p>Given the increased frequency of drought, I wonder where the water will come from to fill the proposed increase anyway. Water evaporates more quickly from larger surface areas, so why not dredge the existing lake to provide more storage if it is still deemed necessary. {duplicate received 10/18/21}</p>  |
| 02/09/22   | Gease     | Elissa     | <p>I am writing regarding the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>It is my belief that enlarging the area of the lake by 20,000 acre feet has more negative implications than positive. Therefore, I support dredging the current reservoir to provide for additional water storage and flood control.</p> <p>The environmental and recreational impacts of enlarging the area would be severe, Significant stretches of habitat and trails would be destroyed. Removing the native cottonwoods and other vegetation would destroy wildlife habitat. It would increase the effects of solar heating in the immediate area and for the environment as a whole, further contributing to adverse climate change. There would be increased water loss due to evaporation than if the lake's depth were increased via excavation. In our arid climate with frequent droughts, much of the reservoir would just be barren mudflats, an eyesore of no use to anyone.</p> <p>Recreation would also be negatively affected, not only for Lakewood residents, but for those from surrounding communities who come to enjoy the park amenities and spend time and money in the surrounding businesses. So there would be an adverse economic impact as well.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p> |

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| 02/14/22   | Gease     | Elissa     | <p>I am writing regarding the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>It is my belief that enlarging the area of the lake by 20,000 acre feet has more negative implications than positive. Therefore, I support dredging the current reservoir to provide for additional water storage and flood control.</p> <p>The environmental and recreational impacts of enlarging the area would be severe, Significant stretches of habitat and trails would be destroyed. Removing the native cottonwoods and other vegetation would destroy wildlife habitat. It would increase the effects of solar heating in the immediate area and for the environment as a whole, further contributing to adverse climate change. There would be increased water loss due to evaporation than if the lake's depth were increased via excavation. In our arid climate with frequent droughts, much of the reservoir would just be barren mudflats, an eyesore of no use to anyone.</p> <p>Recreation would also be negatively affected, not only for Lakewood residents, but for those from surrounding communities who come to enjoy the park amenities and spend time and money in the surrounding businesses. So there would be an adverse economic impact as well.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p> |
| 09/27/22   | Geier     | Tom        | <p>This project has come to my attention and i have to strongly object to this dam.</p> <p>The Denver metro has VERY little riparian woodland and its because we have always failed to design around it. Denver has never respected its riverfronts and that absolutely must change. It is too late to reverse the damage we have caused already, but we can still stop ourselves from continuing to make this mistake. Now one of the very last areas we have is threatened. Not only is this bad for the quality of life for human residents who cherish this wonderful park but more importantly it is devastating for the wildlife that relies on this ecosystem. The woodland would not adapt to this change and we would be left with barren mudflats as the water fluctuates.</p> <p>The ecological impact of this dam is far too severe to consider moving forward. And speaking personally, i would be devastated to see one of the last shreds of riparian woodland deleted from my home.</p>   |
| 02/07/22   | Gies      | Lynnda     | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Please do not kill the wildlife that have lived here for many generations. Leave our beautiful park alone.</p>  |



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| 11/23/21   | Gilbert   | Michael and Caroline | <p>We are writing to express our concern about the proposed significant expansion of Bear Creek Lake at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>As Jefferson County residents we are frequent visitors and long time season pass holders to Bear Creek Park. We join the over 600,000 Annual visitors to the park to hike , bicycle, picnic and view wildlife.</p> <p>The park has served the community and Denver metro area well since its creation as an important riparian area, recreation site, and flood control.</p> <p>The proposed expansion would destroy a mile of the Bear Creek Riparian area and three quarters of a mile of Turkey Creek. Although these areas would be destroyed in anticipation of water expansion, the full capacity of the reservoir would only be reached in "wet years", increasingly rare in this time of climate change. In normal or dry years only mud flats would remain.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake was built for flood control by the Army Corps of Engineers. It worked week to protect downstream residents and property in flood in 2013 and 2018. If the reservoir is expanded and full and another flood event happens the danger of flooding would increase since the capacity now available to absorb excess water would no longer exist. Thus the purpose of the reservoir would have changed from flood control for the surrounding area to water storage for distant communities such as Brighten Berthod and Dacono.</p> <p>We believe this drastic expansion destroys rare habitat, increases flood risk, increases water loss by increased surface evaporation, and damages an important recreational facility. We ask that other less destructive options be considered such as dredging to deepen the existing lake to increase capacity, or storing water in underground aquifers.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of our concerns</p>  |
| 01/06/22   | Gill      | Katie                | <p>Bear Creek Lake Park(BCLP) would be dramatic in a 10,000-20,000 AF expansion, particularly as it relates to the riparian ecosystems along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. Please consider these and other related issues as you study the feasibility of the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation.</p> <p>Impact on the Park and Environment - The Park is a priceless community resource and is cherished by people across the Denver metro area. A 20,000 AF expansion would inundate close to 615 acres of the Park, including over a mile of Bear Creek and 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek. This is the core of the Park, where the din of traffic is replaced with the sound of flowing creeks, rustling leaves and singing birds. These riparian corridors are critical wildlife habitat and cannot be reasonably mitigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hundreds of species of birds have been observed in the Bear Creek corridor. The Park also hosts deer, elk, bear, coyotes, bobcats and the occasional mountain lion, among others.</li><li>- An Environmental Impact Statement should be required. An Environmental Assessment will not be sufficient to address the substantial impact of the proposed Reallocation.</li></ul> <p>Recreation is one of the original authorized uses, albeit secondary to flood control. A significant expansion of the reservoir would have a dramatically negative impact on the Park’s overall character. While the BCLP records more than 650,000 visits per year, that number does not take full account of those who enter from plentiful free parking along the Park’s periphery or the many thousands of people who live within easy walking or biking distance. I estimate that annual visitors easily number over a million. The proximity of the BCLP to the surrounding communities increases home values and quality of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dozens of events take place in the BCLP every year. These include endurance running events, triathlons, mountain bike races/clinics, road cycling events, photography classes, bird-watching, educational programs and more. Every day, year round, people from near and far hike and ride through the would-be inundation zone. Precious little will be left of the Park if the full expansion is built.</li></ul> <p>Dam Safety: Flood risk is a primary concern for the downstream communities. As further risk assessments and hydrology studies are completed, they should be made available to the public in accessible language. The SemiQuantitative Risk Assessment concluded, “The two hypothetical reallocation alternatives used in this analysis are not risk- neutral and result in increased risk to the dam and increased flood risk.” The Memorandum cautioned that a reallocation study might recommend trading flood risk management benefits for water supply benefits (CENWO-PMA MEMORANDUM Bear Creek Dam Periodic Assessment 01 Update, Dec. 08, 2020).</p> <p>Firm Yield Projections: The Unconstrained Yield Analysis featured in the Informational Brochure from May of 2018 indicates there is not enough reliable yield to maintain a 22,000 AF Reallocation. During the seven years from 2000 through 2006, the unappropriated yield into Bear Creek Reservoir reached 10,000 AF only once. Most years during that period, it ranged from 300 AF to 8,000 AF. The predicted fluctuation in water elevation of a 22,000 AF reservoir is 53 vertical feet. Topographically, this would impact hundreds of acres. A Reallocation that authorizes that much storage beyond firm yield comes at great environmental and recreational cost for the benefit of intermittent storage. Between those “high water” years of optimum yield, the Park could host hundreds of acres of mud flats in a giant “bathtub ring” effect.</p> <p>Alternatives -The Colorado Water Plan set a goal to increase water storage by 400,000 AF by the year 2050. According to Water Education Colorado, projects already built, permitted, or in the permitting process total 475,100 af of storage. (5/25/2021; Coleman, <a href="https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/publications-and-radio/headwaters-magazine/spring-2021-storage/shaped-by-storage-the-how-and-why-of-storing-water-in-colorado/">https:// www.watereducationcolorado.org/publications-and-radio/headwaters- magazine/spring-2021-storage/shaped-by-storage-the-how-and-why-of- storing-water-in-colorado/</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Demand Management policy and water conservation measures ought to be required of the municipal partners who seek water rights that will impact the BCLP so dramatically.</li><li>- A growing number of sand and gravel pits along the South Platte (near the projects municipal partners) are being excavated and repurposed for water storage. These assets ought to be utilized before impacting the BCLP.</li></ul> <p>Public Input and Communication- Very little effort has been made to inform the public of this project. Posting a project brochure or meeting notification on the City of Lakewood and CWCB websites is not enough.</p> |

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| 01/18/22   | Gill      | James      | <p>As a resident of the Town of Morrison who lives within one mile of Bear Creek Lake Park, I would like to formally register my opposition to the proposed reallocation project that results in inundation of 615 additional acres of this park based on my following points: 1. This is a beloved and much-used park and open-space area for the surrounding towns and suburban areas which gets a lot of land-based use including: hiking, biking, horseback riding, and family barbeques. Locally, “open spaces” are presently disappearing as surrounding development “closes in” around the park. Therefore, the “open spaces” and access to nature in Bear Creek Lake Park become ever increasing in spiritual value.</p> <p>2. The most favorite trails in the park are the ones that go along the river corridors of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek which flow year-round. This stems from the sense of relaxation and tranquility that is exuded from the sound of “babbling brooks” and “birdsongs” among the dense forests that line the riverbanks. Unfortunately, these parts of the park are the most vulnerable to the proposed inundation and it is hard to put a dollar cost on losing them. Literally ripping out these stretches of forest/riparian habitat in preparation for future inundation is an unacceptable loss. Furthermore, there are no similar (accessible) trails like these, either upstream or downstream, along either Bear Creek or Turkey Creek; and it is estimated that more than a mile of each creek will be lost to this inundation and expansion. 3. The beauty of the hiking, horse and biking trails in Bear Creek Lake Park is they come in “all” difficulty levels, from gentle riverwalk paths to the steeper grades climbing up Mount Carbon. Compare this to so many of the trails in the area that are difficult, steep and technical, and therefore of limited accessibility. At Bear Creek Lake Park, the trails and open spaces can be enjoyed by people of all skill and fitness levels, and in this way, the park provides equity in the access to nature. More than 12 miles of trails will be inundated, and countless others rendered useless by segmentation. But it’s not just the trails that will be lost, there are many gazebos, barbeque and picnic areas along the creeks that provide areas for family gatherings in a near wilderness setting, and one that is not far from home. These areas are accessible to all folks and don’t necessary require use of the trails. 4. In my opinion, we don’t need more water-based recreation opportunities in this area and this aspect should not be considered as a benefit to the proposed expansion. The above paragraphs describe the wonderful land-based uses that already exist and continue to be enjoyed by an estimated 650,000 (or more) people each year. The Tri-Lakes Project already provides the local area with a larger water-based recreation area at Chatfield Reservoir which is only 8 miles to the south. This makes additional water-based recreation redundant, especially when considering the loss of 2 miles of rare, flowing-river corridors. Moreover, there are already fully developed water-based recreation areas in Bear Creek Lake Park (the Soda Lakes area) which provide ample opportunities to go lake kayaking, peddle boating, sail boarding, small boat sailing, fishing, stand up paddle boarding and slalom-coarse water skiing. There is also a large swim beach and playground. One can also descend Bear Creek in a whitewater kayak during the runoff months. While some of these activities will not be threatened by the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Lake, it does become clear that there is already plenty of water-based recreation in this park and nearby Chatfield. What is in short supply are flowing rivers that can be accessed by all members of the public, and I strongly urge that these precious assets are not destroyed by cutting down the trees and inundating them. Planting a lot of trees along the banks of a stagnant lake will never be able to make up for those losses. I respect that the USACOE is making a diligent effort of studying the feasibility of such a reallocation project that likely results in sporadic inundation of more than 615 additional acres of Bear Creek Lake Park and destruction of 2 miles of flowing rivers, forest and riparian habitat. In this environment of continued residential growth and need for agricultural water, I certainly understand why such a study is underway. But all water projects have costs and benefits and this one is too costly for the benefits gained (which will mainly serve the needs of uncontrolled urban growth and agriculture more than 40 miles to the north while this area loses a precious and much used park and does not need the water). In conclusion, I hope the result of such a study will reveal that the benefits of the project do not outweigh the costs. It is hard to put a dollar amount on being able to leave your home and in just a few minutes, being able to walk through a forested area with flowing rivers, forests and wildlife, and then be able to go back to work or home feeling spiritually refreshed. Many cities would “jump” at the chance to have a park like that and I think the City of Lakewood, who operates the park, recognizes this, and that’s why they have not signed on to store water at this project. As an engineer myself, I really do think there are other areas in the State of Colorado where water storage could be developed without such an impact on both the hundreds of thousands of users per year and the unique natural setting the park provides. If the cities of Brighton, Berthoud, and Dacono need more water, then they should</p> |
| 04/10/22   | Gill      | Katie      | <p>At the first Public Scoping Meeting for the Bear Creek Reallocation Feasibility Study, the following contact information was provided for submitting comments: John Shelman, ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC; cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil. This information still appears pdf for the presentation of that October 14th meeting. My website, the CWCB/USACE site, and the City of Lakewood's webpage provide links to that very informative presentation.</p> <p>Some time later, the contact and email address for public comment changed to Bear Creek Study Team (not John Shelman) and to Bear-Creek-Study@usace.army.mil. This new address appears on the informational signs which have been placed within the Bear Creek Lake Park, and on all of the associated websites. It would be nice if the older contact information could be removed from the Oct. 14 presentation pdf, to avoid further confusion.</p> <p>I've recently learned that a few people who tried to email Bear-Creek-Study@usace.army.mil received error messages. I've also heard from people who recently reviewed the presentation slides from Oct. 14 and are using the old email address. I would like to confirm that all correspondence sent through both emails are being received and reviewed. Municipal land use and zoning applications usually make all public comment available to the public. Thanks for making the recording, presentation, and chat log of the first Public Scoping Meeting available.</p> <p>I would like written comments to be made available to the public as well, preferably before the next Scoping Meeting, especially since there's been some confusion around the updated email address. I'm hearing from lots of people who would like verification of their comments being received.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment,</p>  |
| 1/30/2024  | Giusti    | Diane      | <p>I am a 63, soon to be 64 year old cyclist. Bear Creek Lake park is one of the only trails I am able to ride, specifically the Carbon Loop. I also ride my road bike through the park. I imagine water storage is vital for the front range and thus the reason for the water storage expansion project. Recreation is such a wonderful luxury to have and Bear Creek is such a Gem for all kinds of recreational activities. It would be ashamed if the citizens of the Denver area lost the park. Please reconsider for the sake of recreation. Thank you!</p>  |

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| 1/31/2024  | Glore     | Pixie      | <p>I have been going to Bear Creek Lake Park for many years. Since I live just up Turkey Creek Canyon, it is my closest “go to” park on the Front Range.</p> <p>I have horses and the equestrian center is extremely important to me. It is the only place without snow in the winter where I can let them run and get exercise. The Riparian Corridor is especially important because it is where I do a lot of training in obstacles. It is also a place where they get to see wildlife and become accustomed to it is a beautiful and safe in environment.</p> <p>I am also a plein air painter. My fellow friends and I have painted in the Riparian Corridors, especially Bear Creek, for years. The fall there is spectacular and could be a national monument to our eyes! There is no other place quite like it on the Front Range—it’s special.</p> <p>I can’t imagine continuing to live here without the park. It is where I go for mental health, peace, tranquility and beauty.</p> <p>See my painting below done in the park this fall. It’s called “Walk in Beauty”</p>   |
| 03/01/22   | Goldbach  | Susan      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 03/01/22   | Goldman   | Breanne    | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>P.S. The park is a sacred space for me and my family. I would come here with my beloved therapy dog, who has since passed. I have been coming here for many years; I also have a memorial bench I purchased in honor of my beloved's memory, where I visit regularly as a memorial and emotional healing. Please honor the land and the people who use the land. Thank you.   |
| 5/13/2024  | Gomer     | Scott      | Hi. I wanted to comment on your proposal to add water to Bear Creek Lake. I say FILL IT UP!!! We need water storage badly, and what a nice way to add it. I haven't heard one concern that makes any sense. Please stick to your plan!   |
| 06/27/22   | Gomez     | Emily      | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 06/27/22   | Gomez     | Mitchell   | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |

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| 6/15/2024  | Gonder    | Peggy      | <p>I am writing to oppose the plan to enlarge the reservoir, which would only be available in very wet years. With climate change and increasing temperatures, this will leave an ugly mud ring around areas where trees are removed.</p> <p>I urge the Corps of Engineers to explore other alternatives that do not kill the trees and destroy the riparian habitat used by so many residents of the Denver metro area.</p> <p>The catastrophic expansion of water storage at Chatfield reservoir has led to the deaths of many trees, including those that are standing in water currently.</p> <p>I watch birds and visit both Bear Creek Lake and Chatfield State Parks. Many bird species are threatened by climate change. Riparian habitats are critical stopovers for birds during migration. It would be an unnecessary tragedy to kill and remove cottonwood trees that have been there for decades.</p> <p>Thank you for reading our comments and taking these severe environmental impacts into consideration- especially since there are reasonable alternatives to expand water storage that are far less destructive.</p>  |
| 01/18/22   | Gottfried | Rachel     | <p>I am writing to express my extreme concern with the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project. This is a terrible idea and as a citizen of Jefferson County I believe it should be reconsidered.</p> <p>The park is a true green space in an urban area and must be protected. It provides easy and affordable access to those in the Denver metro area and users will only increase with continued nearby home construction.</p> <p>There would be signifiant loss and reduction of accessible trail access, riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and numerous park amenities. Whether or not the pool would be filled (more on this in a second) the 20,000 acre “storage area” would be unusable by many of the park’s visitors and its wildlife. Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AG. The total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times. This increase would cause the majority of the pool space to be empty, surrounded by “bathtub rings” of deforested mud flats.</p> <p>Why is depending or excavating the current pool and forbears not being considered? Or, looking at underground storage options? Or, reuse of the gravel pits along the South Platte for water storage?</p> <p>The current Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project doesn’t make sense - there isn’t enough water to fill the space and you’d be removed thousands of acres for nothing. Please reconsider a smarter option.</p> |
| 2/11/2025  | Goulet    | Katie      | <p>Hi! I heard about the potential plan to flood a large portion of the bear creek lake park for more water storage. It would be a shame to lose that usable space in the park, like the walking trails, and also the habitat it provides for animals in an otherwise very populated area. I would also be worried about more shallow surface area breeding more algae and bacteria. It seems like making the lake deeper (rather than more surface area) or some other alternative would be better.</p>  |
| 03/15/22   | Greenman  | Celia      | <p>I oppose the proposed reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir, which would have a significant impact on Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000-acre feet expansion reduces the land area of BCLP by 615 acres. These are the most sensitive areas of the park. The densely forested cottonwood grove is habitat for much of the park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000-acre feet expansion would inundate hundreds of acres of the park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary ,to maintain a 22,000-acre feet pool. The water analysis performed for a similar reallocation at Chatfield Reservoir predicted that the reservoir would befilled only 1 in 3 years. How different would the situation be at BCLP? Is it worth destroying vital riparian habitat for a water supply that is not guaranteed? During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. On the other hand, if the reservoir is filled and we experience a flood event such as in 2013, would there be a flooding risk to downstream residents? I urge you to consider alternative storage methods that would have less impact to BCLP.</p>  |



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| 05/01/22   | Griffin   | Sarah      | <p>I am writing to save Bear Creek Lake Park from being flooded. Please explore alternatives!</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (expansion) • Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the Park, excluding golf course)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails • Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including: • Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in. • Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley</li></ul> <p>Low Dependable Yield • Unallocated yield from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21).</li><li>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values.</li></ul> <p>Dam Safety Concerns • Increased lake levels may impact outlet structure and require other renovations that are more expensive than alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li></ul> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions • Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. • Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives. • Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</p> |
| 12/05/21   | Gurtler   | Gary       | <p>Earlier today, as I frequently am, I was bicycling at Bear Creek park in Lakewood, CO. While the weather was not ideal, the park still had a significant number of bikers and other users. This size of natural area is a rare recreational opportunity right in Lakewood. The expansion of the water storage to 22000AF would have a major negative impact on bicycling. It would also be very poor to lose the riparian habitat as well as much of the more seclude sections of the park.</p> <p>While water storage is critical, expanding the storage of the Bear Creek flood control project does not seem like a wise choice.</p>   |

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| 06/03/22   | Hackos    | JoAnn      | <p>LETTER: On behalf of the Evergreen Colorado Audubon Society Chapter, I am writing this letter to address the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) completion of a Water Reallocation Study for the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir located in Lakewood, Colorado. We understand that the purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility of reallocating storage in the Bear Creek Reservoir for municipal and industrial (M&amp;I) purposes. We urge the Corps of Engineers to take no federal action, which means no change from current use. We understand that non-federal entities would then have to implement most likely alternatives to meet water demand. We believe that the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir reallocation would have a severe detrimental effect on the ability of our community members to use the Bear Creek Lake Park for social, recreational, and environmental justice issues, as we outline below. The Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project, if completed as proposed, will increase the Bear Creek Reservoir to more than ten times its current volume and inundate 493 acres of Bear Creek Lake Park that is home to resident and migratory species of birds and wildlife, as well as other biological resources, including pollinators. All of these species are experiencing significant declines throughout the US and particularly in Colorado. The 20,000-acre feet expansion would inundate nearly 500 acres of trails and over a mile of Bear Creek. Cottonwood trees along Bear and Turkey Creek would be removed, destroying significant stretches of riparian habitat. These inner regions of the park, where the surrounding highways are not seen or heard, will be destroyed. As our local population increases and visits to our parks increase as well, it becomes more difficult to find areas set aside to experience nature. We do not want to lose Bear Creek Lake Park. Your own statements recognize the problem you will cause: “Impacts to recreational resources could significantly affect character of Bear Creek Lake Park. Although impacts must be mitigated, maintaining park’s overall character (e.g., land-based vs. water based) may be difficult.” The Reallocation would cause substantial changes/damage to terrestrial-based recreation at Bear Creek Lake Park. This is a well-known birdwatching site, featured in the book The Best Front Range Bird Hikes by Norm Lewis (Golden, CO: The Colorado Mountain Club Press, 2021), p. 115-121. The Bear Creek Valley has also been designated as an Audubon state Important Bird Area or IBA. "Two hundred twenty different bird species have been found in the corridor. Of these, 153 species, about 55%, are neotropical migrants. Observations have confirmed that 95 of the species breed in the Bear Creek corridor. Teams have observed 167 of the species in specific habitats and for levels of breeding and abundance during the migrating and breeding seasons." (www.audubon-org/important-bird-areas-bear-creek-valley).” Attached find a list of uncommon birds seen in Bear Creek Lake Park. The potential level of impacts of such a Reallocation require that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) should prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rather than an Environmental Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The estimated Safe Yield or Firm Yield of the project should be included in the description of the affected environment. The calculation "average yield" does not give that same information and is not the standard for water project discussion. Please do not use it.</li><li>•Several public hearings should be held once the EIS is available in draft form, in the area around Bear Creek Reservoir and in Evergreen, as the Evergreen Audubon Society has been monitoring wildlife species and bird populations on the whole Bear Creek watershed and conducts regular field trips to Bear Creek Lake Park.</li><li>•Alternatives are "the heart of the NEPA process" according to the Council on Environmental Quality. The USACE should take a very hard look at alternatives to the expansion of the reservoir. Municipalities, including those interested in acquiring water stored in Bear Creek Lake, are already reducing their local consumption by citizens.</li><li>•Consider strongly the impact that the use of water in oil and gas fracking operations is having on the increased need for water claimed by the Front Range communities, especially along the I70 north corridor. We are especially concerned that the water to be stored in Bear Creek Lake, with the accompanying total destruction of the environment, will be used to supply water for oil and gas fracking operations. For example, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) has received a petition from Extraction Oil and Gas, Inc. (docket number 211100222, the Warbler Pad location). This operator is requesting to withdraw 7.05 million barrels of water from the local Neres Canal, one of the two water sources to be used by the proposed well. The following information summarizes water usage during Operations on the Operator’s Warbler Pad. [continued below]</li></ul> |
| 06/03/22   | Hackos    | JoAnn      | <p>[continued from above]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Water will be sourced and withdrawn from the Neres Canal, a Water of the United States</li><li>•Total Volume of Water Needed – 7.05 million bbls, including Drilling – 44,000 bbls (2,000 bbls/well x 22 wells). Completions – 7.0 million bbls (22 wells; 351k/Nio &amp; 231k/Cdl)</li><li>•Operator has a contract to purchase water at the above-captioned location from the following water provider: Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO), 80 S 27th Ave, Brighton, CO 80601 We believe that the water required for this operation is an underestimation of the water that will actually be used. We also believe that this water usage is typical of every fracking operation on the Front Range of Colorado, affecting thousands of wells. Note that the water used in fracking is contaminated with dangerous chemicals and is never returned to the environment for use, but is buried miles deep, hopefully out of the reach of future generations. We are concerned, therefore, that the water to come from a severely damaged Bear Creek Lake Park will not be used to supply drinking water and agricultural water to Brighton or other Front Range communities. Rather, this water will be sold to oil and gas companies and robbed from the local communities. We ask specifically that the ACOE investigate the proposed use of the “needed water” in the municipalities to ensure that it is not being used to raise money rather than used for the people living in those communities. Given the extreme draught being experienced in Colorado, we believe that water should be first carefully conserved. For example, Denver has grown by about 21% in the past decades, but water use has declined by 19% due to conservation measures. And that water should not be used in fracking operations that forever make it unpalatable and unavailable. We urge the ACOE to ensure that the intent of the expanded pool in Bear Creek Lake will never be used for fracking operations and to evaluate this possible use in is Environmental Impact Assessment. This concludes these comments. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Scoping process for Bear Creek Reservoir Reallocation. ATTACHMENT "UNCOMMON BIRDS OF BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK"</li></ul>  |
| 11/23/2024 | Haller    | Natalie    | We wanted to make you aware that our community greatly values the area of Bear Creek Park for its views, trails, escape to nature, proximity to Red Rocks, Soda Lake, and more, and we would be outraged if it were to be flooded. It was one of the main reasons we decided to stay in Colorado rather than move to California. Please don’t change the area. Thank you.   |

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| 11/09/21   | Handy     | Sara       | <p>I would like to respectfully request that the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake not be implemented. I understand the need for more water, but I feel that the resultant loss of valuable species habitat and recreation for the residents of Lakewood, Littleton, and the greater Denver area are too great a price to pay.</p> <p>I have lived next to Bear Creek Lake Park for more than 20 years, and have hiked or biked or birded in the park at least once a week for most of those years. I am currently studying and drawing the native plant species in the park as part of my portfolio preparation for my certificate in Botanical Illustration through the Denver Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>The loss of the habitat for birds and native plant species is of great concern considering how much development is going on in all areas of Denver currently. In addition, the park is a great recreational resource. With the advent of the pandemic, many more people than ever are using the park for both mental and physical wellness. It would be a great loss to have one less place for those people to recreate, making the other recreational areas nearby all that more crowded and susceptible to degradation from overuse. I also know of several nonprofit groups that use the park for youth recreation programs, including Lucky to Ride, which serves underprivileged youth. The loss of these recreational facilities will severely impact or cause the discontinuation of such valuable programs.</p> <p>Again, I urge the Corps of Engineers to consider other alternatives that do not have such a devastating effect on local plant, bird and animal habitat and recreational opportunities for so many citizens. {Duplicate received on 12/8/2021}</p>   |
| 12/11/2023 | Haner     | Sue        | <p>I'm writing to you to voice my opinion on the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>This is a park that many hundreds of people use for recreation, including equestrians. I'm one of them. This a convenient place; it's beautiful and home to much wildlife.</p> <p>Please don't destroy our park.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>  |
| 05/04/22   | Hank      | Carrie     | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the bear creek reservoir that would have a significant impact on the bear creek lake park. I’ve been a Lakewood resident for 33 years. With all that is going on in the world this amazing local park is needed for the health &amp; well being our community more than ever!</p> <p>The good vibes we all get every time we visit the park cannot be replaced.</p> <p>When my dog, “Flash”, jumps in the pickup his excitement can’t be contained, He is ready for another day of paddle boarding &amp; making new friends.</p> <p>Please explore the many other options that have been presented &amp; don’t change our park.</p> <p>Thank you for listening &amp; for your time</p>   |
| 10/13/2023 | Hansen    | Shannon    | <p>I am a marriage and family therapist and recently moved to the area earlier this summer (2023). I offer equine assisted therapy and nature-based therapy services. So far, I have taken 10 clients out to Bear Creek Lake Park several weeks in a row to have them participate in nature-based therapy sessions (and I plan to take hundreds of more clients). The positive transformations that I have seen in these clients just in the transition from doing therapy in office to doing therapy in nature have been unquantifiable and the positive growth has been immeasurable. Although I cannot provide the specifics of the growth of my clients in this capacity for HIPPA sake, there is a lot of evidence out there regarding the science behind the benefits of regulating nervous systems in relationship with nature (I will attach articles and important statements from these articles down below). Bear Creek Lake Park provides a beautiful variety of nature-based activities such as paddle boarding/kayaking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, sit spot next to running water, community gathering spaces, dog walking, fishing, archery, and camping. It needs to be known that all of these wonderful activities bring healing to mind, body, and soul to so many more people than just my clients. I know there is "a lot of nature" in Colorado that is much more expansive across the whole state. But, in this day and age at the speed in which we live life, taking time in your day or busy week to drive 45 minutes or more into the mountains to find areas for these activities can be intimidating and overwhelming and ultimately deter people from actually participating in these activities. It is critical to keep healing places like Bear Creek Lake Park accessible to as many people as possible, especially those living in urban and suburban areas where majorities of populations live. Majorities of people make mass amounts of voters and heavily contribute to the direction and evolution of society. I don't know about you, but I would like to air on the side of these voters / contributors being as well resourced in mind, body, and soul as possible. This is achievable through keeping nature parks like Bear Creek Lake Park alive and accessible to everyone; ranging from someone that has the slightest bit of curiosity to explore a nature-based activity to those that dedicate their lives to maintaining mind/body/soul balance with daily immersion into nature-based activities. The last point to emphasize my perspective today will ask you to consider a simple drop of water in a big lake. You will see ripples that travel far beyond the initial drop. Please consider the major ripples that can come from just one person or child experiencing relationship with nature in their small curious way because Bear Creek Lake Park stayed accessible, now please consider the major ripples that can come from Bear Creek Lake Park staying accessible for those that dedicate their lives to maintaining balance through the support of nature-based activities and the legacies of generations that benefit from this balance and will likely continue the tradition of accessing Bear Creek Lake Park and all that is has to offer. I believe we need nature to be as accessible as possible, for the literal sake of the quality of our lives and for future generations. Thank you for taking the time to consider the impact that this healing place has on anyone and everyone that steps foot there once or a 100,000 times. Drowning Bear Creek Lake Park will have a much greater impact on mental health, and consequently quality of life and decision making, which could have much greater repercussions. (CONT. BELOW)</p> |

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| 10/13/2023 | Hansen    | Shannon    | <p>(CONT FROM ABOVE)</p> <p><a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8125471/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8125471/</a></p> <p>"We found evidence for associations between nature exposure and improved cognitive function, brain activity, blood pressure, mental health, physical activity, and sleep."</p> <p>"Cross-sectional observational studies provide evidence of positive associations between nature exposure and increased levels of physical activity and decreased risk of cardiovascular disease, and longitudinal observational studies are beginning to assess long-term effects of nature exposure on depression, anxiety, cognitive function, and chronic disease."</p> <p><a href="https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/04/nurtured-nature">https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/04/nurtured-nature</a></p> <p>"Both correlational and experimental research have shown that interacting with nature has cognitive benefits—a topic University of Chicago psychologist Marc Berman, PhD, and his student Kathryn Schertz explored in a 2019 review. They reported, for instance, that green spaces near schools promote cognitive development in children and green views near children’s homes promote self-control behaviors. Adults assigned to public housing units in neighborhoods with more green space showed better attentional functioning than those assigned to units with less access to natural environments. And experiments have found that being exposed to natural environments improves working memory, cognitive flexibility and attentional control, while exposure to urban environments is linked to attention deficits (Current Directions in Psychological Science, Vol. 28, No. 5, 2019)."</p> <p>"Researchers have proposed a number of ideas to explain such findings, as Nisbet and colleagues described in a review of the benefits of connection with nature (Capaldi, C.A., et al., International Journal of Wellbeing, Vol. 5, No. 4, 2015). The biophilia hypothesis argues that since our ancestors evolved in wild settings and relied on the environment for survival, we have an innate drive to connect with nature. The stress reduction hypothesis posits that spending time in nature triggers a physiological response that lowers stress levels. A third idea, attention restoration theory, holds that nature replenishes one’s cognitive resources, restoring the ability to concentrate and pay attention."</p> <p>"Experimental findings show how impressive nature’s healing powers can be—just a few moments of green can perk up a tired brain. In one example, Australian researchers asked students to engage in a dull, attention-draining task in which they pressed a computer key when certain numbers flashed on a screen. Students who looked out at a flowering green roof for 40 seconds midway through the task made significantly fewer mistakes than students who paused for 40 seconds to gaze at a concrete rooftop (Lee, K.E., et al., Journal of Environmental Psychology, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2015). Even the sounds of nature may be recuperative. Berman and colleagues found that study participants who listened to nature sounds like crickets chirping and waves crashing performed better on demanding cognitive tests than those who listened to urban sounds like traffic and the clatter of a busy café (Van Hedger, S.C., et. al., Psychonomic Bulletin &amp; Review, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2019)."</p> <p>"Nature might also make us nicer—to other people as well as to the planet. John Zelenski, PhD, a professor of psychology at Carleton University in Ontario, Canada, and colleagues showed undergraduates either nature documentaries or videos about architectural landmarks. Then the participants played a fishing game in which they made decisions about how many fish to harvest across multiple seasons. Those who had watched the nature video were more likely to cooperate with other players, and also more likely to make choices that would sustain the fish population (Journal of Environmental Psychology, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2015)."</p> <p>Point being: We need as much access to nature as possible to thrive as human beings and ultimately contribute to the direction of the evolution of society.</p> |
| 10/3/2025  | Hansen    | Norman     | <p>Size isn't everything and we are sincerely invested in maintaining the current beauty of the park and its safe haven for animals and people. That can't be replaced with any amount of money. It's currently benefiting too many in their need for serenity and nature, to be effectively eliminated for the benefit of others. Brighton made the mistake of not accounting for the need to provide water and sustain its incredible growth. Theirs is not a situation created by the residents of Jefferson County and outlying areas.</p>   |
| 10/16/21   | Harness   | Doug       | <p>Thank you for holding the scoping meeting last week and for providing the opportunity for public feedback. Please accept the following comments and concerns for consideration:</p> <p>1) Clearly the western US, including Colorado, continues to face a severe drought so additional water storage is appropriate.</p> <p>2) However, as a homeowner and resident of the Fox Hollow subdivision immediately downstream from the Bear Creek Dam I am very concerned about the potential negative impacts from a substantial increase in water storage in Bear Creek Reservoir. These concerns include the possibility of a breach of the Dam that could cause destruction, injury and/or death of us downstream residents, and putting us in a flood plain when we currently are not, placing a financial burden on us for flood insurance.</p> <p>3) Further, a substantial increase in water storage in the Reservoir would negatively impact recreational opportunities in the Park and may well negatively impact recreational opportunities along the Bear Creek Trail which runs along Bear Creek downstream from the Reservoir.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed action would have clear negative impacts on me and many similarly-situated others. I respectfully request that these negative impacts be addressed in your Study and considered in any final decision.</p>   |



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| 10/27/22   | Harper    | Roxie      | <p>I wish to express my opposition to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake. This beautiful area is used by a large number of residents in southwest Lakewood, southwest Denver, and people that come down from the Evergreen area and residents from the small town that are along Bear Creek itself. Not only is the park used by people but is a wonderful riparian and wildlife area. It's wonderful to go out to the park and observe the many species of birds that use the lake as a resting area on their migration routes in spring and fall.</p> <p>One Saturday when I was out at the park for a walk. I talked with a man that said two difference bike clubs were having their endurance challenge and there were over 2000 riders. Wanting to avoid the riders, I walked around the lake and ran into acres of mud flats that were ugly and hard to walk on. Finally getting back on the trail along Bear Creek, that would be the mile flooded under your plan, I ran into a runner'a race with several hundred runners.</p> <p>Can the dam withstand the increase in stored water? What would the cost of infrastructure improvements?</p> <p>If Brighton, Berthoud , and Dacomo want more water to increase their water supply for the developers in this area, why not have them use their own area to store the water. I am sure there are areas out there that would available for their use and leave this lovely area for those people who enjoy Bear Creek as an area of peace and beauty and rest.</p>   |
| 4/14/2025  | Hart      | Don        | <p>Bear creek lake has been a way of life for us where we always enjoy the nature and many fishing spots. We are able to visit this lake because it's close to town and it gets us out into nature without having to travel far. If this lake is expanded the quality of the natural surroundings will be gone. Future generations will not be able to enjoy this beautiful spot. There's gotta be another way to supply water to the developing housing. I as a tax paying resident would not like to see the expansion take place.</p>  |
| 10/3/2025  | Hartel    | Steve      | <p>Hi. I live near Bear Creek Lake Park and my family goes for frequent walks and bike rides in the park. We especially love the trails that follow along the creek and the lake shorelines. The best thing about those trails are the birds. There are so many different and unusual birds to see and hear.</p> <p>As you look at possibly increasing the amount of water stored in the lake, I urge you to consider the disruption to the trails and birds. It could be devastating to the bird populations if their feeding and nesting grounds are flooded.</p> <p>Thanks for listening. I do understand that increased water storage is needed for our state. I hope this can be accomplished with minimal disruption to the bird populations. I'm hopeful that you can make tiny changes in lots of locations rather than big changes in just a few locations.</p>  |
| 9/22/2023  | Havey     | Jonathan   | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. I have grown up and lived by Bear Creek Lake Park my entire life and along with having 100s of memories related to the park, I am in the park every single day no matter the season. Growing up I would bike through the park with my dad. This then turned to mountain biking and now trail running with my family. Without the park, my life would not be as great especially mentally. Mental health is so important and by taking away the park's use, the mental health of the entire Lakewood community will suffer.</p> <p>In addition, having extra stagnant water around will most definitely cause a rise in blue green algae just like what happened last summer, which is responsible for killing animals, pets, and kids. This will be extremely dangerous for the community.</p> <p>I am not sure what I will do without the park. My guess is a lot of residents will just move to a better area that has a park leaving tons and tons of empty real estate and a major lack of tax payers in the area.</p> <p>Most importantly, by taking away usable acreage of the park, future families and generations will miss out on what I have been so blessed to have. I personally don't want that to happen.</p>   |
| 04/29/22   | Hawley    | Zoe        | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |

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| 04/24/22   | Hedberg   | John       | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) that recorded visits over 650,000 people in 2020. In addition, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted, including myself who uses the park for bicycling and off season cross country ski training. It is one of the few places in the Denver Metro area where roller skiing is safe, and several ski teams train there regularly.</p> <p>A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is indeed a priceless community resource. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>Additionally, the primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less damaging alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>  |
| 08/21/22   | Heffron   | Tammy      | <p>As a 25-year resident of Lakewood and a Civil Engineer with a Master's degree, I strongly oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have an impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP), its habitat, and recreational trails.</p> <p>A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where my family enjoys a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> <p>There are other options, such as quarries north of the park, for water storage for towns outside of the Lakewood area. These should be investigated and the towns that benefit from this increased storage should pay for the study as well as any additional increased costs.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the voices of the community who cares.</p> |
| 03/07/22   | Helfrich  | John       | <p>I oppose any reallocation of Bear Creek Lake Reservoir that will have a negative impact on Bear Creek Lake Park. Specifically, I oppose any expansion of the pool that would damage the riparian corridors along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. These important wildlife habitat areas will be irreparably damaged or destroyed by the proposed expansions. Given the well documented projections of declining precipitation patterns in the western U.S due to human-caused climate change, it would be irresponsible to destroy these riparian areas, along with numerous other park amenities, for very limited opportunities to store unallocated flows into the lake. Inflows into Bear Creek Lake are highly variable and, in many years, do not yield sufficient water to provide meaningful exchange potential. Stream flows during the drought years beginning in 2002 are particularly instructive. Recent studies indicate that the megadrought affecting the southwest U.S. is intensifying. See Williams, A.P., Cook, B.I. &amp; Smerdon, J.E. Rapid intensification of the emerging southwestern North American megadrought in 2020–2021. Nat. Clim. Chang. (2022). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01290-z">https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01290-z</a>. With the climate getting progressively warmer and drier, flows like those recorded during the early 2000’s will likely become the norm. In that case, the proposed storage options would produce highly intermittent and relatively shallow pools susceptible to significant losses from evaporation. Under those conditions, destroying large areas of riparian habitat for minimal gain does not make economic or environmental sense. The Bear Creek drainage basis in relatively small and with a warmer and drier climate on the horizon, unlikely to produce the kind of water flows it did historically. I think if you model the exchange potential of the project based on flows recorded during the 2002-2012 drought years you will find the project is not feasible. In this case, the past is not a good predictor of the future. I think it would be prudent to re-evaluate the project based on the very real likelihood that future Bear Creek flow rates will be like the flows recorded during the period from 2002 to 2012. Please do not destroy a beautiful park based on erroneous information.</p>  |

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| 6/4/2023   | Herner    | Sheryl     | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I enjoy mountain biking, road cycling, and hiking with my dog in Bear Creek Lake Park. I visit the park at least once every 1 to 2 weeks. I love the accessibility and location of the park, and most importantly, I love the section of the park that is riparian. The wildlife, shade, and sound of the water is so enjoyable! In the hot summer months, I am unlikely to be active in the other parts of the park because it is too hot to exercise without shade.</p> <p>Having the park so close to the Denver metro area allows me to get outside and enjoy nature without having to drive very far. As I'm sure you are aware, the community in Jefferson County and surrounding areas is very active and the reasons many of us live where we do are enjoyment of nature and physical activities.</p> <p>I have many concerns regarding the possible Bear Creek Lake reallocation. I will highlight just a few of them.</p> <p>As I mentioned, I enjoy the wildlife and shade in the riparian corridor, and I would be crushed if it were to no longer exist. I am very worried about the survival of the wildlife living in the park if they were to lose their habitat.</p> <p>As an avid cyclist, I would also be a tremendously disappointed by the elimination of 12 miles of trails. I also support bicycle commuting, and disruption of a major commuting corridor would be very dissatisfying.</p> <p>It seems very unnecessary to move forward with this project given that there are other water projects with much larger potential. Given that this park is so heavily used by residents in the area, it just doesn't make sense to me to take it away.</p> <p>As an alternative, I would like to see the state of Colorado and municipalities within it pursue more conservation efforts. There is much water waste from watering grass in communities. I even see the City and County of Denver water park lawns during prohibited hours for residents (10am-6pm)! The large municipalities in Colorado should learn from Las Vegas. I heard about Las Vegas's water conservation program on the Colorado Public Radio podcast called Parched on May 16, 2023. There is much more that could be done related to conservation and enforcement of responsible water use in Colorado.</p> |
| 05/16/22   | Hinirichs | Pamela     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br>Please, please do not change anything - keep Bear Creek Lake the way it is! Thank you!   |
| 05/16/22   | Hinirichs | Pamela     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". Added comments:<br>NO NO NO PLEASE. Do not change anything at Bear Creek Lake Park!   |
| 05/10/22   | Hitchings | Diane      | <p>Scale back of current proposal needed</p> <p>I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in water storage levels at Bear Creek Park.</p> <p>After reviewing the proposal, I concluded that the size and scale is larger than needed for ongoing water supply. Please advise as to alternate alternatives under consideration. The expansion storage size rivals that of Chatfield reservoir which is a much larger geographic area. It seems that the Army Corp is trying to solve a problem with a disproportionately large solution. Bear Creek park is many things to many people and should not be considered solely as a water storage facility.</p> <p>I can't overemphasis the recreational value of the park. We know that outdoor recreation is a huge economic driver of Colorado's economy. The loss of mountain biking trails, places for large scale events such as runs and walks and places for kids to enjoy nature has a long term detrimental impact not only economically but also socially.</p> <p>I very much believe there must be another way to approach this issue collaboratively.</p> <p>I hope you will seriously consider scaling back this proposal. I look forward to hearing from you.</p>  |
| 06/03/22   | Hoaglund  | Jordan     | <p>Please don't expand BCLP</p> <p>I'll happily get rid of my lawn instead. Just let me know when I need to get that done by. Thanks for your service!</p>   |
| 4/26/2025  | Hobbins   | Susan      | <p>I grew up near Bear Creek Lake in the early 60's and often went out with my sisters on our horses, bareback, our dogs trotting alongside. All day, packing a lunch, returning home for supper. It's hard to imagine that kind of freedom to enjoy nature so easily now.</p> <p>In my 73 years, I have grown passionate about nature since then. Please leave Bear Creek Park alone. Leave the lake, wild animals, and the people needing refuge alone.</p> <p>PS<br/>This quote really hit home for me. It was is the Denver Post today:</p> <p>"People have used words like refuge and sanctuary to describe this. People come to natural places to get away from the stresses and toxicities of their daily lives. When you're in a place like this, it's a multi-sensory experience. All I can hear is the water falling through the beaver dam, rippling over the boulders, with the smell of budding trees and damp soil. It's very powerful."</p>   |

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| 06/17/22   | Hoby      | Tom        | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake (Park) Scoping Study. Our organization has an ongoing partnership with the City of Lakewood that includes funding for improvements to Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). This partnership began in 1984 and since then, we have contributed over \$6.4 million for amenities at BCLP. These funds have been leveraged to secure \$500K from Great Outdoors Colorado and \$85K Colorado Parks &amp; Wildlife for a total partner investment of \$7M. In addition, BCLP is a regional land and water-based recreation area that hosts over three million visitors annually. Given this, Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) has a high level of interest in the future of this area and wishes to remain engaged in planning efforts.</p> <p>In the local and regional context BCLP, like the JCOS park system, are extremely important public lands. Both are located where the High Plains and Rocky Mountains join and are directly adjacent to (and in) the Denver Area – the largest population center in Colorado with over three million, very outdoor oriented residents. Unlike other front range counties, most of Jefferson County’s federal public lands (Pike National Forest) are at its southern tip and much more proximate to Douglas County residents to the south. This creates a dual challenge - lots of visitors on not as much public land. Importantly, BCLP provides land AND water based outdoor recreation opportunities which are rare and very popular in our region. According to visitor counts and a survey performed by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, visitation to public lands in the Front Range and elsewhere increased by an average of 141% during the pandemic. Clearly public lands became much more popular during the pandemic, and we see that trend continuing with increased traffic congestion on I-70 and rising fuel prices. People feel pressed for time with less disposable income which compels them to get outdoors close to home.</p> <p>We also note the importance of wildlife habitat that BCLP provides along rich riparian areas, upland grasslands, and a water source for many species of birds and mammals. With an increase in the reservoir capacity, these habitats are threatened, as are the species which thrive in these unique places. Of particular concern: an increased reservoir capacity would inundate a significant portion of the existing riparian habitat in the park. It is unlikely that these areas can be mitigated or replaced within park boundaries. This would impact many known raptor and songbird nesting sites, habitat for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals, and a wildlife corridor used by species such as deer, elk, black bears, coyotes, bob cats and mountain lions.</p> <p>It is our understanding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is exploring several options for water storage at BCLP and elsewhere in the area. From discussions with our partners at the City of Lakewood it appears that the 5,000-acre foot expansion would be least impactful to BCLP. The larger expansion scenarios would be more impactful especially the 20,000 acre-feet expansion which would significantly alter the setting, scenic resources, recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat. We support the search for increased water storage along the Front Range and elsewhere in our state. To that end, we forged a partnership with Martin Marietta Materials to acquire the Specification-Aggregate (Spec-Ag) mine site at US40 and I-70 once mining is complete, as a water storage reservoir. The estimated capacity of this facility is equivalent to Chatfield Reservoir. We propose that this and other quarries in the area be reused as reservoirs and considered in future water storage planning.</p> <p>If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me at (303) 271-5930 or thoby@jeffco.us Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| 05/05/23   | Hodson    | Timothy    | <p>Hello -</p> <p>I am opposed to the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake Park reservoir expansion. This expansion will take away critical habitat in one of the nation's most diverse bird habitats. This park is a gem, and a huge asset and resource for the people of Lakewood. I personally visit this park at least once a week, even in the winter. The creek trails and the environments around them are a huge an important piece of this. It's one of the few areas that encourages light-use and contemplative connections with nature.</p> <p>A larger lake would destroy habitats, and completely change the nature of this park.</p> <p>More importantly, a larger reservoir's only intention would be to increase the capacity for development in Lakewood. Yet, there are currently no regulations or incentives for water-wise development in the city. There's nothing to restrict or limit rampant water use from the reservoirs we already have. Start there.</p> <p>Don't let your public organization be swayed by large developers, at the cost of the living experience of Lakewood citizens. Find other solutions to satisfy water needs in the area, rather than destroying more habitat in order to satisfy unregulated water needs in a time of water crisis.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>   |
| 03/20/22   | Homiak    | Dave       | <p>I'm assuming it is either cost or the amount of clay in the sediment that prevents hydraulic dredging of the existing reservoir to hold more water, since the negative impacts of dredging will subside over time.</p> <p>Expanding the reservoir by 615 acres will allow that much more surface area for evaporation, which partially mitigates the usefulness of the expansion. I'm sure the Corp engineers take all this into account, but the impact on the recreational aspects of the park, especially bike paths for me, make the expansion problematical. More people moving to the area also means more people will want to take advantage of the Park's amenities.</p>   |



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| 10/27/21   | Hopkins   | Liam       | <p>The planned expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park's main reservoir is a disastrous idea. The areas of Turkey and Bear Creek that are going to be flooded with water are home to unique habitats that are nearly impossible to find still intact in Colorado. They support rare amphibians like the boreal chorus frog and western tiger salamander, two species that are both rapidly declining in population in Colorado because of habitat loss exactly like this plan. They are also home to reptiles like the milk snake, a very healthy garter snake population, countless sixlined racerunner lizards, bullsnakes, yellow bellied racer snakes, three species of turtle, and very likely the critically endangered red sided garter snake. Not to mention all the mammals, insects, and birds living in these pristine habitats. Coyotes are struggling massively in this area, and the very few still in our area would see their main hunting grounds and dens under water. BCLP also supports two species of deer, with mule deer regularly breeding and raising their young in the areas that will be flooded. Flooding these areas also destroy valuable nurseries for two species of crayfish, which are absolutely vital for a healthy lake habitat, as they are a keystone species. The biodiversity in the Lakewood area would be absolutely demolished if these habitats are flooded.</p> <p>BCLP also provides a wonderful escape into nature for countless Lakewood, Littleton, and Morrison residents. The most beautiful trails in the area would all be destroyed. As a teen with various mental health issues, my one true weapon against depression and other challenges is escaping into the park, whether on my bike, running, or walking with family. I am far from the only one who needs the park for this.</p> <p>My final aspect of this email is rather a question...where will all this water even come from? And there is such a low likelihood that the lake will even be able to hold the proposed amount of water due to our constant state of drought. Instead of destroying yet more natural wonder, maybe government officials need to prioritize conservation of water.</p> <p>-Please reconsider</p> |
| 11/13/21   | Hopkins   | Michael    | <p>I'm emailing you directly regarding my opposition to the Bear Creek Lake expansion.</p> <p>This expansion will eliminate several recreational activities and destroy miles of trail.</p> <p>I'm also guessing - that during any expansion - that the park would be completely off limits to everyone, including those who use the park for recreation? And that this expansion could take several years? That's unacceptable.</p> <p>Not sure these are the types of comments you're looking for, but wanted to share my opposition nonetheless.</p>  |
| 03/01/22   | Hopkins   | Michael    | <p>Thank you - I appreciate your willingness to accept my comments.</p> <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)</p>  |

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| 6/9/2023   | Hopkins   | Regina     | <p>years old. I am aware that Bear Creek Lake Park is currently being assessed for a water reallocation feasibility study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, who owns this federal land and is also partnering with the non-federal sponsor, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). It's my understanding that Colorado needs to find more water storage areas given our growing human population. However, it would be an unimaginable loss to witness this incredible Colorado park submerged in under 40+ feet of water, impacting a 20,000 acre foot expansion area of the Park, and 800,000+ visitors /year.</p> <p>The dark blue shows Bear Creek Lake at it's current area, and the lighter blue shows the amount of surface area that would be covered by water if the Army Corps of Engineers is allowed to add 22,000 acre foot area of water to the park.</p> <p>Driving the study and its proposals is the 2015 Colorado Water Plan and a looming, water supply demand with an alarming deficit. By 2050, the statewide municipal and industrial water supply gap is projected to be between 2,000 and 750,000 acre-feet annually, with an overall projected gap of 2.4 million to 3.7 million acre feet, said Erik Skeie, special projects coordinator with the Colorado Water Conservation Board.</p> <p>I am writing to you to plea to help save Bear Creek Lake Park. It's important to note that while it might be possible to store more water here, to do so would be a gigantic mistake for the wildlife, habit, and people of Lakewood. I'm writing to my senators, council persons, mayors, and the Army Corps of Engineers to express my deepest concerns and to share my personal experiences with this park and also some alternative ideas so that Bear Creek Lake Park can remain the wonderful park it has been for me, for years to come. By adopting more efficient water management practices, promoting conservation, and investing in infrastructure and technology, it is possible to address the challenges associated with population growth in Colorado and still allow water to be available, but in a more sustainable manner.</p> <p>I understand that before this proposal can proceed, an environmental impact study needs to be conducted, which is the phase this proposal is currently in. This study should assess environmental impacts, quality of life issues, dam safety concerns, storage potential, and cost. In this letter, I primarily address the first two concerns.</p> <p>My introduction to the park was through a summer camp that my parents enrolled me in. Every morning, my dad would drop me off at Bear Creek Lake Park, where I learned to sail and had my first experiences with boating on the water. I learned how to capsize a sailboat and return it to an upright position. Park Naturalists taught me about insects and the vital role they play in our ecosystems. These early experiences strengthened my passion for protecting the environment and even inspired me to consider becoming a Park Ranger one day.</p> <p>When I was 11 years old, my dad took me horseback riding in the park one summer. We explored the park and encountered a variety of bird species, beautiful flowers, and impressive 100-year-old Cottonwood trees. I also remember the frightening experience of being caught in a lightning storm during our ride, and how my horse jumped over a small stream. Fortunately, we all made it back safely. These moments, lessons, and life events have left a lasting positive impact on me.</p> <p>At the age of 12, I participated in an archery class held in the park, where I was introduced to this exciting new activity. That same year, my dad bought us two kayaks, and we would spend countless summer days paddling on the lake, as we purchased an annual membership for many of those years. We would catch and release crawdads. I developed an appreciation and respect for all creatures, from small crawdads to larger animals like deer that inhabit the park. We loved to try to find the sandbars in the lake and would park our kayaks and get out and wade in the shallow water looking at the aquatic life, including fish and insects.</p> |

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| 6/9/2023   | Hopkins   | Regina     | <p>venturing into the many inlets and visiting our favorite hidden lagoon that can only be reached by shallow boats like kayaks or paddleboards. On this protected island, we have seen duck eggs, mallard ducks, geese and other water fowl that use this tiny island as a shelter for their ducklings. This hidden gem remains unknown unless you have a shallow boat. I have also brought friends to the park to introduce them to kayaking and shown them the natural beauty that we are fortunate to have in our own backyard. I have observed beavers (whose homes would be destroyed if the park is flooded). Bear Creek Lake Park (as it is) has many unique features that have taken years to develop and flourish as it currently stands. Animals rely on this area as it currently exists to raise their young and seek protected resting areas – of which there are currently many. I know this because I have extensively explored this lake by kayak and seen many different animals in the inlets and lagoons.</p> <p>A blue-jay bird giving my friend and I an “air-show” as we parked our kayaks next to the beaver dam. The shallow pool provides a protected natural habitat for many different types of birds, turtles, reptiles and other aquatic life.</p> <p>My friend Josh and I, on kayaks in Bear Creek Lake Park. I also introduced him to the park.</p> <p>Wildflowers, and a beaver dam in the background, showing a wide variety of flora and fauna that this park nurtures, including 100-year old, Cottonwood trees in the background</p> <p>Additionally, my dad and I have explored the park's numerous trails on bicycles, enjoying leisurely rides and evening strolls together. I cannot stress enough how special and important this area is, not just for the people of Lakewood who have access to this invaluable recreation space, but also for the well-being of our community. This park even offers one of the closest campgrounds to Denver, and is accessible to those with wheelchairs and accessibility or mobility issues, which some other campgrounds further into the mountains do not offer. This park literally has it all! It has activities for anybody of any age range to enjoy! If we got rid of this park, it would add additional pressures to other parks along the front range.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park's proximity to a large metropolitan area like Denver, combined with its diverse range of activities suitable for all ages, makes it crucial to preserve this natural resource. Maintaining the park as it is will help future generations recognize its unique value and inspire them to protect not only this park but also other natural areas in the future, as it has inspired me.</p> <p>If Bear Creek Lake Park is submerged this will also be kill hundreds of trees, many of which have taken decades to grow to their current size. Trees are vital to our ecosystem, providing us with oxygen, food, and natural beauty, while also supporting diverse life forms and animal habitats. It is our moral obligation to safeguard these silent guardians, considering the immense benefits they bestow upon humanity. Unfortunately, we humans hold the power to destroy and eliminate them with a single action.</p> <p>This park has given me far more than I have ever given back to it. Learning of the potential threat of submerging the park in water has compelled me to finally "give back" and advocate for this remarkable place. Bear Creek Lake Park is not only significant to the people who utilize it, but it is even more critical for the vulnerable animals and plants that depend on us to protect their habitats. Flooding this area would displace homes and habitat areas for thousands of different animals, including hummingbirds, turtles, owls, coyotes, foxes, deer, beavers, countless varieties of ducks and birds, dozens of reptile species, and even some incredibly rare</p> |

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| 6/9/2023   | Hopkins   | Regina     | <p>ecosystem.</p> <p>This park is home to many bees, butterflies, and birds, which are important pollinators as they transfer pollen between flowers, enabling the reproduction of plants. This process is essential for the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds, which are an integral part of our diet and agricultural systems. The animals also play a vital role in seed dispersal. They consume fruits and disperse seeds through their feces, helping plants spread and colonize new areas. This process promotes the growth and regeneration of forests and other plant life. This park also contributes to vital food-web dynamics, housing different animals from herbivores to predators and help regulate populations of other organisms. Maintaining a balanced predator-prey relationship is important for the stability and functioning of ecosystems. These animals deserve their lives and homes too.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the idea of storing more water at Bear Creek Lake Park, as the harm it would cause far outweighs any potential benefits. Given the irregularity of drought conditions in Colorado, there is no guarantee that the new water level of the reservoir, if created, could even be maintained. However, once the damage is done, it will be challenging if not impossible to reverse, creating a wasteland, “bathtub ring effect,” permanently altering the landscape of this precious natural resource. We can imagine what this would look like if we look at Lake Mead in Nevada as an example.</p> <p>Additionally, maintaining an empty or low-water level dam offers benefits such as flood control. The water level naturally fluctuates by several feet during periods of significant rain, as experienced in May 2023, when we had widespread flooding in the lake area. On the other side of the dam, there are hundreds of homes and families that should also be considered. These homes and people may not be safe should we get excess rainfall at some point in the future.</p> <p>Despite the rapid and unsustainable growth in the surrounding regions of Colorado, it is crucial that we do not sacrifice Bear Creek Lake Park due to our human impact on the environment. Instead, we should consider alternative options that can address our increasing water storage requirements while also prioritizing the well-being of the park's diverse wildlife and their natural habitats.</p> <p>In my opinion, implementing stricter water restrictions and providing incentives to residents who opt for low-water use plants, artificial turf grass, and xeriscaping would be a favorable approach. Currently, water restrictions are not effectively enforced, but we have the potential to save this park if we, as humans, adjust our behaviors instead of carving the landscape to cater solely to our self-centered need for “growth.”</p> <p>Striking this balance is essential for the park's continued prosperity, both in the present and future. It is imperative that we refrain from destroying what is left of our remaining open spaces and parks in ever-expanding Lakewood while also ensuring the welfare of the wildlife is not compromised. Countless people move to Colorado to be “closer to nature,” yet we’re paradoxically and actively diminishing these same areas that people are coming here to embrace.</p> <p>The Army Corps of Engineers website states that it’s a part of their mission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and manage the Nation’s water resources</li><li>• Support commercial navigation</li><li>• Restore, protect and manage aquatic ecosystems</li><li>• Mitigate flood risk management</li><li>• Engineer and add technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships (cont. below)</li></ul> |



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| 6/9/2023   | Hopkins   | Regina     | <p>(cont. from above) An essential part of the Army Corps of Engineers mission is to, “restore, protect and manage aquatic ecosystems.” This involves initiatives such as habitat restoration, species conservation, pollution control, and sustainable management practices. Killing the animals and their habitat in Bear Creek Lake Park would wholly go against their own mission.</p> <p>Another essential mission of the Army Corps organization is to, “mitigate flood risk management.” At present, Bear Creek Lake Park does just this. It was built in 1977, originally by the Army Corps of Engineers as a flood mitigation tool to help protect Denver from flooding. Changing the floodplain management plan to make it a larger reservoir could endanger lives, property, and the environment.</p> <p>Lastly, as part of their mission, they state it is their responsibility to “provide services in an environmentally sustainable manner.” This means that they should carefully consider the long-term impact of their actions on the environment and future generations. Constructing a new 40-foot deep pool of water, which would result in flooding the area, goes against this principle in several ways:</p> <p>Firstly, such a massive inundation would lead to the irreversible destruction of the natural growth that has taken years, if not decades, to flourish. Ecosystems and habitats that support a diverse range of plant and animal species would be decimated, resulting in a significant loss of biodiversity. This loss would disrupt the delicate balance of the local ecosystem and have cascading effects on the entire food chain.</p> <p>Moreover, flooding the area on such a scale would have long-lasting consequences for the region's hydrological balance. The intricate network of underground aquifers and waterways, which provide essential water sources and support various ecological processes, would be disrupted. This could lead to the depletion of water resources, affecting not only the natural environment but also the availability of clean water for human populations in the area.</p> <p>In addition to the environmental concerns, there would also be significant social and economic drawbacks. The park serves as a recreational and educational learning environment, attracting visitors from near and far. It could result in the displacement of livelihoods for those dependent on the park. The financial costs of such a project would be substantial as well and could outweigh any short-term benefits, potentially burdening future generations with the financial repercussions. Its natural beauty and diverse activities contribute to the local economy and provide opportunities for outdoor enjoyment. Submerging the park would result in the loss of these benefits, affecting both the livelihoods of the local community and the overall quality of life in the region.</p> <p>A boy scout troop learning from a Park Naturalist at Bear Creek Lake Park about the habitat of the area. There are also community events held here. My neighbor Mindy Marie said, “My boys and I love Bear Creek! Our annual pack camp out and advancement occurs at the amphitheater. We have yearly Halloween hike on the lower trails in our costumes in the full moon.”</p> <p>Considering these factors, it becomes evident that flooding the area through the construction of a 40-foot deep pool of water is far from environmentally responsible and would not be a wise decision for our community’s future. It is crucial for the government division of the Army Corps of Engineers to explore alternative approaches to water storage that prioritize environmental sustainability, protect natural habitats, and ensure the well-being of both present and future generations as well as the park’s wildlife and overall ecological health of the region.</p> <p>I believe that open communication and constructive dialogue are essential for positive change. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet or discuss these concerns with you in person or in a zoom meeting.</p> <p>Together, we can explore ways to enhance the protection of trees, plants, wildlife habitats, and human recreation areas and minimize the negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain hopeful that your organization will reflect on the concerns raised and reconsider your plans for submerging Bear Creek Lake Park. I am confident that, by working collaboratively, we can ensure the preservation of our natural heritage while continuing to support a growing community with water storage needs.</p> |

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| 06/20/23   | Hopkins   | Carlo      | <p>I am against the proposed changes to Bear Creek Lake Park, in the city of Lakewood, Colorado. Lakewood's, Bear Creek Park a jewel of the community is a threatened recreational asset and island of ecological diversity of the Denver metropolis. The excessive development of condominium complexes and housing communities mandating lawns requiring excessive watering has burdened the semi-arid environment. Perpetual growth and increases in population density, excessive traffic, and poor air quality do not improve the quality of life. The developers should pay for the expansion of roads, sewage/water treatment plants and up scaling the utilities and not place the burdenon taxpayers to subsidize the corporations. New developments should be required to conserve water through the installation of artificial turf, drought tolerant xeriscapes and efficient appliances. Existing residents should be given credits to reduce water demand for their landscapes and enforcing water restrictions with significant penalties. I have incorporated environmentally responsible xeriscapes in my yard including adding artificial turf which requires zero water.</p> <p>The protection of rare natural habitats and wetlands is one of the Corps of Engineers mandates and the park already provides flood control to Lakewood and downstream to the South Platte drainage systems. The park, a rare natural resource belongs to the people NOT developers thirsting for water to support their projects and cities and counties insatiable appetite for additional tax revenues. I have used the park for many years for biking, kayaking, hiking and wildlife viewing. It would be sad to watch a beautiful park degenerate into a lifeless ecosystem forcing 800,000 + visitors into other already overcrowded parks.</p> <p>Has the severe drought in the western states taught the Corp of Engineers, State officials, local governments and developers nothing? Is Bear Creek Park to become a mud flat devoid of life of and of little recreational value? I have seen no excerpts of opinions from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment,4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246.</p> <p>"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission statement is to deliver vital public and military engineering services; partnering in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development and management of the Nation's water resources</li><li>• Support of commercial navigation</li><li>• Restoration, protection and management of aquatic ecosystems</li><li>• Flood risk management</li><li>• Engineering and technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships"</li></ul> <p>The Corp of Engineers mission statement clearly shows Bear Creek Park habitat protection, preservation of aquatic ecosystems, flood control and recreation have been reasonably acceptable and working well since its inception since 1977.</p> <p>The efforts of big business to influence recategorization of the park with their selfish demands overshadows the quality of life in Lakewood. I implore the Army Corps of Engineers to reject this effort to destroy the park we know and cherish. We should adapt stricter water conservation measures as a more efficient environmentally sound method of preserving our ecosystem.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is not just a piece of land. It is a precious sanctuary for wildlife that holds immense value to our community and our hearts. It represents a connection to nature, a refuge from the chaotic urban life that surrounds us. This park holds memories of laughter, joy and countless moments of tranquility for myself, my family and my friends. Please consider my request and please respect the interests of the half-million+ park visitorsannually and allow the resident wildlife to remain in their homes and their environment! It is an irreplaceable treasure that needs our protection.</p> |
| 08/31/22   | Hostetter | Trevor     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 5/31/2023  | Hu        | Meg        | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Having recently discovered this wonder park, I am extremely distressed to learn of the plans to reduce the land area by 500 acres. Most specifically the loss of 12 miles of trails.</p> <p>I use the park for relaxation, biking and walking. It is a gem to have an area such as this close to residential areas. It should be cherished and protected - not exploited. I visit the park close to 5 days a week.</p> <p>I request that you investigate the alternatives supplied by the Save Bear Creek Park organization; Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of environmental and recreational values. Or Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or ASR) is increasingly promising in Colorado. Save Bear Creek Lake Park supports increased emphasis on developing ASR across the state as a less impactful, less evaporative means of water storage.</p>  |
| 04/12/22   | Hul       | Daniel     | Don't, that's just not cool. Do you really feel good about more industrialization of open spaces. Whoo hoo carbon infested dystopian dream. Just please leave our parks alone  |
| 02/07/22   | Huntsman  | Barb       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.  |
| 02/14/22   | Huntsman  | Bill       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>We love to Bike and Boat at the park. Please don't change things.   |

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| 01/19/22   | Ikeler    | Kim        | <p>I am recently retired. For two hours every day, I enjoy cycling around Bear Creek Lake Park. The Park is a refuge of peace and quiet in the midst of suburban development and highway traffic, a beautiful remnant of the high plains grasslands that covered the area not so long ago. As a long-time resident of Lakewood, I had expected that the Park would be my primary place of recreation for years to come.</p> <p>So I was dismayed to learn that the Corps is conducting a Feasibility Study for expanding Bear Creek Lake by 20,000 acre feet (AF), which would flood approximately 615 acres of the Park. I am told the proposal would increase stored water in the reservoir from 2,000 AF to as much as 22,000 AF.</p> <p>Apparently, more than a mile of Bear Creek and 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek would be inundated in a 20,000 AF expansion. Even the 10,000 and 5,000 acre feet increases would destroy significant stretches of Bear and Turkey Creek. These riparian corridors are the core of the Park. The cottonwoods provide habitat for deer, owls and other wildlife. Shady trails offer sounds of flowing water, rustling leaves and birds. In the fall, the oranges and yellows of the changing foliage are magnificent.</p> <p>Thus, the proposed increase in the size of Bear Creek Lake would diminish my enjoyment of the Park and, consequently, my quality of life. To be sure, drought and population will increase, but other less impactful storage solutions ought to be built first.</p> <p>I am informed that a number of more sustainable alternatives exist, e.g., to further excavate the current pool and remove accumulated sand and silt that have reduced its capacity over time. Excavating to bedrock could add even more volume to the pool. This would increase storage capacity and reduce the footprint of impact. I leave the feasibility of these alternatives to you.</p> <p>Thanks for hearing my voice on this complicated issue.</p> |
| 1/5/2025   | Ikeler    | Kim        | <p>I am retired. I use Bear Creek Lake Park regularly for recreation, especially cycling. The planned expansion would turn a lovely natural area into any ugly wasteland. That would diminish the spiritual renewal the Park currently provides to people like me. Please do not expand the Lake.</p>  |
| 10/20/21   | Isanuk    | Laura      | <p>I thank you for your involvement in the Bear Creek community assessment. Outdoor Rec is Colorado's largest industry, and Bear Creek provides great access for trail running, walking/hiking, mountain biking, fishing, swimming, and paddling. This park is special in that it hosts so many activities. By making the reservoir larger, you compromise the majority of these trails and make a massive body of water that will reduce the intimate setting of the park today. There is joy in having the swim lake be totally full yet having the other lake totally to yourself in your kayak. The trails are plentiful but flooding will make less options available and force everyone on the same trails, causing overuse. e trails today include VERY handicap accessible trails, rare for Colorado that are unpaved.</p> <p>Flooding the area will reduce the desirability of Bear Lake as a park, a space that is accessible for all. This includes the wildlife that lives in this park, one of the few preserved spaces in the metro area. They will lose their home and they have no other option.</p> <p>Please do not change our beloved park. I do not see how the current proposal will alleviate any of these issues, but welcome feedback from you on how you will address these directly.</p>   |
| 5/6/2024   | Isanuk    | Laura      | <p>As you take in community input I want to emphasize my opposition to any expansion of the water in Bear Lake. I am a nearby resident and reducing the current trails would drastically change my interest in using the park. Recreation is an important feature of our community and limiting these public spaces is a mistake.</p>  |
| 9/23/2023  | Jacobson  | Andrew     | <p>Hello, I live nearby in edgewater and love going there to run and hike. I also take my kid there to the part of the creek that would no longer exist.</p> <p>It would make a huge difference if the lower trails were flooded out for the worse.</p>  |
| 4/10/2024  | Jaeger    | Ian        | <p>I am seeking to submit public comment on the proposed bear creek reservoir expansion. I am a resident who lives approximately 1 mile from the park. I'd like to express how meaningful it is to have a natural riparian habitat accessible to our community. I among many others utilize the park very regularly for bike rides, walks, and other recreation, simply to enjoy and appreciate the wildlife. This appreciation serves as an unquantifiable benefit of the park for the surrounding community by helping to shape values of the public around the importance of local ecological protection. Without these important natural areas, our community would be further devoid of a natural area that is an escape from suburban infrastructure.</p> <p>I am hoping this is taken into consideration when weighing the benefits and drawbacks of expansion, and that less ecologically impactful areas are considered for Colorado's water storage expansion goals. Goals of environmental protection and economic expansion can both be accomplished if care is taken.</p>   |
| 02/20/22   | Jenkins   | Tim        | <p>Devastating to trail users and road bikers</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is such an amazing place for people to get away from the streets/cars and connect with nature. This has only become more apparent since the pandemic began, with the park now accommodating thousands more users. The proposed plan would be nothing short of devastating to all who use, enjoy, and rely on Bear Creek Lake park for trail recreation, road biking, and wildlife viewing. We strongly oppose these plans that would take away thousands of acres of land for public use.</p>  |

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| 03/23/22   | Jensen    | Heidi      | <p>I would like to formally write my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Lake Reservoir.</p> <p>First of all, we should have thought about how water use would impact us before we let developers fill up the east side of C470 with ugly cookie cutter houses. But no one seems to care.</p> <p>Secondly, I've lived in Colorado my entire life and I've watched the water levels of un-dammed lakes as well as dammed lakes dwindle every year. So where do we propose to get this water? Sure maybe for a few years we'll have more water stored there, but the fact is, there is a limited supply and we're gluttonous at best with what we do have.</p> <p>And for my final argument I'd like to circle back to the ugly cookie-cutter houses. With their building they've destroyed critical habitat for what little animals are left on the plains. Building this reservoir will further their dwindling habit. Bear creek reservoir is their last stronghold before man takes all land between the foothills and Aurora.</p> <p>Why don't we take the dam money and educate the public about water usage instead?</p>  |
| 04/09/22   | Jensen    | Heidi      | <p>Hello there, I don't know where you are or where you may be from, but I'm guessing that no matter where you are seeing your home destroyed would be upsetting. This is exactly what is happening here at bear creek lake state park. I understand the intentions are good and to help people with water shortages, but there are plenty of other solutions. As I'm sure you know the water that we do have is incredibly important and I can't say that my state, nor those that use water from the Colorado mountains are using it appropriately.</p> <p>Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives.</p> <p>I would hate to see this beautiful park turned into a massive dam because we aren't able to properly use the water we do have, or manage the excessive building that's happening in the state. With clearly no consideration for how that's going to impact resources such as water. Not to mention the existing Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</p> <p>With the new building comes loss of habitat. Bear creek lake is an important and needed refuge for wild animals who frequent the area.</p> <p>I implore you to give more time and effort into studying the effects of how this could impact not only human life, but also animal life.</p> <p>I thank you very much for your time and I hope you have a wonderful day.</p>  |
| 11/01/21   | Jerome    | Debora     | <p>Thank you for the chance to voice an opinion on the potential change to the park.</p> <p>I must say that I am against the vast, proposed change to the beautiful lake and park because of the damage it would do to the area. The change would radically effect both flora and fauna, and the beautiful view, in a negative, irreparable way. The wildlife and bird populations are amazing as are the beautiful plants and trees. I would rather see more wildlife than more potential developments, even though the developments would not be in this area.</p> <p>Also, another issue of enormous concern is the potential failure of the existing dam. Talk about irreparable damage! I realize that there has been vast amounts of research, analysis and investigations but, how can one ever be sure of potential consequences?</p> <p>I have lived in the Town of Morrison and, in the Park area of Lakewood, for most of my 68 years. My family came to Morrison over 100 years ago and I still live on the family property, in a 75 year old house. I have seen many, many changes in the area and along Bear Creek. Very few of them I agreed with. Though, some ended up being a benefit, as the Park has been. But, the proposed change would be too much for this small area. Especially due to the fact that it is for temporary water storage, for areas not even close to us here in Morrison, and it deviates from the initial design and function of the current park. Water storage was not the purpose of the park's lake. The cycles of storing vast amounts of water, and then sending it on its way just to leave behind a horrific after-view, would not be a noble or decent thing to do. Destroying an area as beautiful as the Bear Creek Lake Park would be heartbreaking and wrong.</p> <p>Please reconsider this proposal. For all of us.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, patience and consideration.</p> |



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|            |           |            | <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Lake reservoir by 20,000 acre-feet. As an avid cyclist who frequently enjoys the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that Bear Creek Lake Park provides, I am deeply concerned about the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of this project.</p> <p>Environmental Impact<br/>The proposed expansion poses significant risks to the local ecosystem. Bear Creek Lake Park is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, some of which are already vulnerable. Expanding the reservoir would inundate critical habitats, disrupt local wildlife, and potentially lead to the loss of biodiversity. The alteration of natural landscapes can have long-term negative effects on the park's ecological balance, leading to unforeseen consequences.</p> <p>Alternatives<br/>Before proceeding with such a drastic measure, I urge the Corps to consider alternative solutions to meet the water storage needs. Water conservation measures, improvements in water use efficiency, and the development of smaller, decentralized storage projects could provide the necessary capacity without the extensive environmental footprint. Additionally, enhancing groundwater recharge and exploring water recycling and reuse options could contribute to a more sustainable and less environmentally damaging approach.</p> <p>Future Impacts<br/>The long-term impacts of reservoir expansion must be carefully evaluated. Increased water levels could lead to higher risks of flooding, impacting downstream communities and infrastructure. Additionally, the recreational value of Bear Creek Lake Park, which serves as a crucial green space for local residents, would be severely compromised. The loss of trails, picnic areas, and other recreational facilities would detract from the quality of life in the surrounding communities and diminish the park's appeal as a natural refuge.</p> <p>I believe that the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake reservoir is not in the best interest of the environment, the community, or future generations. I respectfully urge the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider this project and explore more sustainable and less destructive alternatives.</p> |
| 6/14/2024  | Jimroglou | Nick       | Thank you for considering my comments. I hope that the Corps will prioritize the preservation of our natural resources for me and future generations.  |
| 03/15/22   | Johannik  | Kellie     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". (No added comments)   |
| 03/15/22   | Johannik  | Kellie     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 7/4/2023   | Johnson   | Ken        | Proposal to increased Lake capacity. As a frequent visitor to Bear Creek Lake Park I feel increasing the board feet of water would only diminish the wildlife habitat, & the parks importance to the local populace, for recreational oppor... [text was in the Subject line of email and cut off as posted; no text in email body]  |
| 11/16/2023 | Johnson   | Ken        | As a long time resident of Lakewood, I enjoy BCLP as a respite from the busy and ever increasing hectic pace of modernity. To be able to immerse into the tranquility of this natural environment is regenerative. I'm a avid observer of nature, especially birds. Each visit to BCLP is rewarded with a sighting of feathered and furred resident. In this ever manipulated natural world, it's seems disrespectful and shortsighted to,impose our "supposed superior capabilities" on the innocent inhabitants,of a natural system in balance.  |
| 2/28/2024  | Johnson   | Ken        | As a long time resident of Lakewood, I enjoy BCLP as a respite from the busy and ever increasing hectic pace of modernity. To be able to immerse into the tranquility of this natural environment is regenerative. I'm a avid observer of nature, especially birds. Each visit to BCLP is rewarded with a sighting of feathered and furred resident. In this ever manipulated natural world, it's seems disrespectful and shortsighted to,impose our "supposed superior capabilities" on the innocent inhabitants,of a natural system in balance.  |
| 5/9/2024   | Johnson   | Ramey      | <p>Once again I respectfully ask you to leave Bear Creek Park as is and not convert the reservoir into water storage. I understand the need for water storage, however, the damage to this park is irreversible to the adjacent area. Every inch of this park is heavily used and there is no appetite to change from flood mitigation to water storage.</p> <p>A number of years ago while I was on City Council, this issue began to appear internally with no public awareness that reservoir changes were being discussed. Now that you know, please do not go against the community. I suspect, there was great concern about the community's buy in at that time which is why the issue was not public to begin with. I suspect the city of Lakewood was aware of potential changes early on, thus their egregious decision to cancel the Rocket program several years ago.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | Josupait  | Brian      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.  |
| 03/01/22   | Josupait  | Vicki      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Please do not carry forward with this plan. I've been an annual pass holder for a decade. I LOVE to run her, hike her, kayak here &amp; spend time w/ family &amp; friends. This change adversely impacts my community to benefit a community ~ 30-40 miles from here. There has to be a better solution.</p>  |
| 06/20/23   | Kamins    | Tailor     | <p>I just bought my first house (AS A MILLENIAL) right outside Bear Creek Lake Park and one of themajor selling points for me was this park. As a beginner mountain biker, this park boasts the best trails for my skillset. While Colorado boasts many beautiful trails in the (DENVER) area. IF the park is flooded this trail system will be a huge loss for those looking to start a new and challenging sport. As part of a massive community of female mountain bikers, I see this as a direct threat to our community's growth. Our goal as a community should be to protect and preserve what we have for future generations (AND CURRENT ONES) so that everyonein the area will bond with this green space, let's ensure we sustain its current state/community! (Dated 5/31/23)</p>  |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment  |
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| 05/16/22   | Keil      | Kirk       | <p>I am writing to oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion would flood hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy over a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. This area contains both the best wildlife habitat around as well as the best trails, where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park, as my family does, on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested, stinky mudflats could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to investigate less impactful alternatives. Given the persistence of drought across the western US, water conservation should be given top priority. Reducing water usage is the best long-term strategy in a region with decreasing annual precipitation. Beyond that, reducing usage through better pricing should be a top priority. If increased storage is unavoidable, the current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and or a secondary pool could be constructed along the South Embankment. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 09/25/22   | Kelley    | Larry      | <p>I wanted to share my thoughts on this proposed expansion. I live across the street from Bear Lake park, I literally use the trails everyday for running, mt biking and hiking, it's so incredibly convenient. I actually ran a 10K ( Bear Creek Chase ) this morning.</p> <p>Please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- many of the trails will be lost forever, if this project goes forward. I see families, school sports teams, older people ( me included ) and visitors spending time on the trails, staying healthy.</li><li>- I can't begin to tell you how much wildlife I see on a daily basis, I'm convinced this expansion will drive them out of the park Or force them to frequently cross Morrison road or Hampden blvd. These animals deserve this park as much as I do, perhaps more as there environment grows smaller every day.</li><li>- there is a commercial component to this decision, small companies that organize running and mt biking events in the park will have to move to other parks , this also doesn't seem fair.</li></ul> <p>I hope you will take all things into consideration, while making your difficult decision.</p>   |
| 05/04/23   | Kennedy   | Stephanie  | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I'm a weekly user of the Bear Creek Park. I have taken my now two year old son on a weekly five mile walk through the park since he was 3 months old.</p> <p>The views from Mt Carbon are breathtaking, every time I walk there, I can't help but say how beautiful the front range is or how lucky I feel to live in this community.</p> <p>Having access to a beautiful, peaceful open space just minutes from my home is something I treasure and understand the importance of. I'm a life-long resident of Colorado and have seen how drastically our neighborhoods and cities have changed especially within the last few years. Maintaining these green spaces is the foundation of Colorado living. The park provides countless recreational opportunities: hiking, walking, mountain biking, road cycling, horseback riding, bird watching, water sports and fishing.</p> <p>During Covid, the importance of having green spaces was made even more apparent. People were able to safely recreate for their mental and physical health.</p> <p>My biggest concerns with the proposed plans are lack of access to the multitude of walking trails and loss of wildlife habitat, with what has been shown to be a likely insufficient inflow of water to even fill the proposed increased reservoir. The current plans propose a lot of loss for very little guaranteed gain.</p> <p>I will continue to use the park every week and hope that my two year old son will have the same access as he gets older.</p> <p>We love Bear Creek Park!</p>  |
| 04/13/22   | Kerkmans  | Scott      | I am a very close resident to the potential Bear Creek project and I am very opposed to it. Please don't ruin the local area by storing water in the state park. Thank you.  |

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| 05/21/22   | Kerr      | Monica and Fritz | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 5/6/2024   | Kerr      | Monica           | <p>My husband and children and I weekly Hike and Bike in this park. It has easy to moderate ability level, where, since we live in Evergreen, Co. there are NOT that many places that have easy to moderate level activities.</p> <p>If Bear Creek is flooded in the park, we would lose the only treed areas in the park. And also the wildlife and bird-life will be adversely affected.</p>   |
| 2/13/2025  | Kerr      | Monica & Fritz   | <p>With all the recent developments going on in the Bear Creek area, this park is MORE IMPORTANT than ever! Newly build homes near Soltera, and expansion of that neighborhood mean that more of our recreational and wetlands near Denver are being cemented over. Please keep our park!</p>  |
| 05/24/22   | Kimble    | Alison           | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 03/01/22   | King      | Judy             | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>We are losing too much habitat for wild animals and winter forage for mule deer!</p>   |
| 06/01/22   | Kinney    | James            | <p>For decision making, the U. S Army Corp of Engineers' Feasibility Study (including EIS) for reauthorization of purpose for Bear Creek Dam and reservoir should be weighed against comparable Feasibility Studies (Including EIS) performed by Denver Water to study increased water storage potential in all existing dams on their South Platte and West slope systems (e. g. Antero, Eleven Mile, Cheeseman, and Dillon Dams).</p>  |
| 06/22/22   | Kinney    | Jim              | <p>My name is Jim Kinney. I live in Lakewood, Colorado near Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir an am concerned with, and am following, the Reauthorization Feasibility Study the Corp is currently conducting at that facility. I have attached the front page of the Colorado Geologic Survey report entitled: "Colorado Front Range Inactive Coal Mine Data and Subsidence Information Jefferson County", compiled by J.E. Tumey and L. Murray-Williams and published in 1983 . I have also attached a portion of the Jefferson County Map (Plate 9 of 12) from that Report that I have enlarged to focus on the area of the Map that includes Bear Creek Dam (labeled MT CARBON DAM on the Map). The Report addresses and the Map shows a number of inactive coal mines identified to be in pertinent locations relative to the structure:</p> <p>1) upstream from the upstream toe of the embankment dam,</p> <p>2) toward the overflow spillway on the north end of the dam, and</p> <p>3) toward the upstream toe of the off-channel embankment dike located toward Highway US 285 to the south of the reservoir.</p> <p>I would like to know if and how the Corp is addressing these abandoned mines identified in this State of Colorado Report in their current Feasibility Study. Has the Corp ruled out the possibility that the existence of any or all of these inactive coal mines could pose a dam safety hazard? Could problems associated with the abandoned coal mines in the area adversely impact the embankment dam, the embankment dike or the overflow spillway due to the proposed major increases in reservoir surface elevation, or due to revised plans for managing reservoir operations or reacting to periods of flooding, if Reauthorization were to be approved?</p> <p>[2 ATTACHMENTS]</p>  |

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| 07/31/22   | Kinney    | James      | <p>Plan Focus: Reducing demand and stronger State promotion and support of conservation.</p> <p>"We're seeing less water happen faster than I think what we anticipated and so I think the state's going to have to really focus on how we scale those conservation efforts over a faster time period," said Funk. "Right now, we need to put more resources toward that demand reduction than other 'pie in the sky' big structural solutions that may never materialize."</p> <p>He said overall, the Water Plan draft is solid. But Funk wants to see more concrete steps on how to reduce water demand in the final version of the plan.</p> <p>"I think we need to be thinking more about how we sustain ag, sustain growth, sustain development while reducing both the water footprints in those sectors," he said. "More concrete steps and certainly more resources reallocated to reducing demand and conservation."</p> <p>Alex Funk<br/>Director of Water Resources<br/>Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership<br/>As broadcast on Channel 9 News<br/>Denver Colorado</p>   |
| 09/19/22   | Kinney    | Jim        | <p>How is the CORP modeling the effects, on both current and proposed modified operations of the reservoir (and Park) of the increasing withdrawals of water from Bear Creek upstream of the Park by the Town of Morrison to provide water to developers and Districts in Rooney Valley and elsewhere? How much will these ncreased upstream withdrawals from Bear Creek adversely affect the Park itself as it currently exists, regardless of the outcome of the Reauthorization Feasibility Study?</p> <p>How is the CORP evaluating and modeling the significantly increased stormwater runoff flows as well as increased treated water return flows occurring from large scale, high-density developments now being, or to be, included in the very large geographic area contained in the Rooney Valley (lands in Morrison, Lakewood and Jefferson County jurisdictions)? Proactive knowledge of these significant, high-impact, developing phenomenon (quantity and quality issues) should be considered throughout all possible scenarios within the current Feasibility Study, but should also be prominently on the CORP's current list of emerging items of near-term operating concerns.</p>   |
| 05/10/22   | Kirch     | Jim        | The CO DWR dam safety branch has reviewed the referenced scoping comment letter and have no comments at this time. We appreciate you including our agency at this stage in the process, and ask that you keep myself, and our water commissioner Tim Buckley (tim.buckley@state.co.us) involved as the project develops.   |
| 03/01/22   | Kline     | Larry      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 03/15/22   | Kline     | Larry      | <p>My wife and I have enjoyed our road biking and mountain bikes at Bear Creek Lake Park [BCLP] for many, many years ... some 20+ in fact. .. We still go there even though we have moved some 4 miles farther from it - now 9 miles. We consider it the Crown Jewel of the Lakewood city park system ... It is a major hub/ intersection for several major bike paths in the Denver metro area ... Clear Creek bike path to the west going to downtown Denver via the Platte river bikeway; the C470 bike path circling the perimeter of the metro area; as well as access to Denver's nearby Red Rocks park roads ...It would be a serious and tragic loss of a vital recreational spot in the West Denver Metro area. To flood it with 20,000 acre feet to a depth of a 5 story building is unimaginable. That is fully 10 times its current storage volume. We would support no more than a 3000 acre foot storage pool.. ...</p>  |
| 03/30/22   | Kline     | Larry      | <p>My wife and I have enjoyed our road biking and mountain bikes at Bear Creek Lake Park [BCLP] for many, many years... some 20+ in fact... We still go there even though we have moved some 4 miles farther from it – now 9 miles. We consider it the Crown Jewel of the Lakewood city park system...</p> <p>It is a major hub/ intersection for several major bike paths in the Denver metro area... Clear Creek bike path to the west going to downtown Denver via the Platte river bikeway; the C470 bike path circling the perimeter of the metro area; as well as access to Denver’s nearby Red Rocks park roads...</p> <p>It would be a serious and tragic loss of a vital recreational spot in the West Denver Metro area. To flood it with 20,000 acre feet to a depth of a 5 story building is unimaginable. That is fully 10 times its current storage volume.</p> <p>We would support no more than a 3000 acre foot storage pool....</p>   |
| 05/11/22   | Kline     | Carole     | <p>Bear Creek Lake park has been my main area for countless hours of running, cycling, bird watching and walking for over 25 years. The park has provided a refuge for me to get away from my neighborhood of ever increasing high density housing. How can anyone enjoy a nice run or walk when having to fend for you life crossing a crowded intersection? Wildlife is almost zero and any potential sounds of nature covered over by traffic and construction activity?</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake park resident beavers seem to building their own dams creating wetlands to support riparian activity. They’re a lot cheaper and much better for the environment!</p> <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. Please reconsider this disastrous plan!</p> |



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| 11/28/2023 | Kline     | Larry      | <p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I’m writing in support of Save The Lake and it’s October 21st analysis of same by James Eklund, a person well-versed in Colorado’s water planning efforts. I am blown away by the exacting analysis of his discussion. It points out the tenuous nature of water planning here in Colorado and over the entire Colorado River basin -- specifically as to Bear Creek Lake. This is buttressed by the Sunday 19 November article in the Colorado Sun about the precarious state of water planning/management in the Colorado River Basin. In effect, society kicks the can down the hill until it hits the other side of the hill and has no where else to go.</p> <p>Likewise, witness the Denver Post article [November 12th] forecasting the “ghastly” specter of slow growth [OMG!!] in Colorado. And the subsequent citizenry’s responses in its November 19th Letters to Editor section a week or so later. Namely, that slow growth is a good thing --- far more important to quality of life than the Spector of “growth at all costs”.</p> <p>There are limits to everything. Now the decades long and ever-so-often societal cry is, “Hey, we still have 3 to 5 years to correct global warming”. Alas, I seriously doubt this correction will happen in a sane manner nor in anywhere within the time frame posed.</p> <p>Meanwhile give our Jeffco citizens a GREEN RESPITE from society’s ongoing failure to act proactively.</p> <p>2500 acre-feet ... or BETTER yet .... even LESS....</p>   |
| 08/20/22   | Knauer    | Tyler      | Please don’t flood bear creek lake park it will destroy riparian habitat for countless animals, recreational opportunities for locals and increase flood risk.   |
| 11/05/21   | Knutson   | Lynn       | <p>Lake Park last year and that does not take into account the number who walked in on foot or rode in by bike. If the majority of the park is flooded then those 600,000+ people will need to use other local Jefferson County parks which are already experiencing overcrowding due to population growth.</p> <p>The park is so well managed by the City of Lakewood and has so much to offer that if you have lived in Lakewood for any amount of time, it has likely become an integral part of your life. My husband rides his road bike from our house to the park almost every day of the week. We credit the park with keeping him safe and alive because it keeps him away from normal automobile traffic. He has participated in several time trial series (a timed road racing event) that took place in the park every summer until the pandemic. During the pandemic lockdown I walked 114 miles in the park. I walk in the park at least 3 times a week and have for 21 years. The park offers many fun classes and workshops. When my daughter was young we took her on the very popular Halloween hike. It is done at dusk so that it is a little bit spooky for the young kids. While on the Halloween hike the kids learn about the animals that live in the park and the hike ends around a big fire ring where the kids roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate. As a family we have rented a yurt and camped in the park. My daughter has attended horse camp several summers in a row at the stables in the park. She has also used the archery range several times. My husband and daughter have participated in several Earth Day events in the park where they did maintenance on the trails. My daughter uses her paddle board on Bear Creek lake in the summers. This park played and still plays a major role in my family’s lives. It has so much to offer and is one of the reasons we moved to Lakewood 21 years ago.</p> <p>As I said earlier, during the pandemic lockdown when other communities did not want non-residents coming to their parks, I was able to walk 114 miles in Bear Creek Lake Park over a seven week period. I depend upon this area to walk my dog and to get a dose of nature. I consider it a sanctuary as do so many other local residents. The human soul needs the beauty, peace and tranquility that nature offers. Bear Creek Lake Park is just such a place in the middle of urban sprawl. It is a bastion of tranquility where one can unwind and experience nature. There is no monetary value that can be placed on that experience. It is priceless!</p> <p>The park serves as a home to a plethora of birds, waterfowl and wildlife and over the 21 years that I have recreated in the park I have become intimately familiar with these animals and in many cases can point out to you where their homes are located; therefore I cannot help but take the idea of the destruction of their homes personally.</p> <p>Each spring I photograph the resident great horned owls having and raising their babies in the old cottonwoods that you are proposing destroying.</p> <p>North of Bear Lake and just west of Mt. Carbon is the historic site of the town of Cowan Colorado. The town sprang up around the late1800"s. It was the site of a day mining operation and pottery kiln. During that time mount carbon was mined for both coal and clay. The town had a one room schoolhouse that operated for 42 years. This historic site would be lost to history if the corps follows through on the reallocation plan.</p> <p>Lakewood residents do not stand to gain the water that will be held in the park. Which begs the question, why aren’t the communities that are interested in purchasing this water building dams within their own municipalities? Have these communities considered the fact that it is irresponsible to continue to build and expand if they do not have access to ample water?</p> <p>The proposed reallocation plan will be a visual blight to the landscape because the proposed 22,000 AF of water will not always be available due to drought or evaporation. When the water levels are low all we will have is ugly brown mud flats where once there were trees, streams, wild flowers, birds and other wildlife.</p> <p>From a Lakewood residents' point of view the proposed reallocation project looks to be a LOSE-LOSE situation. We stand to lose a place to commune with nature. We stand to lose miles of paths on which we used to recreate. We stand to lose a place where our kids could play and learn about nature. We stand to lose more habitat for wildlife who are already being pushed out of every corner of this state due to overcrowding and development. A historical town site will be lost forever. Other local parks will become overcrowded and most years when water levels are low we will see ugly brown mud flats where once there was vibrant life.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is not “just a park”, it is a place that is intricately woven into the fabric of this community and I beg you not to destroy it. Don’t add your name to the list of offenders who have forced their will upon the residents of this community and this state without hearing and valuing our desires. [Duplicate received 12/5/2021]</p> |
| 6/17/2023  | Knutson   | Lynn       | <p>We have had an unprecedented wet summer in Lakewood Colorado this year. On May 10th it began to rain and did not stop for 72 hour. Some areas in Lakewood Colorado received as much as 5 inches of rain in 24 hours. Bear Creek Lake Park experienced heavy flooding during this storm and the Dam served its purpose and held back flood water that would have damaged homes and property downstream.</p> <p>We talk about 100 year floods but the weather has changed so much that in the last 10 years there have been at least 3 times that I can recall where Bear Creek Lake Park has flooded and the Dam held back potentially dangerous amounts of water. My concern is that by reallocating the purpose of the dam from flood control to water storage that there will not be enough capacity to handle these heavy rain/flooding events.</p> <p>On the flip side, most years there will not be enough water to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool in the reservoir and instead we will be left with unsightly mud flats and will have sacrificed the heart of the park. The riparian corridor that is rich with wildlife.</p> <p>The dam in Bear Creek Lake Park serves a purpose and that is to protect people and property downstream and the park serves its purpose as an urban escape for 800.000 visitors a year to get away from the stress of overdevelopment, traffic and noise. It is a place where they can commune with nature and relax.</p> <p>I urge the Corp to not destroy this precious open space and to consider alternative water storage such as Deepening/excavating the current pool, Underground water storage (ASR) and using the gravel pits that remain after mining along the south Platte as potential water storage pools.</p> <p>I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.</p>  |

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| 09/05/22   | Koceja         | Sarah      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2".</p> <p>Added comments:</p> <p>We need to do a better job of preserving natural places and wildlife habitats. If we can't start to recognize the importance of preserving nature and continue plowing over it, flooding it and rearranging it for our human needs we are only speeding up the demise of life as we all know it. Let's do the right thing, find another way and avoid destroying natural places and precious wildlife habitat .</p>  |
| 9/23/2023  | Koehtler Smith | Tammy      | <p>I feel strongly about BCLP and the proposed flooding. I need to let you know that I am 100% against the flooding of the park for all the environmental and habitat reasons stated by so many others. To me, it does not make sense that our community should need to lose a beautiful and sacred setting so that other communities that need water storage may have it. Community and city planning must take this into consideration when allowing for increased building in the areas where water resources are stressed. It should not be "sent down the line" for other established communities to shoulder by losing resources that made their neighborhood and community valuable and a special place to call home.</p> <p>Yes, Bear Creek Lake Park is a huge part of my life and my family's life. I've been going here since I moved to Lakewood in 1999. I walk there several times a week. It is my zen place. My touchstone with nature. While the city buzzes around me at all other times of my day, I know that my time at BCLP "sets me right and settles me down". I am devastated at the thought of losing such amazing and valuable spaces inside the park. Not just losing them for me but for every other member of our community who loves the space as I do, including the creatures, plants, and other elements of nature that call the proposed flood zone home. The park will never be the same, for any of us, if it is allowed to be flooded.</p> <p>I've taken my children there since the time they were babies. They go there now as young adults. We did countless family cookouts, swim days with friends, camping + events with the cub scouts and boy scouts troops, solo and family bike rides, family gatherings, walks with the family dog (who loved the park and is no longer with us). These memories and places that were such important milestones in my life will be altered if the park is destroyed by the flooding. (I have so many pictures of great times at the park I'd be happy to share them!) Every time I go there and hike, I can remember all these beautiful moments. And I do. What will happen when some of these spaces no longer exist?</p> <p>I know you will think to yourself, the whole park is not being destroyed. But, you see, for me it will be. It will not be the same place for us if so much of the heart of that park is allowed to be destroyed to become a water receptacle for communities that are not our own.</p> <p>I urge better water management at the city and community planning levels. And I beg that you find an alternate solution that makes more sense, and leave our beautiful park be. Where will I go when I need to set myself right and settle down away from the stresses of everyday life? BCLP is where I go now. It is only a mile away from my house. It is part of my life that I've built here the past 24 years. It means so, so, so, so much to me and my family. Please consider other options and let us keep this vital place unflooded.</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Kopler         | Thomas     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 10/3/2025  | Kopler         | Thomas     | <p>It is now six years of your three year study of increasing water storage at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>During this time, you have received so many emails and letters requesting the end of this project.</p> <p>This is another email asking that your project never come to fruition.</p> <p>The dam was built specifically for flood prevention--period. And what a wonderful job it has done over the years!</p> <p>Increasing the water size at Bear Creek Lake will be nothing less than catastrophic. (There will be a water event that will test the integrity and holding capacity of the dam.) The risk of deadly flooding below the dam as a result of increased water in the dam cannot be overlooked or ignored.</p> <p>Look at the statistics regarding regular rainfall in the high desert. It shows that after the runoff in the spring, Bear Creek Lake cannot sustain sufficient water levels even without sending water to another community. Mud flats! That is what will become of Bear Creek.</p> <p>We live here, we recreate in Bear Creek, wildlife thrives at Bear Creek! There are so many reasons to abandon this project and only one reason to move forward with the project.....water for Brighton.</p> <p>That's simply not a good enough reason. Brighton is 34 miles away! Why should nature and our community, who live here, suffer?</p> <p>Please, please stop this unwanted project. Our community and nature are counting on you, the Army Corps of Engineers, to do the right thing.</p>  |

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| 3/28/2025  | Koshio      | Pamela        | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Our family has been going to Bear Creek Lake Park for the past 20 years. My husband and I routinely rode our bikes on all of the trails and then taught our two sons to bike ride. It's become an important father-son-bonding activity, especially as our sons have become teenagers, as well as a crucial component to our physical health and mental well-being.</p> <p>We enjoy the lake for swimming, canoeing, and paddleboarding and barbeques with friends and family. We taught our boys how to shoot a bow &amp; arrow at the range in the park.</p> <p>We also enjoy hiking all of the beautiful trails and learning about the plants and animals in the park.</p> <p>My friends and I meet there to spend time together as we walk the trails and escape the heat of summer.</p> <p>I've taken photography classes at Bear Creek Lake Park observing and photographing all of the birds that make their homes in the park. The raptors are especially stunning.</p> <p>Both of our sons are Boy Scouts and they regularly use the park to help the scouts complete Merit Badges to learn about nature conservation, hiking, biking, swimming, plant &amp; animal identification, orienteering, and more. Inf fact, the orienteering course that's currently in the park was an Eagle Scout Project. My youngest son is beginning his Eagle Scout Project, which is to make a newly installed observation area of the lake ADA-compliant. In discussing his project with the park representative, we learned that many young people obtain their Eagle Scout by completing projects in the park.</p> <p>There is no substitute for being outdoors in nature. The health benefits are well documented for both physical and mental well-being.</p> <p>So much of the land in Jefferson County is being developed and this is not why we chose Lakewood as the city to raise our family. I am concerned that the needs for development and the needs for open space are not being equitably balanced.</p> <p>Please, do not expand Bear Creek Lake.</p> |
| 02/07/22   | Kraut       | Mark          | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br/>I visit B.C.P. at least three times a week with my wife, dogs or on bicycle. Please do not flood it.</p>   |
| 06/13/22   | Kroonenberg | Carl & Sherri | <p>I am writing to share my opposition to the reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>As natives of Colorado, we fully understand the importance of water conservation and alternatives for water preservation. There are viable alternatives, and yes, while more costly from a dollar perspective (deepening the current reservoir), the cost environmentally to the park is far greater! We urge you to support less impactful alternatives.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted (that includes so many of us who come in from a bike or walking!) It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The community at large is still being educated as there has not been adequate communication. The flyers posted in the Park are not viewable or even seen and look like just ‘another ad’. If the 800K+ people that visit this park were aware, there would be an outpouring of support. Info at the Visitor Center is NOT adequate.</p> <p>We urge you to invest in the alternatives.</p>   |
| 4/1/2024   | Kruelskie   | Keith         | <p>Hi - I am a nearby resident who lives near bear creek lake park - I would like to express my opinion that I would prefer the lake park not be turned into a larger reservoir. It’s a very convenient space for recreation and I have an annual pass - I’d even pay more if it meant the recreational area could be preserved.</p>   |
| 04/09/22   | Kumpf       | Howard        | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br/>As a weekly user (hiker, jogger ) in the park for over 40 years, do not want our 800,000 annual park users to have the extensive unique trails eliminated from our quality of life and the social good continually produced by the current environmental qualities. The loss of the special solitude and peace absorbed by the approximate 800,000 plus annual users would clearly have a serious negative impact on the local communities. I believe changes and flooding in cureent park features provided by the Bear Creek riparian area upstream and also the Turkey Creek riparain area would cause an increase in crime and lower property values over time. I am a member of 2 jogging/running clubs that frequently use the park. I know that virtually every member desites the lake and park to remain unchanged.</p>   |

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| 06/15/22   | Kumpf        | Howard      | While hiking today on the dirt trail most adjacent to Bear Creek approximately 1/2 mile west of the current lake shore, it occurred to me that these magnificent trees would have lake water dozens of feet above their root system, according to the map. I assume this would kill the trees, not to mention submerging the trail. Beauty gone forever. It seems so unjust that trail users would lose use the trail, suffer the loss of the beneficial to man and nature, while having paid money to maintain the park over the years, only to relinquish it to distant usage for the profit of developers who will use the stolen water to waste on lawns , which presently have prairie grass that consumes no imported water.<br>Zero environmental justification!<br>Negative sustainability!<br>[PHOTOS]  |
| 4/9/2025   | Kumpf        | Howard      | I oppose converting Bear Creek lake to a water supply facility. I also oppose increasing the size of the lake. Doing so would destroy much of the benefits to our quality life that we derive from the park and my 2 weekly hiking groups enjoy regularly. And have done so for multiple years.<br>In my opinion , Bear Creek lake park is a special place of natural beauty that you created years ago.<br>Changing it to a water supply facility would destroy the unique quality.<br>Please keep it as a flood control only , for the benefit of my generation and the generations to follow.<br>thank you,   |
| 11/6/2023  | Kurowski     | Steve       | Please don't take this valuable asset away from our community. There has to be other solutions to explore.   |
| 02/07/22   | LaGreca      | Phil        | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br>I am opposed to losing the trails my dogs, I and my wife love to run and bike on. Please keep the lower level trails.  |
| 04/27/22   | Lally-Martin | Liz         | I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to show my support in Saving Bear Creek from the reservoir expansion. My family and I are frequent visitors of the park - we love the trail system - hiking - biking - taking our dogs on walks.<br>Living across the road from the park, we see the wild life flourishing. It would be a detriment to the community to see it flooded.<br>It's rare to have a heaven across the road and Bear Creek is a beautiful, unique sanctuary for many animals and friends.<br>The animals livelihood breaks my heart the most. Please take this into consideration along with all of the adventures friends and family are able to have currently.  |
| 06/22/22   | Landy        | Athena Rose | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br>There are other options for the water reallocation - like Chattfield and divergent gateways engineering. Please do not deny these alternatives!  |
| 02/12/22   | Langston     | Kim         | Thank you for your service and dedication. The Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Study is looking into expanding the Bear Creek Reservoir for the purpose of water storage. Alternatives being investigated range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the 2,000 acre feet pool (a tenfold increase). The latter would flood approximately 615 acres of Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). The Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) are coordinating on this three- year study. The negative environmental and recreational impacts of a significant increase in the Bear Creek Reservoir are dramatic. As drought and population increase, this price might be worth paying, but other less impactful storage solutions ought to be built first. A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative surface water storage exist. For more information visit <a href="https://SaveBearCreekLakePark.org">SaveBearCreekLakePark.org</a> A serious challenge to this project is supply, or rather the lack of it. Inflows are not expected to support 22,000 AF every year. After stored water is drawn out of the reservoir, a periphery of mud flats could remain. In drought scenarios, these barren, deforested regions could persist for years. I realize we need to store more water to meet the needs of a growing population, but now is not the time to sacrifice the BCLP for a mere 10,000 or 20,000 AF. Other less impactful, more beneficial options exist. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk in are not counted. Tens of thousands of people visit the BCLP on a regular basis. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Furthermore, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors, like myself, ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. Finally, a five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. Dam safety related to a significant expansion is being assessed by the USACE. Thanks for your consideration of this complicated issue. I hope you will lend your voice to Opposing the proposed reallocation.<br>For more information visit <a href="https://SaveBearCreekLakePark.org">SaveBearCreekLakePark.org</a> |
| 11/06/21   | Leppink      | John        | I'm emailing you regarding the Bear Creek reallocation project. As many others have already, I want to express my concern and disappointment surrounding this project. I attended the initial meeting on October 14th and appreciate your time and all of the information that was provided. I also want to thank the US Army Corps of Engineers for providing us places like Bear Creek, Chatfield and Cherry Creek reservoirs. These parks not only provide flood mitigation but just as important, a place for residents to escape the city, recreate and enjoy the great outdoors. I fear that this particular project will jeopardize that.<br>I've spent many weekends fishing, camping and riding bikes at Bear Creek over the last 15 years. Every time I'm there I can't help but think what an absolutely beautiful sanctuary it is. It's one of the few places in town that still provides a key habitat for wildlife.<br>I'm an avid fishermen and love boating, so selfishly I should be excited about this project and the possibility of having a larger lake. However being a native of Colorado I'm very aware of the fluctuating water levels in our reservoirs and know that ultimately we won't be able to sustain consistent water levels in Bear Creek. It'll become a mud bowl and will completely change the Park. Take Chatfield for example; the plan was to raise the water level by 12 ft however the levels have consistently been below average ever since the project completed. If we can't sustain Chatfield there is absolutely no way we will ever do so at Bear Creek.<br>I understand there are growing water demands in Colorado however this isn't the answer and I can't understand why we have to sacrifice a sanctuary like Bear Creek Park. It almost feels like a quick fix to a much larger problem. There has to be other options and I'd be very interested to see what those are.  |



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| 06/16/22   | Leslie    | Mark       | <p>Program Administrator Water Resources Section LETTER: Colorado Parks and Wildlife is submitting this letter in response to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) Request for Scoping Comments on the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir Water Reallocation Project. The mission of CPW is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado and to promote a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Colorado. In CPW's experience there can be significant project costs, impacts, and mitigation associated with the impacts of water development projects, including changes to hydrology and water quality upstream and downstream of the project and the resulting impacts to fish, wildlife, and recreation resources. Therefore, the scope of any feasibility study that will result in a NEPA analysis and final action by the Corps should include project impacts to the reservoir as well as to the upstream and downstream environment and recreation resources. However, this information is not available until project participants are identified and project operations are developed. CPW is concerned that, in the absence of identified project participants, it will not be possible to understand project impacts. Without knowing how the expanded reservoir will be operated and by what entities, it is difficult to assess the true costs, mitigation needs, and feasibility of the project. CPW recommends considering this report a "preliminary feasibility determination" with no formal action attached until project participants are determined, project operations are developed, and the impacts from changes to hydrology and other secondary infrastructure development required to facilitate project participant use of water from Bear Creek Reservoir, can be identified and mitigated as appropriate. CPW also offers the following, specific comments on the Request for Scoping Comments letter: Project purpose and need: The study's purpose and need statement lacks a specific firm yield or other measurable performance criterion for reallocation of storage at Bear Creek Reservoir. It is therefore unclear how the Corps plans to determine whether the study's alternatives could help address the projected regional water supply shortfall. Please explain how the study will advance understanding of Bear Creek Reservoir Reallocation 's potential to address Colorado's water supply "gap." Federal interest and non-federal sponsor: The document states that "the test for feasibility is whether the cost of providing M&amp;I water supply from Bear Creek Reservoir (cost of storage plus cost of mitigation) is less than the least cost alternative M&amp;I water supply." In CPW's experience, storage project costs include not only the storage vessel itself but any infrastructure, and secondary impacts to hydrology, between the storage vessel and the end user. It does not appear that this definition of feasibility incorporates these critical infrastructure and mitigation elements. Furthermore, while perhaps implied, it should be clarified that feasibility is a function of not just cost, but the cost per unit of performance (e.g., firm yield, or another measurable performance criterion). Scoping and project alternatives: • Projects that divert water from Colorado's rivers and streams change the hydrology of those systems, which can lead to significant impacts to fish, wildlife, and recreation resources. All alternatives should consider both short term construction impacts as well as direct and secondary long term and/or permanent impacts related to changes in reservoir levels and operations. This includes impacts that reservoir operations may have on downstream hydrology in time, place and amount, and whether or not those impacts are located in the immediate project area. Any changes to hydrology upstream and downstream of the reservoir created by new reservoir operations, as well as forecasted storage levels in the reservoir, should be identified and, where appropriate, mitigated as a part of this feasibility study. • Alternatives assessments should include direct and indirect impacts resulting from changes in land use and infrastructure installation as well as assessing impacts to wildlife and habitat resulting from construction, maintenance, and operational activities. • Bear Creek Reservoir provides important local terrestrial, as well as valuable recreation opportunities. Terrestrial species found near the reservoir include, but are not limited to, white tailed and mule deer, mink, pine marten, burrowing and screech owls, bobcat, beavers, chorus frogs, and woodhouse toads. Impacts to terrestrial wildlife and its habitat from temporary and long-term or permanent impacts created by the project should be identified and mitigated as appropriate. • CPW requests that the feasibility study include disclosure of impacts by the project to wildlife habitat, wildlife displacement, the impacts of construction, and operational impacts both temporary and permanent in nature on wildlife species and their associated habitats, including but not limited to effects on:</p> <p>o White tailed and mule deer, mink, pine marten, burrowing and screech owls, bobcat, beavers, chorus frogs, and woodhouse toads at all periods of specieslife history o Raptors and migratory birds, nesting</p> |

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| 06/16/22   | Leslie    | Mark       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bear Creek Lake, Bear Creek, Turkey Creek, and the South Platte River provide important habitat for native aquatic wildlife and sportfish. Impacts to aquatic wildlife and its habitat from temporary and long-term or permanent impacts created by the project should be identified and mitigated as appropriate.</li><li>• Increasing the size of the storage pool will result in the inundation of portions of Turkey Creek and Bear Creek just upstream of the reservoir. This will negatively impact terrestrial habitat and native riverine fish species in Turkey Creek and angling opportunities for sportfish such as brown and rainbow trout in Bear Creek. These permanent impacts created by the project should be identified and mitigated as appropriate.</li><li>• Downstream impacts caused by negatively impactful changes in flows below the dam should be addressed. Bear Creek is an important tributary to the South Platte River with a number of public access points and a relatively intact riparian area offering unique opportunities along this urban reach. Deliveries, exchanges, and a change in the historic flow regime could have impacts on flow-dependent species within the fish, macroinvertebrate, and riparian communities.</li><li>• The increased hydraulic residence time and water depth is likely to exacerbate existing water-quality issues with nutrients, algae blooms, algal toxins, dissolved oxygen, iron, and pH, which impact fish in the reservoir and downstream of the reservoir. Algal toxins can impact fish and wildlife using the reservoir.</li><li>• Aquatic life requires water in the appropriate time, place, and amount, and must be of good quality to support biological processes including reproduction, recruitment, foraging, growth, and movement. It is not possible to fully scope potential aquatic impacts at this time since many impacts will be dependent on the changes to hydrology created by the project. Once an operations plan is formed and a comprehensive hydrologic model is completed, CPW requests that this information be used to assess potential impacts to riparian areas, aquatic habitat, aquatic species, water availability and water quality in the impacted area. Project effects should be assessed for, but not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Effects of the alternatives on Bear Creek Lake, Bear Creek, Turkey Creek, the South Platte River, and adjoining riparian areas including on and off channel ponds.</li><li>o Effects of action on aquatic species, including native species assemblages, on Bear Creek, Turkey Creek, South Platte River, and their tributaries</li><li>o Effects of action on federally listed threatened or endangered species, state listed threatened or endangered species, state listed species of concern, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 species listed in the most current CPW State Wildlife Action Plan</li><li>o Effects of action on Bear Creek water levels and associated aquatic and angler impacts</li></ul></li><li>• Development of the "mostly likely" alternative to any Bear Creek Reservoir action alternative should consider the costs of a full range of other M&amp;I water storage and supply strategies (see the 2015 Colorado Water Plan for more information).</li><li>• Mitigation measures for environmental impacts caused by the project may range from avoidance, to minimizing the impact, or to replacing the loss of resources whose impacts cannot be avoided. CPW recommends that the alternatives are designed to first avoid and then to minimize unavoidable impacts. CPW encourages the project proponent to contact CPW to discuss potential avoidance and minimization measures and to learn more about the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan process mentioned above.</li><li>• CPW's comments related to the scoping of hydrologic impacts are broad and may be further refined or added to as additional project information becomes available. Schedule: It appears that the Corps anticipates conducting the environmental and economic analysis to support a NEPA process for the project as early as 2023. CPW continues to express its concern that there is not enough information at this time regarding the project participants or operations of the project to identify project impacts through the NEPA process or to support the development of a Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan. CPW looks forward to your response to our questions and comments about this project and to continuing work with CWCB and the Corps to address these and other questions related to the proposed Bear Creek Reallocation Project as it moves through the federal permitting process. Please contact Karlyn</li></ul> |
| 02/01/22   | Liebrock  | Carrie     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 06/03/22   | Lighthart | David      | The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the interest of Evergreen Metropolitan District (EMD) in purchasing or leasing a portion of the reallocated storage space in Bear Creek Reservoir or a portion of any associated storage rights, or both. In August of 2017, EMD submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) a Letter of Intent to Participate in the Bear Creek Reservoir reallocation project. A copy of the 2017 letter is attached for reference. EMD remains interested in this project for increased storage capacity as a critical component of its water supply in support of the District’s drinking water system. With respect to the alternatives stated in the USACE letter of May 3rd, EMD asks that the alternative selected provide the most storage capacity possible with the least amount of unmitigated environmental impact to the very popular Bear Creek Lake Park and also provide for protection of water quality within the reallocated reservoir. As a discharger of treated wastewater in the Bear Creek watershed upstream from Bear Creek Reservoir, EMD actively participates in and supports water quality protection activities in the Bear Creek watershed.   |

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| 5/1/2023   | Lighthart | David      | <p>I was participated in a Reallocation Project catch-up meeting with USACE and CWCB on April 24th. Questions I raised I was asked to email to USACE to be made part of the public record. The questions were in regard to water quality in the reservoir. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is currently working on a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Limit) for phosphorus for the lake. This nutrient is of concern as it is important for algae growth in the lake. Control of this nutrient may have a positive impact on water quality in the lake. Two of the primary contributors to phosphorus in Bear Creek Reservoir are:</p> <p>a. release from the sediments in the bottom of the lake, and</p> <p>b. phosphorus concentrations found in Bear and Turkey Creeks above the reservoir. Most of the phosphorus found in Bear and Turkey Creeks are from non-point sources. Non-point sources include storm water drainage and septic system discharges. These sources are extremely difficult to monitor and control.</p> <p>My questions are:</p> <p>1.▯With the reallocation project and the disturbance of the existing lake and drainage that feeds it, will there be an opportunity to seal the bottom of the lake and feeder streams to be submerged in a reallocation to prevent the continued release of phosphorus from the sediments?</p> <p>2.▯Will there be a potential to install in-stream treatments for removal of phosphorus from the Bear and Turkey Creek drainages?</p> <p>It is the opinion of the Bear Creek Watershed Association that these two control options have the best chance to positively impact the lake and be a more cost effective improvement to the reservoir water quality.</p> <p>David Lighthart<br/>General Manager<br/>Evergreen Metropolitan District<br/>West Jefferson County Metropolitan District<br/>Kittredge Sanitation &amp; Water District</p>   |
| 02/01/22   | Loeffel   | Heidi      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is beautiful and provides countless people with a convenient &amp; beautiful place to exercise, enjoy nature, and de-stress - which is particularly important given COVID. Please let us keep our park!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>  |
| 04/11/22   | Lofland   | Sarah      | <p>I oppose the reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir. The areas you are looking to expland will cause a loss of 615 acres. It is vital to save the wildlife and areas that provide sanctuary fo us and the animals.</p> <p>I am not very eloquent and I don't know all of the details of the project. But I do know it breaks my heart to see more and more of the world around me, and everything that was once cherished, being taken away. If we allow this to happen, what else will be taken from the people? What other trails will there be? How do we trust that we will be thought of next time another need for this arises?</p> <p>We did not ask for the increased population. We do not care to give our cherished land to people who haven't lived here for more than a year.</p> <p>Everyone's lives have changed the last 2 years, many people have lost many things. I hope and I pray you to rethink, and find it within your hearts to see: the people of Colorado can not sustain more loss. We can't accept every thing that helps "the greater good" when it really eats away at the fabric of our livelihood like a moth. I can not &amp; will not support this endeavor.</p> <p>However, if these words have not touched you or phased you in any way, I beg you to please consider this.</p> <p>The Bear Creek Dam was purposed for flood control. Increases to this Dam raises safety concerns for flooding to the Denver Metro Area. I would think that increased flood risk would result in potentially very expensive future projects, if said flood should occur, to restore damaged property and areas.</p> <p>In addition, it can result in a bathtub ring, ruining land value and rendering the deforested mud flats useless, for years.</p> <p>Further value will be lost, as there is great potential for park use, as residential units are developing in Solterra and Rooney Valley.</p> <p>There are also more effective and less risky alternatives to this 20,000 acre feet Reallocation, and I truly believe in win-wins. We can increase water storage by deepening the current pool and forebays, preserving the recreational value of the park. Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte can also be used to store water. Lastly, there is great potential for underground water storage and would be greatly appreciated bythe people of Colorado if considered and executed.</p> <p>The Bear Creek Lake Park Reservoir expansion is arguably considered with the best intentions, however the net impact it would have in our state would be negative. Quality of life, wildlife, and land value would all decrease if this is executed improperly. I believe we can respectfully find a solution that benefits everyone, and has the least amount of safety concerns and reparation risks as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my points and listening to the people of Colorado. We appreciate your dedication for doing what is best and I have full confidence that whatever is decided will be the best decision even if I have not mentioned other good points.</p> |

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| 3/25/2024  | Look      | Randall    | <p>I enjoy many activities in the park including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. walking my dog,</li><li>2. paddle-boarding</li><li>3. bicycle riding.</li></ol> <p>The reservoir expansion would negatively affect these activities.</p> <p>I am also concerned about dam safety. Our home in Morrison is actually at an elevation below the top of the dam. Reallocating (converting) Flood Control capacity to Water Storage raises concerns around increased flood risk.</p>   |
| 03/29/22   | Luberski  | Thomas     | <p>As a citizen of Lakewood, Colorado, and a frequent user of Bear Creek Lake Park, I oppose any reallocation of Bear Creek Reservoir. BCLP is a priceless park filled with wildlife, shady trails, and beautiful cottonwood groves. A rarity in the Denver front range.</p> <p>Furthermore, the research indicates that the annual inflow into the reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain the 22,000-acre foot pool intended. It is likely that during years when the pool is low, an ugly barren ring of deforested land will surround the reservoir.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises severe concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. For example, the current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and the construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is also under consideration. These alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on-site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 05/04/23   | Luberski  | Tom        | <p>Bear Creek Lake Park hosts nearly a million user visits yearly; my family are frequent visitors. The residential area around the park has experienced an influx of population. I am concerned about the loss of trails, wildlife habitat, and recreational land reallocated for water storage, which will degrade the quality of life in South West Jefferson County. I also have dam safety concerns for flood control and the lack of dependable inflows causing an ugly “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats.</p> <p>Please consider alternate water storage solutions such as deepening the lake, repurposing gravel pits, and promising aquifer storage and recovery.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration!</p>  |
| 6/15/2023  | Luberski  | Tom        | <p>Bear Creek Lake Park hosts nearly a million user visits yearly; my family are frequent visitors. The residential area around the park has experienced an influx of population. I am concerned about the loss of trails, wildlife habitat, and recreational land reallocated for water storage, which will degrade the quality of life in South West Jefferson County. I also have dam safety concerns for flood control and the lack of dependable inflows causing an ugly “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats.</p> <p>Please consider alternate water storage solutions such as deepening the lake, repurposing gravel pits, and promising aquifer storage and recovery.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration!</p>  |



| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment  |
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| 02/22/22   | Luif      | Sami       | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>For our family, we've enjoyed the park with our children when they were young and as they have grown. The park is perfect for all ages. Our girls have competed in the first ever mountain bike races at BCLP. When my father was alive, he hiked daily with his dogs at BCLP. My children and I have biked, hiked, trail run, paddled boarded, and did our first camping trip at BCLP. Pre-kids, I road biked weekly at this amazing place.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 02/07/22   | Lupatkin  | Linda      | <p>Please, BCLP is not only personally cherished in our family but the community and surrounding communities.</p> <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br/>Don't destroy the quality of life we currently enjoy in Lakewood!</p>  |
| 12/16/21   | Luttgen   | Patricia   | <p>I was very upset to read a Denver Post article about the US Army Corps of Engineers considering a massive enlargement of the lake in Bear Creek Lake Park, Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>I have been an annual pass holder of the Park for many years. The proposed expansion would eliminate the majority of the current Park available to bikers, horseback riders and pedestrians, of which I am one of all of those activities. Most, if not all, of the programs that the Park offers would probably have to be eliminated. It would push a large diversity of wildlife out. Where will they go? It will eliminate a wonderful area for people just wanting to relax and “get away” close to home to enjoy nature and wildlife, of which there is an abundance, for a short time.</p> <p>Haven’t the pressures of rapidly expanding development caused enough damage to wildlife habitat and human mental health? Hasn’t the COVID epidemic of the last two years proved how valuable outdoor places are to our mental health and well-being?</p> <p>Please, do not destroy Bear Creek Lake Park! Humans and wildlife need it!</p>  |
| 02/22/22   | MacLaren  | Bonnie     | <p>I am writing to you today to oppose the suggested expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir. The expansion will destroy priceless trails and wildlife habitat that cannot be replaced. As Colorado's population booms and development increases I understand that there is a need for more water. But for many of us, we did not move here to live in a concrete jungle. We moved here to be outdoors, to find solace and peace and joy walking and biking and running on trails just like these. To commune with nature and find a respite from our hectic daily lives. Our country suffers greatly, especially the last few years, with mental health issues and I believe one of the reasons is because we are separated more and more from nature. Hence why places like Bear Creek Lake Park are vital for our communities. They are few and far between nowadays and I believe as we destroy more of these habitats we are also destroying ourselves.</p> <p>I walk with my dogs at at Bear Creek Lake Park daily. We all love the this peaceful oasis so close to the hustle and bustle of the city. There are few places left in the metro area anymore where you can take a hike and actually be alone in nature, but here you can. So many of our beautiful trails are packed with people on cell phones and in loud groups, taking away what we seek when going into the woods. Bear Creek is unusual in its proximity to the city and is not just "another park" to the people who recreate there. Its trails and wildlife habitat are not replaceable.</p> <p>I have seen coyote pups frolicking in the early morning, a mother deer and her baby watching us from afar and numerous birds of prey including owls, hawks and eagles. I have often thought how blessed I am to have such a beautiful park so close to my house where I can still find what I came to Colorado for in the first place. If the proposed expansion takes place this wildlife will no longer have a place to call home.</p> <p>I know that "bleeding hearts" do not always get heard, that our love of wildlife and quiet nature is put aside for the pressing matters of the human world. But I hope that you will respectfully consider my voice and the voices of so many here in this community who ask you to work with those who want to preserve the park and together seek less impactful alternatives.</p> <p>I know there are alternative propositions to increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the impact on the park and I respectfully ask that you consider these.</p>               |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment   |
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| 08/30/22   | Maki      | Ellen      | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I frequently visit Bear Creek Lake Park. My family and I visit the park to hike, fish, picnic, and enjoy watching the wildlife that make Bear Creek Lake Park their home.</p> <p>I am a senior citizen and am unable to take long trips. Bear Creek Lake Park is a vacation destination for me to refresh my mind and spirit. It is a wonderful location for multi-generational visits and we often take out of town guests to Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>I am requesting that the Bear Creek Lake Study Team use alternative storage solutions such as:</p> <p>(1) Deepening/excavating the current forebays<br/>(2) Underground water storage - aquifer storage and recovery<br/>(3) Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte to create off-stream reservoir potential</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a very important part of life for Jefferson County, Colorado residents and out of state visitors with over 800,000 park visits.</p>   |
| 03/15/22   | Malenich  | John       | <p>I strongly oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (Park). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>   |
| 02/07/22   | Maloney   | Martha     | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.</p>  |
| 05/06/22   | Malsam    | Rachel     | <p>The Bear Creek Reservoir Reallocation Project has the potential to be a beneficial step towards shrinking the gap between the demand and supply of water in Colorado's front range, especially with the looming threat of climate change. However, I feel it is my responsibility and privilege as a citizen and future environmental scientist to draw attention to additional research that I think is needed to better analyze the possible negative environmental impacts associated with expanding storage by 20,000 acre-feet, as well as any potential positive impacts that may come from its execution.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is listed as a potential conservation area with recognized biodiversity by the Colorado National Heritage Program as it is home to twenty-two rare species. This area also mostly has a high landscape disturbance index while being and near the foothills where that index begins to drop. With this information it can be seen there is currently potential to improve the conditions for wildlife in Bear Creek Lake Park instead of furthering its degradation.</p> <p>The Bear Creek Reservoir Reallocation Study and EIS (BCRRS &amp; EIS) only mentions insects when speaking of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) candidate, the Monarch Butterfly. However, there are five other species of insects (the Arogos Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Moss's Elfin, Mottled Dusky Wing, and the Hops Feeding Azure) listed as Tier 2 species in the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) that are likely present in the proposed project area. There are also three endemic insect species (Apantesis Bowmani, the Hops Feeding Azure, and Doa Ampla) in the project area that are not mentioned in the BCRRS &amp; EIS.</p> <p>Bald Eagles were mentioned because of the ESA, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but particularly the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. However, no distinct impacts are stated, so the possible impacts to Bald Eagle winter foraging from the expansion of Bear Creek Lake should be analyzed to ensure compliance with this legislation. Of the other ten bird species mentioned in the BCRRS &amp; EIS, the potential impacts are not accounted for, although the activity of these species is provided. According to this data there is no time of the year to alter the park in preparation for reservoir filling. Five of the total bird species were also listed in the SWAP, so possible impacts to these species should be further analyzed. Aside from these considerations of migratory or threatened bird species, there is no consideration of the many species of reptiles that may be impacted by the undertaking of this project.</p> <p>The mammals the BCRRS &amp; EIS mentions are the Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, and Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, but not the Tier 2 listed species the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog, or the Tier 1 species Townsend's Big-eared Bat, whose ranges overlap with the project area. In addition to Townsend's Big-eared Bat, there are ten other bat species whose range include the project area that are not considered in the BCRRS &amp; EIS. There are other mammals that were also not considered such as Elk and the resident Mule Deer. The current use of the park by Elk may be further limited, and the resident population of Mule Deer in the project area will likely experience permanent negative impacts by increased water levels. These impacts should also be considered before the implementation of this reallocation project.</p> <p>Thank you for taking time from your day to read this comment. Please consider the conservation impacts of the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project while development continues.</p> |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment   |
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| 2/20/2024  | Mar       | Connie     | <p>Creek Lake Park and the resulting detriments to our health - physical, mental, and emotional, as a result of the unnecessary expansion of the lake.</p> <p>Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (reservoir expansion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of land area by over 500 acres</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:</li><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in the Rooney Valley</li></ul> <p>Low Dependable Yield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unallocated inflow from Bear Creek is not sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool in the Reservoir.</li><li>• Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21).</li><li>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values.</li></ul> <p>Dam Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reallocating (converting) Flood Control capacity to Water Storage raises concerns around increased flood risk.</li><li>• The Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li></ul> <p>[cont. below]</p> |
| 2/20/2024  | Mar       | Connie     | <p>[cont. from above]</p> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool could increase storage with fewer park impacts and lower evaporative losses. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of environmental and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or ASR) is increasingly promising in Colorado. Save Bear Creek Lake Park supports increased emphasis on developing ASR across the state as a less impactful, less evaporative means of water storage.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. This capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</li></ul> <p>Thank you for your time. We sincerely hope that you will reconsider the expansion of Bear Creek Lake. We need to preserve our parklands for humans, birds, and wildlife. Especially considering all the developments occuring in the nearby Rooney Valley! Birds and wildlife are already being displaced by the massive housing developments in Rooney Valley, and it would be a travesty to lose more land unnecessarily in Bear Creek Lake Park.</p>   |
| 12/07/21   | Markle    | Don        | <p>Dropping you a brief note to voice my opposition to the expansion of Bear Creek Park I understand that we need more water on the Front Range and elsewhere in Colorado</p> <p>I spend a lot of time in Bear Creek Park as it is very close to my home. With the growth in the Denver metro area we really do not have much in the way of open space and the space we have is already becoming overcrowded. Bear Creek is a nice place to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, it's got a little bit of everything and to see the park become smaller would be a shame, the trails along the creek are nice and I would hope you would consider other ways to increase water or save water in general. I was opposed when they built the golf course there many years ago. How much water do we use on the golf courses? What if we turned all golf courses into xeriscape courses? Point being I think we need to look at conservation before expansion.</p> <p>I am sure that finding new locations for water storage is a big challenge but I would encourage the Army Corps of Engineers to utilize other locations rather than flooding existing parks. Thanks for your time and consideration.</p>  |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name       | First Name | Comment   |
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| 02/01/22   | Martel          | Janet      | <p>I am writing regarding plans to expand Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, CO. I moved to lakewood from Denver in 1999 specifically to be closer to this wonderful park. I estimate since moving to Lakewood I visit the park an average of 3 time per week all year long. I use it for mountain biking, swimming and SUP {stand-up paddleboarding} in warmer months. Winter I snowshoe, walk my dog &amp; hike. I have served as a Volunteer Bike Patroller for the park for 5 years now and will continue. When visitors come from out of state, BCLP is the first place we got to get them acclimated to elevation and climate.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the pandemic, BCLP has become an even more treasured resource. I would have gone a little crazy without the fresh air and exercise afforded me by the park. My in-laws camp at BCLP when they visit from Minnesota.</p> <p>I have also participated in annual trail maintenance and the planting events. I am part of a retired folks mtn-bike group that meets at the park once a week for rides &amp; a beer. We are all between 60-80 years old. I am not just concerned about loss of recreation use. I fear a large reservoir that will not be consistently filled. A smelly mud flat or dry dustyr hollow could frequently be all we see in frequently common low snow years.</p> <p>Please reconsider how important this park is to our community. There is nothin else like this in the area. I live 15 mins away on bike path, 8 minutes by car.</p>  |
| 4/10/2025  | Martinez Dalton | Rubecca    | <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir, which would flood over 500 acres of public parkland in Bear Creek Lake Park. As a long-time local resident and frequent user of this park, I am deeply concerned about the ecological, recreational, and community impacts of this proposal.</p> <p>First and foremost, the riparian forest within Bear Creek Lake Park is one of the few remaining of its kind in the region and it should be protected. It is a vital habitat for countless bird species, mammals, and native plants. To flood this unique ecosystem would be to permanently destroy an irreplaceable natural resource. Wildlife displacement would have far-reaching consequences, not only for the ecosystem but for nearby neighborhoods. Removing such a large habitat would displace coyotes, bobcats, deer, tons of birds, elk and even the occasional black bear, moose and mountain lion that currently range through Bear Creek Lake Park. It is also important to remember that the original purpose of the Bear Creek dam was flood control, not water storage. Changing its purpose now, especially in a developed area with residential neighborhoods nearby, raises serious concerns about potential flood risk and property safety as well as the cost and time frame for such a large scale project. I am particularly concerned about the state of the park and the land that would be impacted by fluctuating reservoir levels. Instead of usable habit or trail space, fluctuating water levels would just cause dead mud flats.</p> <p>We’re being told this expansion is about preparing for population growth and ensuring water supply. At the same time, there are brand new, million-dollar homes that just went up across the street from BCLP. With grass. That gets watered. It’s hard not to feel like there’s a double standard happening here. Residents and BCLP enthusiasts are being asked to sacrifice our green space and natural resources, while new developments don’t seem to be held to the same water-use expectations. This inconsistency undermines the credibility of the justification for the expansion and shifts the burden of growth onto public land and natural ecosystems.</p> <p>As a fifth generation Coloradan who grew up running and hiking the Front Range, Bear Creek is one of my favorites. As most local outdoor enthusiasts will tell you, the barrier of entry to hiking, trail running and mountain biking in Colorado is pretty high. Elevation and technicality necessitate a pretty high skill and fitness level at even the "easiest" trails. With its primarily flat trails and low technicality, BCLP is one of the most accessible outdoor recreation areas in the Front Range. While other nearby trails like Green Mountain and Apex are very busy, they require a higher skill level and better mobility to access. BCLP is the only trail system in the immediate region that I see being used regularly by seniors, families, individuals with limited mobility, and new outdoor enthusiasts. My son and I both learned how to mountain bike at BCLP because the trails offer a lower barrier to entry than neighboring, more technical systems. I personally use the park 4–5 days a week, year-round, for running, hiking, biking, paddle boarding, and just spending time with my family. It is one of the few quiet gems in our city.</p> <p>Losing 500 precious acres of this space would be a devastating blow to the BCLP ecosystem and our community’s physical and mental well-being.</p> <p>I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to explore alternatives that do not involve sacrificing BCLP parkland, wildlife habitat, and vital recreational infrastructure.</p> <p>Please reconsider this proposal and protect Bear Creek Lake Park for future generations.</p> |



| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment  |
|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| 05/24/22   | Mathies   | Haley      | <p>I am a Colorado native, born and raised in Jefferson County. I now own my first home as of last year in Lakewood. I live three minutes from the BCLP and use this resource daily for hiking, biking, camping, and other recreational purposes. I buy a pass every year to use and volunteer on projects to support the Bear Creek Lake Park. Expanding the reservoir would be nothing short of devastating.</p> <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 10/16/21   | McCormick | Gil        | <p>I was told by Erik Skeie, Special Projects Coordinator Interstate, Federal &amp; Water Information Section to contact you with public comment in regards to reallocation of additional water capacity in Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Although I understand the benefits, having lived next to the park for 30 years I find it to be an important urban recreation facility. BCLP is surrounded by residents who frequent the park and it’s one of only a few urban open spaces with trees and trails in suburban area. Additional flooding would eliminate the facility’s amenities cherished.</p> <p>Chatfield Reservoir was just expanded and we are wondering if there are other more rural or other opportunities to achieve the same goals?</p> <p>Would there be another reservoir like Riverside or the like in an area with capacity to expand and not such a massive impact as this concept will have on a community?</p> <p>The other concept that was missed at Chatfield is to consider funding for installing new trails as part of the expansion.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | McFarlane | Terry      | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br/>This is the best park in the area. The City of Lakewood takes much beter care of it than the State of CO takes care of Cherry Creek and Chatfield State Parks. Why destroy this for h ... well never mind.</p>   |
| 06/15/22   | McGrath   | Rebecca    | <p>I've been resident of Bear Valley for the last seven years, and my grandparents before me were original owners of a home in the neighborhood for 50 years. My sister lives .4 miles from us and our parents are another .5 miles down the road. It would be an understatement to say that the Bear Valley area and Bear Creek Lake Park are incredibly near and dear to my heart.</p> <p>I know that you know all the arguments against expanding the reservoir:<br/>*the actual amount of water available is questionable<br/>*in low-water years, hundreds of acres of mud flats would remain<br/>*irreplacable riparian habitat would be permanently destroyed<br/>*there are more effective alternatives to stabilizing, managing, and increasing Denver's water supply</p> <p>What I suspect your study doesn't do is weigh the intangibles that aren't apparent to most people whizzing by this gem of an open space in the metro area: [PHOTOS]</p> <p>It's a rare month when I don't have photos of my boys and their cousins exploring every inch of the park.</p> <p>If we ruin it, we won't get it back in my lifetime or theirs. I hope you'll make the right decision to Save Bear Creek Lake Park.</p>  |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name       | Comment  |
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| 04/05/22   | Meillon   | Laurent          | <p>I am a long-time Lakewood resident, deeply involved in sustainability and renewable energy, and have been a supporter of Governor Polis since his primaries. I have fond memories with my family at Bear Creek Park, a bowl of fresh air in the urban area. For all the reasons Marie invokes, I would like to second her request to seek something else for increased reservoir storage. This project seems at odds with both our Governor's and our town's efforts to increase parks and protected natural lands.</p> <p>"A human being is part of the whole called by us 'universe', a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest. A kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." Albert Einstein, 1954</p>   |
| 10/15/21   | Merrick   | Roger and Laurie | <p>We have been residents of the Green Mountain area in Lakewood since 1997. Many times, we have requested the park consider adding an off leash dog park to the property and while there is plenty of space, we have always been told no because of the “critical wildlife habitat for migratory birds”. We love the trails and the park and have annual passes there on both cars to take our dog down there for hikes.</p> <p>To flood it for water storage to water more lawns in a semi-arid environment is the wrong choice. The government’s money would be better spent offering stipends to homeowners to xeriscape yards, and pass new zoning measures to require it for new construction. We have one house we walk past daily on our dog walks who has used xeriscape with astroturf in the front yard to give the appearance of grass and break up the xeriscape and it’s beautiful. We’ve taken out grass at our house many times with upgrades over the nearly 25 years we have lived here - building raised beds with a drip system for vegetables, removing grass to put in a shed and RV parking area, removing more grass and xeriscaping on the west side after the addition to the house, and expanding the deck and adding a concrete patio out back. We still have some grass in the front and a small strip in the back for the dog, but less than 40% of what we started with and our water bills are still too high.</p> <p>We as a community are not meant to have green watered lawns, but we should have great recreational areas close by to reduce vehicle trip miles for recreation. We ride from our house to both Bear Creek and Green Mtn to mtn bike, so zero emissions there. Those trails are some of the only tree shaded trails to ride/hike/run in the heat of summer here.</p> <p>We oppose any project that would flood the park and remove the trails around the lake. Please protect them and the migratory bird habitat instead of building up more storage to water lawns. The west has too many water issues to deal with and we as a society need to move away from having a green oasis on our properties in this semi-arid environment. [duplicate received 10/18/21]</p>   |
| 10/31/21   | Meyer     | Laura            | <p>1. In general, the information presented at the public event could have been more clear and public-friendly. If you have to use the term "reallocation" in the project name, be very clear about what that means. It does not communicate an expansion to the average person. Also, please define technical terms for public events and outreach. For example, most people do not know what "reservoir hypolimnetic volume" means. Using terms like this in a public event without explaining what they mean prevents meaningful public input and involvement.</p> <p>2. Please clarify the process you are undertaking. What type of a study is this? At what points in the process with the public be presented with information for review and comment? Are you currently studying the feasibility of reallocation as a precursor to a NEPA study? Do you intend to use planning products from the current study in a future NEPA study? If so, please explain your intent.</p> <p>3. When will a purpose and need statement be provided for review and comment? The purpose and need slide provided is not a purpose and need statement. It's not clear exactly what the agency is trying to achieve. The agency should provide the public with a clear purpose and need statement, explain how the purpose and need will be used in NEPA, and solicit public input on the purpose and need before moving forward with development of alternatives.</p> <p>4. You are requesting public input on the benefits and impacts of reallocation. What benefits and impacts are you referring to? I do not see that you have yet disclosed this information, except for very general considerations on slide 15. Also, why are you seeking input on impacts when you have not even vetted a purpose and need statement with the public? Or maybe this occurred previously? If so, where can the public review feedback provided on an initial purpose and need statement?</p> <p>5. Some meeting attendees voiced concerns about large fluctuations in the water level of the lake if the reallocation project were to proceed. I'm not sure if this is a reality of the proposal you are pursuing. If so, it certainly was not evident from your presentation. This is important information to disclose as you develop and study alternatives. People need to understand the conditions that would exist at different times of the year, or year to year in this water level fluctuation zone and what indirect impacts may be associated with those conditions.</p> <p>6. Can you provide kmz files of the inundation areas for the three scenarios presented on slide 19 or publish a publicly-available AGOL map interface with this information? Providing resource layers (wetlands, trails, etc.) would also be helpful so the public can view this information overlaid with the inundation areas. This would make it much easier to understand the resource impacts of each scenario.</p> <p>7. My biggest concerns about the outcome of this are 1) reduction in quality and mileage of trails, 2) reduced connectivity of the overall trail system that could limit trail access from informal entry points to the park, 3) potential use of power boats at this facility, and 4) large fluctuations in water level that would impact the visual aesthetics of the park.</p> |

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| 03/12/22   | Meyer     | Dave       | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 6/19/2024  | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>As I was running along a path on Green Mountain, I thought, if Bear Creek Lake Park got flooded, that would put a huge strain on the other parks on the Front Range Area, Hwy 285 and Hwy 70. Already I have seen a HUGE influx of people in both parks over just the past year. I am sure that is in part to all the new homes on C470 and 285, and the new project of homes which has started by the exit of Quincy and C470. The days of peaceful runs at either park is no longer.</p> <p>I know you have been "flooded" with letters on "how much we love the park", but I think we need to look at it at another angle. Less land for ANIMALS and people. Risking animals lives trying to find new places to live. (crossing highways).</p> <p>I will end this letter by saying. I have been a resident in the area for many years and would be SO SAD if the park diminished in size. I have seen the floods come and go, but there has never been a time that You (USACE) have not been able to control and retain the water that is needed. Do we really have to give water to people who don't even live in our area???</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>   |
| 6/24/2024  | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>I was running in THE PARK two days ago rather early and came across a very old mossy turtle crossing my path. As it looked very much like a rock and it was right in the middle in what be very soon, a mtn bike track. I was able to flag down a very nice park worker who kindly picked him up and we deposited him next to one of the beautiful shady ponds. It was going to be 90 that day.</p> <p>After getting home I remembered reading a book by Edward Abbey, Hayduke Lives. Edward Abbey was an American author and essayist noted for his advocacy for environmental issues.</p> <p>Please read the first chapter, The Buriel. It is very much like what will happen to the turtles and other small creatures that live in our beautiful Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Love to hear your comments or thoughts of this first chapter.</p> <p>Kindest regards<br/>Barbara Mickelson<br/>Thomas Kopler</p> <p>Please insert this link go down to first chapter 1 Buriel. Amazing read.</p> <p><a href="https://books.google.com/books/about/Hayduke_Lives.html?id=FblqAAAAQBAJ&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;source=kp_read_button&amp;hl=en&amp;newbks=1&amp;newbks_redir=0&amp;gboemv=1#v=onepage&amp;q&amp;f=false">https://books.google.com/books/about/Hayduke_Lives.html?id=FblqAAAAQBAJ&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;source=kp_read_button&amp;hl=en&amp;newbks=1&amp;newbks_redir=0&amp;gboemv=1#v=onepage&amp;q&amp;f=false</a></p>  |

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| 7/7/2024   | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>PARK CLOSED - FULL TO CAPACITY</p> <p>This is the sign we have been seeing consistently at the main entrance to the park this summer and past summers. As we mentioned in our previous email, new housing has been going up exponentially. On our recent bike ride we noticed that Toll Brothers is putting in another huge development at C470 and Wadsworth, north side (approximate location). That means more people and the need for more space for people to recreate.</p> <p>If you go ahead with your plan of enlarging the water area it will take away much needed close in hiking and biking trails. It will make parks like Green Mountain very overcrowded (which it is becoming now). Our wonderful Bear Creek Lake Park helps with over crowding other parks in the area.</p> <p>We would really appreciate it, if you would consider your expansion.</p> <p>kindest regards,<br/>long time residents who lives about 1/2 mile from the park</p>   |
| 9/8/2024   | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>What a sad day it will be when the bulldozers roll into Bear Creek Lake State Park to make room for more water for some far away place. Water which will just evaporate before it is even used, as it has done for years.</p> <p>During my early morning run this weekend (I don't usually use the park on the weekends because it is very busy) the park was buzzing with activity. There was a running race on, people mountain biking and people just lazing around enjoying the quietness of the day. The fishermen already had their lines out much earlier, hoping for that big fish.</p> <p>I am not sure you have even visited the park and the surrounding neighborhoods. As I have mentioned in my previous emails, the pressure on the other parks in the area if Bear Creek Lake State Park is diminished in size due to enlarging the water source, will be shattering. There is a new development which has just emerged RIGHT OUTSIDE the park entrance, with numerous homes, plus more going up. Green Mountain Park, about a mile away, is already full to uncomfortable capacity of mountain bikers, runners and walkers; I can't image if BCLSP downsized how all the parks in the area will be effected.</p> <p>One of my main concerns is, when they start renovating the park to make way for more water to be stored, where will the wildlife go?</p> <p>You are way..... far away from this park, but I bet if it was happening to one of your parks where you recreated you would be concerned.</p> <p>Take another good look at what you will be destroying and whether it is really worth it.</p> |
| 10/22/2024 | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>Thanks to three good people the Park is home to a new owls nest. With the help of Brittany and Eric of Bear Creek Lake Park, Tom Kopler was able to get his "home made" owls nest up. The location is perfect. Stellar views and acres of grass and trees make the location a perfect hide away and hunting grounds. Eric strapped it in good!! It should withstand many very windy days. Thanks again to everyone that made this happen. We are hoping for owletts this spring or in the coming years. (Photos provided)</p>  |
| 1/9/2025   | Mickelson | Barbara    | <p>As winter rolls in, the days getting shorter and colder our Park is still busy with people recreating.</p> <p>The trails are covered with snow but that hasn't stopped the die hard runners and walkers. The prairie dogs greet them all as do the eagles and the flocks of migrating ducks.</p> <p>The hearty fisherman are still casting their lines in the slowing Turkey Creek with results.</p> <p>The shore line has been subsiding with the sand showing the tide marks as it goes down.</p> <p>If you decide to make the current lake bigger it will only be a mud flat most of the time.</p> <p>For the many many years I have frequented the Park there has been only a handful of times I have seen it full. Full, meaning the water is to the edges which have been created by the grass line.</p> <p>There just isn't enough water coming down the mountains via Turkey Creek or Bear Creek and the few other water sources, to fill it to the capacity you propose. The big issue is, if you did, it would quickly evaporate before you could disperse it.</p> <p>Think again of the small and large animals and insects you will kill making it.</p> <p>Old Mr. Turtle will be buried alive!!!</p> <p>The winter here at Bear Creek Lake is still and serene. The animals thriving as they have always.</p> <p>Making this lake bigger is taking precious recreational land away. Jefferson county is being built up and already the near by parks are overcrowded.</p> <p>If it was in your neighborhood you wouldn't want this to happen.</p> <p>Help us SAVE BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK.</p>                     |



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| 11/11/2024 | Mickelson | Barbara    | Please see the attached pictures of our beautiful Park [undisturbed].<br>This fall many of the Park "visitors" have been delighted by the sight of several beautiful bucks roaming the Park.<br>The lakes this fall have been "down" due to our normal dry summer and fall. If they decide to proceed with the lakes expansion, most of the time it will be a mud flat!! There is not enough water from Bear Creek, Turkey Creek and precipitation to keep it even partially full.<br>Since 1860 there have been 24 instances of known floods. This obviously shows that there is not a substantial amount of water coming into the Park on a continuous basis to sustain a large body of water for storage.<br>Please save our park and the precious animals and insects that make it their home.<br>If it was your Park I am sure you would want the same. (Photos provided)   |
| 3/10/2025  | Mickelson | Barbara    | Hello<br>Spring is on its way to our beautiful Park.<br>I noticed a new bench in memory of a loved one. If you flood our park as planned what will happen to all the comfortable bench placed in such beautiful spots to enjoy nature.<br>The lake is peaceful during the week recovering from the many people who descended on it this past weekend.<br>If it was your Park you wouldn't want it flooded.<br>Please save it for the animals and birds atleast.  |
| 5/1/2025   | Mickelson | Barbara    | See attached.<br>Yet another beautiful creature that would loose his home if you increased the capacity of the lake.<br>PLEASE save our park and all the creatures that live there, large or small.  |
| 08/09/25   | Mickelson | Barbara    | Good morning<br><br>From the attached picture of the lake it is VERY LOW. Hot days huge evaporation<br><br>Not much water to spare to anyone.<br><br>It is a Saturday and it is very busy with runners, bikers:, boaters and fishermen<br><br>Please dont take our park away.<br><br>Barbara Mickelson<br>Tom Kopler<br><br>So please reconsider taking g our beautiful Park away from us  |
| 10/2/2025  | Mickelson | Barbara    | As the summer draws to an end and the leaves start turning brilliant colors in our lovely park, I feel sad.<br>The other morning on an early morning run I was delighted to see our magnificent stately bird, the eagle, perched high in a tree; I am sure waiting for an unsuspecting prairie dog.<br>So many birds and small animals will loose their homes if you move forward with your plans.<br>I guess you probably dont care because it isn't your Park in your neighborhood. IF it was a park in your neighborhood where you frequented yourself or with your family I'm sure you would feel strongly about any drastic changes.<br>Please think about how this will effect some many people.   |
| 10/3/2025  | Mickelson | Barbara    | OR should we call it SAVE BEAR CREEK POND.<br>That is what it looks like now and on many occasions.<br>How can we supply water to Brighton, 36 miles away when we cannot keep the lakes at Bear Creek Park full.<br>Even Harriman Lake who gets water from Bear Creek and Soda lakes is diminished to a small pond infested with an invasive water plant. So sad.<br>I have lived and recreated in Bear Creek and Harriman lake for over 35 years. Only have I seen a hand full of times that these lakes are at their fullest. Most of the time they are struggling to keep what water comes and is not used, from evaporating.<br>This would be a great time for your engineers to visit and see how low the water levels are. If we supplied Brighton, on top of the golf courses they already supply, there truly would be no ponds just mudflats. Come visit now and see for yourselves. Sitting in a big office far away and making decisions that dont effect your family, is wrong.<br>Taking this Park away only puts more strain on the other small parks in the area. They are building homes all around the park now impacting it with 100's more people.<br>Please save our park. |

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| 02/15/22   | Miller    | Holley         | <p>I live in the town of Morrison, 2 miles from Bear Creek Lake Park. Since we moved to Morrison in 2018, my family (husband and 2 teenage boys) have used the park trails at least once per week in every season to bike, run and hike.(these visits are uncounted since we walk or bike into the park) We maintain an annual pass to use when we bring stand up paddleboards to the lakes. We have taken evening walks as a family to check out an owl’s nest, observed a blue heron (who during warmer weather flies by our house daily in his river spot and have attended cleanup events and educational Ranger walks in the riparian zone. This riparian areas along Bear Creek and the reservoir are unique because you do not see traffic or buildings from the paths, so it is a rare getaway for humans and place to wildlife to thrive.</p> <p>I would like to see some alternate plans to increase water capacity which would minimize the impact on this unique and accessible wildlife habitat within Bear Creek Lake Park. Excavating to enlarge the current pool is a great idea to minimize water evaporation and leave the core of the Park’s wildlife areas intact. Perhaps this water storage goal can be shared with grassland areas near Rocky Mountain Arsenal that are susceptible to wildfires so creating a reservoir would serve a dual purpose. I urge you to please think creatively to arrive at a compromise so that the haven for both people and wildlife can be preserved to be explored and enjoyed by current and future generations.</p>  |
| 02/17/22   | Miller    | Christopher    | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 02/23/22   | Miller    | Aidan          | <p>I'm a software engineer with Mesa Laboratories, based out of Lakewood CO.</p> <p>I'm writing today to express my opposition to any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir, should it impact Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). As a resident of the area, I cannot express enough how vital it is that the local wildlife has sufficient area within which to eat, sleep, and thrive. I raise chickens, you see, and it's been almost 2 years since I lost 9 of my birds to racoons. Thankfully, tragedies such as this are a rarity, but will only become more common if wildlife habitat is lost to actions such as reallocating the reservoir at the expense of BCLP.</p> <p>In addition to negatively impacting the wildlife, I know that many people (including myself) would be devastated to lose even a single square foot of beautiful parkland. Living in Colorado, we're blessed to have an abundance of natural vistas and parks - however, living in the city, it can be hard to enjoy much of the aforementioned beauty without driving upwards of an hour or more - both ways. This partially explains why BCLP is so well-trafficked and appreciated: more than 650,000 visitors enjoyed the park in 2020. And that's just the recorded number, not including the many, many locals who walk or ride into the park on a regular basis.</p> <p>In short - please consider alternative solutions, such as deepening the existing pool or constructing a secondary pool along the south embankment. These measures would be greatly appreciated in lieu of the currently proposed solution.</p> <p>I'm sure you receive many communications regarding this contentious topic. I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read and understand my concerns, which I believe reflect the sentiments of many others as well.</p>   |
| 04/07/22   | Miller    | Bill and Karen | <p>As local residents in Lakewood, my wife and I make frequent trips to Bear Creek Lake park in order to walk, bike, and birdwatch along the trails and creek. It has been a source of great joy to have such a unique resource so close to our home. Consequently, we are strongly opposed to any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir as it would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). We are informed that a 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by an estimated 615 acres. This would undoubtedly destroy what are the most important and sensitive acres in the Park! This acreage would include the trails adjacent to the creek amidst the cottonwood groves. An area that serves as habitat for much of the Park's wildlife. We are informed that even a more scaled back plan that limits the expansion of the reservoir to 10,000 acre feet, would still inundate several hundreds of acres! Even this "scaled back" expansion would destroy nearly a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. This Park is a rare and priceless resource, as evidenced in the number of annual park visitors each year (650,000 people in 2020).</p> <p>Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The proposed expansion of the reservoir also seems to be an inadequate and inappropriate solution. We are advised that the average annual inflow into the Reservoir will in fact fall short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. Any recommended expansion should be supported by reasonable engineering analysis and dependable yield calculations. The original authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam was flood control. We also are concerned about how the proposed five-tenfold increase in water volume behind the dam impacts the potential for flood risks to the Denver Metro area. We urge you to listen to our concerns and to thoughtfully consider less impactful alternatives. We have heard that the current pool might be deepened to increase its volume. We've also been informed that there is a potential to construct a secondary pool along the South Embankment. Both of these alternatives would appear to allow for an increase in the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park. Finally, a comment on the rampant development that is at the root of these issues. We strongly recommend that steps are taken to impose restrictions on developers in order to 1) ensure that adequate steps are included in the planning of these new communities to minimize water waste and consumption, 2) adequately capture the cost of these communities on the infrastructure and resources that they seek to leverage. While this is not the prevue of your agency, it would be of tremendous value if the Corp would lend its voice to the discussion of the consumption issue as part of the solution for our water resource problem.</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Mindala   | Thomas         | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |

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| 06/13/22   | Mindala   | Thomas     | I'm writing this letter at the behest of the Seven Springs Registered Neighborhood Organization (we represent 120 residential households), a southwestern suburban Denver Colorado community located along Bear Creek five miles downstream from the Bear Creek dam in Jefferson County, where your proposed massive expansion of Bear Creek Lake from its current 2200 acre feet capacity to one that can hold 22,000 acre feet, changing its status from being a flood control facility to one that becomes a storage facility for residential and commercial users downstream. We understand as Coloradans that we exist at a time of increased water requirements, and realize that new sources must be found across our state. We, however, feel the current proposed plan for Bear Creek Lake is a terrible and dysfunctional idea on a number of levels. First of all, existing records and documents will show statistically that the 2 streams that feed into Bear Creek Lake rarely possess near the annual stream flow to support such an expansion as proposed (we shouldn't be fooled by some listed statistics that would mistakenly indicate there is as much as a 30,000 acre feet annually on average, when the reality of those figures are skewed by only a few massive outlier years taking place over a 40+ year period, where a closer look at those same statistics would show that annual stream flow from the Mount Evans Watershed is actually decreasing significantly from year to year in recent decades). And, any who know and are familiar with the lake in question and the park that surrounds it realize that as things stand now there exists most years with few exceptions huge exposed mud flats that are ugly, unusable, and havens for mosquitoes to the surrounding area because the normal annual stream flow from Bear and Turkey Creeks rarely fill the existing lake bed. Given that already shortfall of stream flow, any expansion of the lakebed will only drastically increase the already existing mudflows, where they will become even worse as more development above the dam in both the towns of Morrison and Evergreen continues to take place. Government statistics would also indicate that much of the promised increase in available water capacity behind the dam would be lost to severe evaporation in our arid climate due to the shallowness of the expansion. So, th.ose things considered, what you have then instead is a wildland park with a host of valuable lowland habitat for birds and wildlife, as well as one of our region's best and most used outdoor venues (as many as a million people visit the park annually) for hiking, biking, picnicking, camping, wildlife watching that will be literally destroyed, given that your proposed plan would destroy 80% of all the lowland hiking trails, trees, habitat, horse stables, picnic areas, roads, even historical ruins that now exist without creating the promised "sourced" water levels except during rare exceptional years if this plan goes forward. Our specific concem in our small community that does in fact exist 5 miles downstream from Bear Creek dam is actually two-fold, (1) if the massive lake expansion that you propose diverts and holds as promised a vastly increased amount of the "finite" water flow available in Bear Creek itself so you can create th.e stored water source being committed to and sold to communities and developments downstream, or (2) if we were to experience a drastically atypical or unseasonable torrential rain that would add an immediate sudden unsustainable volume capacity behind the dam (possibly in the middle of spring snow run-off season from Mount Evans to the west that already creates a large increase in stream flow and some flooding, a time when . . Colorado gets the majority of its rainfall each year). The first would literally ruin the stream flow of Bear Creek, a major source of nearby recreation for our community and others as it makes its way to the confluence of the South Platte River, and turn it into just another ugly mosquito haven of little use for anything else except during those times when stored water is released to those developer and commercial entity customers downstream. The second possibility would be even more worrisome to our community that exists in a 100-year flood plain along the creek as things exist now. In this case, our concern about your plan is that there is no apparent plan to strengthen a 45-year-old earthen dam for the increased water capacity to be stored behind it, which could become a great risk to our homes if we were to have that sudden drastically atypical rain shower upstream (I would refer you to what happened in Lyons Colorado in 2015 when a massive rain upstream literally nearly wiped out the town). This could not only be a potential risk for devastating flooding if this were to happen, but just as worrisome would be our insurance rates that could quite possibly be increased if this plan moves forward. As representatives of our community, myself and my fellow Board of Directors, strongly oppose this proposed massive expansion of Bear Creek Lake as it currently exists, and think there are other far more workable alternatives to be considered, such as deepening the current lakebed instead of drastically expanding the footprint to create more water storage capacity - although given the already mentioned statistical records of limited annual streamflow out of Bear and Turkey creeks I doubt even that plan would be all that realistic or helpful to our state's increasing water needs. Frankly, there's too much to be lost (one of the best outdoor recreational parks in Northeast Colorado and the Denver metropolitan area), and far too much risk involved to move forward with this plan as it stands. |
| 9/28/2023  | Misiak    | Sue        | I am writing to express my support for Bear Creek Lake Park, and AGAINST the expansion of the current reservoir. I’m not an engineer who might explain why it would be necessary to destroy and flood a big chunk of this beautiful, natural area. I am only a citizen who has been there many times hiking, observing the birds and animals, and enjoying the natural woods, wetlands, and streams.<br><br>This park is a jewel, and I am sure that many would mourn the destruction of a large section of it. As Colorado becomes more and more populated, as the many beautiful natural areas start to disappear, it’s important for us to preserve this space for the use of citizens, as well as flora and fauna.   |
| 10/20/21   | Moore     | Betty      | Save our bear creek park. Do not flood our beautiful park. We use it everyday. Our families and children need it. Over development is killing our recreation areas.  |
| 02/07/22   | Moore     | Shauna     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).  |
| 02/07/22   | Moore     | Betty      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.  |
| 05/10/22   | Morse     | Kelley     | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 03/31/22   | Muir      | Cecelia    | I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres which are the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove and is habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource to people and wildlife. An estimated 800,000 people visited the park in 2020 and those numbers are increasing every year. This does not include the thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis who are not formally counted. The Denver metro area is growing exponentially, and this is an oasis in an already densely populated area. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested mud flats could surround the Reservoir which would significantly diminish wildlife and recreational values. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.<br><br>I urge you to support less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary poof along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.  |

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| 06/15/22   | Murphy    | Taylor     | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>  |
| 11/22/2024 | Murry     | Charla     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (reservoir expansion)</li><li>• Reduction of land area by over 500 acres</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:</li><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in the Rooney Valley.</li></ul> <p>We must lead with conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado's water use by sector:</li><li>• Agriculture: 90% (of Colorado's water use)</li><li>• Municipal: 7%</li><li>• Industrial: 3%</li><li>• Innovations and efficiencies in agriculture offer tremendous opportunity to conserve water while maintaining crop yields. Water Education Colorado's summer 2022 edition of Headwaters Magazine focused on the promise of conservation in the Agricultural Sector. The lead article, Farms of the Future, describes efficiencies of improved irrigation infrastructure and methods. The article describes the benefits of regenerative agriculture, citing a 2020 study which found that corn fields of eastern Colorado can require 10% less irrigation water depending on tillage and soils management practices. A mere 4% percent reduction in Colorado's agricultural water use is equivalent to a 50% reduction in state-wide municipal use.</li></ul> <p>Lack of Dependable Inflow from Bear Creek (low dependable yield)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unconstrained inflow from Bear Creek is not sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool in the Reservoir.</li><li>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive "bathtub ring" of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values. (cont. below)</li></ul> |



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| 11/22/2024 | Murry     | Charla          | <p>(cont. from above)</p> <p>Dam Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reallocating (converting) Flood Control capacity to Water Storage raises concerns around increased flood risk.</li><li>• The Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li></ul> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool could increase storage with fewer park impacts and lower evaporative losses. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of environmental and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or ASR) is increasingly promising in Colorado. Save Bear Creek Lake Park supports increased emphasis on developing ASR across the state as a less impactful, less evaporative means of water storage.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. This capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</li></ul> |
| 04/14/22   | Nabors    | Barbara         | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Park project. My comments are attached. I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park ("Park"). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres and affects the most sensitive acres in the Park. I have lived near the Park for more than 40 years. I enjoy hiking, biking and birding in the Park. I have painted scenes from photographs taken in the Park and used the reservoir for swimming. And I'm just one of the more than 650,000 people who visited the Park in 2020. I believe that municipalities should adopt significant water conservation practices as well as requiring the same of developers and residents within their communities before such drastic devastation of a treasured resource is pursued. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park. Thank you for your consideration of my comments</p>   |
| 05/17/22   | Nagel     | Marianne        | <p>Bear Creek Park is an important recreational amenity to the Denver area. I support increasing the water storage at Bear Creek Lake by deepening the reservoir. Increasing the water storage by this means would be more efficient than increasing the surface area of Bear Creek Lake. A large portion of water storage is lost to evapotranspiration. Shallow water storage is not very efficient due to evapotranspiration. The very important recreational amenities at Bear Creek could be preserved by deepening the reservoir. These important amenities would be lost by expanding the surface area of the Lake.</p>   |
| 05/24/22   | Nahm      | Carol & Timothy | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:</p> <p>Please come and tour our park on foot and experience all of the beautiful flora and fauna that this project would destroy. Please don't destroy our park - you will destroy habitat for so many things: animals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, plants, trees &amp; people! Thank you for your consideration.</p>  |
| 05/10/22   | Nasser    | Joe             | <p>I would like to send in my concern for the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. I do not believe the pros outweigh the cons to choose to flood the park.</p> <p>I live in the area and frequent the park along with my friends and family. The park is an anchor to the community.</p> <p>I strongly put in my vote of 'No change' to the water level of the park.</p>   |
| 03/16/22   | Needham   | Dave            | <p>In favor of Bear Creek Lake expansion</p> <p>No doubt you are getting lots of messages from those who fear change and are angered by temporary inconvenience. And rarely do people provide support for projects that inconvenience a few but benefit the many.</p> <p>However I am ardently in support of expanding BCL. With worsening drought conditions and rising temperatures, the long term sustainability of our region is at risk. Not to mention the increased need for clean drinking water reserves for an ever increasing population. I support the increase of water reserves at BCL</p> <p>Yes, it will displace some trails, picnic areas, and current riparian zones. But those were constructed before, can be relocated, and flooding riparian areas may give rise to new growth in other areas (beavers, while impactful, generally benefit their ecosystems with similar behavior.)</p> <p>The opposition voices you hear are those of frustrated inconvenience, not ecological or social concern. Thank you for your efforts to protect our resources, provide environmentally sustainable projects, and structurally sound protection for our communities. The constructed dam has allowed Bear Creek Lake Park to exist for 50+ years, a modest increase now will secure its permanence for another 50 with plenty of opportunity to build new trails, scenic picnic areas, and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Thanks for all your do!</p>   |

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| 04/18/22   | Nehf      | Cerise     | <p>I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the possible expansion of the Bear Creek Lake. There are many negative reasons against an expansion of the current flood control lake to a larger water retention reservoir. The main reason is because the expansion will cause the total demise of the Park land as it exists today. There will be significant and irreparable changes to the wildlife, environment, use of the park, and the well being of the surrounding community. I know you have received many letters regarding these matters and I will not go into all of the details as I am sure you are aware of them and I implore you to consider no expansion or at least compromise of the expansion area to smaller and deeper pools, or planning other areas for the water reservoir.</p> <p>Please conduct an extensive environmental impact study and please consider the community surrounding this park.</p> <p>I have lived in this are tor 25 years and some of my neighbors have lived here many more years than that. We chose this area because of the Bear Creek Lake Park and surrounding recreational activities available and the beauty of the area close to the foothills with easy access to the mountains. I know that planning and water storage is an important part of growing Colorado carefully and planning for future need is necessary. At the same time however, please do not FORGET about do not just DISMISS those of us who already live here and how it will change our lives. Please do not overlook us and just move on with the next generation. When we moved here there was no mention of changing the lake. Had we known that the area would change to a water retention reservoir from a flood control, we would not have moved to this area. I do remember checking specifically to see if this area east of the dam was a flood plane or not and we would not have moved here if it was. The expansion of increasing 20,000 acre feet from 2,000 will change the status of our homes that are east of the lake to a flood zone which it currently is not. This will add expense as insurance will be needed since we will be classified in a flood zone, property values will be affected along with our daily use of the Park. We could be looking at a mud plane the majority of the time since water supply will be dependent upon rainfall and snow. You may say that life is not fair and that is true but please consider BOTH the current residents and the new residents that require water storage for the future and if a change will be made, consider the other alternatives of smaller, deeper pools, or the construction of pools along the sand/gravel areas along the Platte River for water retention and/or types of water retention that will have less evaporation of water. Brighton, Dacono, and Berthoud can develop areas closer to their communities. Thank you for your time and attention to this opinion.</p> |
| 05/04/22   | Neligh    | Dave       | <p>My name is Dave Neligh and I’m writing on behalf of Bear Creek State Park near my home near Morrison, Colorado. I walk on the paths that may be flooded around 250 days a year. I’d rather the reservoir remain at current level. Although several streams flow from the mountains into the greater Denver area, Bear Creek Lake Park has a unique cold water, deciduous riparian zone that provides feeding and nesting for numerous species. It’s also a rare and wonderful place to see nature.</p> <p>I’m not alone in my appreciation. Walking as frequently as I do, There are many people that walk here nearly every day. More ride their bikes, more picnic and enjoy being near a stream seeing the forests. I understand there were more than 800,000 visits to the Park last year.</p> <p>Certainly there is a great desire for more water in the area. Warren Buffet wants more money. Every time New York city tries to improve their traffic situation with bigger roads, the roads fill and the traffic jams are the same.</p> <p>Flooding the riparian corridor at Bear Creek Lake State Park would be the equivalent of getting rid of Fontenelle Forest in Omaha. And Bear Creek Lake Park has many more visitors. The open space of the Colorado Front Range is being developed at a truly alarming rate. Do a fly over and see. There aren’t any other parks surrounding a waterway of any size here. Please reconsider flooding this one.</p>  |
| 05/06/22   | Neligh    | Deb        | <p>Save our sacred space</p> <p>If you have spent any time on the front range or anywhere in Colorado other than the mountains you know there are very few places that have riparian forests along streams. You probably think that calling this a sacred space is extreme, however for myself and my family and many that we have met on the trails at Bear Creek Lake Park it is. You also know that we live in a semi arid area, and there are no parks near rivers like this for many many many miles, unlike the area your offices call home. If this area gets flooded, the park and habitat for many of the following animals will disappear; pine martens, bears, elk and deer, coyotes, skunks, eagles, owls (nest in the cottonwoods that will no doubt die if the area is flooded) and so many more species. There seems to be uncontrolled growth of new neighborhoods, apartment buildings, townhomes etc. here in Colorado, the greed of developers that eat away our parks and open spaces is unprecedented. My husband can rave at you about how our city council here in Lakewood CO. sold their souls by approving hundreds of building permits the day before a “controlled growth law” went into effect.</p> <p>We are just people trying to keep this small sacred space for our children and children's children. A beautiful little park with wonderful wildlife to see, that has kept me sane, saved my soul, and I’m sure many others, for a very long time. It would be a crime to see it disappear to supply housing developments down stream that do not have a vested interest in the beauty and importance of Bear Creek Lake Park.</p>   |
| 2/23/2024  | Nelson    | Alex       | <p>Tens of thousands of people enjoy Bear Creek Lake Park, and it is home throughout the year to coyotes, hawks, eagles, herons, deer, bobcats, elk, prairie dogs, field mice, and even on occasion bear and mountain lions, and countless other species. The contemplated reservoir expansion there is unnecessary and will result in a net destruction of ecosystem services. Please do not flood our park.</p>   |

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| 7/29/2024  | Neopkroeff | Molly        | I am writing in my capacity as a professional botanist at the University of Colorado Denver. I am writing to alert you to the presence of a rare plant species, striped coralroot orchid (Corallorhiza striata) at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood CO. I understand that the reservoir is under consideration for enlargement that would flood much of the trails and area surrounding the creek. I have documented to the presence of striped coralroot along the north side of Bear Creek, along the Mt Carbon trail, I believe, and according to the plans for expansion, the population of the rare orchids and its habitat would be destroyed. I have documented the population through iNaturalist (iNaturalist.org) so there is a gps location for it. I have contacted colleagues at the Denver Botanic Garden, as another population of this species was recently discovered this spring at Chatfield location of Denver Botanic Gardens and it turns out that the species has not been collected in Jefferson County CO since 1905 . Additionally, only one collection has ever been made in Jefferson County for this species (in 1905). This is only the second population of the species documented for Jefferson County and is slightly larger than the one at Chatfield, totalling ca. 6-8 plants. I wanted to make sure your office was aware of this rare population and the impact the potential flooding of the reservoir would have on it. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information on this species.   |
| 05/03/22   | Neverdahl  | Ariana       | <p>Please find the attached Resolution, unanimously supported by the Morrison Board of Trustees, stating opposition to a significant reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir and requesting alternative water storage solutions which allow for preservation of the Bear Creek Lake Park. ATTACHMENT:</p> <p>TOWN OF MORRISON<br/>BOARD OF TRUSTEES<br/>RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04</p> <p>A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MORRISON, COLORADO, STATING OPPOSITION TO A SIGNIFICANT REALLOCATION OF THE BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR AND REQUESTING ALTERNATIVE WATER STORAGE SOLUTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR PRESERVATION OF THE BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK</p> <p>WHEREAS, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is investigating the feasibility of reallocating capacity in the Bear Creek Reservoir to add Water Storage as an authorized purpose to the previously authorized purposes of Flood Control, Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement; and WHEREAS, alternatives under consideration range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the current maximum storage volume of 2,000 acre feet; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir would reduce the land area of the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) by over 500 acres; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the potential areas for inundation include the riparian corridors of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek, miles of forested trails, and significant wildlife habitat; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, expanded water storage in the Reservoir would result in significant fluctuations in pool levels, which would increase the acreage of "mud flats" that surround the Reservoir at lower levels; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the 10,000 and 20,000 acre feet reallocation alternatives assessed by the USACE are not risk-neutral and result in increased flood risk; and the assessment also concluded that risk mitigating project modifications and risk neutral alternatives likely exist; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the primary municipal partners currently interested in additional water storage in Bear Creek Reservoir are the Cities of Brighton, Berthoud and Dacono; and a growing number of sand and gravel pits are being created and repurposed for water storage along the South Platte, closer to those municipalities; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Bear Creek Lake Park hosts an estimated 800,000 visits annually, which is expected to increase as new residential development in the Rooney Valley increases Park use; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the USACE is required to consider project impacts on social well-being in the Feasibility Study; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the portions of the BCLP that would be inundated in an expansion of the Reservoir provide significant quality of life and social well-being benefits to the people of Morrison and the greater region;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF MORRISON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>Section 1. The Town urges the US Army Corps of Engineers to take full consideration of both on-site and off-site water storage alternatives which can preserve the core of Bear Creek Lake Park's land-based recreational and environmental assets, including the riparian corridors of Bear and Turkey Creeks.</p> <p>Section 2. The Town, as a Stakeholder Agency, directs this Resolution to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.</p> <p>INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2022, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.</p> |
| 01/11/22   | Nickel     | Dana Sanders | <p>As a resident of Lakewood, CO and an avid visitor to BCLP I am compelled to voice my concerns over the potential reservoir expansion. One of the reasons we love living in this area is our proximity to BCLP and the numerous recreation opportunities it offers. My family and I ride our bikes around this park frequently throughout the year. The potential loss of 12 miles of trails, riparian and other wildlife habitat and loss of picnic and other facilities would be devastating to park visitors and the entire Jefferson County!</p> <p>I encourage your team to review alternative water storage solutions before destroying this beautiful area for a project that doesn't even have guaranteed results. I am a committed opponent to this project!</p>  |

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| 1/24/2024  | Niraula      | Suresh     | <p>My name is Suresh Niraula, and I work for the City of Arvada Water Treatment and do source water management. I am also the president of the Colorado Lakes and Reservoir Management Association (CLRMA, clrma.org).</p> <p>I have been following the developments on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project led by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I wanted to reach out to you to request a talk/presentation at CLRMA's Spring Luncheon Conference on April 16, 2024. We will finalize the location in February but most likely it will be in the Denver area or close and in person.</p> <p>CLRMA organizes two conferences each year – Spring and Fall. The presenters at these conferences share their research, projects and information under lakes, watersheds, and reservoir themes. This is an educational group of scientists, limnologists and researchers who are interested in learning about the lakes and reservoir projects in Colorado. I think our members would love to hear about this project, how it came about and the timeline and expected future. We typically get about 50–60 people at the conference, and it goes from 10–2:30 p.m. Our members come from a wide range of utilities and the public and private sectors. I'd be more than happy to talk more about the conference and CLRMA's mission.</p> <p>If you or anyone you know is interested in sharing the work on Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project, please let me know, so we can get you on the agenda. Other Topics of interest may include:</p> <p>Thank you and I look forward to hearing back soon.</p>   |
| 08/18/22   | Not provided | Gary       | There must be better water saving potential project idea than eradicating a vital area for exercise and nearby mental break from city life. Please save the park and find a better alternative for water requirements  |
| 08/29/22   | Not provided | Sam        | <p>I would like to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study:</p> <p>I am really concerned that this will take out much of a recreation area that is accessible without driving into the foothills or mountains. There are more emissions going to a higher elevation and the increased elevation also causes problems for many people!</p> <p>I have used the park for decades for road biking because of the spectacular Mt. Carbon Trail and the historic road on the north side of the lake and lack of vehicular traffic. However I drove out to see the hiking trails and those used by mountain bikers and was really impressed by the numbers and varied age levels of the users.</p> <p>We were aware of the flood of 1965 and the need for Flood Control and are really concerned about decreasing capacity, and the recent record weather events only increase our concern!</p>   |
| 5/16/2024  | Not Provided | Kathy      | Please do not let the park be ruined. We need the open space. I love taking my dogs to the park.   |
| 7/1/2024   | Not Provided | Steve      | I and many others love the Mount Carbon Loop and other trails that would be destroyed with an expansion. Please look for other alternative ways! I’ve seen owls and many other wildlife there. The cottonwoods and paths along the river are also so precious. It would be a crime to wipe all that out.   |
| 02/14/22   | Nystram      | Paula      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).  |
| 5/1/2025   | Nystrom      | Paula      | <p>Dear Bear Creek Lake Study Team, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I am an avid cyclist, hiker, runner, and paddleboarder. I visit BCLP at least 3 times a week. I live very close to the downstream Bear Creek green space. I am currently able to ride from my house, through the greenspace to BCLP and on to the hog back and Red Rocks, without getting on a busy road. Flooding the park will segment all of the trails and make it impossible for me and those that use the bike paths for commuting, to traverse the park.</p> <p>The similar project in Chatfield Park has been a disaster. Thousands of trees were lost, and BCLP will see the same destruction. I will never go back to Chatfield to paddleboard, due to the dead trees sticking out of the water. It has become hazardous, not to mention unsightly.</p> <p>BCLP is in the Denver Metro area, which is seeing rapid development, and habitat loss. Our air quality is very poor and getting worse. Killing more trees will only exacerbate the air quality problems. Local foresters have already predicted the loss of 1 million trees in this area, over the next 5+ years. This is due to warming temperatures, the age of mature trees, very dry conditions (drought and low snowpack), as well as Ash Borer.</p> <p>Bear Creek does not have enough flow through to fill up the existing reservoir, let alone the proposed expansion. Even if all of the water in Bear Creek is diverted to the reservoir, it will not be full. The downstream impact will be devastating as well. There are beavers, eagles, owls, mink, turtles, waterfowl and many species of birds that live in the Bear Creek green space and beyond. That will all be lost due to the diversion of the water destruction of their habitat. I hope that has been part of your study. This also has implications to surrounding communities, including Denver.</p> <p>I am on the City Council in Lakewood, and am fighting to preserve the parks we have. Losing BCLP will be devastating to the wildlife, trees and the citizens.</p> <p>Please consider other options instead of this destructive approach.</p> <p>Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (reservoir expansion) • Reduction of land area by over 500 acres • Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation • Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile) • Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for a major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County on paved road that crosses the dam.</li></ul> |



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| 03/19/22   | Ohlhaber  | Susan       | I live very close to Bear Creek and it would be devastating for our community to lose so much of the park. The mud flats would be horrible during drought. It would be inhumane to kill the wildlife habitat and ecosystem of the park. The benefit of water storage vesus destroying the habitat is not worth it. I speak for many people in my neighborhood and we have been astonished to hear about this plan.   |
| 06/07/22   | O'Keefe   | Chris, AICP | <p>Please find attached comments from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning regarding the above referenced study,</p> <p>Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or require more information. LETTER:</p> <p>The Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) regarding the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir Water Reallocation Study.</p> <p>Since there is not a preferred alternative at this stage, the Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division is only able to provide generalized comments/questions below: 1. Based on data provided by FEMA's Map Service Center, there are FEMA designated flood zones along Bear Creek, Turkey Creek, Bear Creek Reservoir and Bear Creek downstream of Bear Creek Reservoir. The FEMA designated flood zones include both Zone A and Zone AE. There is significant existing residential and commercial development downstream of Bear Creek Reservoir. Impacts to the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) could include increased areas, increased base flood elevations and increased velocities. The Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division requests an analysis on the impacts and mitigation options to the SFHA and surrounding areas. 2. Based on data provided by the US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory mapper, there are multiple Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland habitat, Freshwater Pond habitat and Forested/Shrub Riparian areas that would be impacted by the alternatives. Impacts to riparian areas include reduced wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, riparian vegetation, recreational uses and water quality benefits. The Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division requests an analysis on the impacts and mitigation options to these areas as depicted on the National Wetlands Inventory mapper.</p> <p>3. Bear Creek Reservoir is within the Bear Creek Watershed in Jefferson County. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission has issued Water Quality Control Regulation No 74 - Bear Creek Watershed Control Regulation which is protective of Bear Creek and all tributaries, Turkey Creek and all tributaries and Bear Creek Reservoir. Water quality monitoring is completed by the Bear Creek Watershed Association. The Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division requests an analysis on the water quality impacts and mitigation techniques, including temperature, total phosphorus and total nitrogen concentrations for each of the proposed alternatives. 4. The Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division understands the need for increased water supply for the South Platte River Basin. The shortfall estimates range from 509,000 to 835,000 ac-ft per year (data from the May 3, 2022 Corps letter). If the operating pool is increased by 20,000 af-ft, that would provide approximately 4% to 2% of the estimated shortfall. Given the impact to the existing facilities and drainageways with respect to the limited benefit to meet the shortfall, the Jefferson County Planning &amp; Zoning Division requests the Corps complete a value engineering study for the alternatives and other alternatives in the South Platte River Basin.</p> |
| 07/06/22   | O'Keefe   | Brianna     | <p>I am writing to ask that you please reconsider the expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir and the destruction of the park that it would create. Please help us keep the park for our children’s generation to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you so much.</p>   |
| 05/18/22   | Olson     | Mary        | <p>My name is Mary Olson and I am a Colorado native and resident of the community just north of Bear Creek Lake Park. I have lived in my home for over 30 years and use the park regularly.</p> <p>I would like to throw my support behind the effort to save the park from expansion. I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>Additionally I will be contacting my elected officials making sure they understand their efforts to Save the Park will impact the way I vote in the future.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | O'Rourke  | Deven       | <p>I wanted to provide feedback on the important points of the Bear Creek Lake Park water storage expansion considerations. I find the following items from the "Save Bear Creek Lake Park" group relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Reduction of land area by 615 acres</li><li>•Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>•Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>•Loss of 12 miles of trails</li><li>•Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam.</li><li>•During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values.</li><li>•Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li></ul> <p>I understand that the numbers above are based on the 20,000 AF size increase, but according to maps I've seen on the USACE project website, even the 5,000 AF size increase would cause substantial loss to trails and creek access, which are my favorite part of the park. For this reason, I would like recommend alternative methods to achieving the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. Thank you for your time!</p>  |
| 03/16/22   | Owen      | Andrew      | I'm against the proposed changes to Bear Creek Lake due to the impact on the park itself, especially in relation to the relatively low amount of water storage that it would afford.   |

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| 12/4/2023  | Palmer    | Katelyn    | <p>I grew up with Bear Creek Lake Park. I grew up in Lakewood, I grew up in Colorado.</p> <p>And one thing that absolutely hurts my heart is the loss of land and increasing development of the beautiful, peaceful land.</p> <p>Please don't take more land. I've already lost Bandemere speedway.</p> <p>I have so many memories at bear creek lake park especially with a horseback riding. I followed my sister everywhere and I included her Girl Scouts Horse riding trip. And I got to ride the biggest horse even though I was the youngest kid.</p> <p>I also enjoy birdwatching in Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>And I loved the picnics as a kid and celebrations as an adult at the picnic areas with my friends; basketball team cookout, Student government cookout and award ceremony, sandwiches and chips after swimming.</p> <p>And As I'm sure you know:</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (expansion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of land area by over 500 acres</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including: • Equestrian area • Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in.</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley</li></ul> <p>This Park is important to me, important to us, and important to the community.</p> <p>Bear creek Lake Park means a lot to me and I appreciate your consideration and thoughtfulness.</p> |
| 2/28/2024  | Palmer    | Katelyn    | <p>I grew up with Bear Creek Lake Park. I grew up in Lakewood, I grew up in Colorado.</p> <p>And one thing that absolutely hurts my heart is the loss of land and increasing development of the beautiful, peaceful land.</p> <p>Please don't take more land. I've already lost Bandemere speedway.</p> <p>I have so many memories at bear creek lake park especially with a horseback riding. I followed my sister everywhere and I included her Girl Scouts Horse riding trip. And I got to ride the biggest horse even though I was the youngest kid.</p> <p>I also enjoy birdwatching in Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>And I loved the picnics as a kid and celebrations as an adult at the picnic areas with my friends; basketball team cookout, Student government cookout and award ceremony, sandwiches and chips after swimming.</p> <p>And As I'm sure you know:</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (expansion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of land area by over 500 acres</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including: • Equestrian area • Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• Over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in.</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley</li></ul> <p>This Park is important to me, important to us, and important to the community.</p> <p>Bear creek Lake Park means a lot to me and I appreciate your consideration and thoughtfulness.</p> |

| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name    | Comment  |
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| 5/8/2024   | Palmer    | Katelyn       | <p>Hey, I want to voice myself. Thank you for your time and thank you for honoring my input on the Bear creek Lake park study and why it should be preserved.</p> <p>I want to denote the emotional and mental significance of Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>I know that there's all these logistical and pragmatic resources against bear creek lake park being turned into a reservoir, i'm sure you already know, but i'm here today to just talk about the psychological side of things.</p> <p>Here we go:</p> <p>Bear creek lake park to me means serenity and peace of mind. These are my experiences: Having church cook outs there, or basketball team cook out, or student government BBQ and award ceremony...also when I was growing up i loved playing in the clay that was in the shallow area of the lake, I loved squeezing it through my hands and fingers. Kinda felt like poop, but ii was awesome! In a satisfying way, LOL. It felt so smooth and satisfying with little bits of sharp sand here and there with also felt good, kinda of scratching or exfoliating my hands and kind of tickled. While also having incredibly smooth sediment, it was like silk poop. That's still my favorite texture to play with. And when I'd walk in the shallow areas also ooz in between my toes as i walked. I loved it. I'd also gather the clay and take it to shore and build or sculpt stuff with it...or throw it at my sister. Ha! :) And I also loved the geese that'd walk by on the side walk. Ya, it was good. AND THE SNOW CONES WE'D HAVE AFTER SWIMMING! I forgot about that.</p> <p>I have more memories there, but the point is Bear creek Lake Park brings me peace and fun and play and laughter. It's peace, it's a sense of community, it is community, it's child exploration and development, it's the stuff childhoods are made from and where bonding happens.</p>  |
| 08/04/22   | Park      | Sue/Steve     | <p>It has been brought to our attention that there is consideration of a proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir. My husband and I are AGAINST this proposal for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Wildlife habitat would be destroyed in this irreplaceable riparian ecosystem (over 500 areas). Growth has been destroying many of these systems already for our wildlife; this area would be yet another destructive piece.</li><li>- Over 12 miles of trails would be lost to the many locals and visitors who use this as recreation, peaceful meditational hikes and walks, and bird watching on a daily basis.</li><li>- Cottonwood trees and other vegetation would be lost to flooded lake.</li><li>-If water is needed in growing northern Denver suburbs, then it should be in their backyards, NOT ours.</li></ul>   |
| 03/20/22   | Parker    | Alice         | <p>I am writing to you today to let you know how important Bear Creek Lake Park is to myself and my family in hopes of persuading you to come up with some other options than the proposed plan. We live just over the 285 pedestrian bridge that connects the park to the bike path along C470. We also own 3 horses that are boarded just off the Quincy exit and less than a mile from our house. Every year we purchase a season pass in order to trailer our horses over to the park; in addition we sometimes ride our horses from our stables into the park using the pedestrian bridge. We love the cottonwood trails and the equestrian arena. So many times we have allowed our horse out in the arena to just run - there are so few places these horses can burn up that kind of energy in our neighborhood, especially with all the development that is going on. When my family comes to visit we enjoy hiking over the pedestrian bridge into the park and onto the cottonwood trails - they are so beautiful and calming - we ride the horses on many of these trails as well - it is a wonderful place for us to truly enjoy the beauty of nature.</p> <p>I realize that water is a major issue and the plan you have devised will provide enough storage for years to come. However, I also understand there are other options that will not result in the loss of our beautiful cottonwood trails and wonderful equestrian arena. Although the study done by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in 2010 predicted a doubling of our population by 2050, a more recent report by Colorado State demographer Elizabeth Garner predicts a population of 7.65 million in 2050 - currently our population is 5,85 million.</p> <p>Please do not destroy the valued parts of our park by destroying the cottonwod trails and equestrian arena. We would be willing to contribute funding to accommodate a less destructive plan such as digging the reservoir deeper instead of wider. Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| 08/04/22   | Parks     | Sue and Steve | <p>It has been brought to our attention that there is consideration of a proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>My husband and I are AGAINST this proposal for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Wildlife habitat would be destroyed in this irreplaceable riparian ecosystem (over 500 areas). Growth has been destroying many of these systems already for our wildlife; this area would be yet another destructive piece.</li><li>- Over 12 miles of trails would be lost to the many locals and visitors who use this as recreation, peaceful meditational hikes and walks, and bird watching on a daily basis.</li><li>- Cottonwood trees and other vegetation would be lost to flooded lake.</li><li>-If water is needed in growing northern Denver suburbs, then it should be in their backyards, NOT ours.</li></ul>  |
| 04/01/22   | Patton    | Amandine      | <p>I just wanted to express my concern about the plans to change Bear Creek Lake Park. If the plan moves forward with more water, my son and I won't be able to ride our bikes through the park to his grandparents house for a visit. We live south of the park in Morrison and they live north of it, on Green Mountain.</p> <p>I hope the park stays the way it is now with the wildlife, trails, paddleboarding, beautiful views, horses, and archery range. We've enjoyed all the park has to offer over the years and it's a staple in our close to home adventures.</p>   |

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| 06/10/22   | Paul      | Adam       | <p>Please find attached a letter from Lakewood Mayor, Adam Paul, regarding the feasibility study and upload it to your project site. LETTER:</p> <p>As the elected officials representing the residents of Lakewood, we are grateful for the opportunity to weigh in on the feasibility study currently underway to examine the potential addition of water storage at the Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>As annual visits to Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) continue to increase year after year, and Lakewood’s local resources continue to be stretched further, it is our belief that serious consideration should be given to the feedback offered by the local entity responsible for the obligations associated with operating Bear Creek Lake Park. The Bear Creek Reservoir is part of the Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) “Tri-Lakes” flood control project that also includes Chatfield and Cherry Creek Reservoirs. Unlike Chatfield and Cherry Creek, which operate as state parks, in 1982 the State of Colorado requested that the City of Lakewood assume the financial and management burdens of the park and recreation facilities at BCLP. Lakewood has operated BCLP pursuant to a lease with the Corps through 2042 and a 2012 Corps’ Master Plan. As demonstrated in the chart below, unlike the Chatfield Reservoir, Bear Creek Reservoir has much less capacity, so the feasibility study originally proposed 20,000 acre-feet (AF) of additional volume would have a much more significant impact on Bear Creek Lake Park. Chatfield’s normal water area is 2,100 while Bear Creek’s is 603. Adding 20,000 AF to Chatfield is a 39% increase while the addition of 20,000 AF to Bear Creek is a 450% change. The resulting total storage capacity at Chatfield would be 350,000 while Bear Creek’s would be 77,000.</p> <p>[TABLE]</p> <p>Since 1982, Lakewood has successfully operated BCLP and its popularity as an outdoor respite in the middle of the busy city continues to exceed expectations. Over the years, Lakewood has invested millions of dollars in BCLP and has developed the Park into a regional amenity. Annual Park operating expenses were \$1.7 million in 2021. A wide variety of recreational activities are available at the Park including boating, swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, cycling, hiking, running, bird watching, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, skiing and archery. The Park also boasts large riparian and short grass prairie habitat areas, with diverse and abundant wildlife populations, including many successful raptor nesting sites. Results of the 2017 Community Resources Master Plan public input survey identified BCLP as the most frequently used city facility with about 44% of respondents indicating they used the park in the past year. The most recent master plan survey results, just completed in May of 2022, indicated 75% of Lakewood’s population have visited the Park in the last year. Although Lakewood is unable to account for every visitor to the Park due to the number of access points, the number of visitors who entered the Park through the main gate numbered 650,000 in 2021 and visits are on pace to surpass that in 2022. As evidenced by the outpouring of public feedback that has already been received regarding this project, there is clearly strong opposition to adding the originally suggested 20,000-acre feet of storage capacity to the Reservoir. We are encouraged to know that the Corps is now considering an array of alternatives, including capping lower amounts of additional storage, analyzing the need and water alternatives from water providers, as well as deeper excavation of the existing reservoir. Public comments received to date speak clearly to the passion and care of so many who use BCLP as a respite from the stress and tension of everyday life in today’s world. Our role as elected officials is to act as the voice for our constituents and in this case, their voices are loud and clear; adding storage capacity to Bear Creek Reservoir would have a detrimental impact on park users, the natural landscape, existing park amenities and the wildlife habitat. We recognize and appreciate the need for additional water storage in Colorado and we fully support the State’s Water Plan. However, based on recent information provided by Water Education Colorado, the State has already achieved, or is permitted to add, 475,000-acre feet of storage capacity, which exceeds the original reported study goal of 400,000 additional acre-feet. For the incredible and irreplaceable value of Bear Creek Lake Park as it exists today, and all that it provides for the regional community, we urge you to strongly consider alternatives that will keep the conditions as near to existing as possible. Minimal change to the park landscape also allows the city to move forward with a highly anticipated master planning effort for the park in 2023. As the world-renowned American biologist and naturalist Edward Osborne Wilson once wrote, “Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction.” Bear Creek Lake Park is Lakewood’s little slice of nature.</p> |
| 05/15/22   | Pederson  | Jeffery    | <p>My wife and I have annual passes and like the park. However I understand the potential need for water storage due to many factors. So I would be in favor of storing up to 15,000 AF when necessary. There are many other nearby areas for walking and biking, perhaps not with the same creeks, but we can’t assume the trail system will never be adjusted when water is needed for homes. Included should be restrictions on wasteful outdoor water use.</p>  |
| 03/21/22   | Perkovich | Denise     | <p>I'am writing in response to the study regarding bear creek lake project. I wish to express my serious concerns regarding the "flooding" of the current lake. If this project goes through, multiple miles of hiking, biking trails will be lost. It will seriously interfere with the riparian corridor. As our state experiences chronic drought, the lake bed with essentially become a mudflat.I have lived in this area for almost 40 years and know that the majority of years this lake would remain at low water levels. At that point there will be no turning back the severe damage that will be done to this beautiful park and the wildlife present here. There will be no more birdwatching, wildlife viewing, biking, hiking, trail running. Picnic areas will no longer be usable, as will the equestrian area. This is a very much used park in this area, and by allowing this project to go through, it will ruin a very large portion of recreation in this area. I understand the current water situation in our state, but at what point do we start considering the quality of life and the outdoors in our state as opposed to the greed of developers?</p>   |



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| 9/15/2023  | Peters    | Janet      | <p>Thank you for considering and accepting public comment on the Bear Creek Lake Feasibility Study</p> <p>As a Board Member of Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) I feel compelled to comment on this project and the impact it would have on avian habitat. DFO administers the nearby Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, located in Morrison and from which Bear Creek Lake is visible. Bear Creek Lake is located on a major migration flyway and raptors often use the Bear Creek Lake environs to roost and gather food before continuing on their migration journey. Dinosaur Ridge is the only regularly staffed hawk watch in Colorado and is the best place in the world to see migrating Ferruginous Hawks. Hawk watchers may see 17 species of migrating raptors; and it is an excellent site to see rare dark morph buteos including Broad-winged hawk, Swainson’s hawk, Ferruginous hawk, Rough-legged hawk and Red-tailed Hawk. Other raptors we see include Golden and Bald Eagles, Northern harrier, Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, Prairie Falcons, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlin, and Turkey Vultures. Northern Goshawk is uncommon but also counted each season.</p> <p>Raising the water level in Bear Creek Reservoir would not only affect migrating raptors but also several other migrant and resident bird species, many who breed in the lush riparian habitat which would be destroyed should the reallocation plan move forward.</p> <p>In closing, this reservoir provides so much joy to the residents of Lakewood and other visitors to the park who enjoy a myriad of activities: biking, running, birding, horseback riding and nature watching to name a few and all of which I have participated in. It is truly is the crown jewel of Lakewood’s open spaces and it seems grossly unfair to penalize this community to supply water to developments north and east Denver. Perhaps the only recreational activity that would be enhanced is boating and we have Cherry Creek and Chatfield close by that offer marina access for motorized boating. Also, the water sources for this reservoir are often just a trickle; unlike nearby Chatfield Reservoir which is fed by Plum Creek and the South Platte River. Evaporation losses would surely be high in Colorado’s hot dry summer climate; perhaps underground storage, or the purchase of agricultural water being used to grow low yield crops, located closer to the communities who are seeking additional water would be more prudent.</p> <p>Again thank you for considering my input.</p> |
| 06/15/22   | Pfnister  | Sue        | <p>I have lived in Bear Valley for 11 years. We moved from a small town in West Michigan to be by our daughters &amp; their families and my husbands mother who moved to this neighborhood in 1969. I have walked, hiked, run &amp; biked at Bear Creek Lake Park all that time and usually about 3 times a week. My daughters and my 4 grandchildren love and enjoy this outdoor space together on a regular basis. We have had so much growth in this area over the last 11 years &amp; this open space, away from the city mania is such a reprieve. Especially during the 2 years of Covid lockdown this park has been a saving grace. Such peace and tranquility and freedom was and is such a blessing to the soul. Please do not tear this natural haven from all of us who love and enjoy it on a daily basis. Please try your best to save Bear Creek Lake Park for all of us humans packed into this metro area.</p>   |
| 10/29/21   | Pierce    | Walt       | <p>I am opposed to the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake that would result from the change in designation from a flood control lake to a water supply reservoir.</p> <p>The expansion to increase water storage for the benefit of development would result in a reduction of public benefit such as the scenic and aesthetic amenities that presently exist in the Park. The Park has over 600,000 visitors a year. The expansion of the lake would result in significant reduction in the many diverse recreational opportunities (hiking, mountain biking, trail running, bird watching, picnicking, equestrian usage, etc).</p> <p>The lake expansion would also result in destruction of the natural resources (wooded ecosystem, wetlands, meadows, and prairies) and reduce the existing habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>The value of the prior public investments to the Bear Creek Lake Park infrastructure that accommodates recreation must be preserved. Preserving existing vegetation, especially trees, helps maintain air-quality benefits including filtering pollutants and sequestration of carbon.</p> <p>Finally, the expansion of Bear Creek Lake would significantly increase the flood potential for existing structures/homes that are located west of Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>3/12/22 Note: My letter was corrected before it was sent to the Army Corp of Engineers. The last sentence was corrected to read "located east of Bear Creek Lake."</p>   |

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| 1/3/2024   | Pikek     | Aaron      | <p>• Describe the activities you enjoy in the Park and how often you visit the park.</p> <p>I visit Bear Creek Lake Park on a weekly basis and frequently more often. It is a quick getaway for my wife and myself to mountain bike, road bike, hike and relax close to nature. I enjoy the seeing the many ecosystems that the park has to offer and the wildlife it supports. It is the park's diversity that makes it a special place. It is a place to recharge and reconnect with nature and it is so close to our home. This "natural oasis" is quickly being surrounded by urban areas and to lose the diverse ecosystems that would come with the proposed plan to expand the reservoir would be tragic. Having this park in its current configuration provides much more than just a place for wildlife, it provides a place for all park users to quickly escape the urban areas that surround it and it allows them to reconnect and recharge and destress. It is a place for people to gather and be surrounded by nature and a place for wildlife to live a roam. This park is too unique and beneficial to risk with the proposed reservoir expansion.</p> <p>There has got to be other options that address the need for additional water storage capacity that do not negatively impact the uniqueness of this special park. Options including underground storage that addresses the underground aquifers in the state and looking at utilizing sand a gravel pit water storage along the Platte River.</p> <p>There are better options that do not destroy the Park that makes this part of the of the city so special.</p> |
| 10/20/21   | Pokorny   | Ross       | <p>Thank you for listening to us. While I understand the need for more water, more destruction of wildlife habitat is untenable.</p> <p>Too many species are going extinct every year.</p> <p>People don't HAVE to live in Colorado.</p> <p>Instead of flooding hundreds of acres of habitat, would dredging the existing lake deeper depth be a viable option? [Additional comments from 12/14/2021]: Concerning the proposal to expand the capacity of the Bear Creek Lake reservoir in Littleton Colorado I would like to strongly state my disapproval of this plan. The current park is a huge refuge for unknown numbers of wildlife and also include dozens of miles of hiking and mountain biking trails all of which would be destroyed. Not to mention lost horseback riding, camping, weekend picnics, paddle boarding , kayaking,swimming.</p> <p>One solution that I thought might work would be to dredge the existing reservoir deeper to allow for more capacity.</p>   |
| 04/18/22   | Post      | Chad       | <p>Thank you for your service! I oppose any increase in size to the Bear Creek Reservoir, as a resident fo Lakewood, we (wife and two sons (5&amp;7)) visit Bear Creek multiple times a month and hike the river trails that would be underwater with the change in the reservoir size. Please look for other options that would not take away the Bear Creek land and trails.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration</p>   |
| 6/13/2025  | Powers    | Kelly      | <p>I am opposed to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake that would result from the change in designation from a flood control lake to a water supply reservoir.</p> <p>Expansion of water storage would result in a reduction in what the park offers (hiking, mountain biking, trail running, bird watching, picnicking, equestrian usage, etc). The lake expansion would also result in destruction of the natural resources (wooded ecosystem, wetlands, meadows, and prairies) and reduce the existing habitat for wildlife. I know there are other ways to increase water storage, such as digging out some existing low lying areas, without submerging the area where the water flows from Bear Creek and all the wonderful trees and habitat next to the creek.</p> <p>Please consider what is lost in a small gain for water storage. In my opinion, the losses will far outway any benefits.</p>  |

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| 3/6/2024   | Prado-Irwin | Sophia     | <p>Conservation Board and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.</p> <p>The Center is concerned that an expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir could harm local wildlife populations through inundation of habitat and would compromise Colorado’s climate resiliency goals. The Center urges the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to consider these factors in its assessment of the Project’s feasibility, and to not expand the reservoir.</p> <p>The Center is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.7 million members and online activists throughout Colorado and the United States. The Center has worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Colorado.</p> <p>I.</p> <p>Reservoir Expansion Could Harm Local Wildlife Populations</p> <p>The proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir could significantly impact native ecosystems and local wildlife. The inundation of hundreds of acres would eliminate significant amounts of valuable grassland and riparian habitat.</p> <p>Despite their importance in carbon cycling, water cycling, and ecosystem health, grasslands are historically undervalued, and have been systematically destroyed and disturbed for agriculture and urban development (Augustine et al., 2021; Buisson et al., 2022; Samson et al., 2004). As a result, grassland species have experienced dramatic declines. While the 2012</p> <p>March 6, 2024</p> <p>Page 2</p> <p>Environmental Assessment prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers<sup>1</sup> states that no special-status species occur in Bear Creek Lake Park, the grasslands present in the park provide valuable habitat for year-round residents like mule deer and black-tailed prairie dogs as well as migrating species like hawks and songbirds.</p> <p>Riparian areas are also highly valuable. Riparian ecosystems have long been recognized as biodiversity hotspots. They perform a number of biological and physical functions that benefit wildlife, plants, and humans, including filtration of nutrients and pollutants into waterways, connecting terrestrial and aquatic food webs, providing and regulating diverse microclimates, and reducing erosion. In the western US, riparian areas make up less than 1% of all landscapes, yet support a disproportionately high number of species (Knopf &amp; Samson, 1994). For example, 82% of breeding bird species in northern Colorado occur in riparian areas (Knopf, 1985).</p> <p>Expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir would destroy large amounts of valuable and diverse habitats, and would likely have a negative impact on local biodiversity.</p> <p>II.</p> <p>Reservoir Expansion Is Not a Climate-Smart Strategy</p> <p>The climatic conditions in which reservoirs were designed and constructed are rapidly changing. With increasing temperatures, more extreme droughts, and increasing variability in precipitation, reservoir functionality will change. Evaporative water loss, which already removes large quantities of water from reservoirs (estimates of evaporative loss from different reservoirs in the western U.S. range from 32% to 67% of reservoir volume)(Zhao &amp; Gao, 2019), will likely increase with rising temperatures (Friedrich et al., 2018).</p> |

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| 3/6/2024   | Prado-Irwin | Sophia           | <p>[cont. from above]</p> <p>Reservoirs also contribute to climate change themselves through high greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Reservoirs release a significant proportion of global greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) via several pathways (Soumis et al., 2004). First, organic matter that is flooded during reservoir impoundment is rapidly decomposed, converting stored carbon to CO2, methane, and nitrous oxide (N2O). Methane is released via bubbling from sediment (ebullition), diffusion from the surface, and degassing (release due to water being passed through turbines or spillways). CO2 emissions are highest right after reservoir impoundment and decrease over time, while methane emissions rise slowly over the lifetime of a reservoir (Soued et al., 2022). While global CO2 emissions from reservoirs have slowed in the past several decades, in 2020 reservoirs globally still emitted significant quantities of CO2 – in fact, reservoir CO2 emissions were as high as those produced by the entire waste sector. Reservoirs also produce the 4th-highest source of anthropogenic methane (which is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO2), behind only the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors (Soued et al., 2022). Expanding Bear Creek Reservoir would drastically increase the footprint of the reservoir, leading to additional GHG emissions that would last for many years in exchange for marginal water storage gains.</p> <p>Additionally, the habitats that would be inundated with the potential expansion would lose their existing ability to sequester atmospheric carbon. Shrublands and grasslands are significant carbon sinks (Bohlman et al., 2018; Janzen, 2004; Wohlfahrt et al., 2008). Their above-ground biomass may not be as impressive as forests or shrublands, but there is significant potential for carbon storage in their roots and soils (Germino et al., 2019; Kravchenko et al., 2019; Silver et al., 2010; Soudzilovskaia et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2019).</p> <p>Riparian habitats also sequester carbon and provide resilience to climate change. The canopy cover of riparian trees and the availability of groundwater have a cooling effect for both air and water temperatures, which creates a cooler microclimate for species to find refuge from a warming climate(Gray et al., 2020; Keeley et al., 2018; Knouft et al., 2021). Such connectivity also helps animals and plants adjust to shifts in resource availability and maintain a suitable climate space as climate change alters habitats and ecological processes and causes shifts in species’ ranges (Cushman et al., 2013; Heller &amp; Zavaleta, 2009; Román-Palacios &amp; Wiens, 2020; Scheffers et al., 2016; Warren et al., 2011; Wiens, 2016). Expansion of the reservoir could compromise the functionality and climate resiliency of the riparian ecosystems in and near Bear Creek Lake Park. Colorado is a leader in climate change planning and resiliency. For example, the recently-passed Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures bill SB23-16 (2023) set an ambitious and admirable 90% GHG reduction goal for 2045. As described above, expanding Bear Creek Reservoir would compromise this goal and Colorado’s efforts to achieve a net-zero emissions future.</p> <p>III.<br/>Conclusion<br/>We recognize that water supply is an extremely important issue for Colorado now and in the future. However, reservoir expansion like that being considered for Bear Creek Lake Park is not a wildlife-friendly or climate-smart solution. We urge the Colorado Water Conservation Board to reconsider its proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir, and instead focus on alternative water-management solutions that do not exacerbate climate change, such as prioritizing water conservation and efficiency.</p> |
| 11/25/2024 | Pratt       | Annabelle        | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I regularly run (year round) and paddle board (summer and early Fall) at Bear Creek Lake Park and my favorite trails are in the riparian areas along either side of Bear Creek just upstream of the reservoir. Therefore, enlarging the reservoir would wipe out my favorite running trails near my home. Trails with tree cover are at a premium in this area and especially desirable in hot sunny weather.</p> <p>I am specifically concerned about the loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor and the loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation.</p>  |
| 6/4/2023   | Preston     | Scott            | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>My wife and I have been recreating in Bear Creek Park since approximately Fall of 2002. We exercise in the park on a weekly to monthly basis 12 months/year. I utilize the trails for recreation to enhance my cardio activity, especially road cycling and mountain biking. Being the only child of 4 not on blood pressure medications, this park is great for my health.</p> <p>Two issues I’d first defend are the use of trails for hiking or mountain biking and the paved trails for road cycling.</p> <p>Over the years, I have viewed many species of wildlife in the riparian area, and I am extremely worried about their survival with the potential loss of their habitat within the park.</p>   |
| 05/13/22   | Prett       | Robert Jefferson | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:</p> <p>I support saving Bear Creek Lake State Park!</p> <p>P.S. Why would you flood this gem that is used and loved by so many?? Water Conservation measures should be the first steps towards addressing our water needs!</p>  |



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| 10/26/21   | Prinaris  | Joan       | <p>My husband and I live in the townhomes by Quincy and Simms. We bought in this area and one of the major reasons was for the nearby recreational opportunities at Bear Creek Lake Park. We both cycle and walk there throughout the year.</p> <p>We oppose the current plan to expand the reservoir. We will lose many of our biking and walking trails and wildlife with loose their habitat. The plan will also result in a reduction and/or loss of numerous park amenities such as picnic areas. I'm sure we aren't the only residents who feel this way.</p> <p>There are also structural and engineering concerns with the dam one of which is that it was designed only for short-term flood control not long-term water storage.</p> <p>We hope you will find another option or solution (dredge deeper?).</p> <p>Thank you for reading.</p>  |
| 02/06/22   | Quinn     | Tom        | <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>I am a resident of Lakewood, CO and a regular user of the trails in Bear Creek Lake Park, particularly those on the Bear Creek Riparian Corridor. I use the Park for recreational activities including hiking, cross country skiing, cycling and wildlife photography. Expansion of the reservoir would cause irreparable harm to my enjoyment of these activities in the Park.</p> <p>My specific concerns are listed below.</p> <p>1. Wildlife Impacts- This proposal would destroy a large area of important wildlife habitat in the Bear Creek and Turkey Creek Riparian Corridors. These areas provide habitat for numerous species of wildlife and wildflowers. I have observed and photographed numerous species of birds on trails in the Bear Creek Riparian Corridor including yellow breasted chats, red tailed hawks, coopers’s hawks, spotted towhees, northern flickers, yellow warblers and mallard ducks. I have also observed mule deer, coyotes and bullfrogs in this area. Native wildflowers commonly found in this area include prickly poppies, wild prairie roses, golden asters, prairie spiderwort and blue flax. The expansion of the reservoir will destroy this habitat and the opportunity for people to observe and enjoy the wildlife and wildflowers.</p> <p>2. Recreational Impacts- This project will destroy or damage vital recreational resources including 12 miles of trails and 2 miles of streams and riparian habitat. These resources are used extensively by the people of Lakewood and others throughout the region. Bear Creek Lake Park Park draws over 650,000 visitors per year, mostly during the spring and summer months. The riparian corridor of Bear Creek sees very extensive use by hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers and picnickers. The loss of these resources is unacceptable.</p> <p>3. Destruction of Trees- The expansion will require removal of many large cottonwood trees. These trees provide important wildlife habitat for birds, shade and oxygen, and absorb carbon dioxide to help mitigate climate change. We should be protecting our riparian forests, not destroying them.</p> <p>Please take into consideration the far less damaging alternatives to the proposed expansion listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</li></ul> <p>In conclusion, the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir will destroy important wildlife habitat and recreational resources. These impacts are unacceptable. I join with others in the Lakewood community and beyond in requesting you withdraw the proposal for expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir and instead carefully evaluate the alternatives listed above.</p> |
| 2/4/2024   | Quinn     | Tom        | <p>I previously submitted detailed comments in opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir. I remain opposed to the expansion and request you pursue one of the alternatives instead.</p> <p>I am a regular user of natural areas at Bear Creek Lake Park that will be destroyed by expansion of the reservoir. I use both Bear Creek and Turkey Creek trails for hiking, nature photography, birdwatching, wildflower identification, and cross country skiing. My use of these areas will be very adversely impacted by reservoir expansion. Many others use these areas as well.</p> <p>Additionally, destruction of the natural areas in the Park is inconsistent with President Biden’s goal of conserving 30% of Americas’s lands and waters by 2030 as outlined in his Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report.</p> <p>There are reasonable alternatives to expansion outlined in my previous comments as well as comments from others. Please select one of these alternatives instead of inundating this special place.</p>   |

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| 08/15/22   | Raber     | Michael     | <p>Bear Creek Lake and the Park has proven to be well designed and has effectively served the purpose for which it was built, and it is enjoyed by the surrounding community that does not want to see it changed. There is nothing the Corps can do to improve this incredible lake park. Any change will only result in negative consequences and not fulfill the criteria you are using to justify modifying the Park for increased water storage at the sacrifice of its other amenities.</p> <p>You can better fulfill your desire to increase Colorado water storage by selecting a new site and construct a new reservoir where the latest designs for water reservoir technology can be implemented &amp; more cost effectively, while expanding the volume of water that can be stored.</p> <p>As a member of the community, I request that you please leave Bear Creek Lake Park exactly as it is. There are very few places that are perfect, but Bear Creek Lake Park is one of them.</p> |
| 11/24/2024 | Raber     | Michael     | <p>The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not responded to Save Bear Creek Lake Park’s last few requests for an update on the status of the feasibility study to add a storage component to the reservoir at BCLP. As a long-time user of the park, I would like to add my voice for an update to the Save Bear Creek Lake Park Organization.</p> <p>I am of course against any modification to BCLP as it has successfully served visitors for decades and has remained a home to our indigenous wildlife. Please don’t make any changes to BCLP as it is impossible to improve on this already perfect park, and the intent of changing it to accommodate additional water storage is impractical and will not provide the intended water storage benefits desired.</p>   |
| 01/10/22   | Ranalli   | Lisa & Tony | We fully support finding alternatives to any expansion of the reservoir, please consider any and all. Bear creek is a special park our family uses it frequently we enjoy the hiking trails, birding,biking,the river the lake the views. It’s critical habitat for many animals. Please consider any and all alternatives to any expansion of the reservoir into the areas that have trails. It’s just a shame to even be considering this expansion to start with.  |
| 03/01/22   | Ranalli   | Tony & Lisa | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 10/29/21   | Rankin    | Lindsey     | I attended the virtual meeting over my husband’s shoulder a few weeks back. I want to be on record stating that I do not want to lose our park for an increased water storage reservoir above what is already there. I head over there 3 -5 times a week to walk/hike/bike. I would really like to see Colorado do a much better job of using our water more wisely. Thank you so much for taking in to account how Lakewood’s residents feel about this project.   |

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| 10/28/21   | Reetz     | Pauline    | <p>The following comments address issues that should be covered in the National Environmental Policy Act process for the proposed Reallocation at Bear Creek Lake in Jefferson County, Colorado. These comments supplement oral testimony at the on-line Scoping Hearing held on Oct. 14, 2021.</p> <p>I. NEPA process. The potential level of impacts of such a Reallocation require that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) should prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rather than an Environmental Assessment. - The Reallocation would result in the substantial loss of riparian habitat and wetlands, both of which are extremely scarce and extremely valuable habitat types in the State of Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has estimated that 75% of all wildlife in the State uses riparian zones at some point in their life cycle. Even species such as the bobcat use this habitat by preference. A fluctuation of water levels on the scale envisioned so far would inundate 1.5 miles of Bear Creek and 0.75 miles of Turkey Creek, according to our information. This is a serious loss of riparian habitat and would require equally serious mitigation measures, which would have to be included in the EIS. - The Reallocation would cause substantial changes/damage to terrestrial-based recreation at Bear Creek Lake Park. This is a well-known birdwatching site, featured in the book The Best Front Range Bird Hikes by Norm Lewis (Golden, CO: The Colorado Mountain Club Press, 2021), p. 115-121. The Bear Creek Valley has also been designated as an Audubon state Important Bird Area or IBA. " Two hundred twenty different bird species have been found in the corridor. Of these, 153 species, about 55%, are neotropical migrants. Observations have confirmed that 95 of the species breed in the Bear Creek corridor. Teams have observed 167 of the species in specific habitats and for levels of breeding and abundance during the migrating and breeding seasons." (www.audubon-org/important-bird-areas-bear-creek-valley).</p> <p>II. Transparency. Based on our experience with the Chatfield Reallocation EIS, it's vital that all crucial elements of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) analysis should be discussed in the opening chapters of any EIS that is prepared. Examples - The estimated Safe Yield or Firm Yield of the project should be included in the description of the affected environment. The Chatfield Reallocation EIS buried this important figure in the 28th appendix (App. BB) of that document, where almost no one would read it. If the Corps finds this figure to be unimportant, it should discuss the reasons for that opinion in the opening chapters of the EIS. Firm or safe yield is the standard language for water project analysis; it gives the public an idea of how much water can reliably result from the project, year after year. The calculation "average yield" does not give that same information and is not the standard for water project discussion. Please do not use it. - The public should be well informed about any proposed action that would affect the reservoir and the surrounding Park, by the placing of informational signs in the Park at sites where visitors stop and park, e.g. parking lots, viewpoints, boat ramps, trailheads, etc. The information should be current and correct. At Chatfield, an incorrect phone number was included on such signs and was not corrected for 5 months - and then only when Denver Audubon brought it to the attention of the providers/USACE/Colorado Water Conservation Board.. The signs were also located at intersections or along roads where stopping to read the information was difficult for visitors in their cars. Fliers should also be available, directing interested visitors to a website that describes the proposed action. - Several public hearings should be held once the EIS is available in draft form, in the area around Bear Creek Reservoir and in Evergreen, as the Evergreen Audubon Society has been monitoring wildlife species and bird populations on the whole Bear Creek watershed and conducts regular field trips to Bear Creek Lake Park. - A list of the project proponents, the amount of their water rights, the dates of their water rights, and the designated use of these rights, should be in a prominent place in the project description or affected environment chapter. and also be presented at the public hearings. The dates of the water rights are especially crucial in determining how often the reallocated storage space in Bear Creek reservoir might be used, either partially or fully. - The cumulative impact of reducing flood control capacity at Bear Creek Lake on the Denver metro region as a whole should be made very clear. With flood control capacity reduced at Chatfield by that Reallocation, the public needs to know how much safety the Tri-Lakes project provides, especially in light of predicted increases in catastrophic weather events due to climate change. This should also be presented at the public hearings. [continued below]</p> |

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| 10/28/21   | Reetz     | Pauline    | <p>[continued from above]</p> <p>III. The Best Scientific Information Available. - For estimating impacts on bird populations, the USACE should employ a combination of Ebird lists, Christmas Bird Counts, and Breeding Bird Surveys, as well as any data stemming from radar/MOTUS observations of migratory bird movements in the area. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Institution and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have used such data in peer-reviewed studies of North American bird populations and the USACE should not disdain to use them. Contacting local birdwatching organizations such as Denver Audubon and Denver Field Ornithologists for their input should be a part of the information-collecting process for an EIS. At Chatfield, the EIS used estimates of bird populations compiled by consultants, based on only two surveys late in the morning during breeding season, which inevitably underestimated the importance of the area to breeding, wintering and migratory bird populations. One group of species, the grassland birds, were completely ignored; this group has declined by 57% nation-wide according to a recent study published in Science in 2019. See: Rosenberg et al., Science 366, 120-124, 4 October 2019. - A serious and comprehensive analysis of the impacts of climate change on evaporative losses, drought frequency and duration and water availability is a crucial component of any EIS for this project. Climate change will impact the availability of water to store in the reallocated space; we would want to know how often that water would be available. At Chatfield, the Corps' estimate was 2 to 3 years in 10.</p> <p>IV. Development of Alternatives. Alternatives are "the heart of the NEPA process" according to the Council on Environmental Quality. The USACE should take a very hard look at alternatives to the expansion of the reservoir. Among them- increased water conservation: the low-hanging fruit. Many municipalities are working to reduce water consumption in their jurisdictions and more is certainly possible. - Aquifer storage and recovery. This makes much sense in a warming climate, which will expedite evaporation from exposed water surfaces like Bear Creek reservoir. - Expansion and use of gravel pits. There are extensive areas of gravel mining near to Windsor, Dacono and Brighton; deepening of these pits and water storage there could reduce evaporative losses, plus provide convenient storage. - Project Wise. This recycling/reuse of treated water from Denver and Aurora should be evaluated for this project. V. Adaptive Management Adaptive management is a useful strategy in tackling truly unknown situations. However, every effort should be made to identify all possible problems and to plan and implement measures to resolve them. At Chatfield, the Corps identified nine affected resources, such as water quality, wildlife, recreation and fisheries. When and if an alternative is selected, the Corps, CWCB and water providers must develop specific plans for such resources rather than putting everything into the basket of "adaptive management." IV. Acceptance of new paradigms - The coupling of human population growth and the growth in water supply needs is no longer valid in many situations. For example, Denver has grown by about 21 % in the past decades, but water use has declined by 19% due to conservation measures. See: Eric Kuhn and John Fleck, Science Be Dammed. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2019. Pg. 215-216. Mr. Kuhn is the former general manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District; Dr. Fleck is director of the University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program. Both must be considered creditable experts on this topic. Finally, a note about the public hearing on October 14. I personally found it very difficult to log on, and I have learned that a number of other people who wanted to participate did also. If more meetings are conducted on line the Corps and CWCB should make it much easier for members of the public to participate. This concludes these comments. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Scoping process for Bear Creek reservoir Reallocation. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Scoping process for Bear Creek reservoir Reallocation.A hard copy will also be sent to the USACE Omaha office. [Duplicate received 11/9/2021]</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Reetz     | Gene       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>There are many better options.   |
| 8/25/2024  | Reetz     | Gene       | <p>I've been following the COE's Bear Creek Reallocation Feasibility with considerable interest and anxiously await a status report on what is going on relative to this study.</p> <p>I'm sure the COE is fully aware that "alternatives" analysis is considered the heart of the NEPA process. Therefore it is essential that the COE evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that consider the "purpose and need" of the project.</p> <p>Clearly the fundamental purpose of the project is to provide a water supply. As such, it is essential that the COE determine the amount of water each alternative will actually provide. The commonly used term in water supply planning is the "safe yield" or the "firm yield" of the project. Determining the "firm yield" or the "safe yield" takes into consideration a number of factors including, but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Water rights</li><li>•Water availability/stream flow (made more difficult because of climate change)</li><li>•Reservoir evaporation</li></ul> <p>While somewhat of a challenge to determine, it is essential that the "firm yield" or the "safe yield" be calculated for each alternative in order for decision-makers and the public to be able to compare the alternatives and consider how each alternative meets the fundamental "purpose and need". Consequently I look forward to seeing the COE's determination of the "safe/firm yield" of each of the alternatives being considered in the study. These determinations should be a key element in any future NEPA documents and prominently discussed since providing a water supply is the very reason for this study.</p> <p>On a separate matter which is more of a question rather than a comment/recommendation. I am aware of the 22 April 2024 "Memorandum For Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers" on "Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions in Civil Works Projects" and note the statement, "This memorandum applies to all CW programs and missions except the Regulatory Program". I am very pleased to see the COE's recognition of the importance of "nature-based solutions" and wonder how is this being considered in the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study"?</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments &amp; question.</p>   |



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| 05/02/22   | Rein       | Kevin      | <p>Dear Colonel Himes,</p> <p>Thank you for your letter formally inviting the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) to be a cooperating agency for the Bear Creek Reallocation Study Environmental Impact Statement. I appreciate that you’ve recognized DWR’s expertise in certain areas and I would like for our agency to contribute to the EIS effort by providing that expertise. I feel that we can be effective in that way. However, as I review the role of a cooperating agency, I find that much of the expectations are outside the scope of DWR’s responsibilities as an agency.</p> <p>Therefore, I will decline to participate as a cooperating agency but will also commit to being available to consult on matters related to water administration, dam safety, or other areas where DWR has specific expertise and statutory responsibility.</p> <p>For your information, I have forwarded your letter to staff with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Executive Director’s Office of the Department of Natural Resources for their review and consideration.</p>   |
| 9/25/2023  | Rein       | Dave       | <p>I am mindful that we need to find ways to carefully manage our water. I am also mindful, however, that Bear Creek Lake is one of the few areas where access to fishing, trails, and nature are easily accessible.</p> <p>The proposals that I have seen do not appear to reasonably transform the flood control measures at Bear Creek Lake into a meaningful reservoir. At the same time, the proposals will effectively destroy the recreational uses of the park.</p> <p>Walking or running in the park has helped me decompress from the pressures of life and has helped me reset in a way that going to an urban park simply cannot do so. This mental health aspect of the park is not unique to me.</p> <p>For an unrelated reason, I have talked to thousands of people in Lakewood this summer and the desire to preserve the park so that they can momentarily escape life's pressures and reset their mental health is a common theme. It is likely that many others in the Denver metropolitan area would echo these thoughts given the popularity of the park.</p> <p>I am hopeful that the Corps of Engineers will carefully consider the alternatives to storing water and preserve the critical ways in which we interact with the park.</p> |
| 04/11/22   | Richardell | Amy        | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 04/11/22   | Richardell | Jesse      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 04/07/22   | Richardson | Marc       | <p>I oppose the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake for water storage use. My family uses this park extensively year-round and cherishes the trail access for hiking, mountain biking and horse riding. We enjoy the forested areas along the creek, and are dismayed at the thought of losing that wonderful oasis. And we use the main lake for kayaking and paddle boarding regularly. We understand that supply flows into the lake rarely if ever would support 22K acre feet of storage capacity, and the thought of the extensive and permanent 'mud bathtub ring' around the main lake would really be detrimental to the local environment as well as pose a challenge for lake access.</p> <p>We understand the need for more water storage options along the front range, but we also understand there are other BETTER options for increasing water storage that wouldn't impact the beloved park that so many front range residents enjoy. Please keep BCLP as it currently is and do not change the original intent of the lake as flood control.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>   |

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| 10/18/2023 | Roberts   | Jennifer   | <p>Since moving to Colorado in 2014, I have lived near and use the network of paved paths and trails in this park on a weekly basis. This is a fantastic urban park that is clean and safe. I am an avid runner and cyclist who uses the park for training, recreation and specifically the paved baths as a through-way to access other areas of Morrison, Ken Caryl and Golden. I have raced and volunteered at numerous sporting events held there. During the pandemic, I road my mountain bike nearly every morning before work (as a medical professional). This park provides quick access to trails and wildlife that are extremely important to me personally. But really, it is a popular community park system that is enjoyed all year round.</p> <p>I appreciate the increasing need for water availability given Colorado’s dry environment and population expansion in the area. However, I do not believe flooding the park is the best or only option. My chief concerns focus on what occurs when the water level becomes either too high or too low with reference to the proposed changes? I have seen significant flooding along Bear Creek in the spring and summer. In its current capacity the park seems to handle the excess water well, albeit temporary flooding and loss of trail access does occur. If the area is flooded beyond what the proposed fill level can accommodate, there are several major roadways potentially impacted as well as concerns for the integrity of the dam. If Bear Creek is not able to consistently maintain the higher water level, do we regain the park in the future or is it forever lost to poor planning?</p> <p>Please consider deepening the existing reservoir rather than disrupting the park and wildlife habitats. Please consider repurposing expired quarries and gravel pits in other areas for water storage. Lastly, please explore the feasibility of subterranean aquifers for potential future storage.</p>  |
| 12/07/21   | Romano    | Leigh      | <p>I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you about the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation project that has been proposed in Lakewood, Colorado. I live near the Bear Creek Lake Park and enjoy the many activities there -- horseback riding, archery, swimming, boating, archery -- in addition to walking and bike riding. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful park nearby where we can see multiple birds like hawks and owls (and see owl nests in February) flying overhead. When I first heard about the expansion of Bear Creek Lake, I immediately thought of the major flooding occurrences of the past. The water was so high that search lights were placed on top of the dam, so that evidence of the dam breaking would be seen immediately. Normally, I cannot see Bear Creek Lake from my house. But I can see the lake when the flooding has ocured, and I have seen the flood lights shine throughout the night. Please see my attached remarks where I specifically mention this concern -- where is all the water going to go when we have our next flood? And will the dam break under the stress of so much water? It would be a disaster if the dam broke. There must be another solution to our water problems -- I pray that through searching out other solutions that Bear Creek Lake Park can remain the natural treasure that it is!!</p> <p>ATTACHMENT: Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion- Talking Points</p> <p>Dam Safety Concerns • Increased lake levels may impact outlet structure and require other renovations that are more expensive than alternatives. • Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage.</p> <p>There may be other structural or engineering concerns that need to be addressed. And we have had multiple times where the lake flooded, and many were concerned whether the dam would hold. Where will all this water go, in times of flooding, if the lake is increases to the level you are proposing? • City and County of Denver is a major stakeholder. Denver’s involvement to date is unclear.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts • Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the park - excluding golf course) • Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</p> <p>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Riparian and Creek Corridor • Loss of 12 miles of trails where I love to walk and ride my bike! • Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile) which I love to see on my walks and bike rides!</p> <p>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous park amenities including: • Equestrian area • Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam • 650,000+ visitors to BCLP in 2020, not including those who walk or bike in. Those numbers are likely higher in 2021. • Park use will increase as residential development continues at Solterra and at Rooney Valley Low Dependable Yield • Unallocated yield from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool. • Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21). • During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values. This was seen after the multiple floodings that have occurred there in prior years!!!</p> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions • Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. • Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives. • Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</p> |

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| 03/15/22   | Romano    | Stephanie  | <p>I strongly oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP).</p> <p>I’m sure you’ve received the points below before, but I am including them as they reflect my concerns...</p> <p>A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned that during years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park</p>   |
| 02/17/22   | Rose      | Kimberly   | <p>I am writing in strong opposition to any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). I live approximately 10 miles from the park and visit regularly for mental health, volunteering, wildlife watching, and recreation purposes. This area means a great deal to me and thousands and thousands of local and visiting users. A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where people can enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. The inundation zone is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. Riparian areas in Colorado are only 4% of our landscapes and over 95% of birds and wildlife species require these areas for part of their healthy development. We must preserve these fragile and rare ecosystems, not continue to exploit them for our culturally agreed-upon entitlement to exploiting bioregions for un-necessary overconsumption of water resources. I understand preservation is not your job, though. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. We urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. And the craziest alternative, all us residents learning to live with water restrictions should also be enforced and considered. These could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |

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| 9/2/2025   | Rose      | Kimberly   | <p>Hello, my name is Kimberly Rose and I am writing about Bear Creek Lake Park. My hope is that this letter does not get placed in the pile of potentially unread letters about this reallocation project. This is an extremely important topic to thousands of people and other residents that call Bear Creek Lake Park HOME. Please read this thoroughly.</p> <p>To begin, I’d like to share with you a bit about Jennifer (name and client details changed to preserve confidentiality), a client of mine. You see, I am a psychotherapist in the Lakewood/Golden area here in Colorado. Jennifer is a 34-year-old professional that struggles severely, like many of my clients, with depression and suicidality. This is rooted in some family abuse as well as long-term separation from how she is designed to live - with and among nature.</p> <p>Think of a tiger living in a cage most of his life, with a pretty mural on the wall of his concrete habitat. Humans do the same. We live out of integrity of the original ways humans have lived for hundreds of thousands of years: indoors, screen-based, sensory and emotionally dead inside, eating processed unhealthy foods, mistaking social media for our mammalian social needs and longings, and out of rhythm with the natural cycles of sun and dark that our endocrine system is designed to be exposed to. We are immersed in and surrounded by a disconnected culture that says this lifestyle is ‘normal’. Do not confuse what is ‘common’ for what is ‘normal’. ‘Normal’ is dynamic, moving/active, outdoors, in physical and real-contact relationships with people, animals, and plants. ‘Common’ is living separate from nature and being isolated and lonely and an extractive lifestyle that never fulfills. This is how Jennifer has lived her life – indoors, lonely, told that real living is at a desk inside all day and buying a bunch of ‘stuff’ on the weekends. The track home she lives in and strip malls surrounding her maintain this illusion of what is normal.</p> <p>As I unpack both her family and societal messages that told her she is supposed to live the common ‘caged’ life, she begins to see how she has been programmed to accept this. We work on family dynamics, and I give her homework to visit her local park at least 3 times a week – Bear Creek Lake Park. At Bear Creek, she observes the dynamic landscape, the large native cottonwood and willow trees fed by Bear Creek and Turkey Creek, the deer and elk grazing in the riparian zone, she listens to the dozens upon dozens of bird and raptor species, she puts her feet in the chilly creek... all helping her feel alive and aiding her to REMEMBER that she is designed for this exposure and connection. Jennifer sometimes engages more recreationally at the lakes - swimming and paddleboarding, but she told me she prefers the quiet mornings along Bear Creek bursting with aliveness, reminding her of her own aliveness and natural cycles.</p> <p>Jennifer has a sit spot practice, a place along the creek she visits regularly, takes her shoes off in spring and summer, feels the dirt and water moving over her feet and legs. She found an owl nest that she has been observing and is in awe of. And there is a mule deer with a tear in her ear that she sees fairly regularly that has had two babies that last few years. She especially loves the sound of the Kingfisher and goldfinch, which she considers allies on her journey.</p> <p>The forest and water and animals along Bear Creek has literally saved Jennifer’s life. Other smaller and more urban parks around the Denver area are louder, have more crime, and much less plant and animal diversity for her senses and heart to explore and experience. She reported to me that this local, beautiful, accessible park - in an already densely populated area - is her saving grace. Her identity now includes the local flora and fauna of these particular riparian areas. (cont. below)</p> |
| 9/2/2025   | Rose      | Kimberly   | <p>Big 3 ingredients’ that have a direct and positive affect on humans nervous systems: Birdsong, the sound of water, and the sound and feel of the breeze in the trees. Jennifer is not the only person that this park has saved the life of. Dozens of other practitioners in the Denver area send their clients to Bear Creek to support their mental, emotional and physical wellness. Hundreds of thousands of other people also visit the park for these reasons.</p> <p>I am also a Colorado master naturalist, native plant master, herbalist, birder, and tracker. I teach Colorado ecology, botany, and naturalist and awareness skills to hundreds of Colorado residents each year. I know how to read a landscape</p> <p>and I know the impacts that nature has on the human body, psyche and spirit. This front-range area is already at its capacity (though we of course would never acknowledge that in a capitalist culture). I know that is not your job or care, but the endless growth and what is considered ‘normal’ is actually deteriorating lives in this area. Mental health issues are skyrocketing and myself and my peers cannot keep up. WE NEED OUR PARKS TO STAY PROTECTED AND AVAILABLE!! Especially ones that have riparian areas!</p> <p>Riparian areas are absolutely critical habitat for over 95% of animal, bird and insect species in Colorado but riparian zones occupy only 3-4% of Colorado land. I’m sure you know this. THERE ARE NO EXPENDABLE OR DISPOSABLE RIPARIAN AREAS IN COLORADO! PERIOD! Each one is critical since all surrounding areas are being eliminated for more unnecessary development. Especially in the front range region of our beautiful state. For the USACE to consider this elimination of two of the few riparian areas in the front range is deeply disturbing on so many levels. There are alternatives, which you know of, so I won’t be redundant here. And I’m sure many USACE folks that do not live in this area and are only concerned with their job of assessing such feasibility roll their eyes at the Colorado constituents that care about their home. Again, the result of domesticated hearts turned to stone and living dead to the life around them. Growth at all costs, right??? Head down, punch the numbers, follow orders. Dead.</p> <p>One alternative to this project is creating a storage reservoir at the Homestead Golf Course on the other side of the dam. A golf course is not necessary to the health of humans, animals, pollinators, and struggling and suicidal people. People need the park. They do not need a poisoned, fake landscape for white men in penny loafers and pink polo shirts. So much structural and engineering effort would go into the project you are proposing, so put that effort into a space we do not need instead of a space we desperately need.</p> <p>It is a shame that even our few parks are not protected for the people and the thousands of species who call this place home. Bear Creek Lake Park is a gem that deserves greater protection, not destruction, which is (cont. from above)</p>  |
| 9/2/2025   | Rose      | Kimberly   | <p>The dependable yield of this project is incredibly low. Bear and Turkey Creek are unlikely to maintain a 22,000 acre foot storage. This would leave much death in the wake of your project. Low water levels, foul scents, destruction of God’s aesthetics and habitats. The areas this water storage would theoretically serve – Berthoud, Dacono, Brighton – would have no idea where their water comes from. It would be used to water non-native grass yards that don’t belong in this state. This is an atrocious use of our precious and decreasing water. The people that may even move into such urban and suburban track homes (every home the same and soul-less) are actually fine right now. They live somewhere, are existing somewhere. They are ok. They do not need this water. And there are alternatives. Again, I know these considerations are not your care. Terribly unfortunate and sad to turn blind eyes to life, but that is the mission of the Corp. I worked for the Corp in my 20’s. I am familiar.</p> <p>Pardon my frustration, it’s just that the idea of this project is nauseating to citizens of Lakewood, Denver, Golden, Morrison. It shouldn’t even be on the table. But unfortunately, the current and ‘common’ world we live in now is blind to integrity and to supporting the whole. You want to make a smelly, foul, deadening, destroyed, lifeless, murderous landscape in our state, from your desks in Nebraska. Business as usual is the value. And due to being employed by a government agency that inhibits life and water flow, it is assumed that a certain desensitization has occurred that makes eyes roll or bellies laugh at people here on the ground.</p>   |



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| 9/19/2024  | Ruckman   | Jim & Cindy | <p>We would like to submit our opposition to the Bear Creek Lake Park storage expansion project. We understand that this project would greatly increase the water retention capacity, and that it would also have a big impact on recreational usage.</p> <p>This expansion would have a huge negative impact on the recreational use of the park/lake and the Lakewood community as a whole. We are 30+ year residents of Lakewood and frequently use Bear Creek Lake Park for hiking the trails, biking around the lake, and canoeing and fishing.</p> <p>The impact of the expansion would drastically reduce the usable,natural area around the lake as well as the wildlife and habitat. A huge area would become mud plain from the occasional increase in the amount of storage water, instead of being the naturally attractive wooded area it is now. Habitable area would be permanently reduced due to the periodic raising and lowering of water levels.</p> <p>Since it's construction, Bear Creek Lake Park has become a community hub of nature, camping, hiking, recreation and natural beauty. Please consider our strong recommendation to leave Bear Creek Lake Park as it is now. It is not only a vital flood control tool, it is also a vital community recreation area. We strongly believe it should be kept that way!</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Rusch     | Sue         | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>Please communicate these changes more publically with the community. This change would impact the community by reducing trails, hiking paths, and a coveted riparian area. Every year I get on the trails (Mt. Carbon) next to the river and see so many species of birds (and raptors). I regularly watch nesting and fledgling owls here. They would lose their habitat. It would be helpful to have the results of the environmental impact statement for the wildlife and other impacts. Thank you.</p>  |
| 04/01/22   | Sakimoto  | Susan       | <p>Please don't convert Bear Creek Lake to water storage.... that is a heavily used park, and the plan would inundate much of the heavy use areas, and the periodic mudflats would make the area look hideous. I use the park several times a week for walking, MTB, and road bike rides. Find a different solution!</p>   |

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| 05/04/23   | Sakimoto  | Susan      | <p>I oppose the expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir. The inundated acres include the flora and fauna rich riparian and near shore corridors that are some of the most beloved for *all* of the park species (including humans). In low water years, these are likely to be mud flats. The yield calculations that this additional storage will be regularly used do not seem to account for increasingly dry climate, as well as increasingly high chances of large flood events.</p> <p>I have an annual pass, but my park visits (multiple times a week) are usually not counted-- I bike or walk in frequently for road biking, mountain biking, and walking with my dog. I treasure the park, and the to-be-flooded sections are among those I use most.</p> <p>I have a heart condition, and the Bear Creek Lake Park has flatter trails and bike-safe roads that are hard to find for exercising while not aggravating my heart condition. I know many people with mobility issues, access issues, and small children value this gentler terrain for time outdoors.</p> <p>Please consider other alternatives with less impact on park usage.</p>                          |
| 05/10/22   | Salon     | Dina       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 6/3/2024   | Sanborn   | Chrystal   | <p>I am a Littleton Native and a local business owner (not that that matters).</p> <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park’s abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor</p> <p>I cannot tell you how depressing life is - and our outdoor spaces in Colorado are one of the few things that make life worth living. The fresh air, the sound of birds chirping, the bike paths, the camping, the equestrian trails, the paddle boards, i could go on and on. Please consider what JOY you are potentially taking away from us outdoors people.</p> <p>What about instead of storing more water in the dam, we engineer a more efficient way to convert ocean water into potable water?</p> |

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| 10/29/21   | Scheffers | Michel       | <p>My name is Michel Scheffers and I live on the other side of the Bear Creek Lake Park dam built by the US Army Corps of Engineers.</p> <p>My family and I moved to Colorado following Hurricanes Irene and Sandy back east. We know what a flood emergency looks and feels like (in addition to being evacuated and needing to always be ready to evacuate).</p> <p>We had a close call here in Colorado in 2013 when this area flooded suddenly and the Bear Creek Lake Park dam was just high enough to hold back the waters which would have wiped us out. We are DEEPLY concerned about plans to fill Bear Creek Lake Park with more water. We are always told chances of flooding is very small, though over and over we have experienced more floods in our lifetime than generations before. The community that is situated closest to the Bear Creek LakePark dam is filled with outdoor animals (horses, alpaca, goats, donkey...) in addition to elderly people. Trying to quickly evacuate animals and people is a full-on press! If no one is home to move their loved ones and pets, the results are catastrophic. The biggest question I have is: WHO is going to pay to restore not only homes, though roads, fields and additional spaces which will be ruined should water spill over the dam? There is a reason the Bear Creek Dam is Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) 3 with authorized purposes to be flood risk management, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation only. I am EXTREMELY uncomfortable and deeply worried that we are being asked to place our home and those we care about in harms way for the benefit of other communities. Will these communities be required to pay to restore our community and make us whole when the water we fear arrives? How about focusing on storing water underground (which also stops the problem of daily evaporation) so our park can continue to be the recreational and wildlife treasure she is.</p>  |
| 04/23/22   | Scheffers | Michel       | See 4/23/22 comment from Alison Tamborlane.  |
| 10/19/21   | Schindler | Nancy        | <p>I am writing to relay my opposition to the full expansion of the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood Colorado. My opposition stems from being a long term resident of this community. I have used this park several times per week for mostly land based recreation for almost 20 years. This park provides outdoor activity for a multitude of families from around the Denver Metro area and allows children to gain a love of nature from a young age. The bike paths are used not only for recreation, but also for safe commuting purposes and removing them would create an even more dangerous situation for cyclists along the major roads that they would be forced to use. Roads that have seen several fatalities recently. Colorado is synonymous with the outdoors and ruining a major outlet for recreation, as well as depleting the habitat for wildlife that thrives in the park is not a good use of the resource. We all need to be stewards of the outdoor spaces that we have. Creating an area that will only serve large motorized boats will decrease the quality of life for many more people than those with watercraft. The mudflats and dust bowl that will be present much of the time will create an eyesore and the costs of this project far outweigh the gains in my opinion.</p> <p>As I understand it, the water storage would be to serve the community of Brighton, CO. Why should the Lakewood community have to suffer to create water for the ever growing sprawl that this city has allowed? Let them find a solution to their problems themselves.</p> <p>After listening to the presentation, it appears there are several options for expansion. Surely, a compromise can be made that will allow for expansion while retaining the natural resources for nature and recreation that the Lakewood and surrounding communities cherish. Our community needs these outlets to continue to have the quality of life that this area affords us.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.<br/>A concerned citizen of Lakewood, CO,</p> |
| 9/15/2023  | Schindler | Nancy & Nils | <p>After spending time in Bear Creek Lake Park this summer recreating as well as volunteering on the hike and bike patrol, I continue to be concerned about losing this park. Over 800,000 residents from all over the metro area use this park as a form of recreation and the park also hosts several organized athletic events every year. I live nearby and this park has been my 'backyard' for 20 years. My husband and I volunteer our time to ensure that the park remains a safe place for hiking, biking, fishing and camping. Reallocation of this space for an uncertain yield of water on any given year is not a sound decision given the cost to the recreation outlets it lends to so many Coloradans. Being outside in natural areas that provide habitat to wildlife is a big part of the Colorado lifestyle, we must protect and maintain those areas that allow for outdoor recreation.</p> <p>In my opinion, Bear Creek Lake Park provides a recreational resource every day of the year that far outweighs what might be temporarily gained during a high water year. Please take the wishes and needs of the community seriously while completing the feasibility study.</p>  |

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| 05/27/22   | Schneider | Michael    | I live in Golden Colorado and I frequently utilize the trails and area in the park for recreation. The idea of expanding the reservoir for an increase in the water supply is outrageous. You will do irreparable harm to the land in that area, eliminate trails for biking and hiking and pose a threat to the wildlife in the area. The risk of flooding will be increased and how in the world will that extra acreage ever be filled anyway, when with climate change the area is constantly experiencing drought. Just look at any reservoir in the area and you can see they are all far below capacity. If you build it and ruin this recreation and wildlife area, the rains will not come to fill it. |



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| 07/11/22   | Schneider | Bob        | <p>I am writing about additional concerns, beyond environmental, about the proposed additional water storage behind the Bear Creek Dam.</p> <p>Aside from the issues that were mentioned on the Save Bear Creek Park site, mostly concentrating on recreational and environmental impacts, the risks to life and property of the downstream residents is not adequately addressed.</p> <p>Some facts from a 1986 Bear Creek Lake brochure:</p> <p>Drainage Area Above Dam:236 square miles2</p> <p>Maximum Capacity:28,000 acre-feet</p> <p>Capacity of Multi-Purpose Pool:2000 acre-feet</p> <p>Spillway Capacity:153,500 c.f.s.</p> <p>“Bear Creek Lake can store up to 76,000 acre-feet for flood control and 2000 acre-feet for recreation” (1986 brochure) was designed with the primary function of flood control. The additional 20,000 acre-feet of water storage decreases the flood control storage by 26.3%! Additionally, the additional 20,000 acre-feet of continual storage, for which it wasn’t designed, could result in water seepage below the base of the dam which could weaken its capability when containing short-term flood levels. Furthermore, a flood event of 76,000 acre-feet would then cause 20,000 acre-feet to use the emergency spillway which could result in a dam failure similar to the ones in Michigan a few years ago. In essence, the dam could be prone to failure for an event which it would safely contain if used for its original purpose.</p> <p>The SQRA in 2020: “It concluded that while flood risk would increase, that risk would remain within tolerable limits”. Tolerable limits for whom? Certainly not the downstream residents whose life and property are exposed to additional risk! We have lived in Bear Valley for 39 years. Since 1992, we have been carrying flood insurance in the event that storm exceeded the capacity of the dam. The maximum coverage that can be purchased is \$250,000, which is less than half the value of the house alone. Since the cities of Brighton, Berthoud, and Dacono are the principal beneficiaries of the additional storage, are the cities going to indemnify the downstream residents for the difference between their flood coverage and their actual losses if a food event exceeds 56,000 acre-feet but not the original 76,000 acre feet for which the dam was originally designed? Why should we bear the additional risk when “Lower-impact alternatives exist which could provide additional water storage while preserving some of the irreplaceable assets of the Park and its ecosystem.”</p> <p>The alternatives also reduce the life and property risk for those who do not benefit from the additional storage.</p> <p>Given the fact that the environment is changing resulting in drier years on an annual basis, we are reminded of the sudden large storms as in 2013 and 2015, as well as other recent flooding events around the country where unusually large amounts of rain fall in only one or two storms despite being a dry year. Add to this the fact that heavy development in the 236 square mile drainage basin has increased the amount of unabsorbed runoff than when the dam was designed. I think it is foolhardy to decrease the capacity of any flood control measures given these considerations.</p> <p>I would propose that a class action lawsuit be considered should the beneficiaries of the additional water storage choose to increase the risk for downstream residents rather than consider better available alternatives.</p> |

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| 08/31/22   | Schneller | Lynette    | <p>I am writing to join the masses in expressing concern over the plans to expand the reservoir in Bear Creek Lake Park. Having visited this beautiful gem on the front range multiple times, I’ve enjoyed the trails, natural beauty, and surprisingly bountiful wildlife in such a small area. Having grown up in the Colorado Rockies near Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand Lake, I have a great appreciation of how nature and open spaces can enrich lives. After discovering Bear Creek Lake Park, it struck me how rare it was to have such a wildlife-rich natural area so close and accessible for Urbanites and Suburbanites of the Front Range. People of the Denver Metro area can visit the park with just a short drive, without adding to the worsening congestion of traffic up the I-70 corridor and other highways choked with people seeking an outdoor adventure. As development continues in Colorado, these precious nearby spaces are becoming fewer and farther between.</p> <p>The tragedy of losing this nature-filled space would only exacerbated by the loss of the wildlife that would go with it. Wildlife habitat loss is both a local and a global problem. Until we improve the local problems, we will never improve the global problems.</p> <p>When attending a recent “Save Bear Creek Lake Park” event this summer, I was not there 15 minutes taking a brief walk by one of the shallow coves off Pelican Point when I was blessed with a sighting of this bald eagle pair (picture below). I took the picture quickly as one eagle joined the other in the treetops. I currently live North of Stanley Lake in Broomfield, and was heartbroken when an eagle chick died as the tree branch holding the nest failed and crashed. So many of those large older growth trees along the lake and many creekside areas are dying or succumbing to development, and the habitat for raptors like these eagle appears only to decline. I took this as a sign, a sign to fight for these symbols of America and their home. It isn’t lost on me (and shouldn’t be on your team) how the image of the Eagle is embedded in the symbolism of the Army, and of our Country.</p> <p>I am also an Engineer, and appreciate there is a job to do. The Corps has a tall task of helping mitigate the growing water supply issues in the Front Range, and I empathize with that. One important concept I learned in Corporate America is the “Art of the And”. A company can make money, and be sustainable. A company can aim for high productivity, and take care of its people too. I understand there are options at Bear Creek Lake Park to achieve a larger water supply, and spare this natural space and it’s wildlife. It is with great hope that your team rises to the occasion, and masters the “Art of the And” for this special and priceless space.</p> |

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| 05/16/22   | Schroeder | David      | <p>I am writing to urge you to develop an alternative to flooding a major portion of the Bear Creek Lake Park. I understand that the city of Lakewood uses the park land by the generosity of the Corps. However, the proposed increase of the lake to over 22,000 acre feet would destroy the island of wildlife that currently exists. Since discovering this gem only ten days ago, I have seen deer, elk, squirrels, redtail and Coopers hawks, a bald eagle, great horned owls, pelicans, turkey vultures, ducks of all sorts, geese, cormorants and multiple warblers, woodpeckers and other smaller bird species. There are many other species yet to be discovered. Decreasing the acreage of the riparian area as significantly as the proposed plan calls for would eliminate many of the large species by concentrating the human impact. Even worse, I can imagine that the park may be lost to Denverites .. I have traveled to many of the Denver metropolitan area wilder places, and this park is the best at integrating human outdoor activities and wildlife support that I have found. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and Chatfield and Cherry Creek Reservoirs are the only ones that compare, and they are much, much larger. Please consider delaying or significantly altering the proposed plan to preserve this wonderful natural island in suburbia.</p> |
| 02/22/22   | Schulten  | Michael    | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 9/11/2023  | Schwalm   | Jim        | <p>I firmly believe that the capacity to store more water is a proactive and necessary step in preparing for the impacts of climate change on our region.</p> <p>In addition to its vital water resource benefits, I would like to strongly advocate for the consideration of an expanded trail system within the park. While it has not been explicitly stated that such an expansion is part of the project, I believe it is a crucial addition that would complement the project's objectives.</p> <p>Expanding the trail system would not only promote healthier lifestyles and outdoor enjoyment for our community but also align perfectly with our collective responsibility to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Bear Creek Lake. With these expanded trails, we can ensure that the park continues to be a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and families like mine, fostering a deep connection with nature for generations to come.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial project. I wholeheartedly support the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project's aim to secure our water resources and urge the exploration of opportunities to enhance our recreational offerings. This initiative represents a forward-thinking approach to addressing the challenges of the future while preserving the essence of our beloved park.</p>      |

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| 11/09/21   | Schweich  | Matt       | <p>Attached are several questions and comments that I believe should be addressed in the study and any subsequent project documents.</p> <p>I am writing regarding the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir Water Supply Reallocation Study. I am a long-time resident of Morrison, Colorado and frequently use Bear Creek Lake Park for recreation. I offer the following questions and comments regarding the Reallocation Study and look forward to seeing these items addressed in the study and any subsequent project documents.</p> <p>1) Type of Analysis</p> <p>It is unclear to me how the current reallocation study relates to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will eventually have to follow if the project is to proceed. I assume the Reallocation Study will help frame the purpose and need, proposed action, alternatives, and issues analyzed. Please explain at what point the USACE will initiate the NEPA process. The Corps should prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because of the complexity of the process, the potential for significant effects, and the high level of controversy likely to be caused by the significant effects.</p> <p>2) Purpose and Need</p> <p>I understand that the State of Colorado is predicting a water supply shortfall of 400,000 acre-feet by 2050 and that the proposed changes at Bear Creek Lake Park would address up to 20,000 acre-feet (five percent) of this shortfall. This seems to be an adequately-defined purpose and need, provides ample space for potential alternatives, and should not be narrowed to unnecessarily limit the range of alternatives, including the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative that will ultimately be identified.</p> <p>3) Proposed Action</p>  |
| 11/09/21   | Schweich  | Matt       | <p>d) Reallocation of up to 20,000 acre-feet of water from agriculture to municipal supply.</p> <p>e) No action</p> <p>5) Issues to be analyzed in detail</p> <p>Please analyze in detail the following issues:</p> <p>a) Air quality</p> <p>During periods when the full 20,000 acre-feet are not in storage, exposed sediment would increase the potential for generation of fugitive dust, especially during frequent, high wind events that are common along the Front Range.</p> <p>Please analyze and disclose effects of the project on particulate matter emissions, including PM10 and PM2.5. Focus on periods of time when large areas of exposed sediment may be subject to high winds. Do not limit the analysis to average conditions (water levels, wind speed, etc.), but instead disclose the maximum potential effects.</p> <p>Describe the cumulative effects of the project on air quality in the Denver Metro area. How do baseline and post-project effects compare with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?</p> <p>How would projected worst-case fugitive dust affect residential areas, schools, recreational areas, and other potential sensitive receptors, especially those close downwind of the project (generally east and south).</p> <p>What mitigation measures would be employed to minimize new emissions of fugitive dust? How effective would these measures be, especially in worst-case conditions?</p> <p>b) Aquatic resources</p> <p>High quality aquatic resources exist around Bear Creek Lake and along both Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. It appears that significant areas of wetlands and other waters of the US would be inundated by the increased surface area of the lake.</p> <p>Additional delineation of aquatic resources is needed to accurately estimate the extent of these aquatic resources. NWI and other remote sensed data are notoriously inaccurate. The floodplains along Bear Creek and Turkey Creek were significantly altered during flooding in September 2013; therefore, any mapping of aquatic resources that has not been ground truthed is highly suspect.</p> <p>Please analyze and disclose the effects of each action alternative on aquatic resources. In addition to the direct effects of inundation caused by increased water storage, estimate the additional incremental loss that could occur during flood events. For example, if the 2013 floods had occurred when the full 20,000 acre-feet were in the storage pool, how much additional land would have been flooded? What would be the extent of [continued from above]</p> |
| 11/09/21   | Schweich  | Matt       | <p>d) Dam Safety / Flood Control</p> <p>It appears that this is one of the primary purposes of the reallocation study, and an important component of any analysis. Please disclose clearly, in plain English, how the project would affect dam safety and flood control, especially considering the potential for more frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change.</p> <p>e) Economics</p>  |
| 5/31/2023  | Scobey    | Jenni      | <p>Bear Creek park is a lovely place to spend time. It's always filled with young families looking to enjoy the outdoors and accommodates young, old and everywhere in between. Paddle boarding there is easy and very fun! Please keep it open for public use.</p>   |



| Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name           | Comment   |
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| 02/20/22   | Scott     | Ron                  | <p>Objection: Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project Is Wrong!</p> <p>The idea of expanding Bear Creek Lake and flooding valuable parkland, hiking trails, and outdoor recreation land is one of the dumbest, most misguided schemes I've ever heard of in the Western United States, (or anywhere for that matter).</p> <p>Instead of destroying our community, why don't you stop pandering to the needs of fat-cat developers and prohibit new construction in the west Lakewood area completely? That is the answer. Let them build somewhere else.</p> <p>I stand in objection to any part of of this stupid idea, and frankly, whoever is responsible for trying to get this scheme passed should be fired.</p> <p>There is nothing that you need to waste our taxpayer dollars to study here. Just stop it immediately!</p> <p>If you don't, we will organize and fight this all the way.</p>  |
| 10/23/21   | Seemiller | Jamie (and Nicholas) | <p>My name is Jamie Seemiller and I am a Jeffco resident in the Creekside at Fox Hollow neighborhood. Our house is adjacent to the Fox Hollow Golf Course and Bear Creek Lake Park. I wanted to voice my concern for the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project that is currently being reviewed. We moved from Denver in February for 2021 to the Fox Hollow area in part because of the easy access to trails and open space. I am a trail runner and my husband is a mountain biker, so we use the park almost daily. We moved from Denver to enjoy a higher quality of life with more space and access to the mountains. I also have participated in the Bear Chase Trail Race Festival &lt;Blocked<a href="https://www.bearchaseraceseries.com">https://www.bearchaseraceseries.com</a>&gt; that has been held in Bear Creek Park for more than 10 years. If the plan goes through to increase the water storage to 22,000 AF in the park, all of these activities will stop and our quality of life will suffer. I am also concerned about being a homeowner in the area so close to the proposed reservoir. What will this mean for our house value and will this put us in a flood zone which will require flood insurance?</p> <p>With all this said, as a Colorado native I am very aware of the water issues that plague the state. I know that we can't continue to develop the state without the resources needed to support growth. I would hope that some sort of compromise can be made to increase the water storage without completely wiping out the recreation and wildlife in the park. So I hope that you weigh citizens' concerns with water needs when you explore the options for the park. The park adds to the quality of life not only to my family but many residents of Lakewood.</p> |
| 2/12/2025  | Sehm      | Sabine               | <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is such an important part of Lakewood. I have coming to this park most of my life, biking, hiking, and mainly enjoying watching the wildlife. This new proposed water reservoir would destroy an incredible amount of habitat, deer, owls, falcons, blue herons and so many more. Most of the inner walking trails would be flooded, this would be a travesty. My family and are very much against the proposed resevoir expansion. Leave the beautiful area alone and let the wildlife thrive, so that we who live here can enjoy it for future generations.</p>   |
| 10/20/21   | Selleck   | Karen                | <p>As a neighbor of Lakewood’s Bear Creek Park, I wanted to express my concerns about the expansion during this public scoping process. While I understand the need to increase water storage at the reservoir, I also know the value of this park to both the nearby locals and others from the Denver area. To be able to hike and bike without driving (or driving far) is what makes Colorado a special place. When the park has flooded in years past, our community definitely suffered from not being able to use it. This is a well-loved, well-used park, and I hope a compromise can be reached if the reservoir needs to be increased so that existing trails and roads won’t be flooded out, with no room to replace them. This would be a terrible loss to many. If a smaller increase than the current proposal could be achieved, with a plan to replace or enhance current recreational facilities, bike paths, and hiking trails that would be impacted, therefore maintaining the current use of the park, this would be for the best. I would like the committee to recognize that not only are boating and swimming important recreational opportunities, but a large number of people use this park for hiking, biking and camping, which are just as important as the water sports. The proposed plan seems to drastically alter the recreational opportunities of the park, and I am adamantly opposed to that. I would also encourage looking at opportunities for water storage that would not impact riparian habitat for wildlife quite so much as it would at this park, as the park’s habitat is a precious resource for biological diversity—important in our growing urban environment. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>  |

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|            |           |            | <p>Please do not fill Bear Creek Lake Park. We need it. Our children need it. Athletes need it. Our elders need it. I need it.</p> <p>Here are some things you should consider when completing a research on Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>First, it is a sanctuary in the city. It is the only nature park close to my home, a 15 minute drive, where I can take my children to escape the sound of city and traffic. Do you live in a metro area? Do you know what it’s like to hear traffic nearly all of the time, even when out at local parks? Bear creek lake park serves as a serious break from the oppressive noise of the city. If it is filled, the few trails that are out of earshot of the road, near the river which drowns the sound of the city, will be gone. I will no longer have the sound oasis. It is the only Park that offers flowing water, that is shaded by trees so my children can have a cool place to play in the summer heat. It is the only park which offers miles of shaded dirt paths through trees, and along waterways. It is the only place where I can take my 80-year-old father in the heat of the summer where he can sit in the shade and feel like he is in nature.</p> <p>Second, it is an oasis for wildlife in the city. You are probably aware that just recently the motion sensor cameras captured an image of a black bear in the park. This summer, my children and I sat by the stream and caught toads at the rivers edge. My son also has chased numerous crawfish under the streams rocks. We have seen blue herons standing still in the shallow waters. We have heard owls in the dead cottonwoods. We have seen eagles and hawks and song birds of all sorts. We have seen deer; bucks, does and fawns. My son is five, my daughter is two. They are both mesmerized and awed seeing such accessible wildlife. Where will these animals go? The front range is becoming so populated there are no longer vast areas for them to hide, let alone roam.</p> <p>Third, it is my favorite park along the entire front Range. I was born and raised on a homestead in Alaska. I am used to vast tracks of unpopulated land. I am used to being able to get away from traffic and noise and pollution. It is getting harder, and harder, and harder to do that in the Denver area. Please do not take that away. I am a mom, I am a runner, I am a former outdoor educator, I am a nurse, and I entreat you and your team to please consider other options. Water is an issue and will be an issue for generations to come. Not just for people living in the suburbs, for all living things. What we need is a shift in how we use our resources, not another holding tank that will eventually run dry.</p> |
| 10/26/21   | Serafini  | Ruth       | Please be creative, resourceful, and consider keeping Bear Creek Lake Park the treasure that it is in its current state.   |
| 02/07/22   | Serafini  | Paul       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". No added comments.  |
|            |           |            | <p>I’m voicing my opposition to the expansion of bear creek lake.</p> <p>I believe the negatives of lose of habitat and recreational areas does not outweigh the benefits of the increased water area.</p> <p>I do support some alternative win-win plan. Deepening and while expenses the reservoir in a limited area, maybe to the south where less habitat will be lost could be an alternative.</p>  |
| 7/2/2024   | Shepherd  | Stephen    |  |

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| 05/03/22   | Short     | Diane      | <p>Over my 30+ years as an environmental consultant (Quality Assurance and analytical chemistry), I have the opportunity to work in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the clean up and monitoring of several hazardous waste or environmental clean-up sites. My experience is that the Corps has always been a leader in Quality, technology, and innovation. As the Corps is responsible for the Bear Creek Lake development, my understanding is that it is now part of the decisions being made as part of a Colorado state water management plan. This letter is to begin an inquiry into the value that the Corps could bring into overall management of water in our state rather than being limited to how it is delivered and stored.</p> <p>I have written to our Governor about ways to be a solution rather than a Band Aid. This could include requiring all new development have a minimum of 50% xeriscape or a greater percentage of low water landscaping. We are also facing a crisis in over-development and population density in Colorado that is not sustainable unless we face, and act, on the fact that we now have regular drought conditions. This would not be an area for the Corps as I understand it unless the Corps had a say in educated and long term use and planning of the water it is providing.</p> <p>What could be a place is where the innovation and technology of the Corps could be in the agricultural community – a major source of water use. The conflicts in Ukraine and other parts of the world point to the rising need to develop more internal infrastructure in many areas. I suggest that water is becoming the ‘new oil’ in terms of critical and endangered resources. Is it possible for the Corps to participate in building a viable hydroponic system for our agricultural community? It is a pivot point (as Apollo Ono would say) from dams that store water to an infrastructure for Wise and long-term manage water. That would possibly include converting or building facilities on not only current agricultural farms and ranches, but in cities where unused or poorly used building and warehouses could be re-deployed as multi-tiered growing centers. This could be particularly valuable as part of low income area/ social justice programs where people could have access to low cost, nutritious and herbicide/pesticide-free food. It could also be an economic draw in cities where having fresh products is gaining awareness and support. Balancing that with organic farming which is less water intensive, chemical dependent and more CO2 sequestering is another topic. The number of farms that are closing due to extreme drought and poor nutrient management is a sign of the need to change our thinking so that we can change our actions. Farming is no longer like ‘the good old days’. And the Corps has the people, commitment and experience to create the New Normal that is being called forth in these challenging times. These, and more innovative solutions, I am sure are already in the works!</p>   |
| 08/23/22   | Short     | Diane      | <p>As I am sure you are aware, the developers and real estate interests are lobbying Actively to develop, not only against the vote of local cities, but with no Viable water management or waste management programs in place that address the actual issues that we face as an arid and increasingly drought prone state. This is being supported by local mayors and elected (unfortunately) officials in spite of our votes. I cite Lakewood in particular, although I see massive development in every city from Colorado Springs and up beyond Fort Collins. I see the impact of poor water management and quality every day in my business. I understand it is the task of your team to take on the momumental task of water allotment and availability. I sincerely request that you consider at least some of the ideas noted below.</p> <p>My business is environmental consulting, focusing on the areas of Quality Assurance and analytical chemistry data Usability, as well as public involvement. My business, Diane Short &amp; Associates (DSA) has been serving the environmental community (engineer companies and government agencies) for over 31 years. I was on Gov. Romer's environmental advisory team - although a bit of time ago. I have also been a subcontractor to engineering firms who work for the ACE on several clean up sites. The work has been well run and of high quality. It is always be an opportunity we appreciate to work in service to the ACE.</p> <p>This letter is because of what came to my attention per the signs at of Bear Creek Park Lake (BCLP). If I understand it correctly, it is not only under the Army Corps of Engineers, but is included in our State Water Management study (Colorado Water Conservation board). We thought this was a dead issue, at least for BCLP. The financial impact of ensuring the present dam could fulfill its present flood mitigation requirements while being close to flood level were prohibitive. I have not been able to find any plans that actually address Management rather than Development. In an overall water management plan, the ACE expertise and leadership have the capability to ensure that any and All development meets the same criteria that we uphold in our EPA-type Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).</p> <p>I am not sure the full reach of the ACE with regard to the entire state study. Therefore, these may or may not apply to your task. All development must Require that a minimum of 50% any landscaping be xeriscaped. I strongly suggest that all landscaping on the periphery of developments be xeriscape with all native plants (example Solterra just put in at least ¼ mile strip of green grass that they are watering in the middle of the day, most days. This should not be allowed). All sprinklers would be some form of soaker system to minimize water wasted to evaporation, Water restrictions would be in place in all counties. If appliances are already installed in new buildings, they would conserve water; high efficiency front loading washers and dryers, low water use dishwashers. I think low flow toilets are already a requirement. There are several cities that have had the courage to set the number of water taps to the capacity that is reasonable and achievable, not by who funds their campaigns.</p> <p>I have just been introduced to 2 very applicable resources. One is a well-researched book. Water in Plain Sight by Judith Schwatz. The other is Kiss the Ground , a video taken from the work of Joshua Tickell which is a 2020 documentary. Both address very productive, cost effective and common-sense solutions to our water shortage. It is SOIL MANAGEMENT. Healthy soil, which is high in nutrients, aggregates and a full complement microbiome not only sequester water and keep it available, but it sequesters carbon. Get rid of Kentucky blue grass and require all new development to have a soil management, or regenerative agriculture specialist (depending on the environment) and team to literally build better water resources from the ground Up. Clover is a great alternative to grass. It needs less water, needs almost no mowing and is a food source for birds and insects. [continued below]</p> |

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| 08/23/22   | Short        | Diane      | <p>[Continued from above] I have also spent some time with some very intelligent and thoughtful youth in the Future Farmers of America (FFA). In discussions on the future of farming, the increasing hardships given climate and temperature extremes, they have at least shown some interest in the following. In a step-by-step process, either grow hydroponically in increments - maybe 5 % initially- of appropriate crops. That is build facilities that are large warehouses with tiered growing trays, fed by 10% of the water needed for historical growing, with healthy added nutrients, needing essentially no pesticides or herbicides and protected from the weather. These could also be a boom to low-income areas where old buildings could be re-purposed And jobs generated, to have healthy indoor crops available year round. Organic and regenerative agriculture would also be integrated into the process to maintain a healthy balance and account for root crops that are not amenable to indoor practices.</p> <p>As we also face the mud slides and general flooding due to the lack of vegetation in burn areas, is it possible to use microbiome- generating (like native mushrooms or cultured bacteria) to regenerate soil water capacity more quickly? Fireweed naturally fills in if Nature is left to her wisdom, but do we need to help her out with planting it in burn areas before recovery naturally begins? Would native mushrooms, which have a rich mycelium system, be something that could be spread along with a wood chip matrix on which they could grow?</p> <p>One of the concepts in Water in Plain Sight is how seemingly sterile or waste land can be regenerated by grazing clovenhoofed livestock. In my field of hazardous waste clean-up, we have documentation of literal near sterile soil being used for livestock. The hay, poop and turning over of the soil by the hoofs builds the microbiome back up and the land can be reclaimed in sometimes as little as 5 to 10 years. It is a win for agriculture who can lease nutrient-poor land, a win for the carnivores (of which I am obviously not one as I Know the negative impact of the cattle industry for protein generation per unit of water and feed) . Which highlights the sound medical research on the detrimental effects of over eating and especially of eating meat. Livestock and the food they require are a major source of water consumption as well as the over-grazing that depletes soil when -again- not properly managed. Denver is already one of the top five cities in the country for cost of living and home prices. It is time to stem the tide. Not everyone has to live here to make a living. The</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Singh        | David      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 11/08/21   | Sivesind, MD | Torunn     | <p>I'm writing to express my concern over expansion of the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park. As a runner and outdoor recreation enthusiast, I do not want to see this precious community and environmental resource sacrificed to accommodate growth and development in other regions of the state.</p> <p>I support a compromise of between 2000 AF and 22,000 AF, as a way to provide additional water storage while preserving some of the irreplaceable assets of the Park and its ecosystem.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>  |
| 02/14/22   | Slavsky      | Andra      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).   |



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| 06/07/22   | Small     | Corbyn     | <p>Opposition to filling bear creek state park</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to study the impacts that filling bear creek might have. For the water supply needed, the cost for this would be so high for all those who use and recreate in bear creek. It's a beautiful natural open space with amazing wild life. The miles and miles of trails for hiking, biking and horses are a gem. Please consider other options for supplying water resources. Our family lives 5 miles from the state park and rides in weekly with our kids. I look forward to teaching our kids to ride trails inside of that park and through cottonwood trail and others that would be submersed if this idea went forward.</p>   |
| 02/01/22   | Smith     | Ali & Dan  | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See above. Added comment:</p> <p>We have been patrons of BCLP since 2010. We have run and hiked out here all that time. We are also concerned about damage to protected species.</p>  |
| 03/20/22   | Smith     | Lisa       | <p>As a Lakewood resident and frequent Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) recreation user I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the park.</p> <p>A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres and inundates many trail miles within the park. As an avid mountain biker, road biker, trail runner and hiker I regularly use these trails and cherish the access to such a remarkable place in my backyard. Proximity to BCLP was a key factor in our decision to relocate to Lakewood. I have seen a variety of wildlife in the park that would undoubtedly be profoundly impacted by the expansion of the reservoir. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p>   |
| 04/14/22   | Smith     | Lis        | <p>would have detrimental impacts on the recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and the local economy. Based on the large number of citizens that turned out at a recent Lakewood City Council Meeting and a subsequent Ward 5 of Lakewood meeting, there is unanimous support from local citizens to protect BCLP from the consequences of the proposed reservoir expansion.</p> <p>A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres and inundates many trail miles within the park. As an avid mountain biker, road biker, trail runner and hiker I regularly use these trails and cherish the access to such a remarkable place in my backyard. Proximity to BCLP was a key factor in our decision to relocate to Lakewood. I have seen a variety of wildlife in the park that would undoubtedly be profoundly impacted by the expansion of the reservoir. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>BCLP receives a large number of recreation visits—according to park records there were over 650,000 visitors in 2020. I suspect this vastly undercounts the number of park visitors as a number of visitors arrive via foot or bicycle. In a growing metropolitan area where development of open spaces has been occurring over the last decades BCLP provides a welcome refuge for visitors, local Lakewood residents, wildlife and bolsters the local economy.</p> <p>I have seen the images of the barren bathtub rings that are likely to appear around the reservoir when water levels decrease and it seems unlikely they would revegetate and leave the entire area with huge scars across the landscape.</p> <p>Given that the primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control an increase in volume of water would undoubtedly increase flood risk for those living east of the dam which includes my home. As we have seen unprecedented water events and weather events (including the 2013 Bear Creek flood) it seems ill advised to plan reservoir expansions that would put Lakewood and Metro Denver residents at higher flood risk.</p> <p>While I completely understand that Colorado's population is growing and with it the demand for water and water storage. However, Colorado's population is not growing nearly as quickly as projected in the Colorado Water Plan and correspondingly the need for water storage is not likely to be as great as initially projected in the plan. The potential impact to such a treasured place is outsized compared to additional water storage it could provide. Simply put, Bear Creek Lake Park is just not the right place for expanding water storage capacity.</p> |
| 10/24/21   | Smythe    | Nicole     | <p>I am writing to oppose the expansion of Bear Creek Lake. I live directly across the open space to the South of the lake. Bear Creek Lake Park is a very special place to us. We have been hiking these paths for over 10 years. My 8 year old son, who is disabled, has a movement disorder and cannot hike many places because of the uneven ground. Bear Creek Lake Park is a safe and close place that we can explore. We can even take his adaptive chair on the paths. This is a place like no other. We can paddle board and hike and have a picnic in the woods all in one place right by our house. We do a lot of nature hikes and in the past have been within a few feet of deer and have observed the great horned owl many times in the woods of Bear Creek Lake Park. I am strongly against the expansion of the water area of Bear Creek Lake. I feel that this could be done in another area along the foothills if it's really about bringing in more water. Bear Creek Lake Park is very special to many people and it should be left the way it is. If the flooding takes place we will no longer be able to utilize this space and my son will no longer be able to hike in the shade of the trees independently without having to drive far into the foothills. A concerned citizen of Morrison Colorado</p>   |

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| 8/2/2024   | Sommerer  | Joy        | <p>I have had the privilege to enjoy Bear Creek Lake Park for the past decade visiting several times a week. It is a sanctuary for me and the animals that live inside it's invisible borders. When I first visited in the winter over a decade ago I didn't see much beyond the grey cottonwoods. I've since discovered worlds within worlds of life that lives there. I've watched several Great Horned Owls year and year nest. Screech Owls, waterfowl, Bald and Golden Eagles, Hawks, Falcons, an array of songbirds that live year round as well as many that stop there during migration every season. Bobcats, coyotes, minks, it goes on and on. It's a pleasure and joy to walk through that park nearly every day and make new discoveries. Life is thriving there behind the scenes, in the creeks, brush and trees. There are micro universes among universes of territories within the web of trees and plants within this park. I love it there and appreciate being able to visit. They live there and it's their home, life, and interconnected support system for survival. It's the only place of it's kind for miles and is a hub for so much life. I hope there is a few among you with that recognize this and can find the heart and a way to keep it intact while still achieving the goals you have with the least amount to no impact on this park and it's inhabitants, trees included.</p>   |
| 12/04/21   | Spale     | Dan        | <p>The current plan for expanding the water storage capacity at Bear Creek Lake Park from 2,000 acre feet to 22,000 acre feet should not even be considered. This plan will destroy habitat for animals and recreation area for people.</p> <p>You need to walk through the area you want to destroy and realize the human impact of such a bad idea.</p>  |
| 10/30/21   | Stahle    | Diana      | <p>We have lived in the Pheasant Creek neighborhood now for about 15 years, and the current plan to expand Bear Creek Lake is very concerning to us. We frequent the lake and the activities near it often, and we enjoy and appreciate everything it offers us, including but not limited to, paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The expansion would threaten quite a bit of these activities for us and thousands of residents that enjoy them. We are avid nature lovers, and the likelihood that the expansion of the lake would threaten the habitat of many species is reason alone not to do it. The fact that climate change and human actions like deforestation and animal agriculture are already dangerously threatening the extinction of so many species is more of a reason to protect them given the chance. Just as important is the dam's purpose of flood control, which would be put at risk if the lake is expanded. The additional negative effects like mud flats and the "bathtub" ring effects are a cost too great to accept. Plain and simple, our community at large needs to do better to conserve water, as we have started to see efforts done by Denver Water like limiting the amount of time and days that people can water lawns. Widespread droughts are only going to get worse, so we are going to have to get more creative in our green efforts.</p> <p>Thank you for your time in reading our family's concern. We implore those with the decision making capabilities, like yourself, to vote against the lake expansion to the proposed 22,000 AF. The negatives outweigh the benefits.</p> |
| 03/18/22   | Stechert  | Timothy    | <p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed reallocation of water within Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, Colorado. The 20,000 acre feet expansion would inundate nearly 500 acres of trails and over a mile of Bear Creek. Cottonwood trees along Bear and Turkey Creek would be removed, destroying significant stretches of riparian habitat. These inner regions of the park, where the surrounding highways are not seen or heard, will be destroyed. Bear Creek Lake Park serves as an essential migratory and nesting habitat for over 220 bird species. The ecosystem supports hundreds of species of wildlife and plants. The park serves the public year round with an opportunity to enjoy peace and solitude from the ever increasing pressure of urban development. It is a very heavily used park and is expertly managed by the City of Lakewood. Converting the park to a water impoundment for downstream development would utterly destroy the riparian habitat and would rob thousands of people the place they have come to depend on for enjoyment of nature. It is my sincere hope that your organization can find a water impoundment alternative that preserves Bear Creek Lake Park in its current state.</p>   |

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| 06/03/22   | Steinberg | Barry               | 6/3/22 Steinberg to USACE: Please provide me with the legal counsel identity and contact information for the above indicated project.<br><br>6/29/22 USACE Shelman to Deichert: Hi Meagan, Going through recent comments on Bear Creek and received this one. This is you correct? Do you want to reply? Thanks, John<br><br>6/29/22 USACE Deichert to Shelman: Yep, that'll be me. I can reply directly to the attorney. Thanks for sending John<br><br>6/29/22 USACE to Steinberg: Mr. Steinberg, The project manager for the Bear Creek Study forwarded me your email requesting contact information for counsel on this project. Please see my contact information below. Thank you, Meagan<br>Meagan J. Deichert<br>Assistant District Counsel  |
| 3/3/2024   | Stevens   | Jennifer & Jonathan | I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. I am strongly opposed to this proposal and ask that you seek alternatives that are not detrimental to this vital riparian area. My husband and I (and many others we know) frequent Bear Creek Park to paddle, hike, and bike in this beautiful area, and depend on this area for both physical and mental wellness. As we get older, we depend on the trails and activities in Bear Creek Lake Park more and more. We depend on almost all of the trails that will be flooded. It is close and provides a variety of activities. I am able to ride my bike on rolling hills through winding, creek side, single-track trails within a beautiful canopy of trees. Just about all the other single-track trails in the area are big hill climbs and can be quite technical for the older community, and paved paths aren't the same. Being from Colorado, I have seen many places transformed, resulting in the disappearance of natural space and wildlife. We have an opportunity to preserve Bear Creek Lake in its current state, or greatly reduce the impact, because we know the facts, and the fact is there are better options. These are options that make sense and are a win for everyone, such as continuing to improve irrigation systems for agriculture for more water-wise practices. We need long-term solutions and improved irrigation should be necessary. Digging deeper instead of expanding out makes more sense in terms of balancing the need to store water, and the need to reduce impact to the riparian areas. We've already seen the expansion of Chatfield and soon Gross Reservoir. Please keep Bear Creek Lake's original intentions for flood mitigation intact. We ask you to do the right thing for everyone, including the hundreds of species of wildlife and plant life. |
| 4/26/2025  | Stewart   | Matt                | To whom it may concern: I moved to Colorado 20 years ago from Pennsylvania and I've lived in the Lakewood area most of that time. I currently own property half a mile from the east entrance of the park near Homestead Golf Course. Bear Creek Lake Park is the oasis for my wife and I and our dogs. As I'm sure you've heard from others and maybe even know for yourself that the park is home to an abundance of wildlife, especially down in the Cotton woods, which would be destroyed if the lake gets expanded.<br><br>I'm not an expert in water, but I've heard from other friends that the topography of land doesn't make that area great for water storage as it's too shallow, and therefore would increase the surface area and allow for more evaporation.<br><br>Please consider that this area is like my backyard and doesn't seem like a great solution given the topography. Thanks in advance!   |
| 10/15/21   | Stocker   | Thomas              | The only sentence in the 11 page handout that is important appears on page 6 under Study Considerations: 'maintaining park's overall character (e.g.. land-based vs. water based) may be difficult.' In short, to get a few more acre-feet of water storage, the water engineers and developers will willy-nilly DESTROY the park that has been there and used by the public for 25-30 years or more. In my opinion, the public has an implied easement for the continued use of the park in its present configuration. The engineers from Omaha (who don't use the park) and the developers from who knows where could care less. But the park belongs to the people, not to the bureaucrats. Does the public have to institute an environmental lawsuit and seek an injunction to stop this madness? /s Tom Stocker, tom@thstocker.com." [Additional comments provided 10/11/21]: Thank you for your prompt response.<br><br>Please provide me with the Agenda and/or link to materials. I plan on attending Thursday's meeting.<br><br>I've been a park user for more than two decades (bicycling and bicycle racing traing), but I am only one of thousands, probably tens of thousands of users.<br><br>As word gets around, I think you will find very substantial opposition to the inundation proposed.<br><br>In my personal opinion (not legal opinion at this point), I believe that the public has an implied easement for the continued use of the park in its present configuration that has existed for decades. Kind of akin to an adverse possession claim.<br><br>If you are accumulating comments, please include this email.   |

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| 05/07/22   | Stocker   | Gary       | <p>Please accept the following as my current comments on your proposal to destroy BCLP.</p> <p>In my opinion, you should shut the whole thing down and go study water somewhere else.</p> <p>Why should beautiful and precious Bear Creek Lake Park that is used and enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people a year be destroyed so that a few transplant dweebs can have green grass? Maybe a better solution is to outlaw residential grass! The equities are overwhelming in favor of preserving the park in its present configuration, the configuration that it has been in for more than 40 years.</p> <p>In any event, the public, who you work for and pays you, has an implied easement for the continued use of the park as it has been configured for 40 plus years. If you materially change that configuration you will have breached the easement that you have allowed to exist undistrubed for all of these years.</p> <p>Thus, shut your misguided study down, dispense with all thought of destroying the park for a few gallons of stored water, put taxpayer money to a better use, and move on to something more productive.</p> <p>P.S. Please post this as my “public comment” and forward it to the good folks at the Water Conservartion bureaucracy (read developer’s agency), an oxymoron if I ever heard one.</p>  |
| 05/23/22   | Stone     | Theresa    | <p>are being addressed in the subject study? I am interested in a conversation, if possible. DOCUMENT: Questions and Concerns</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide questions and comment for the subject study. The concerns and questions in this letter are my own, not representative of the commission or city. I do seek answers to these questions and am requesting a conversation and for them to be addressed in the final study report. I am very appreciative as my city council and neighbors share abundant thoughts with your study team on the importance of maintaining the park and its critical ecosystems. I appreciate you and your team, also, for allowing extra time to address community concerns. My concerns are technical and pertain to the long-term safety of residents, residences, and businesses within my ward and just east of the dam. The figure on page 2 illustrates this portion of Ward 5 and unincorporated Jefferson County most at risk from flooding that could result from the most extreme capacities among the reallocation options under consideration. Questions about dam safety and equity follow the figure. I recognize some answers to the questions may have been communicated since the documents in the reference list were published. Thank you for reading, considering, and providing answers about these community risks. Questions and Concerns – Dam Safety (cf., Bear Creek Dam Periodic Assessment 01 Update memorandum) 1. Safety Study (a) What is the status of the Dam Safety Issue Evaluation Study (IES) discussed in the memorandum referenced above? (b) Will the IES address structural issues arising from the dam’s original construction to suit one purpose, loading, and management and changing the latter three? (c) How will the project team assess if raising the dam’s height is adequate to ensure long-term structural integrity? (pp. 1, 4). 2. Life Loss Are the life loss estimates calculated in the Consequences Update on page 2 of the memorandum compliant with the following top two guiding principles in USACE’s Safety of Dams: Policy and Procedures? The enclosure referenced in the memorandum was not available. “1.10.1Life Safety is Paramount. A key mission of the USACE dam safety program is to achieve an equitable and reasonably low level of risk to the public from its dams. 1.10.2Do No Harm. The principle of ‘Do no harm’ should underpin all activities intended to reduce dam safety risk.” (p. 1-2). 3. Failure Analyses Will or has a less abbreviated Potential Failure Modes Analysis be/been conducted, including a site visit (memorandum, p. 2)? Such a visit will pinpoint for decision makers the residences at increased risk of flood-related damage and loss should the dam be repurposed and experience overtopping or structural failure. 4. Limitations and Assumptions (a) How are traditional modeling assumptions (e.g., one-day rainfall event, p. 2) being updated to reflect weather events that are predicted to swing between increasing extremes (e.g., too much/not enough precipitation, trends of increasing evaporation of snowmelt and surface water)? Do the USACE Climate Preparedness and Resilience policy and practices include a factor by which traditional modeling should be modified/increased/decreased? (b) What is the source of the underlying assumption that the 2013 flood is an anomaly (100-year event), rather than one extreme, multi-day weather event predicted to be outdone by future extreme events (NOAA)? 5. Risk Communication (a) How is the risk identified under Results and Findings in this memorandum being communicated to the public and why was it not articulated in the public scoping meeting presentation? The 2020 memorandum precedes the 2021 meeting and is explicit about risk: “The two hypothetical reallocation alternatives used in this analysis are not risk-neutral and result in increased risk to the dam and increased flood risk” (p. 3). (b) Will an updated societal risk chart be included in the feasibility study? Is it available to request now? (p. 3). The enclosure was unavailable. 6. Equity and Burden of Risk (a) Will the feasibility report include potential economic impacts under various risk scenarios for those properties east of the dam? (b) How will the burden of risk be quantified, dollarized, and amortized over time for affected Lakewood communities, property owners, and park users? How will the study address the projected inequities as my community would bear all the risk, economic loss, and environmental harm, for the enrichment of developers and businesses miles away? (c) Are safety and quality of life in this corner of Lakewood being sacrificed because Colorado has no statewide water conservation measures and regulations in place? Could restrictions be placed on these new water rights to avoid water-wasteful uses such as fracking? Thank you for reading and considering. References City of Lakewood Ward Map, January 12, 2016. &lt;link&gt; USACE, Bear Creek Dam Periodic Assessment 01 Update, memorandum through Risk Management Center (CEIWRRMC-DIR) for Dam Safety Officer, Northwestern Division (CENWD-RBT), December 8, 2020. &lt;link&gt; USACE, Safety of Dams: Policy and Procedures, ER-1110-2-1156, Washington, DC, March 31, 2014. &lt;link&gt; USACE, Climate Preparedness and Resilience, USACE Headquarters Website. &lt;link&gt; USACE, Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir Water Supply Reallocation Study, Agency/Public Scoping Meeting presentation, October 14, 2021. &lt;link&gt; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Report: Climate Change Contributed to Some of 2020’s Worst</p> |

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| 11/27/22   | Stone     | Mikaela    | <p>Since my grandparents moved to Colorado to work for Coors in the 1960s, my family has always enjoyed its great outdoors. Bear Creek Lake Park offers a safe space to explore and learn about nature that is easily accessible even to busy parents in the Denver Metro area. In particular, the wildlife viewing area and numerous picnic areas facilitate everything from family outings to scouting and educational groups. There are over 800,000 annual park visits and park use will only continue to increase in light of the increased residential development.</p> <p>Due to the extensive residential development of the Denver Metro area, there are limited wild areas that provide habitats for native animal species. The current project proposals would reduce the land area by over 500 acres—particularly nearly a square mile of habitat within the inundation zone.</p> <p>Such a loss is unacceptable, particularly where inflow from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool. Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times. (See Brown and Caldwell, Technical Memo to the CO Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21.) Which means that in most years, the reservoir will be surrounded by an expansive wasted space of deforested mud flats, which fails to serve any benefit or purpose for both wildlife or residents.</p> |
| 8/18/2023  | Stone     | Theresa    | <p>Thank you for your continued leadership on this feasibility study.</p> <p>Given unprecedented flooding and dam failures in the United States and throughout the world, I am requesting a follow-up to the dam safety and equity concerns I included in the public comment last year (attached). Would you please share the status of the feasibility study and the answers to these technical questions when you get a moment and Reply to All?</p> <p>I noticed these itemized concerns are not listed with the public comments online and want to make sure they are seen and addressed. I am copying city leaders so they are aware of the grave risks to life and property posed by some of the options under consideration, according to USACE's own standards and studies. I appreciate everyone for taking a few minutes to understand these risks and for pursuing answers and protections</p>   |
| 03/15/22   | Strong    | Lon        | <p>Bear Creek Lake is a really bad idea and very short sighted. Recreation areas, particurly large ones, are extremely hard to come by if not impossible to replicate. Why in the world would you destroy one? A lake(s) to play on, which is nice, already exists close by.</p> <p>A better project would be figuring out how to get rid of new and ever more lawns that need watering and adding more conservation efforts. Allowing or providing for more water usage is a fools game that can never be won or really permantly helped. Colorado and other western states need to learn to live on less water.</p>   |
| 03/25/22   | Stupp     | Glynda     | <p>I have been enjoying all aspects of Bear Creek Park (hiking, biking, picnicing, fishing, camping, etc.) for 18+ years. It has been a tradition with my grandkids at least once a week year rounds to hike the trails that will be destroyed by your proposed project. So this project not only is destroying favorite trails, wildlife habitat &amp; surrounding beauty but a lifelong tradition with my grandkids. As most know teens nowadays spend more time indoors on their phones/tablets/etc. I'm privileged that my grandkids enjoy thier time with me hiking/biking/fishing/etc. outdoors in our favorite spots at Bear Creek. It is devastating to me (&amp; others) that your proposed destructuion of these areas will take this away. I believe there are alternatives that can be implemented into your decision in order to "SAVE BEAR CREEK".</p>  |



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| 06/27/22   | Suarez    | Isaiah     | <p>save water. We understand water is a limited and precious natural resource. Please explore the Lower-impact alternatives which exist and which could provide additional water storage while preserving some of the irreplaceable assets of the Park and its ecosystem. The current authorized purposes for the dam/BCLP reservoir are flood risk management, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation. This function is working very well! On paper attractions of Bear Creek Lake Park include “a campground, fishing and picnic areas, archery range, and a golf course. Winter activities include ice fishing and cross-country skiing.” What you don’t see is the smiles on kids and teen’s faces as they head to or from the reservoir/park for paddle boarding, water-skiing, swimming, hikes, and graduation picnics. Students from Denver inner-city schools regularly take lessons or meet friends at BCLP. We and friends camp at BCLP. We ride bikes on the trails through the trees which would be underwater if the expansion is fully put in place. Owls live in the trees at BCLP. Much of this riparian habitat would be lost if the 20,000 -22,000 acre feet Reallocation/expansion is approved. These owls and other birds kill mice, eat mosquitos, and protect our local ecosystem by keeping “pest” animal populations in balance. We and the kids rush outside to hear the owls hoot at night, or to see the hawks or geese fly near our tree tops. I fear the project is threatening to our quality of life - not to mention the loss of wildlife habitat. The proposed increase in the size of the Bear Creek Lake Reservoir from 2000 acre feet to 22,0000 acre feet, will have serious negative impacts on the BCLP. Why must future growth in areas of Colorado bring negatives for the BCLP, Lakewood, and metro Denver current residents? If Thornton doesn’t have water, why not limit growth in Thornton, instead of stretching our resource thinner and thinner? Personally, I’d like to see clean water limited to supporting the existing population and those downstream of the Colorado River and waters which come from the continental divide’s spring run-off. Coloradoans should already be xeriscaping and cutting water usage. Why must more water be secured for even more population growth? It seems unwise to build and try to meet greater and greater water demand in our semi-arid western states. I ask for reasonable limits. I ask for the minimal expansion of water storage capacity in Bear Creek Reservoir if it is to be reallocated to water supply. If BCLP must be expanded, then I am in support of a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. Please do not destroy the existing benefits to local residents, Denver Metro area visitors and wildlife animals and plants. My other concerns include: •Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway. •During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values. We see this at Dillon and other mountain reservoirs in drought years. Currently, the park and area are well-used an appreciated by Denver area people: Over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in. • Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley - human population growth already approved and in-progress. I’m against the “oversize our reservoir” due to the following: •Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the Park, excluding golf course) • Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor • Loss of 12 miles of trails • Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile) • Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including: • Equestrian area • Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area • Numerous picnic shelters and areas • Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam Please look into Alternative Water Storage Solutions • Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. • Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives. • Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</p> |
| 02/22/22   | Sutton    | Paul       | <p>I am a member of the board of trustees for the Town of Morrison. I have a deep regard for the value of our natural world. Human civilization and the human economy fundamentally depend on the natural world to exist. My scholarship at the University of Denver is focused on economic valuation of ecosystem services (<a href="https://scholar.i::oogle.com.au/citations?hl=en&amp;usePocplEVlIiAAA_AJ&amp;vjewop=listworks&amp;sortby=pubcllk">ht_tps://scholar.i::oogle.com.au/citations?hl=en&amp;usePocplEVlIiAAA_AJ&amp;vjewop=listworks&amp;sortby=pubcllk</a> ). Human activities (including the building of reservoirs) are destroying the supporting foundation of our civilization. Building this reservoir will destroy riparian habitat that myriads of humans enjoy and that many non-human plants and animals depend on for their very survival. There are several reasons I oppose the proposed changes to the dam and water storage capacity increase at Bear Creek Lake Park. These include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Increasing the capacity of the dam will degrade its initial purpose of flood control.</li><li>2) There are better places along the South Platte (rock quatTies closer to Brighton) that are far superior locations for increased water storage.</li><li>3) It contributes to a dangerous degradation of flyway habitat for many birds</li><li>4) It destroys an important and heavily used recreational habitat for many local humans.</li><li>5) There is not enough water to keep the reservoir full and when it is not full it will be a big mud and dust bowl that will negatively impact local residential areas.</li></ol> <p>Please give serious consideration to abandoning Bear Creek Lake Park as a water storage project and give more consideration to less impactful locations further down the South Platte. Thank you for your consideration.</p>  |

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| 10/25/21   | Tamborlane | Alison     | <p>I am taking the time to write to you because Bear Creek Lake park is not only a precious place in Lakewood, it is in my “backyard”. We, like many others, decided to pay a high price to live here so to enjoy the benefits of being close to parks amid a bustling and growing Denver area. The benefits are spiritual (peace and quiet), soul (a little pocket of nature), physical (bicycling and hiking), mental (learning about wildlife from the rangers) and emotional (an oasis during Covid where we could “escape” close to home). The wildlife inside a park needs to be the very first concern whenever people consider changing the “nature” of a space. The animals and birds have no other home. They are settled here and we are their protectors. They have no voice, so we need to be this voice. By filling the center of the park with additional water, we will be displacing (and killing) our animal neighbors who call Bear Creek Lake Park home (notice “Bear” in the park’s name). The creatures who do survive will be pushed to the outskirts of the park → closer to busy Rt 285, Rt 470 and Morrison road - vulnerable to traffic and forced to endure additional noise and intrusions by people. They will also wander closer (and into) residential areas ~ and we all know nature always loses when this happens. The expansion of water inside the park will also impact people. We will have incredibly less area to recreate JUST WHEN the building of additional homes is happening right across the street from Bear Creek Lake Park’s entrance. We should be focusing on how we are going to handle this upcoming influx of additional park visitors - not lessening the area where we all can be!</p> <p>My family and I live just on the other side of the dam. This dam protected us during the September 2013 flood and we have always been grateful to the USACE for designing it! Now we feel worried and afraid the very people who set up our home’s key protection are aiming to place us at risk by adding more water ~ all for communities who are not local! Please do not underestimate how big a worry this is. You know how high the water rose in 2013 and we were very lucky indeed. My family and I have dipped into our savings to buy flood insurance because if this proposal goes through, we may suddenly be living in a flood zone (and the cost of insurance once your area is re-zoned is even higher than the \$633. we just plunked down for a year’s coverage!)</p> <p>Obviously there is a need for additional water as the population of our state (and world) increases. There is no reason why new builds can not be required to have extensive water-saving features so they make less of an and materials to help with the cause. This is something our community and state needs to focus on because community-wide efforts DRASTICALLY reduce the amount of water needed. If we do not do this, the “thirst” for more and more will not subside and we will never have enough spaces to store water!</p> <p>I’m also worried because on page 10 of the October 14 presentation, I read about the “Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for study executed between USACE and CWCB on 30 August 2019.” After financing studies focusing on the possibility of flooding Bear Creek Lake park, how will both agencies be able to make a clear and impartial decision? Nobody likes to lose money invested towards a desired goal!</p> <p>Please imagine yourself in our place. Would you want to live here given all the variables and harm which could happen? If so, there are some homes for sale close-by and we will be happy to have you as neighbors so you can share in the future coming our way whichever decision happens.</p>   |
| 04/23/22   | Tamborlane | Alison     | <p>What an amazing and interesting journey since we first wrote (please see copies of September and October 2021 letters below). Our community has come together and we are all learning more and more about how deeply this proposal (to flood the center of BCLP park) will affect neighborhoods, people and wildlife who live in and around Bear Creek Lake Park. We are gladdened to know you all are joining us in this learning process so we do not make a catastrophic and irrevokable mistake by changing the nature of Bear Creek Lake Park. “WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER, YOU DO BETTER” Now that we know more about the deep harm flooding the center of Bear Creek Lake Park will bring, we are even more determined to “Save our Park”. There are precious little places in the Denver area where you can experience the mystery of marvelous natural areas teeming with life. Most creatures in Bear Creek Lake Park are so quiet and adept at moving about unnoticed, we have no idea they are there! Bobcat, Deer, Elk, Birds of all sizes (from hummingbirds and warblers to Owls and Eagles!) Little bitty Salamanders... even Black bear the park is named after occasionally wander in. The sparkle and joy of discovery can be found here: * Meadow larks belting out song each spring * The chirping of prairie dogs and * Howling of coyotes too. ~ Just Listen! “In the western US, riparian areas comprise less than 1% of land area, but they are among the most productive and valuable natural resources.” How amazing to discover our precious Bear Creek Lake Park is one of these exceedingly rare riparian areas! Across the years, Bear Creek Lake Park has been there for us as: * Flood protection * Wildlife habitat * Solace and natural connection - a place to find peace. * Bicycling and hiking opportunities for recreation and exercise. Now we need to be there for “her”. I honestly believe no one understood the incredible diversity and fragility of nature inside our park when this proposal was first composed. Now that we know better, we can do better! We do know there is a current and coming water crisis here in the western USA. The question is: Why is water conservation not being placed as the FIRST action demanded of communities being developed? It is deeply unfair to ask those of us doing our part and caring for park to willingly allow: * Our homes to be placed at risk (due to possible flooding) * Our wildlife to be wiped out * Our recreational paths to be lost All so communities far away MAY be able to access water in emergencies. As someone who bicycles to work and for recreation, I adore being amid quiet natural areas inside Bear Creek Lake Park - knowing I’m safe from cars and noise happening on Rt 287, Rt 470 and busy Morrison Road (which is about to become busier with a new development directly across the street from Bear Creek Lake Park’s main entrance) around the outskirts of our park. The center of Bear Creek Lake Park is truly the HEART of the Park! This is where wildlife lives and peace and quiet reside. “JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN DO SOMETHING DOESN’T MEAN YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING” A friend quoted this to me while I was growing up. Her words told me that just because something is “okay” (by law or custom) doesn’t mean it is okay by love and heart. The path to being “real” in this life is hard. You need to show up and discover what is best not only for you personally, though for your community as well (including the natural world’s community). A proposal to completely devastate a precious park’s ecology is something to be considered the ultimate last resort. Being prudent by waiting, seeking to learn more, and looking into creative alternative options gives growing towns (who are worried about their water supply) time to place into affect water-saving measures (xeriscaping, water conservation inside and outside of new homes and buildings...) which in and of itself will spectacularly lessen the “need” for more water. Hand-in-hand with “need” is Greed. I’m sure we can agree we are greedy with our water consumption. It pains me to see friends leaving faucets running or over-watering lawns! HERE is where we need to focus: Educating, Giving and Sharing water-saving ideas. We can do this! By making it EASY to take steps and fun to learn how to become water-conscious, we will not continue to think it is okay to use all the water we like simply “because we can”. And if you would like to see what is possible with water conservation, we invite you to come to our home (*) Excavated sand and gravel pits hold incredible potential for water storage (and they are closer to the towns who are asking us to inundate our park for their possible water needs!) You will find those of us who love Bear Creek Lake Park to be a solution-oriented, ecologically-knowledgeable, recreation-minded, caring bunch of people. And while we are open-minded, asking us to sacrifice our park and all of the wildlife who depend upon her (which will forever erase a balanced and rare ecosystem which can never, ever be recovered) is something we will always be willing to advocate against. Flooding Bear Creek Lake Park is NOT a viable or ethical option. Sincerely yours, BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK = Beautiful Earnest Amazing Rhapsodic Critters Rabbits Elk and Eagles too Kindred Spirits Lovely Accessible Kid-friendly Engaging Precious Activities Riparian Zone Keen [Attached previous comments, dated 10/23/21 from Alison Tamborlane; and 10/29/21 from Michel Scheffers- see previous comment -] [continued below]</p> |

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| 04/23/22   | Tamborlane | Alison     | [continued from above] [Also attached the following comment: To CityCouncilMembers@Lakewood.org Subject Bear Creek Lake park September 17, 2020 I am VERY worried about the proposed changes/flooding of Bear Creek Lake park! A few quick thoughts: 1) Wildlife which happens to survive huge flooding of the park will be pushed to the outskirts - closer to people and forced toward very busy roads! 2) A majority of current bicycle and walking/birding paths will be erased, right when Lakewood and Morrison's local people population is exploding, and we are all seeking open space areas to decompress, admire nature and "escape". 3) This plan involves a flooding of unprecedented size and scope compared to the area of Bear Creek Lake park herself 4) We live on the other side of the dam. In 2013, floodwaters rose 50 feet up. The dam is only 75 feet high. If we flood Bear Creek Lake park, we will be placed in harm's way as water will already be sitting and pooling in the park. Thank you so much and we look forward to hearing from you! Lakewood Residents Alison Tamborlane & Michel Scheffers]  |
| 7/10/2023  | Tamborlane | Alison     | <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. The potential flooding of Bear Creek Lake Park is VERY worrisome to my family.</p> <p>(A) We go to Bear Creek Lake Park for peace. The park provided ESSENTIAL mental health benefits during the Covid pandemic - giving us a sense of relief and vast open space to enjoy.</p> <p>(B) We go to Bear Creek Lake Park for the wildlife! BCLP is an incredibly valuable riparian area. Our country's national parks - and even our local Denver Botanic Gardens - educate the public everyday about the essential nature of riparian areas and their contribution to the health of our wildlife and climate.</p> <p>(1) "Riparian zones in the southwestern United States make up less than two percent of the land area, but they support the highest density and abundance of plants and animals of any habitat type there."</p> <p>*Source:<a href="https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nrca_glca_2021_riparian.htm#:~:text=Helping%20to%20maintain%20water%20quality,recreation%20opportunities%20and%20scenic%20beauty">https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nrca_glca_2021_riparian.htm#:~:text=Helping%20to%20maintain%20water%20quality,recreation%20opportunities%20and%20scenic%20beauty</a>.</p> <p>(2) Please see attached photos : "Wetlands - Riparian Zone: In Colorado, wetlands are relatively small but still very important for animals - more than 80 percent of wild animal species depend on them for some part of their lives." (Denver Botanic Gardens)</p> <p>( C) I bicycle the paved path (inside the park parallel to busy Morrison Road) to get to and from my job – providing me with a safe way to exercise in addition to keeping another car off of the roads.</p> <p>(D) We bought a house downslope from the dam because we knew the dam was capably-built for flood control. So much so, we are not even considered to be in a flood area! The idea to start using Bear Creek Lake Park for water containment will wreck absolutely all of the above benefits it has given us as a family, a town and a community.</p> <p>(A) There will be less space in the park for people to enjoy as the whole center of Bear Creek Lake Park will be wiped out. This would be happening precisely as around 1,000</p> <p>(I) homes are being built directly across the street from the BCLP's entrance – filled with new families eager to enjoy the park. By flooding a huge portion of the park's center, there would be only a tiny bit of space left to try and squeeze in a mind-dizzying number of new people ready to enjoy the park too.</p> <p>(B) The wildlife which calls the park home will be wiped out and those who survive will be forced to the perimeter of the park where people and cars are - so they will not survive for very long. The whole ecosystem will be ruined with no chance of recovery.</p> <p>( C) I will not be able to bicycle on my safe route inside Bear Creek Lake Park and will be forced onto busy Morrison Road - which is an unacceptable risk, so I will need to drive and be one more person adding to our area's congestion (and pollution).</p> <p>(D) Our home will likely be re-assessed as being inside a flood zone, with the resultant financial burden of needing to buy flood insurance every year - in addition to the worry of always needing to be ready to evacuate. The current dam is designed for emergencies only. It is not designed to hold back all of the extra water proposed to be stored inside the park full-time.</p> <p>BENEFITS Bear Creek Lake Park provides for ALL of our community:</p> <p>I work with individuals with "special needs". Additionally, my friend's family includes a youth with physical disabilities. Bear Creek Lake Park is one of the only parks in the area with handicap-accessible (level, paved) areas to bicycle, recreate and enjoy nature. All of the other near-by parks (Red Rocks, Green Mountain...) are hilly, rocky and inaccessible. Friends who are part of multi-generational Hispanic families come to Bear Creek Lake Park frequently to celebrate birthdays or simply reconnect on weekends. Thanks to the park's reasonable entry fee, Bear Creek Lake Park is one of the few places that big families can find a safe, restorative space and enjoy an affordable time together. [cont. below]</p> |
| 7/10/2023  | Tamborlane | Alison     | <p>[cont. from above]</p> <p>NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:</p> <p>This recent wet spring and summer has clearly shown what will happen if the park is to be flooded over &amp; over. We have only been allowed to release water currently flooding BCLP little by little because Bear Creek flows into the South Platte, and releasing water inside Bear Creek Lake Park more quickly will add to the flooding happening in Denver. This need to wait has delayed Bear Creek Lake Park's recovery. Our present situation is happening with BCLP as-is. Imagine if there was already all of the proposed "stored water" inside the park in addition to all of this present rain water adding to it! Whenever we do not have a rainy season (which is most years) the area that is proposed to be flooded will dry up very quickly due to evaporation, leaving mud flats –</p> <p>so we will have destroyed a vibrant, valuable and functioning recreational and wildlife ecosystem (the entire core center of our park) for nothing! Unfair burden: The water proposed to be stored in Bear Creek Lake Park is not even for those of us who live in close proximity to the park; therefore, we are being asked to give up our recreational space, bicycle and hiking paths, irreplaceable wildlife, and flood safety ... for what? The social, environmental, recreational and financial risks and losses will be ours to endure while we receive absolutely ZERO benefits from this proposal to flood our beloved park.</p> <p>Possible Options:</p> <p>(1) Deepening the current "pool" of water (just below the dam) at Bear Creek Lake Park. This way, the current land area inside the park will be undisturbed, while the current water area will be able to hold additional water without extra evaporative loss.</p> <p>(2) According to Water Education Colorado, sand and gravel mining along the South Platte continues to create storage opportunities as excavations are re-purposed into water storage reservoirs. These sand and gravel pits are much closer to the towns who have proposed we flood our local Bear Creek Lake Park for their water storage.</p> <p>(3) The golden goal is to have Underground Water Storage (Aquifers - ASR). There would be no evaporative loss and thus more water.</p> <p>[also signed Michel Scheffers]</p>  |



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| 03/01/22   | Tennant   | Margaret   | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>We don't want anything at the Bear Creek Lake Park changed!  |
| 05/05/22   | Thomas    | Amara      | <p>Thank you for accepting and reading my comment. My name is Amara Thomas, I am a student at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and I live in Arapahoe county.</p> <p>The expansion of the Bear Creek reservoir is a needed development for Denver and surrounding areas to have a steady, readily available water supply. However, the equipment required to perform this project has the possibility of severely impacting several species of animal and plant wildlife, including some priority species. This project should only move forward after careful consideration of all species within the area. For the purpose of this comment, I will focus on the Gunnison Sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>).</p> <p>The Gunnison Sage-grouse has habitat on the east side of Bear Creek reservoir and has potential to be degraded by the expansion of roughly 0.2 miles (Skeie, 2021). According to Audubon, an organization focused on birds and their habitats, the Gunnison sage-grouse is a priority bird that has disappeared from 90% of its former habitat mainly due to habitat degradation (Gunnison sage-grouse, 2021). This bird is only found in southwestern Colorado and a small area in Utah. Its natural habitat is on open plains with tall grass or sagebrush, so the bear creek reservoir area is prime habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse. One recommendation for minimizing the effects on the sage-grouse would be to reestablish its habitat once construction is complete. The eastern side of the reservoir, where the embankment is, could be converted to habitat by changing the bike path route. The route that is currently present is named Kumpfmiller Drive. Kumpfmiller Dr. could be pushed back (north) where it meets the Morrison road parking area. To add to this point, the Morrison parking area can be relocated to the south side of the reservoir because that area is already highly developed with roads, parking and even a camping area. This way, the northern side of the reservoir is open for the sage-grouse habitat. After construction (of both the reservoir &amp; removal and conversion of parking and biking area) is complete, the habitat to be reestablished would consist of tall grasses native to Colorado, a few examples being June grass and Switchgrass (Hughes, 2021).</p> <p>The Gunnison sage-grouse is listed in the Colorado SWAP as a tier 1 species of greatest conservation need. Within the SWAP, it is noted that the sage-grouse’s habitat (foothill and mountain grasslands at both low and high elevations) has moderate to high vulnerability to climate change (Colorado Parks &amp; Wildlife, 2015). With this in mind, the habitat should be expanded now to combat what future climate change impacts will have on the Gunnison sage-grouse. There is also a Rangewide Conservation plan for the Gunnison sage-grouse from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Service, within this plan there are several listings of potential impacts to the sage-grouse, most notably being habitat degradation (Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Steering Committee, 2005). This degradation is started with fragmentation, which is what the Bear Creek reservoir expansion project can exacerbate. The area around the reservoir was habitat for the grouse before it was converted to human use, now we can take steps to at least provide some advantageous habitat fragments. As long as these fragments are of decent size, they can support life.</p> <p>Overall, the Gunnison Sage-grouse’s natural habitat of tall grassland can be reconstructed around the reservoir. Specifically, on the eastern side where the main embankment is. I think with this species, and its habitat in mind, this project can move forward to benefit the people of Colorado.</p> |
| 09/24/22   | Thompson  | Shawn      | <p>Thank you US Army Corps of Engineers for everything you do for the citizens of Colorado.</p> <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000-acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. This plan prioritizes water storage over water conservation and the riparian zone in the park when there are many other options that have been presented.</p> <p>This plan risks hundreds of plant and animal species by flooding our cherished park. Flooding the 500 acres of the park would kill off plant and tree life and push coyotes and prairie dogs closer to highway 470 and humans, putting them at risk of death.</p> <p>This plan also destroys a cherished park where thousands of citizens recreate. My spouse and I have visited Bear Creek Lake Park almost every weekend for the last 12 years getting in an 8-14 mile run. I can't imagine losing our beloved trails and trees to run through all year long.</p> <p>Please consider the citizens of Lakewood, the plant life, and the animal life, before destroying our park for water storage efforts for citizens of cities 50 miles away. Several other options have been presented by the Save Bear Creek Lake Park organization.</p> <p>I appreciate your efforts in biome conservation over water storage.</p>  |

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| 1/4/2024   | Trudell   | Janine     | <p>I live in the area of Bear Creek Lake Park and visit at least once a week. I love to trail run and hike. My husband and I ride our road bikes on the roads around the park and mountain bikes along the trails. We ride our snow bikes with 5” tires in the winter when it snows.</p> <p>When I need a break from a crazy day, or from the noise of life, I visit the park. It is my go to for some quiet time and I love watching, and listening to, the wide variety of birds that I can spot in the park.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts of 20,000 acre feet expansion will lead to the reduction of land area by 615 acres with a loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor, 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor, 12 miles of trails and additional trails will be disrupted through segmentation.</p> <p>There will be significant loss of wildlife habitat, nearly a square mile, within the inundation zone. Bear Creek is surrounded by development which pushes wildlife into the park. With the decline in songbird populations, Bear Creek Lake Park becomes a vital space for them. For all wildlife as open space is devoured by development.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park has over 800,000 annual Park visits, which may not account for everyone who walks or bikes in, which we sometimes do, taking off from the house to do a loop around the park on the road bikes. With growing development in the area, park use will increase substantially. With the growing population comes the need for a place that offers solace from the everyday chaos.</p> <p>My husband and I got married in the park, had our reception in the park. Not only did we get married in the park, we are annual members and have been since 2006. It is definitely an oasis in a world of ever increasing noise.</p> <p>I hope that alternatives are considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed.</li></ul> <p>There is a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage and this capacity continues to grow with development. The CWCB and the USACE should consider further utilization of gravel pit storage, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</li></ul> <p>If you’ve ever spent time in Bear Creek Lake Park you might understand how significant it is to the people in the area and beyond. If you haven’t, imagine your favorite outside spot being damaged to this extent. Also consider the state of bird populations and the idea that wildlife is running out of space to roam. This park could offer a slight respite for them as well.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> |
| 02/15/22   | Tschudy   | Debbie     | <p>I am writing in opposition to any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP).</p> <p>I understand that a 20,000 acre feet expansion would reduce the land area of the Park by 615 acres (34% of the Park) and result in a loss of 1) 12 miles of trails; 2) nearly a square mile of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone; 3) numerous Park amenities including the equestrian area, turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area, and numerous picnic shelters and areas; and 4) access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on a paved road that crosses the dam. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource to not only the citizens of Lakewood, but also to the surrounding cities of Golden, Littleton, Morrison, and Denver.</p> <p>Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Those numbers are likely higher in 2021 and the Park use will certainly increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley. Many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. My family, friends, and I ride into and around the park at least once a week almost year round. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21). During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations. The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and to seek less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>   |



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| 06/15/22   | Tubbs        | Eric       | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 7/5/2023   | UNK          | UNK        | <p>It seems evident now, after the spring of heavy rains experienced in the Denver metro area (and throughout Colorado), that your plan to change Bear Creek Lake Park really need to be eliminated. This park was bursting at the seams for weeks on end holding rain water that would otherwise have ruined homes and infrastructure in the area. I have been there several times this spring to hike or ride my mountain bike (I use the park weekly for these activities!) and have had to stay on the edges the entire time. While my recreation has been impacted I am grateful the park can swell and hold this water, and that I still have a local place to recreate.</p> <p>Please, leave it alone. [unsigned]</p>   |
| 2/20/2024  | UNKNOWN      | UNKNOWN    | <p>I am writing today to ask that you please drop your planned relocation project at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, Colorado.</p> <p>That area is a very popular outdoor recreation location in the community, and can be found to be busy every day of the week. Also, I would think that the spring rains and subsequent flooding of the park this past spring (2023) would prove how the park already acts as a much needed emergency flood mitigation area. Without it I can only imagine the damage to the surrounding area and freeway that would have happened.</p>  |
| 03/15/22   | Vander Woude | Kayla      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 08/15/22   | Vanderbrook  | Mark/Caron | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>The proximity of and the numerous amenities afforded by Bear Creek Lake Park played a large role in our decision to move into a neighborhood adjacent to the Park. My wife and I regularly make use of the bicycle paths and trails, and have discussed doing some snowshoeing in the Park this coming winter. Expanding the reservoir would inundate many of the trails and paths that we use and devastate much of the Park's wildlife habitat. Instead of pedaling from our home into the Park, we would be faced with hauling our bikes (and/or our snowshoes) to a more distant destination.</p> <p>In addition to the lost recreational opportunities, we are concerned that reallocating flood control capacity to storage capacity may increase flood risk in adjacent neighborhoods.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park is a unique and popular resource, and there are alternative solutions available. Excavating to deepen the current reservoir and underground water storage are just two solutions that would be preferable to expanding the reservoir.</p> <p>We urge you to preserve the Park as it currently exists, and to strongly consider other alternatives.</p>   |
| 03/24/22   | Vanvooren    | Camilla    | <p>I am a 30-year resident of Lakewood and a 25-year Annual Pass Holder at Bear Creek Lake Park. I enjoy the park on weekends nearly every week with my dog (various over all these years). I have witnessed Great Horn Owls, their nests and fledgling babies. I have been blessed with sitings of deer and coyote, red -tailed hawks, bald eagles, great blue herons and the gushings of Bear and Turkey Creeks. The Park has been a solice to me and a lovely memory of a friend who used to hike with me who passed a year ago.</p> <p>The news of the proposed expansion of the reservoir brings me great sadness. planned to live out my days here in Lakewood but, with the absence of my beloved trails at Bear Creek Lake part, that notion would give me pause. An excellent article in today's Denver Post suggests ta proposal for homeowners receiving rebates if they convert their Kentucky blue grass lawns to vegetation more suitable to this region. That would save much water needed by this growing community. I urge you to consider leaving Nature alone, allowing we residents that so love this community to continue to do so and safeguarding wildlife and the environment for generations to come. Lakewood resident</p>  |
| 11/22/2024 | Vencibenga   | Kim        | <p>Hello! I am writing to let you know that the park has always been apart of our community. It has afforded my children tons of opportunity to grow in a fun and safe area. They learned to swim and play with friends. We would love if you considered keeping the park as it is for the rest of us that care about the park!!</p>   |

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| 10/11/2025 | Venema    | Patsy      | I recently visited Chatfield State Park and saw this alarming graveyard like scene resulting from expansion for water storage. Is this what Bear Creek Lake will look like with the proposal? I am adamantly opposed to this project.  |
| 04/05/22   | Venner    | Marie      | <p>Bear Creek Lake Park has rare and important riparian corridor, in our semi-arid climate and it is accessible to many. Notably there are many living in apartments along Jewell and in apartments and townhouse communities off of Kipling, US 285 and more who depend on Bear Creek Lake Park and access via bikes and walking at no charge (also tend to be uncounted). And really everyone in our area depends on it in so many ways. Owls nest there and then are occasionally seen beyond the park too.</p> <p>Social well-being is an important criteria and impact to be considered. The streams, trails, and riparian corridors are one of the few refuges from traffic and other noise, lowering stress for people in the city. Please note this recent research published in PLOS One, which shows that the happiness people experience inside urban parks is comparable to the happiness people experience on holidays like New Year’s Day and Christmas. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Vermont using a timeline of average societal happiness (hyperlink: <a href="https://hedonometer.org/timeseries/en_all/?from=2021-06-09&amp;to=2022-03-29&amp;viz=wordshift__;!Oq6FCji5Qor8sg!y3A_WFmIL2wc1q6je87vii91D3BETYaYz76-vQp7q4Vgyzu9fOf-Yd-UFX7ODdSn\$">https://hedonometer.org/timeseries/en_all/?from=2021-06-09&amp;to=2022-03-29&amp;viz=wordshift__;!Oq6FCji5Qor8sg!y3A_WFmIL2wc1q6je87vii91D3BETYaYz76-vQp7q4Vgyzu9fOf-Yd-UFX7ODdSn\$</a>), based on a tool built and maintained by the university.(Link here: <a href="https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371*journal.pone.0261056__Lw!!Oq6FCji5Qor8sg!y3A_WFmIL2wc1q6je87vii91D3BETYaYz76-vQp7q4Vgyzu9fOf-Yd-UFQqvbfrS\$">https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371*journal.pone.0261056__Lw!!Oq6FCji5Qor8sg!y3A_WFmIL2wc1q6je87vii91D3BETYaYz76-vQp7q4Vgyzu9fOf-Yd-UFQqvbfrS\$</a>) The effect was greater in larger parks exceeding 100 acres. I am copying a local psychiatrist and hospitalist who were co-authors with me, on a paper, in case they want to add comment.</p> <p>I understand that there are gravel pits that could be used for storage for the CO Eastern Plains cities that would be served by reservoir expansion. Please use these instead. This is a priceless, irreplaceable resource here. Another reason not to disturb Bear Creek Lake Park is that it is the oldest known Indigenous gathering place in Lakewood. In 1816 explorers coming through the area gave Bear Creek its first name (from white people anyway), calling it "Grand Encampment". Trying to expand water storage here is going to run into endless problems, especially if anything proceeds with taking this valuable urban park and riparian area, with such deep cultural history, continuing through the current day. It is a great favorite with large families for all day recreation of every sort, providing relaxation and an alternative to more costly and commercial pursuits. It's one of the most diverse and valuable parks in the region.</p> |
| 02/17/22   | Vigil     | Paul       | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>This park is so important to the civic life of Denver. Trails &amp; nature &amp; open space is important to the lives of Denver citizens!</p>  |
| 02/12/22   | Vogelsang | Chris      | <p>I’m writing to express my concern about increasing water storage capacity at Bear Creek Lake Park. I’ve got 4 main concerns:</p> <p>1- Because the terrain is not very steep on the property, relatively small changes in water volume will have large changes in terms of shoreline location leaving mud flats around the lake during periods of lower water. This will make access to the lakeshore very difficult. It will also potentially increase the breeding habitat for mosquitos around the lake and create an area for noxious weeds to gain a foothold.</p> <p>2- Historic hydrology data is becoming less useful at predicting future rainfall events in terms of duration and intensity. The dam and lake were created primarily for flood control purposes and utilizing some of the excess capacity for storage instead of leaving it available for flood control leaves the lake and downstream areas susceptible to extreme flooding events that are increasing in probability as climate change affects weather patterns in the area.</p> <p>3- The Bear Creek watershed currently has phosphorous loading problems which have triggered special requirements of MS4 managers in terms of permitting and property specific phosphorous loading calculations. It’s not clear to me whether storing more water from this watershed creates any health impacts for the population drinking the water.</p> <p>4- Land based recreation activities will be greatly impacted by increasing the surface area of the lake. The park is widely used for bicycling, walking, hiking, birding, wildlife watching, picnicking, and shore based fishing. Even shore based fishing will be greatly impacted as the level of the lake rises and falls making access to the lakeshore difficult.</p> <p>Please record my comments in the public record and respond to them during the NEPA process.</p>  |
| 01/28/22   | Wacht     | Lynda      | <p>Alternatives to the current proposal to flood Bear Creek Park</p> <p>Hi, I am a user of Bear Creek Park's trail as a cyclist and trail runner. I have read of the plans to increase the size of the lake and am curious to know what the thoughts are of the alternative proposals and why they are not acceptable.</p> <p>Alternative Water Storage Solutions • Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values. • Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives. • Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</p>   |

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| 9/19/2023  | Wade      | Deja           | My family lives in the Foothills neighborhood, on the trail to BCLP. 4337 S Swadley Ct to be exact (we are on the map with proposed changes to water allocation: Quincy & Swadley near the Sims roundabout). We ride the trail on our bikes multiple times a week & are blessed enough to simply cross the street to start the peddle towards Turkey Creek, Soda Lakes, Bear Creek Lake, the 470 trail & all the amazing animals & habitats we encounter along the way. The proposal to add water would eliminate some of our favorite sections of the trail. We purchased our home intentionally and never dreamed that changes would be proposed to alter “Our park” yet alone eliminate massive sections of it. We ask that you consider all that we could lose by doing this, what will my boys (now 4 & 5) no longer get to experience and what other consequences will present themselves in the future neighborhood of our forever home. There is talk of required flood insurance, something one never expects to get a quote for while living in the mountains & not along a major body of water. This park is crucial to an ever-changing landscape of housing, we need every acre of it. For hiking, biking, swimming, paddling, camping, archery, all of it! We currently live in an area rich with fossils, mountains, trails & outdoor recreational therapy, we need to protect that. It’s not about money, it’s about mental health. The continued existence of wildlife that is unique to this area is crucial for future generations of JeffCo visitors & residents alike. This park touches so many lives every year, not just my family’s. As we look out over our campsite there next weekend I will wonder how it may change in the future. I pray those changes are not to remove what we have, but to enhance it for all of us. The current plan does not enhance our park. Please consider other options that do not force us to lose acreage that is so precious. |
| 05/16/22   | Wallace   | Barbara & Joel | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 3/3/2025   | Wallace   | Barbara        | PROSE FROM THE PATH, BCLP<br>Barbara Wallace<br><br>This path provides relief from swirling torrential thoughts<br>Slowly bringing an awareness to the crunch of gravel underfoot<br>The soft padding sound on stretches of fine sand<br>The straddling of washed out little gullies and the attention demanded of steep inclines<br>Dodging brush here and there that somehow managed to take hold in the grit<br>Or broken branch<br>Or rocks.<br>Present moments. Peaceful presence.<br>Grounded.   |
| 07/01/22   | Walsh     | Nancy          | Our Bear Creek Lake Park is and has been a precious haven for wildlife, cyclists, walkers and birders. You cannot take it away to pacify the unbridled hunger for water. Thousands of homes are being irresponsibly built around Denver with no long-term plan for water needs. Tell the state to control growth and we can keep our park from being destroyed.<br>The dam is not strong enough and there is much less rainfall than before to fill a new reservoir. Snowpack has been greatly diminished due to climate change.<br>Local opinions matter and I with a growing number of citizens want to maintain our quality of life here. Elk, bear, deer, owls, hawks and other wildlife need a voice too.   |
| 9/15/2023  | Walshaw   | Rob            | My name is Rob. I am a Family Man, late career engineer, Lakewood resident and a very frequent user of Bear Creek Lake Park.<br><br>I have concerns with the plan to possibly flood Bear Creek Lake Park. My concerns are shared by my Family (Wife and two teenagers), many of my neighbors and friends.<br><br>My wife and I specifically chose our current residence in 1999, in part, because of its proximity to the park.<br><br>I have lived in Bear Creek valley since 1992.<br><br>I have two main concerns:<br><br>1. Downstream flood risk, flood plain definition, home value. My home is located immediately below the dam; less than 100 yards from the Bear Creek and about 1 mile downstream of the dam discharge. Our home is located immediately east of Fox Hollow golf course.<br>2. Quality of Life. I recreate on the trails/roads in the park at least a 100 times per year, year-round and have been since 1992. It would be understated to say that I have used the park 1000's of times. To a lesser extent, both my Wife and Kid's also use the park for recreation. It has become a very special place for my Family and I. If the park were to be flooded, that would simply be a negative 'life changing' experience for Me and my Family.   |
| 06/20/23   | Warner    | Peter          | Personally there would be a major quality of life input with the expansion of the reservoir. I use the trails within Bear Creek Lake Park multiple times per week, and always see others in the community on the same trails. A key attraction to living in the foothills and the Denver metro area is access to nature. Flooding additional areas of the park takes away a major park in the area. As a consequence, we would see visitor traffic pushed to other parks like Green Mountain. Any expansion closer to these communities Denver, Lakewood, Morrison, and the US Army Corps of Engineers should consider howwidely used and beloved the Bear Creek Lake Park is before sacrificing a key community feature. (Dated 5/31/23)  |

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| 05/04/23   | Warnick    | Tanja      | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>BCLP has been a special place for me and my family for the last 22 years that I’ve lived in Lakewood. We truly value the unique sanctuary that it is. I enjoy peaceful long walks along the creek. BCLP brings a variety of activities as well as the feeling of peacefulness unique to the park. My daughter’s Girl Scout troop had gatherings there. The high school kids run the trails. We’ve attended many programs such as Halloween-time hikes and raptor viewings. I’ve had countless pleasant walks with friends here. It’s always been a quick and beautiful escape from the stresses of day to day life. As a school counselor by profession, I need all the easy self-care options I can get! BCLP has always been a convenient, affordable, and healthy way to take care of me so that I can take care of others.</p> <p>I am especially concerned about how reallocation would impact the multitude of wildlife that currently live at BCLP. Additionally, much of the uniqueness and appeal of BCLP is the variety of the surroundings and activities within one park. Reallocation would deprive Denver Metro citizens close to a million visits per year to this special place. Reallocation would cause this beautiful sanctuary to be destroyed.</p> <p>There are other options. Please don’t obliterate this wonderful haven.</p> |
| 03/29/22   | Wasinger   | Sarah      | <p>As a former Lakewood resident and a current Lakewood property owner, I ask you to do everything in your powers to protect the natural and recreational treasure of Bear Creek Park.</p> <p>Though we live farther away now, my family still visits the park each summer. It offers a uniquely accessible resource for those who are unable to travel farther to enjoy our beautiful mountain communities. In our family, we have a chronic illness that prevents us from long trips from home. We can easily access amazing habitats for hiking, horse back riding, bird watching, and bike riding. This is a crucial resource for us and many others.</p> <p>When we advertise our rental property, we make sure to highlight the proximity to the park because it is such an asset to the community. More than this, I value the wildlife that calls this threatened area home. The local community and the Front Range in general, all of us, would be worse for the loss of the natural areas for owls, deer, beaver, raptors, and other small wildlife.</p> <p>I understand the need for water storage for the ever growing metro population, but I implore you to push for alternatives and to protect Bear Creek Park.</p>  |
| 02/07/22   | Watkins    | Charles    | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments).   |
| 05/10/22   | Weaver     | Marilyn    | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)  |
| 02/07/22   | Wernig     | Chip       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comments:<br>Please listen and find another way.   |
| 11/1/2023  | Westcott   | Jeff       | Please accept this email as one voice expressing opposition to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake.  |
| 10/19/21   | White      | Nike       | <p>I'd like to express my support for the reallocation project at Bear Creek Lake because this is one of the least impactful ways for Denver Water to utilize their water right for the Two Forks Dam. I would ask that the study include looking into answering the question, "if this project is not undertaken, where will Denver Water exercise their water right?" i.e. if we don't have the reallocation project, will Denver Water need to build the Two Forks Dam on the Upper South Platte River? The "no action" alternative should recognize that if this reallocation project doesn't happen, then one possibility is that other water projects would need to be developed that have greater impacts.</p> <p>Please include me in future announcements for public meetings or comment.</p>  |
| 10/29/21   | White      | Kathy      | <p>I'm very concerned about the Bear Creek Reservoir expansion project. I hope the Army Corp of Engineers studies very closely the concerns this project will have on the area and the consequences that could occur.</p> <p>I've used this park for close to 40 years and am still using weekly. Just this week, I encountered five beautiful elk during my hike in the park, as well as a coyote. I would hate to see much of the wildlife destroyed.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to mine and other people's concerns.</p>   |
| 01/26/22   | White      | Kathleen   | <p>I'm writing to let you know how concerned I am on the Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion in Lakewood Colorado. I'm a long time user of the Bear Creek Park and have enjoyed the use of the trails, horse riding, and bike riding. I'm very concerned about the loss of wildlife if this project goes through. I've enjoyed watching owls, elk and deer on my numerous days in the park. Please reconsider the expansion or reduce the amount of acerage that will be destroyed. Thank you!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>   |
| 03/17/22   | Whittfield | Anne       | <p>I am strongly opposed to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake that would change it to a water supply reservoir.</p> <p>It would destroy so many activities that are being enjoyed by over 600,000 visitors a year. Many visitors use the park for biking, hiking, archery, camping, bird watching, picnicking, water sports, and just enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>They also use the park for childrens programs. They introduce them to nature and the history of the land, the wetlands, the meadows, and the prairies.</p> <p>They also have events such as organized bike rides and running (races) Flooding is also a potential problem for nearby neighborhoods.</p>  |



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| 3/12/2024  | Wickens   | Donna      | <p>I utilize BCLP quite frequently. Whether running , biking or walking my dog, it is my escape from the everyday stresses. This park is a sanctuary to many of us and the possibility of it being flooded intentionally is unfathomable to me. Flooding this park will completely destroy it, if not with 1000’s of gallons of water, the mud flats left behind will. The park is home to numerous animals, that I see almost every time I’m there. If it is intentionally flooded, those animals will absolutely disappear.</p> <p>Please consider the consequences of doing this. I understand that water is needed in Colorado, there are other ways to achieve this and not destroy a beautiful park that thousands of people utilize each year.</p>  |
| 4/8/2025   | Wickens   | Donna      | <p>I am writing to express my concern for the study being conducted by you in regard to flooding and storage of water to the tune of 22,000 AF. To do this will absolutely devastate this beautiful park. This is a very utilized park, for hiking, running, biking, bird watching, the list goes on and on. The consequences of doing what is being proposed will basically end all of that, not to mention the wildlife that inhabits the space and the beautiful trees throughout the area.</p> <p>Please consider what is being proposed and lastly look at our close neighbor to the south, Chatfield Reservoir. Large parts of that park have become mud flats and other parts just dead trees floating. I’m asking you to not let that happen to Bear Creek Lake Park.</p>  |
| 03/01/22   | Wiechman  | David      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 11/17/21   | Wilkins   | Catherine  | <p>The Bear Creek Lake Park reallocation you propose must not happen. My family and I are native Coloradoans and have witnessed the overwhelming increase in the population of our state, particularly the Denver area. Bear Creek Lake Park is one of the few refuges, breeding areas and riparian habitats that migrating and permanent bird populations desperately need. The world has lost countless birds in recent years and areas like Bear Creek are far and too few between! It is VERY UNFAIR of humans to change these places and in turn end the habitat and lives of even more of our very necessary, needed and loved bird and other native creatures populations.</p> <p>This time of the Covid pandemic has made Bear Creek Lake Park a million times more valuable and necessary for the healing of not only the creatures that are meant to line on this planet with us, but to the people who also need nature and these natural accessible areas more than ever.</p> <p>The lives of many depend on this decision. Please do not change Bear Creek Lake Park. Thank you for your consideration.</p>   |
| 02/14/22   | Wilkins   | Donna      | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:<br>Please do not destroy this beautiful park!  |
| 05/18/22   | Wilkins   | Virginia   | <p>It has been awhile since we talked at length. I've been out of town. But I want to thank you for this email. I have read it carefully and my concerns continue to be the same as those I originally expressed in our prior talk. This document continues to ignore major issues: 1) Where is all this extra water going to come from since the long-term drought in the area is producing less, not more, water to the South Platte Basin? 2) What concern (I see nothing whatever in this report) is being paid to the lives and properties of immediate downstream homeowners and businesses? Will FEMA pay for our flood insurance? I doubt it. I want to see the "Revised/Projected/Anticipated Flood Plain Map" for post-2025 changes before proceeding with the expense of any more studies of this rather silly idea for expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL EMAIL:<br/>I have read your document of May 3, 2022.<br/>I see no mention of what the impact of this "new" Bear Creek Reservoir will have on the immediate (10 miles downstream from the enhanced dam and water containment) flood plain. Nor do I see any research on the number of lives, homes and businesses which could be seriously threatened by this project.<br/>I also see no mention of where all this new water will come from. Nature is finite. The entire state of Colorado is in a severe multi-year drought. We have been stealing water from the Western Slope for more than half a century and now they are running dry. How will the increased water containment of this very expensive “improvement" happen if there is no water?</p> |



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| 05/15/22   | Williams  | Monica     | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p> |
| 05/05/23   | Williams  | Jim        | <p>A pleasant one hour walk at BCLP showed us many positive things. Trees are showing their leaves blooming. The creek is flowing noisily with a goose gently floating along. In an open meadow, a healthy, robust coyote runs half way across and stops to stare at us. Birds are chirping their melodies. These are small beauties that help us appreciate nature. This is a wonderful way to get away from the anger and guns in our present society. BCLP can help us all maintain our sanity and bring happiness to our lives. Please do not flood this great resource.</p>   |
| 10/2/2025  | Williams  | Monica     | <p>Bear Creek is such a beautiful and nurturing place - for many animals and humans alike.</p> <p>Outdoor access, especially ones that are in close proximity to cities, are becoming fewer and fewer.</p> <p>This is an area we need for our futures, our children's futures, and our children's children futures.</p> <p>Please do not flood and destroy this beautiful land.</p>  |
| 10/27/21   | Winn      | Monica     | <p>I live near Bear Creek Park, and I oppose the flooding that is being proposed of the park.</p>  |
| 10/15/21   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>The Town of Morrison would like to receive the letter referenced in the agency scoping meeting. It can be mailed to the address below.</p>  |
| 05/13/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>Thank you for providing the Town of Morrison an opportunity to submit comments relating to the scope of the EIS in the Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir Reallocation Study.</p> <p>The Town is working to craft an official comment, but the June 6th deadline is not feasible for us due to our Board meeting agendas and schedule. Given that filing an NOI for the EIS is tentatively scheduled for 2023, we are requesting a one month extension of the stated June 6th deadline. Please advise as to whether a submittal by July 6th would be acceptable.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>  |

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| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>shops and restaurants, thereby contributing to the Town’s economic vitality. Morrison participated in the October 14, 2021 Scoping Meeting as a Stakeholder Agency. Additionally, numerous concerned residents participated in the Public Scoping Meeting conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that evening. On April 19, 2022, the Morrison Board of Trustees unanimously approved Resolution No. 2022-04, A Resolution of the Town of Morrison, Colorado, stating opposition to a significant reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir and requesting alternative water storage solutions that allow for preservation of the Bear Creek Lake Park. (See Exhibit A)</p> <p>Section 1: Request for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</p> <p>While a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not yet been published, the signs posted in the Park by the USACE are titled, “Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement,” leading the public to believe that an EIS will be conducted. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires proposals for “major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment” to include an IES. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(C). The Town of Morrison asserts that potential reallocation levels ranging from Elevation 5575.6 PD (~2,500 acre feet) to Elevation 5622.7 PD (~20,000 acre feet) would have a “significant impact” on the human environment. Therefore, the Town requests an EIS to be conducted as part of the Reallocation Study. An EIS was required for the Chatfield Reallocation Study, and the environmental and recreational impacts of a significant reallocation of Bear Creek Lake would be arguably more severe than those at Chatfield Reservoir. An expectation of a similarly rigorous environmental review is reasonable for the Bear Creek Reallocation Study. Your evaluation of this project pursuant to NEPA is not discretionary. The procedural requirements of the NEPA evaluation include consideration of alternatives (40 CFR 1502.14); public review and comment (40 CFR 1506.6); a clear statement of purpose and need (40 CFR 1502.13); and adherence to the substantive requirements of related environmental and resource statutes including but not limited to The Endangered Species Act, The Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Inherent in the process is the consideration of the implications of the project in a cohesive and comprehensive manner, not one broken into pieces where the implications are considered individually rather than comprehensively. The segmentation of a project in a fashion where the outcome is being pre-determined by consideration of portions of the study before the NEPA process formally begins, with a view toward feeding pre-NEPA comparted data into the NEPA process, is a flawed approach, particularly where reasonable alternatives are rejected prematurely and without an opportunity for public review and comment before the complete project data are available for consideration. We are particularly concerned that your evaluation is focused on a predetermined result and that the purpose and need component will be constrained to preclude consideration of otherwise reasonable alternatives. A determination of “significant impact” should be made, triggering a comprehensive EIS. Anticipated impacts of a 20,000 acre-feet reallocation are listed below, but given the relatively flat topography of the site, significant impacts can be expected for a reduced reallocation as well.</p> <p>1. Recreational impacts as assessed by Lakewood staff: Likely result in change to character of park recreation from land-based to water-based. Trail changes will impact multiple special events, likely causing permanent cancellation of several. Unpredictable water levels may severely impact future recreation. Could significantly impact environmental education programming, and overall recreational use as many participants and users visit the park specifically for the shaded riparian habitat (walkers, cyclists, runners, bird/wildlife viewing). Bear Creek Lake Park Recreational Impacts; 10/14/21; City of Lakewood; <a href="https://www.lakewood.org/files/assets/public/community-resources/parks/bclp/bear-creekreservoir- expansion-impacts.pdf">https://www.lakewood.org/files/assets/public/community-resources/parks/bclp/bear-creekreservoir- expansion-impacts.pdf</a></p> <p>2. A 20,000 ac-ft expansion would impact ~70% of BCLP trails and ~75% of the riparian areas. It was noted by Lakewood staff, during the 2nd Planning Iteration Meeting (Exhibit B), that there is probably not enough space within the Park to relocate existing recreational resources such as boat ramps, parking areas, equestrian areas, etc.</p> <p>3. The 20,600 ac-ft reallocation approved at Chatfield authorized a ~39% increase in the surface area of Chatfield Reservoir: an 11% inundation on a 5,300-acre site. By comparison, a 20,000 ac-ft expansion of Bear</p> |

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| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>[continued from above]</p> <p>4. Impacted Stream Length of Bear Creek (USACE Scoping Meeting Presentation 10/14/21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~5,813 ft (20,000 ac-ft increase) • ~3,886 ft (10,000 ac-ft increase) Impacted Stream Length of Turkey Creek</li><li>• ~3,900 ft (20,000 ac-ft increase) • ~3,095 ft (10,000 ac-ft increase)</li></ul> <p>5. The combined stream lengths of Bear and Turkey Creek impacted by a 20,000 ac-ft reallocation is approximately 1.8 miles. A 10,000 ac-ft reallocation would inundate approximately 1.3 miles of stream. “Riparian habitat supports a higher diversity of wildlife year-round than any other habitat in the Front Range and these riparian habitats also provide corridors that link habitat patches and wildlife populations allowing movement through urban matrix.” (Environmental Assessment for the Bear Creek Dam and Lake Project Master Plan; 4.10.1; September, 2012)</p> <p>6. Impacted Wetlands (USACE Scoping Meeting Presentation 10/14/21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~72.29 acres in a 20,000 ac-ft increase • ~50.59 acres in a 10,000 ac-ft increase</li></ul> <p>7. Significant Pool Elevation Fluctuation would likely have negative impacts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of extensive mud flats, • Loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat,</li><li>• Introduction and spread of noxious weeds, • Wind erosion and deposition of exposed soil/sediment,</li><li>• Decreased accessibility to land and water-based recreation, and • Decreased aesthetics.</li></ul> <p>8. Social Well-Being: A significant reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir would negatively impact the mental and physical health of regular park users, as well as future generations of BCLP users. A widely circulated study published in the online science journal PLOS One in March of 2022 underscores how essential nature is for mental and physical well-being. (<a href="https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0261056">https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0261056</a>) For urban and suburban populations, parks like Bear Creek Lake Park are a primary source for experiencing nature. The University of Vermont study integrated research from the Gund Institute for Environment, the Spatial Analysis Lab, and the MassMutual Center of Excellence for Complex Systems and Data Science to measure the mood-boosting benefits of urban nature. A strong happiness benefit from time spent in nature was recorded by positive mood spikes among park visitors. The study gathered a massive amount of data from social media to quantify this mood-boosting benefit. Not surprisingly, larger parks offer a greater benefit than smaller parks. “The ability to immerse yourself in a larger, greener natural area had a greater effect than smaller paved city parks,” says UVM professor and researcher, Chris Danforth.</p> <p>Section 2- Scope of EISAuthorizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should discuss: • How the reallocated storage capacity will be filled and managed, particularly relative to analysis of dependable yield potential,</li><li>• Effects on operational changes to other reservoirs in the South Platte Watershed, and</li><li>• Effects of water level fluctuations on resources including aquatic resources, fisheries, wildlife habitat, vegetation, water quality and recreation; and</li><li>• Effects of operational changes in the downstream channel during both routine and flood operations. [continued below]</li></ul> |
| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should consider: • More extensive conservation, including restrictions on watering and additional incentives for municipal and residential water-saving measures,</li><li>• Offsite water storage alternatives such as off-channel sand and gravel pits along the South Platte, closer to the primary municipal partners interested in acquiring storage rights in Bear Creek Lake, and through which substantial water storage capacity is created every year;</li><li>• Whether the Municipal Partners interested in additional Bear Creek Lake storage have water-conservation policy measures in place;</li><li>• On-site alternatives such as (1) excavating the reservoir to remove accumulated sediment and deepen the reservoir, and (2) excavating forebays upstream of the reservoir to increase storage capacity within a smaller footprint than maps of proposed increases depict; and</li><li>• Note: On-site alternatives listed above had been eliminated from consideration during the 2nd Planning Iteration Meeting (see Exhibit B). However, those alternatives were retained for further consideration after the October 14, 2021 Scoping Meetings.</li><li>• The feasibility of constructing a secondary pool south of the current reservoir, along the south embankment, to minimize the impact of additional storage in the riparian corridors. Note that disruption of grasslands south of the current pool would significantly impact wildlife habitat; however, this may be a viable trade-off for reduced disruption of riparian areas.</li><li>• Note: Construction of a secondary pool was not discussed during the 2nd Planning Iteration Meeting on August 31, 2021; however, it was suggested during the October 14, 2021 Public Scoping Meeting and in subsequent public comment.</li></ul> <p>Dam Safety / Flood Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should:</li><li>• Disclose clearly, in plain English, how the project would affect dam safety and flood control, especially considering the potential for more frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change, and</li><li>• Describe project modifications and infrastructure that may be necessary to mitigate increased flood risk of reallocation, especially if the Study recommends trading flood risk management benefits for water storage</li></ul>  |

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| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should address the fluctuation impacts of mud flats, noxious weed spread, wind erosion and deposition, decreased accessibility to land and water-based recreation, decreased aesthetics; and</li><li>• The Corps should provide maps depicting areas within potential fluctuation zones, showing the specific topography that would be be impacted by fluctuation for each pool volume that remains under consideration, and</li><li>• Storage yield analyses should be disclosed to the public, particularly as low dependable yield increases the extent and impact of fluctuating pool levels. Water Quality</li><li>• The Town of Morrison relies on the Bear Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) for Water Quality guidance regarding Bear Creek Reservoir.</li><li>• BCWA noted that “at maximum elevation, the reservoir probably would no longer meet the Aquatic Life Cold 1 Standards and classification because there would be significantly more shallow water area in the reservoir.”</li><li>• Consider how the water quality of a significantly larger pool, with more shallow areas and potentially warmer temperatures, would impact the green-belt downstream and into the South Platte River.</li><li>• Consider how managing a larger pool to reduce fluctuation during periods of minimal inflow will impact water quality in the Bear Creek Lake and potentially reduce flows and degrade water quality through the greenbelt and riparian corridor downstream.</li><li>• An EIS should consider how significant loss of beaver habitat in the project area would impact water quality, as beaver dams and adjacent wetlands filter and store water.</li></ul> <p>Aquatic Life and Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should identify aquatic impacts above and below the reservoir, including impacts to amphibian species whose life cycles rely on aquatic environments; and</li><li>• The Corps should address impacts to stream and reservoir fish populations.</li></ul> <p>Riparian Habitat, Ecosystem, Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should include analysis identifying a number of species for consideration, including special status plants and animals, migratory birds, water birds, sport fish, and nonsport fish.</li><li>• The Corps should address:</li><li>• The loss of habitat caused by the increased and fluctuating water levels,</li><li>• The negative effects that fluctuating water levels could have on breeding and spawning, bird migration; and</li><li>• The effects of inundation around, upstream, and downstream from the reservoir.</li></ul> <p>Vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should address:</li><li>• Impacts on riparian habitats around, upstream and downstream from the reservoir,</li><li>• Impacts on threatened/endangered T/E species and species of concern such as the Colorado butterfly plant and Ute ladies’-tresses orchid, and</li><li>• The need for a noxious weed control plan because pool elevation fluctuations would likely aid the spread of noxious weeds.</li></ul> <p>Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corps should address:</li></ul> |

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| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>[continued from above]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Threatened/endangered species and state species of concern, including the bald eagle, western burrowing owl, short-eared owl, northern leopard frog, lined snake, black-tailed prairie dog and others as appropriate; and</li><li>The USFWS IPaC Report, cited in the Oct. 14, 2022 USACE Public Scoping Presentation, page 22, which noted, “Six known T/E species may be in the directly affected area.”</li></ul> <p>Environmental Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Corps should consider the social well-being benefits that BCLP provides to surrounding communities in its current configuration and operation. The BCLP provides local, affordable access to the natural environment and educational opportunities for all people throughout the Denver Metro Region. How would the project comply with Executive Order 12898?</li></ul> <p>Social Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>At the October 14 Public Scoping Meeting, Greg Johnson, USACE Plan Formulation Section Chief said, “There is some special emphasis on social affects and social well-being considerations in the decision-making process that came out of the Assistant Secretary of the Army within the last calendar year, so it is being elevated to a higher level of consideration in the decision-making process versus just pure economics anymore....It’s one of the reasons we are trying to keep the Lakewood community engaged in the process, because you’ll know better than we will in terms of how those effects translate into your own back yard.” (96 minute mark of recorded meeting) Please state how this special emphasis will be addressed within the Bear Creek Study.</li><li>The Corps should consider the number of people who visit the Park, including those who enter from numerous access points surrounding the Park and are not included in the official count. Visitation data from 2020, largely based on vehicle entries at one location, estimated over 650,000 visits to the Park that year. Annual visitation rates are likely over 800,000.</li><li>The Corps should note that those who patronize the Park’s water-based recreational opportunities are more likely to drive in, as they are hauling boats, kayaks, beach picnics and the like. However, those who access the Park on foot or bicycle are not adequately counted in the currently available data, and these Park users favor the central region of the Park which would be inundated in an expansion of the Reservoir.</li></ul> <p>Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Corps should consider:</li><li>How there may not be enough space within the Park to relocate many of the trails and facilities that would be impacted, and</li><li>How the recreational and social well-being benefits provided by shaded, forested trails along a running creek; amidst abundant wildlife; immersed in the sounds of moving water, songbirds, and rustling leaves cannot be adequately mitigated on-site; and</li><li>How relocating trails and facilities from forested riparian areas to the periphery of an expanded pool, closer to the traffic and noise of surrounding highways, will impact the quality of the recreational experience; and</li><li>How fluctuating water levels could affect access to boating, fishing, swimming, bird watching, wildlife viewing and handicapped access; and</li><li>How, compared to other nearby parks in steeper, more rugged terrain, the relatively flat terrain and variety of trail surfaces at BCLP allows a broad base of users to enjoy the outdoors (young-old, beginner-expert, more-less mobile).</li></ul> <p>Economics [continued below]</p> |
| 06/14/22   | Winters   | Kara       | <p>[continued from above]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Considering the likely loss of recreational opportunities at BCLP, we are concerned about how visitation and revenue at businesses in the Town would be affected. As a small town that is a popular tourist destination, we rely for the majority of our general fund revenue on sales tax and other collections, mostly from visitors. For the 2022 budget year, \$1.2 million of our \$2.3 million in budgeted revenue is projected to come from sales tax. We also expect to receive abut \$500,000 from museum tickets and sales, parking fees, traffic fines, and other revenue directly attributable to out-of-town visitors. Altogether, this represents about 75% of theTown’s general fund revenue. Any decrease in visitation at BCLP and our businesses would cause a significant decrease in revenue to the Town. • The Corps should analyze potential changes in visitation to the park and how that would affect sales tax and other revenues in the Town of Morrison, as well as the City of Lakewood and Jefferson County. How would the Corps mitigate this potential negative impact on the budget of the Town and other local governments?</li></ul> <p>Population Projections and the Water Storage Gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Colorado Water Plan’s statewide storage goal of 400,000 ac-ft, reflects predictions of Colorado’s population doubling between 2008 and 2050 (from 5.1 million to somewhere between 8.6 and 10.5 million). That was according to a study commissioned by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in 2010, but that trajectory has fallen far short of predictions (<a href="https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/doc/144800/Electronic.aspx?searchid=c1469548-e589-49df-a54f-6b03612a38e3">https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/doc/144800/Electronic.aspx?searchid=c1469548-e589-49df-a54f-6b03612a38e3</a>).</li><li>The State Demography Office found the number of people moving into Colorado has been declining since 2015, putting the state’s current population around 5.8 million. The DMO’s updated projections, prepared in October 2021, estimate Colorado’s population will reach 7.56 million in 2050 (<a href="https://demography.dola.colorado.gov">https://demography.dola.colorado.gov</a>). That’s 2.5 million fewer people than projected when the 400,000 ac-ft storage goal was set. Current models predict a roughly 50% increase from 2008-2050, not the 100% increase that, in part, led to authorization of the Bear Creek Reallocation Study.</li><li>Published notes from the 2nd Planning Iteration Meeting indicate the Bear Creek Study will not include further development of water supply alternatives that do not involve Bear Creek Dam or Reservoir, but that these alternatives will be compared to storage reallocation at Bear Creek Reservoir. Consideration should also be given to how the potential benefits and impacts of a reallocation at Bear Creek Reservoir fit within the priorities and urgencies of Colorado’s water storage gap. Thank you for providing the Town of Morrison with this opportunity to comment.</li></ul> <p>ATTACHMENTS: EXHIBIT A- MORRISON RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04; EXHIBIT B- 2nd PLANNING ITERATION MEETING NOTES</p>   |



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| 05/05/22   | Wockner   | Gary       | <p>Save The Colorado appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed reallocation project at Bear Creek Lake. We engage around water supply and storage, and river/creek conservation issues, across Colorado and the Southwest U.S. Further, entities involved in this project are engaged in additional projects in Colorado that we have an interest in. As such, protecting Bear Creek falls squarely within our mission and work. The Save Bear Creek Lake Park group has already described the numerous impacts to the Park if reallocation of 20,000 AF of storage in Bear Creek Lake is implemented. This includes loss of numerous park amenities, miles of walking and bike trails, and invaluable riparian habitat along Turkey and Bear Creeks as well as short grass prairie. The current Park attracts approximately 500,000 people each year. These comments are designed to augment the group’s comments that have already been submitted.</p> <p>What is the impact of floods if the lake is at 22,000 AF? In a Memorandum from Jay Hutchinson and Kit Newline to Lakewood City Council, dated May 9, 2017, a map shows inundation areas for the current storage, the May 26, 2015 and September 22, 2013 floods, and the proposed 22,000 AF project which lies outside the areas flooded in 2013 (18,906 AF) and 2015 (15,060 AF). What area would be inundated if similar floods occurred while Bear Creek Lake is full at 22,000 AF. As stated in the memo, water levels rose 49 feet during the 2013 flood event. Based on the map accompanying the memo, it appears that several structures, trails, parking for Soda Lakes, and roadways (Morrison Rd) could all potentially be flooded in a similar flood event. Additional impacts to areas outside of the “full” lake would reduce the efficacy of flood control, the original purpose of Bear Creek Lake. The extent of inundation during large flood events needs to be included in analyses of the project.</p> <p>Destruction of almost 2 miles of Prime Riparian Habitat to Fill an Environmental Pool?</p> <p>The summary of the May 15 - 16 CWCB Board meeting compiles those entities that are interested in the project along with their water needs. In Table 1, the major shareholders would be Brighton (6,600 AF), and Berthoud and Dacono, both at 3,000 AF. The remainder minus smaller requests equal to 6,885 AF or approximately one third of the reallocation volume, would be used as an environmental pool to fulfill instream flows. Approximately 2 miles of prime riparian habitat would be destroyed, more than 41 acres of wetlands would be submerged, and downstream flows in Bear Creek would be reduced in order to, in part, maintain instream flows in Bear Creek? The Feasibility Study needs to evaluate impacts versus benefits of the project particularly as it pertains to destruction of prime riparian habitat and wetlands on the Colorado Front Range. Also, it is unclear if the environmental pool would fill in most years.</p> <p>P.O Box 1066, Fort Collins, CO 80522, info@SaveTheColorado.org, www.SaveTheColorado.org</p> <p>Enough Water to Sustain 20,000 AF of Storage? CWCB’s Reallocation Information Brochure published on May 14, 2018 contains a graph of Annual Unappropriated Inflow to Bear Creek Lake. Very low yields are indicated between 2000 and 2012 with only two years exceeding 10,000 AF -still much too low to sustain 20,000 AF of additional storage. The Feasibility Study needs to assess water yields for the entire 2000’s period (2000 to 2022) since these years may be representative of future conditions under climate change. What is the actual annual yield and exchange capacity in the 2000s for each of the major entities interested in the project (e.g. Dacono, Brighton, and Berthoud)? These evaluations need to account for stream losses if exchanges will happen downstream on the South Platte as well as evaporative losses under hotter and drier conditions. Brown and Caldwell Report to CWCB A subsequent report by Brown and Caldwell entitled “Bear Creek Lake Water Rights” published on 9/21/21, uses 4,550 AF - just under one fourth of the total reallocation - for the environmental pool and 16,900 AF of reallocated water storage. The report assessed inflows and storage based on proposed accounting of interested junior water rights parties. It is anticipated that since water rights applications amount to 20,000 AF that this amount would be an upper limit to the reallocation process. In addition, the change in environmental pool and total reallocation of storage noted in the Brown and Caldwell report does not change the impacts noted in the above comments.Data from the Brown and Caldwell model are shown in Table 2; Monthly Total Inflow to Storage (AF), Figure 2; Daily Storage in the Reservoir, and Figure 3; Total Reservoir Daily Elevation in Feet of that report. [continued below]</p> |

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| 05/05/22   | Wockner   | Gary       | <p>both of these values in only 3 years between 2000 and 2016; including 2007, 2013, and 2017, or in only 18 percent of the post 2000 years. Because excess inflow per year can be stored for future years, Figure 2 showed how often the reservoir would reach 14,500 AF and 19,000 AF to accommodate not only the need for 2000 AF of historical storage but also the junior water rights and environmental pool if water could be withdrawn from storage. Storage reached 14,500 AF in 9 of 17 post 2000 years (53%) and reached 19,000 AF in 7 of the 17 post 2000 years (41%). Therefore, enough water was available to accommodate the junior water rights to be stored in this reallocation volume in only 53 percent - about one half - of the post 2000 time period while enough water was available to provide instream flows in only 41 percent - or less than half - of the post 2000 time period. This assumes that the water rights would take precedence over instream flows. Fluctuation of reservoir levels was cited as a problem. Modeled annual reservoir elevation increases as well as decreases were estimated from Figure 3 of the report. The average annual drop in elevation was 12.2 feet between 2000 and 2016. Because the annual increases in elevation did not keep pace with the drop, the elevation of the reservoir almost declined to the historic storage volume of 2000 AF, or approximately 5,565 feet, by 2006. Low reservoir levels were also modeled in 2002 and 2012 followed by large increases in reservoir elevation of 54 feet in 2007 and 2013 and 25 feet in 2003.</p> <p>Extending the evaluation of inflow to storage, and reservoir storage volume and elevation through the complete 2000 time period would provide more information on how the reallocated reservoir might perform in the future. Reservoir levels rebounded during the 2013 precipitation event (as well as in 2007). The 2013 precipitation event was a 1 in 1000 year event in Boulder, Colorado having a 0.1% chance of occurring in a given year. Further south in Denver this event may have had a 50 year return period - with a 2% chance of occurring every year. The success of the reallocated reservoir in the 2000 to 2016 time period thus depended on infrequent and unpredictable precipitation events interspersed with drier years.</p> <p>Other Storage Alternatives</p> <p>Other storage alternatives have been identified by the Save Bear Creek Lake Park group which need to be fully evaluated in the Feasibility Study. They include:</p> <p>1. Deepening the current pool at Bear Creek Lake to reduce the area of impact; this option would require additional maintenance to remove sediment deposited during storm events. 2. Aquifer storage nearer the major shareholders</p> <p>3. Sand and gravel pit storage along the South Platte</p> <p>Also, water conservation plans for each major entity need to be reviewed for likely potential additional water saving efforts. For instance, Greeley has invested in a turf replacement program and is expanding its water storage via aquifer recharge/storage. The state of Colorado is also evaluating a statewide turf replacement program. Water conservation or other storage options likely would yield more water supply and be less expensive than adding 20,000 AF of storage and retrofitting the dam at Bear Creek Lake.</p> <p>The May 9, 2017 memo from Jay Hutchinson and Kit Newline to the Lakewood Mayor provides information on an earlier - 1980s - effort by local water users to evaluate reallocation of storage in Bear Creek Reservoir. Note that water yields in the 1980s are likely well above that of the 2000s drought - identified as the worst drought in 1200 years. Per this memo (page 3):</p> <p>“These studies revealed that, even when using existing senior water rights already owned by the entities, there would be inadequate water to be stored, substantial inundation fluctuations of BCLP land, loss of wetlands (more than 41 acres with storage of only 4,600 AF), required dam and outlet structure modifications, and other impacts. Upon reviewing these results, the local water users concluded that the mitigation costsassociated with the loss of wetlands, coupled with the Corps’ capital reimbursement costs for storage, and the costs for necessary modifications to the dam and outlet structure, far outweighed the limited yield of the additional storage. Since then, the local users have implemented alternate storage projects.”</p> <p>The question is, why has storage reallocation at Bear Creek Lake been resurrected? Earlier work by the local water users needs to be fully incorporated into the Feasibility Study.</p> |
| 08/17/22   | Wokasch   | Travis     | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Relocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I've been living in Denver since 2008. We moved here from northern Arizona and were looking to live as close to nature as possible. We immediately fell in love with the South-side of Green Mountain because of the access to Green Mtn trails, Red Rocks and most importantly Bear Creek Lake Park. We buy a season pass every year to be able to use the trails for running and walking the dogs. It's by far the best park in Denver because it doesn't feel like you're in the city. The dirt trails are perfect for running and walking the dogs, specifically along the river, because the trees provide shade which is crucial in the summer. Bear Creek Lake Park is a very important part of my daily routine and vital to my physical and mental health because it allows me a reprieve from the city life and is easy access to isolated nature. I am very concerned about the reservoir expansion project. As I mentioned, the dirt trail along the river is by far the MOST IMPORTANT part of BCLP. Losing those dirt trails along the river will decrease the amount that I go to BCLP by a substantial amount, so much so that I will try and find a new park that has the trees and shade and nature that exists on those specific trails. Please reconsider increasing the reservoir and flooding the most important part of BCLP and ruin the best park in the Denver area.</p>   |

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| 08/17/22   | Wokasch   | Katie         | <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>I have been visiting Bear Creek Lake Park at least 2-3 times a week for years, primarily for trail running or walking our dogs along the creek. It is one of the few shady places to run in the Lakewood area and has provided a wonderful escape into nature that is only a few minutes from our house. It's beautiful year-round and is always full of elk, deer, snakes, and a plethora of birds, including hawks and the occasional bald eagle.</p> <p>While we occasionally use the swimming lake in the summer, the majority of our time is spent on the trails that parallel Bear Creek, which is what concerns me most about the proposed reservoir expansion. These trails provide a much needed physical and mental break from the surrounding suburban complexes and the general lack of trees and vegetation nearby. They've provided a quiet place to forget the hustle-and-bustle of Denver and Lakewood and to reconnect with nature on a near daily basis. Without these trails, the availability of shady, cool, quiet trails to run and walk on will be substantially limited, essentially restricting these activities to the weekends when we can make the drive up into the mountains.</p> <p>Some of my major concerns have to do with the destruction of riparian habitats and their associated trails as well as the likelihood of the need for the size of the expanded reservoir. As I mentioned above, the trail system is perhaps the most important part of Bear Creek Lake Park to me and my family. The destruction of those trails and the associated habitats would effectively remove some of the only such habitats and trail systems in the area, leaving us with exposed, dry paths that are so common in our high desert environment. To the second point, it seems unlikely that the 20,000 ac/ft storage will actually be used in most years. Since 1966, total annual inflow has only reached 19,000 ac/ft four times. If most years see far less inflow, the massive reservoir will be underfilled, resulting in the unsightly "bathtub ring", which further diminishes wildlife and recreational activities in the area.</p> <p>I recognize that the demand for water will only increase as more humans fill the area and climate change continues to impact water supply at the source. I would implore you to look into deepening the existing reservoir or investigate other water storage options, such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) or utilizing nearby gravel pits to store excess water.</p> <p>I appreciate the complex problem you are attempting to solve and sincerely hope you take into serious consideration how great of an impact the decision to expand the reservoir would have on the wildlife and nearby communities. For the sake of my family and community, I hope you can find a way to achieve your goals while preserving this important ecosystem and park.</p> |
| 03/01/22   | Woloschuk | Mary          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 04/29/22   | Woloshuk  | Mary          | <p>I would like to add my voice to those who oppose the expansion of Bear Creek Lake Park. This park is an important part of this area of the state, providing a myriad of recreational opportunities for those who live and visit the area. In addition, it is part of the 470 Trail and is accessed, on a regular basis, by riders who use this trail.</p> <p>The development in the Lakewood area has become overwhelming and is destroying what Colorado is supposed to represent, which includes open spaces with the opportunity to be outside and live a healthy lifestyle. Expanding Bear Creek Park would only add to the problem.</p> <p>I understand there needs to be ongoing assessment and development of a plan for distributing water to the state. The destruction of Bear Creek Lake Park, in order to incorporate it into the plan, does not seem to be a well thought out idea. I know that you are well aware of the ramifications of the expansion and the negative impact it could potentially have on the area.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the expansion of the park would not even benefit this area of the state. You would be destroying one area for the benefit of other areas. In the process, you destroy not only a big piece of the recreational life of many people, but also the habitats for a variety of wildlife.</p> <p>I am a regular visitor to the park and enjoy seeing the wildlife that live there. Regular sightings over the past few years have been the American Bald and Golden Eagle, a variety of hawks, including the Red Tailed Hawk and an assortment of other birds. Expansion of the park would take away their natural habitats, which again is counter to what Colorado is supposed to represent. It could potentially be in violation of laws that are in place to protect many of these birds. There are countless other animals who live in the park and you would be destroying their habitats, as well.</p> <p>It is my understanding that there are alternatives to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake. Please don't simply look at the most convenient solution, but rather the one that considers all people, wildlife and habitats that are involved. Bear Creek lake Park is a gem in a state that seems to be forgetting the health and well being of its citizens is paramount.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration</p>  |
| 11/01/21   | Woodward  | Lisa and Rick | <p>My name is Lisa Woodward and I am concerned about the increased water storage and how it will effect the trail system and the wild life corridor at Bear Creek Lake Park.</p> <p>My husband and myself were the citizen representatives for the trail task force committee that planned the hard surface and soft surface trails in Bear Creek Lake Park. These trails are enjoyed by many users including equestrians. If the expansion gets approved we would like to be named on the trail planning committee. We would like to see as part of the expansion that the Army Corp of Engineers put in their budget to relocate both of these types of trails so the many users can still enjoy the park.</p>   |
| 02/01/22   | Woodward  | Ryan          | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)   |
| 02/07/22   | Yasuhara  | Susan         | <p>Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:</p> <p>I use BCLP trails for mt-biking, triathalon and trail running. We have been using the park to introduce women to beginner trail running and mountain biking. Please give us trails to continue to introduce athletes to this versatile park!</p>   |

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| 01/19/22                                   | Young     | Kristen    | <p>I am emailing in regards to the Bear Creek Lake Park Reservoir Expansion, and am opposed to this project. I grew up in Lakewood, Colorado, just a few miles north on Green Mountain, and thirty years later, I still visit frequently to run, bike, and enjoy the serene setting nestled within the suburbs. In addition to my personal and sentimental attachment to the park, the expansion would have 1) several negative habitat and recreational impacts, 2) low dependable yield, and 3) heighten dam safety concerns, with details of each listed below.</p> <p>Please consider alternative water storage solutions, including 1) deepening/excavating the current pool, 2) aquifer storage and recovery, and 3) sand and gravel mining.</p> <p>Bear Creek Lake Park Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of land area by 615 acres (34% of the Park, excluding golf course)</li><li>• Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Riparian and Creek Corridor</li><li>• Loss of 12 miles of trails</li><li>• Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)</li><li>• Reduction and/or loss of numerous park amenities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equestrian area</li><li>• Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area</li><li>• Numerous picnic shelters and areas</li><li>• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, Solterra, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam</li><li>• 650,000+ visitors to BCLP in 2020, not including those who walk or bike in. Those numbers are likely higher in 2021.</li><li>• Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in Rooney Valley</li></ul></li><li>Low Dependable Yield: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unallocated yield from Bear Creek may not be sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool.</li><li>• Since 1986, annual inflow to the reservoir has averaged 9,171 AF and total annual inflow has reached 19,000 AF only four times (Brown and Caldwell; Technical Memorandum to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 9/21/21).</li><li>• During non-maximum water years/cycles, the reservoir could be surrounded by an expansive “bathtub ring” of deforested mud flats, further diminishing wildlife and recreational values.</li></ul></li><li>Dam Safety Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased lake levels may impact outlet structure and require other renovations that are more expensive than alternatives.</li><li>• Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.</li></ul></li><li>Alternative Water Storage Solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deepening/excavating the current pool and forebays can increase storage with fewer park impacts and less evaporative loss. This was originally one of the primary plans for expansion and was tabled for reasons that are unclear until recently. Based at least in part on public feedback, USACE has indicated that this option is now back under consideration. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values.</li><li>• Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) is increasingly promising in Colorado. It is unclear whether the USACE or the potential junior rights holders (Brighton, Dacono and Berthoud) have meaningfully considered alternatives.</li><li>• Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. A number of gravel pits have been repurposed for water storage, and this capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> |
| <p><b>"FORM LETTER 1" Sample Text:</b></p> |           |            | <p>I oppose any reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir that would have a significant impact on the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). A 20,000 acre feet expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres. These are arguably the most cherished and sensitive acres in the Park. They encompass most of the shady trails where visitors enjoy a flowing creek in the canopy of a densely forested cottonwood grove. This is also habitat for much of the Park's abundant wildlife. Even a 10,000 acre feet expansion of the Reservoir would inundate hundreds of acres of the Park and destroy almost a mile of the Bear Creek riparian corridor.</p> <p>The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk into the Park on a regular basis are not counted. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Unlike other nearby parks, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners.</p> <p>The average annual inflow into the Reservoir is far short of what would be necessary to maintain a 22,000 acre feet pool. During years where the pool is low, a barren bathtub ring of deforested land could surround the Reservoir. Any approved expansion should be supported by strong dependable yield calculations.</p> <p>The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area.</p> <p>I urge you to support compromise and less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase its volume, and construction of a secondary pool along the South Embankment is under consideration as well. Both of these alternatives could increase the volume of water stored on site while minimizing the acreage of impact within the Park.</p>  |

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|            |           |            | <p>Reservoir for the purpose of water storage. Alternatives being investigated range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the 2,000 acre feet pool (a tenfold increase). The latter would flood approximately 615 acres of Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP). The Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) are coordinating on this threeyear study. [Figure: Bear Creek Reservoir Potential Storage Reallocation] More than a mile of Bear Creek and 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek would be inundated in a 20,000 AF expansion. As you can see, even the 10,000 and 5,000 acre feet increases would impact significant stretches of Bear and Turkey Creek. These riparian corridors are the core of the Park. They provide wildlife habitat and shady creekside trails where the din of traffic is replaced by the sounds of flowing water, rustling leaves and singing birds. The shaded blue in the map above eclipses thousands of cottonwood trees. The public voiced overwhelming opposition to this expansion during the first public scoping meeting in October of 2021, which was extended to accommodate two and a half hours of public comment. This Feasibility Study is part of the Colorado Water Plan. It is important to note that The Plan does not automatically support every proposal in it. Rather, it calls for consideration of each, recognizing that some of the projects will not be built. A goal was set in 2015 to increase the State's water storage capacity by 400,000 AF by the year 2050. Over 475,000 AF of water storage assets have already been built (Chatfield), permitted, or are in the permitting process. The maximum reallocation being proposed for Bear Creek Lake would have an outsized and negative impact on the Park for a relatively small contribution to the statewide goal. Alternatives and compromises under consideration include No Change.</p> <p>The negative environmental and recreational impacts of a significant increase in the Bear Creek Reservoir are dramatic. As drought and population increase, this price might be worth paying, but other less impactful storage solutions ought to be built first.</p> <p>While the reallocation of Chatfield Reservoir is often compared to the proposal for BCLP, the expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir would be dramatically more devastating than the expansion of Chatfield Reservoir. For example, the loss of shoreline trees at Chatfield was mitigated by planting more trees elsewhere, but it is impossible to mitigate the loss of nearly two miles of flowing creeks and the ecosystem they support. Additionally, the proposal at BCLP would consume approximately one third of the Park's land area. The primary municipal partners at this time are the Cities of Brighton, Berthoud and Dacono (via water rights exchange). As the state's population grows and development marches on, demand management must be part of our water supply solution. We can't just store more and more. We must also use less. A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative surface water storage exist. One alternative currently being considered at BCLP is to further excavate the current pool. This would increase storage capacity and reduce the footprint of impact. Another very promising alternative is the increasing use of gravel pits for water storage. Dozens of gravel pits exist along the South Platte and several have been repurposed for water storage. These pits continue to be created as development demands more sand and gravel. Another innovative and growing means of storing water is Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). It is less impactful on places like BCLP, and unlike old-school surface water storage, ASR is not susceptible to evaporation. A serious challenge to this project is supply, or rather the lack of it. Inflows are not expected to support 22,000 AF every year. The Corps is analyzing yield potential from Bear and Turkey Creeks to estimate how often a higher volume could be achieved. After stored water is drawn out of the reservoir, a periphery of mud flats could remain. In drought scenarios, these barren, deforested regions could persist for years. I realize we need to store more water to meet the needs of a growing population, but now is not the time to sacrifice the BCLP for a mere 10,000 or 20,000 AF. Other less impactful, more beneficial options exist. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Additionally, many thousands of people who ride or walk in are not counted. Tens of thousands of people visit the BCLP on a regular basis. It is an oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Furthermore, BCLP is accessible to a broad base of users. Given its gentle terrain and variety of trail surfaces, the Park hosts young and old visitors ranging from those with limited mobility to competitive mountain bikers and ultra-runners. Finally, a five or tenfold increase in the volume of water behind the dam raises serious concerns about the potential for increased flood risk to the Denver Metro area. Dam safety related to a significant expansion is being assessed by the USACE. Thanks for your consideration of this complicated issue. I hope you will lend your voice to opposing the proposed reallocation.</p> <p>Volunteers at Save Bear Creek Lake Park would love to tour you and others through the Park so you can experience the places that are at stake. For more information visit <a href="#">SaveBearCreeklakePark.org</a></p> |