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.

I 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.

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.

We have 2 main takeaways from the meeting that leave strongly against this expansion.

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.

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 habitat 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.

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.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

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.

I urge you NOT to increase the size of Bear Creek reservoir.

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 healthy.

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.

What are "new" water rights? This is laughable and probably not legal.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this boondoggle of a project.

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.

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
Attached are Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s 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.

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.

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 undefined 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 LEOPA 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. 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.

1/20/2022
Armstrong Karlyn

Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment: Bear Creek Lake Park is a priceless recreational asset in this urban area. It needs to be preserved.

2/17/2022
Arvin David

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.

4/14/2022
Arvin Brigitta

Thank you for your attention.
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<td>11/10/2021</td>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>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, or radionuclides? According to USGS it is common for 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 habitats at the Lake even though the IPaC lists six endangered species. USFWS 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. The 2003 document dismisses flood risk by saying residential areas downstream of the dam are elevated above the flood plain. However, a subdivision and many new apartment complexes now exist on the north side of Bear Creek that are in flood plain. The increased risk for flooding at the dam will impact homes in the area. 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 impact on the 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 It is 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 Jefferson 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 for 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.</td>
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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 council 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 scouting meeting pointed out this increase could also mean an increase of e. coli and fecal coliform bacteria contamination (US Army Corps of Engineers 2021). 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.
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 the following 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 both been altered/enlarged 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 intact in 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 basin 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 stored if back to back above average years take place, but it's uneconomical to approve and construct a project such as this on the hopes of multiple back to back years will create the need to anywhere close to 20,000 AF of water in Bear Creek Lake Park. High inflow years are probably the most concerning. Flooding in 2013 and 2015 caused inflows of 72,121 and 19,049 AF respectively. In both of these years the water flowed down Bear Creek into the mountain rain events, not as snow-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, horseriding, 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 southwest 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 some other open space options in the area. The gentle slopes make BCLP a popular choice for elderly or physically challenged users. We should not be decreasing accessibility to those with few options already. Destroying BCLP can easily be called an environmental injustice issue. People living nearby with limited means to travel farther and those in need of “easiest” trails would be disproportionately affected. Many users of the trails through BCLP use the trail network for transportation. 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 area. Alternative Storage Options: A number of more sustainable alternatives to highly impactful and evaporative 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. Another innovative and growing means of storing water is ASR- Aquifer Storage and Recovery. The more we utilize this 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. 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 fill the lake, 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.

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2021

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10/15/2021

David Bedard

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 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.

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.

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.

Mr. Shipman, I am totally against going forward with the proposed water expansion project for Bear Creek Lake Park!! [Duplicate received 10/18/21]

3/1/2021

David Bedard

Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1": See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:

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.

3/2/2021

Debra Bently

Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1": See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)

3/2/2021

Charles Bentley

Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1": See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment:

Fishing.
Bear Creek Reallocation Study

Comments submitted to USACE and CWCB (from Oct 2021 to April 26, 2022)

UPDATED: 28-April-2021

Date Rec’d Last Name First Name Comment
1/2/2022 Blair Julia 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.

Environment

Tired of mowing the lawn? Colorado could pay you $2 a square foot to rip it out.

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.

3/25/2022 Bodenhamer Susan 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.

4/26/2022 Boswell Christopher This regards the proposed increase in the water capacity for Bear Creek Lake Park, 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, Aura 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 aceage, flood control and reasonable water storage. The basin in which Bear Creek Lake sits is narrower and smaller than either Cherry Creek of 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 rebuilt to a significantly higher standard to provide safety for the uses below it.

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 would 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.

3/31/2022 Bowen Peter G. (Jeff) It is my understanding that The Army Corp of Engineers is studying increasing the capacity of Bear Creek Reservoir (Morison/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.

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.

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!

3/27/2022 Brigham Robert It is my understanding that The Army Corp of Engineers is studying increasing the capacity of Bear Creek Reservoir (Morison/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.

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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!
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.

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?

1/30/2022

Buffington Vicky

STOP destroying Lakewood

DO NOT TOUCH BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

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 breathe the air, walk with families and their pets. It's the ONLY haven LEFT!

We have been pushed out of 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

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.

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.

STOP

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!

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2/6/2022

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.

3/30/2022

Browell Cheryl

AND Derek Samantha

BCLP is a refuge to animals and humans alike....thanks for reading and looking at my pictures. [9 photos Embeded]

Thank you

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

4/25/2022

Buffington Vicky

Thank you

DO NOT TOUCH BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

STOP destroying Lakewood

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW PRECIOUS and IMPORTANT THIS AREA IS FOR ALL OUR WELL BEING.

ABSOLUTELY NOT:

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.

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.

STOP

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW PRECIOUS and IMPORTANT THIS AREA IS FOR ALL OUR WELL BEING.

Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See above. Added comments:

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

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3/31/2022

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| 3/15/2022 | Burkhardt | Julie      | Thank you for taking the time to consider my opposition to the reallocation. I am opposed to this action 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)  
| 2/14/2022  | Burkman   | Hank       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments). |
| 2/14/2022  | Burns?    | Elizabeth  | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment: I am opposed to this expansion because it will take away trails and bird habitat. |
| 10/19/2021 | 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 |
| 11/5/2021  | Carlson   | Andy       | I would urge you to not destroy this multi-use park by expanding the reservoir. |

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2".
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 at this area, the lake rose approximately 5’. 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 raccoons 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.

I am only one of thousands who adore this park and desperately want you to consider canceling this overreaching, inappropriate project.

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.

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/excavate 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?

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.

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.

There must be a different way to balance the storage needs with the preservation of wildlife, scenic, and restoration values.

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.

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.

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.

The primary authorized purpose of the Bear Creek Dam is flood control. A five to 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.

Thank you, respectfully,

2/14/2022
Chase
Christina
Submit/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1", Added comment: Why I love the park as it is -- hiking, biking trails, especially Cottonwood Trail at ALL times of the year; photgraphy, do lots of paintings of the park.

4/25/2022
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.

3/16/2022
Christensen
Dave
I am concerned about the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake Park Dam 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 dam. The rest of the years would leave an ugly scar to look at and the loss of great habitat and trails.

4/26/2022
Claussen
Sage
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?

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment
---|---|---|---
4/14/2022 | Cobb | Larry | 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. (Forwarded email chain with previously received comments from Walt Pierce - see above - and Marsha Faulconer - see above - )
3/19/2022 | Cockayne | Linda | 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.
12/9/2021 | Coogan | Jim | 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. 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).
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.
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.
1/11/2022 | Craig | Anne | I write to object to deepening the reservoir at Bear Creek Lake Park.
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.
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.
We report sightings to eBird. For example, here:
https://ebird.org/checklist/599200173
We've been particularly delighted by the nesting Great Horned Owls along Cottonwood Trail.
Deepening the reservoir would destroy this habitat, as well as the trails that allow the public to appreciate the land and wildlife.
Bear Creek Lake Park is a jewel of Lakewood. Please keep it that way.
Who am I?
* A Bear Creek Lake Park annual pass holder
* A member of Bicycle Colorado
* A Lakewood resident
*A daily user of the Bear Creek Greenbelt, who cares enough to offer comments about plans to widen the Bear Creek Trail: https://www.lakewoodtogether.org/BearCreekTrail/news_feed/site-plan and who has been following the wildlife there for the past three years:
www.naturallyjax.com
Thanks for reading this.
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<tr>
<td>4/9/2022</td>
<td>Curtis</td>
<td>Marianne</td>
<td>I think it’s terrible for you to take away the area of recreation that the community has been using for decades. 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. I can say for a fact I won’t be looking for a house near there any longer. Why would you destroy something that we already have and enjoy!! Why can’t you put the water somewhere else and leave well enough alone. Go expand Chatfield or Cherry Creek. It is an artificial lake, not a natural flood storage area. In fact, why not reduce the demand of water by imposing restriction on planting grass and landscape? Why because someone wants the developers to make a lot of money!! The developers have lobbyists and sway your opinions. When are people in the Denver metro going to face the fact that we live in a desert and can’t be watering grass? It’s crazy how we have grass. We need to xeriscape!!!!!!! It should be mandatory on new construction. DON’T TAKE AWAY OUR RECREATION AREA, THIS WILL DEVALUE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE THINK OF THE FAMILIES THAT USE THIS PARK, DON’T RUIN OUR BIKE TRAILS!!!!</td>
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<td>10/18/2021</td>
<td>D’Agostino</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>Thank you for your presentation and the public forum last Thursday. You listened and treated those attending with great respect. That is much appreciated. I am a 30+ year resident of Lakewood and strongly oppose the re-allocation of Bear Creek Lake Park. My reasons include:</td>
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<td>1. Recreation, community, and quality of life</td>
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<td>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. 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.</td>
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<td>2. Environmental Impacts</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>3. Superior solution</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>2/1/2022</td>
<td>D’Agostino</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
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<td>Andy</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5/2022</td>
<td>D’Agostino</td>
<td>Lynn and Andy</td>
<td>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. As avid cyclists and hikers, we use Bear Creek Lake Park extensively. It is a local gem that 650,000+ residents from Lakewood, Jefferson County, and beyond use each year. BCCLP 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. There are a variety of concerns that are being raised to the Army Corps of Engineers. Our main concerns are:</td>
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<td>Loss of the Turkey Creek and Bear Creek Riparian corridors.</td>
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<td>Loss of the current recreation, numerous mountain bike, and hiking trails, wildlife viewing, birding, etc.</td>
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<td>Loss of a main road bike connection between Denver, Lakewood to Morrison, and Evergreen.</td>
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<td>Historically, low dependable yield: On non-maximum water storage years, the lake would be surrounded by a “bathtub ring” of deforested mudflats. 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.</td>
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<td>These are 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.</td>
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<td>Thank you for your consideration and support.</td>
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Thanks John for allowing me to comment on the new proposed expansion of water storage at Bear Creek Lake Park.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 going to be sacrificed in hopes that it will start raining again?
- By the way, a massive housing development is taking place just north of the site. Where will their water come from? Where will those people go to recreate?

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.

You have your work cut out for you. Please keep me involved!

My name is Andy Dimler. I am a water treatment operator at Bear Creek Lake Park.

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.
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.

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.

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.

I pray that you will have consideration about this expansion.

I'm 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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

Let me know if you'd like to discuss this or other T&E species at this time.

I'm a frequent trail user & 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!

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.

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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.
This email relates to the proposed Bear Creek Lake Reallocation in Lakewood, Colorado. 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. 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 property if the dam fails. In the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood alone, the property damage from a dam failure likely exceeds $100 million today.

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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("the Corps") 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 & 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.

3/1/2022 Farry Janet Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)

2/8/2021 Farley Steve The current dam and reservoir is for flood control not water storage. Regardless of any study done and strengthening of the current dam, what happens if the dam fails? The downstream flooding would be catastrophic.

12/17/2021 Farry Janet 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 property if the dam fails. In the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood alone, the property damage from a dam failure likely exceeds $100 million today.

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4/1/2022 Fanyo Lee and Katrine This letter relates to the proposed Bear Creek Lake Reallocation in Lakewood, Colorado. 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. 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 property if the dam fails. In the Bear Creek Ranchettes neighborhood alone, the property damage from a dam failure likely exceeds $100 million today.

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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("the Corps") 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 & 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.
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<tr>
<td>10/30/2021</td>
<td>Faulconer</td>
<td>Marsha</td>
<td>I am strongly OPPOSED to the expansion of the Bear Creek Lake. 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. The lake and park hosts over 400,000 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. 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. 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 <a href="mailto:cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil">cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil</a>. 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>)</td>
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<td>2/7/2022</td>
<td>Fifer</td>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. Added comment: The ability for communities to recreate in neighboring parks is essential to the maintenance 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.</td>
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<td>1/15/2022</td>
<td>Fink</td>
<td>Theresa</td>
<td>I AM OPPOSED TO THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS FLOODING BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK. 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. Thank you for listening.</td>
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<td>12/9/2021</td>
<td>Flaska</td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>My name is Jane Flaska, I am a Lakewood and Edgewater resident and frequent user of Bear Creek Lake Park. 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. 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. I sure hope you would reconsider the plans to change the parks' structure. 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? 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... :) Please reconsider</td>
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<td>2/11/2022</td>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>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.</td>
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2/21/2022 | Forsha | Jennifer | 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. Do please not take this wonderful park away from us. This park means so much to my family and 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. Do please 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 635 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 Creek 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 2060. 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 could 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 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 SaveBearCreekLakePark.org

11/4/2021 | Foster | Mike | 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. 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, reptiles, numerous arthropods, and especially birds. To focus just on birds, the Park currently attracts approximately 250 species. 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. Secondly, building more dams and enlarging reservoirs is, at best, a short term fix. What is needed 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 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. Cancel the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project, and instead use your resources, connections, and intelligence to promote and enhance water conservation.

3/15/2022 | 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.

3/30/2022 | Frey | John | I am against the expansion of 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. We should be conserving water and not be looking to expand water supply that damages the environment.

3/15/2022 | Fruhwirth | Loren | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments)

3/25/2022 | Fruhwirth | Jill | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 2". See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". (No added comments)
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<th>Comment</th>
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<td>10/25/2021</td>
<td>Gadway</td>
<td>Casey</td>
<td>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 &amp; mountain biking. Flooding Bear Creek would be against my wishes as well as my fellow park users for the following reasons: #1 The area is easily accessible to all as it does not require a long commute to get there. It is probably the most easily accessible area to participate in a variety of recreational activities in the metro area. #2 The hiking &amp; biking trails are very un-demanding &amp; do NOT require extreme physical fitness to use as they are relatively flat. They are also great for beginner hikers &amp; mountain bikers as evidenced by the mountain bike workshops that are done there. #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. Plus riding &amp; hiking through the trees also negate the temperature on a hot day. #4 The area's wildlife would also be impacted by flooding the area. I strongly urge you to reconsider the plan to flood Bear Creek Park. I would think there are other water resources that could be used to meet the increased demand?</td>
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<td>2/11/2022</td>
<td>Gasser</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>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 Dillon Res. and the amount of shore line and habitat. 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.</td>
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<td>10/17/2021</td>
<td>Gease</td>
<td>Elissa</td>
<td>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. 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. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9/2022</td>
<td>Gease</td>
<td>Elissa</td>
<td>I am writing regarding the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake in Lakewood, Colorado. 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. 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. 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.</td>
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<td>Note: See last page for sample comment text from &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot; and &quot;FORM LETTER 2&quot;</td>
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Bear Creek Reallocation Study
Comments submitted to USACE and CWCB (from Oct 2021 to April 26, 2022)

Date Rec'd Last Name First Name Comment

1/18/2022 Gill James

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2".
<table>
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<th>Date Rec'd</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/6/2022</td>
<td>Gill</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study. I certainly understand the benefit of increasing Colorado’s water storage capacity. However, the negative impact to the 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.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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.

- 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.
- Environmental Impact Statement should be required. An Environmental Assessment will not be sufficient to address the substantial impact of the proposed Reallocation.

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.

- 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 bike and ride through the would-be inundation zone. Precious little will be left of the Park if the full expansion is built.

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-PM-A MEMORANDUM Bear Creek Dam Periodic Assessment 01 Update, Dec. 08, 2020].

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 will come 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.

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, https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/publications-and-radio/headwaters-magazine/spring-2021-storage/shaped-by-storage-the-how-and-why-of-storing-water-in-colorado/)

- 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.

- 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. 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. Additional public meetings are necessary. Many of the people I encounter in the Park are unaware of the Reallocation proposal. Signs and information ought to be posted throughout the Park, particularly in parking areas and trailheads that will be most impacted. No decisions requiring public input should be made until the public has been properly outraged. Thank you for your consideration

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.

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.

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 should be made public comment available to the public. Thanks for making the recording, presentation, and chat log of the first Public Scoping Meeting available.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4/10/2022</th>
<th>Gill</th>
<th>Katie</th>
<th>Thanks for the opportunity to comment,</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Goldbach</td>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 3&quot;. Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 2&quot;. Added comment.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18/2022</td>
<td>Gottfried</td>
<td>Rachel</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>There would be significant 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 AF. 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.</td>
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<td>Why is depending or excavating the current pool and forbers not being considered? Or, looking at underground storage options? Or, reuse of the gravel pits along the South Platte for water storage?</td>
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<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/2022</td>
<td>Greenman</td>
<td>Celia</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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 be filled 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.</td>
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<td>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?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/3/2022</td>
<td>Gurtler</td>
<td>Gary</td>
<td>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 secluded sections of the park.</td>
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<td>While water storage is critical, expanding the storage of the Bear Creek flood control project does not seem like a wise choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/9/2021</td>
<td>Handy</td>
<td>Sara</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16/2021</td>
<td>Harness</td>
<td>Doug</td>
<td>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)</td>
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<td>Thank you for holding the scoping meeting last week and for providing the opportunity for public feedback. Please accept the following comments and considerations for concern:</td>
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<td>1) Clearly the western US, including Colorado, continues to face a severe drought so additional water storage is appropriate.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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. 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.</td>
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<td>4/24/2022</td>
<td>Hedberg</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>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. 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 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. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7/2022</td>
<td>Helfrich</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>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 basin is 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20/2022</td>
<td>Homiak</td>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>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. 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.</td>
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Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
### Bear Creek Reallocation Study

**Comments submitted to USACE and CWCB (from Oct 2021 to April 26, 2022)**

**UPDATED: 28-April-2021**

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<th>Date Rec'd</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/27/2021</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>Liam</td>
<td>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 left 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. 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. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13/2021</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>I'm emailing you directly regarding my opposition to the Bear Creek Lake expansion. This expansion will eliminate several recreational activities and destroy miles of trail. 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. Not sure these are the types of comments you're looking for, but wanted to share my opposition nonetheless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12/2022</td>
<td>Hal</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>I'm 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/14/2022</td>
<td>Huntsman</td>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. Added comment: We love to Bike and Boat at the park. Please don't change things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/19/2022</td>
<td>Beeler</td>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>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. Flooding the area will reduce the desirability of Bear Creek 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20/2021</td>
<td>isanuk</td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>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.</td>
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Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/20/2022</td>
<td>Jenkins</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>Devastating to trail users and road bikers. 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23/2022</td>
<td>Jensen</td>
<td>Heidi</td>
<td>I would like to formally write my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Lake Reservoir. 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. 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 glutonous at best with what we do have. 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. Why don’t we take the dam money and educate the public about water usage instead?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9/2022</td>
<td>Jensen</td>
<td>Heidi</td>
<td>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. 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. 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. With the new building comes loss of habitat. Bear creek lake is an important and needed refuge for wild animals who frequent the area. 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. I thank you very much for your time and I hope you have a wonderful day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/1/2021</td>
<td>Jerome</td>
<td>Debra</td>
<td>Thank you for the chance to voice an opinion on the potential change to the park. 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, irrepairable 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. 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? 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. Please reconsider this proposal. For all of us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25/2022</td>
<td>Johansen</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 2&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 2&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/15/2022</td>
<td>Johansen</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
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<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Josupait</td>
<td>Viki</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. Added comment: 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 her &amp; friends. This change adversely impacts my community to benefit a community ~ 30-40 miles from here. There has to be a better solution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13/2022</td>
<td>Kerkman</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2/2022</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>Judy</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. Added comment: We are losing too much habitat for wild animals and winter forage for mule deer!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Atkinson</td>
<td>Larry</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 3&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 3&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
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My wife and I have enjoyed our road biking and mountain bikes at Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) for many, many years. I am opposed to the Corps Of Engineers reallocation plan for Bear Creek Lake Park because it would destroy the very heart of the park rendering it unusable to Lakewood residents. 600,000 people visited Bear Creek 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.

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 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.

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!

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.

Each year I photograph the resident great horned owls having and raising their babies in the old cottonwoods that you are proposing destroying. 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’

11/5/2021 Knutson
Lynn

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Each year I photograph the resident great horned owls having and raising their babies in the old cottonwoods that you are proposing destroying. 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. 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?

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.

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.

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]
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<td>4/9/2022</td>
<td>Kumpf</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. Added comments: 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 coninually 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 current park features provided by the Bear Creek riparian area upstream and also the Turkey Creek riparian 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 desires the lake and park to remain unchanged.</td>
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<td>2/12/2022</td>
<td>Langston</td>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>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 SaveBearCreekLakePark.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6/2021</td>
<td>Leppink</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>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. 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. I'm an avid fisherman 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 32 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. 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.</td>
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<td>2/1/2022</td>
<td>Lierbrock</td>
<td>Carrie</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. (No added comments)</td>
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<td>2/1/2022</td>
<td>Loeffel</td>
<td>Heidi</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. Added comment: 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! Thank you!</td>
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<td>4/11/2022 Lofland Sarah</td>
<td>I oppose the reallocation of the Bear Creek Reservoir. The areas you are looking to expand will cause a loss of 615 acres. It is vital to save the wildlife and areas that provide sanctuary to us and the animals. I am not very intelligent 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? 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. 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. However, if these words have not touched you or phased you in any way, I beg you to please consider this. The Bear Creek Dam was purpose 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. In addition, it can result in a bathtub ring, ruining land value and rendering the deforested mud flats useless, for years. Further value will be lost, as there is great potential for park use, as residential units are developing in Solterra and Rooney Valley. 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 by the people of Colorado if considered and executed. 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. 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.</td>
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<td>3/29/2022 Luberski Thomas</td>
<td>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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Please, BCLP is not only personally cherished in our family but the community and surrounding communities.</td>
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<td>2/22/2022 Luf Sami</td>
<td>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. 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. 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? Please, do not destroy Bear Creek Lake Park! Humans and wildlife need it!</td>
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| 12/16/2021 Luttgen Patricia | Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2" (from Oct 2021 to April 26, 2022)  Page 26 of 46
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 solitude 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.

I walk with my dogs at Bear Creek Lake Park daily. We all love this peaceful oasis so close to the hustle and bustle of the city. There are few places left in the metro area anywhere 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 15 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 Park riparian corridor. The Park is a priceless community resource. Recorded visits exceeded 550,000 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.

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 and 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.

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.

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 & hike. I have served as a Volunteer Bike Patroller for the park for 5 years now and will continue. When visitors come out of state, BCLP is the first place we get to get them acclimated to elevation and climate. 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. We got to get them acclimated to elevation and climate. 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.

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 & 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 dusty hollow could frequently be all we see in frequently common low snow years. Please reconsider how important this park is to our community. There is nothing else like this in the area. I live 15 mins away on bike path, 8 minutes by car.
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<td>10/16/2021</td>
<td>McCormick</td>
<td>Gil</td>
<td>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. 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. Chatfield Reservoir was just expanded and we are wondering if there are other more rural or other opportunities to achieve the same goals? 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? The other concept that was missed at Chatfield is to consider funding for installing new trails as part of the expansion.</td>
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<td>4/5/2022</td>
<td>Meillon</td>
<td>Laurent</td>
<td>&quot;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.&quot; Albert Einstein, 1954</td>
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<td>10/15/2021</td>
<td>Merrick</td>
<td>Laurie</td>
<td>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 &quot;critical wildlife habitat for migratory birds&quot;. We love the trails and the park and have annual passes there on both cars to take our dog down there for hikes. 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 xerisaping on the west side after the addition to the house, and expanding the deck and adding a concreet 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. 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. We oppose any project that would flood the park and remove the trails around the lake. Please protect them and the migratory bid 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]</td>
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| 10/15/2021 | Meyer     | Laura      | 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.  
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.  
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.  
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?  
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.  
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.  
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. |

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
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<td>3/12/2022</td>
<td>Meyer</td>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2/15/2022</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>Holley</td>
<td>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. 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.</td>
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<td>2/17/2022</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. (No added comments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/23/2022</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>Aidan</td>
<td>I’m a software engineer with Mesa Laboratories, based out of Lakewood CO. 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 raccoons. 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. 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. 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.</td>
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Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
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). 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 purview 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.
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-foot 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.

Barbara Ohlhaber

In favor of Bear Creek Lake expansion

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.

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.

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 is other areas (beavers, while impactful, generally benefit their ecosystems with similar behavior.)

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.

Thanks for all your do!

Dave Needham

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.

Please conduct an extensive environmental impact study and please consider the community surrounding this park.

I have lived in this area for 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.

Dave Needham

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-foot expansion reduces the land area of the Park by 615 acres and affects the most sensitive acres in the Park.

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!

I encourage you 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!

Dana Sanders

I love 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 versus 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.

Susan Ohlhaber
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| 2/7/2022  | O’Rourke    | Deven      | 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:  
• Reduction of land area by 615 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  
• Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County (west Lakewood, South, Morrison and Red Rocks) on paved road that crosses the dam.  
• 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.  
• 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.  
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 to recommend alternative methods to achieving the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. Thank you for your time! |
| 3/16/2022 | 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. |
| 3/20/2022 | Parker      | Alice      | 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.  
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.  
Please do not destroy the valued parts of our park by destroying the cottonwood 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. |
| 4/1/2022  | Patton      | Amandine   | 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. |
| 3/21/2022 | Perkovitch  | Denise     | 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 mud flat. 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? |
| 10/29/2021| Pierce      | Walt       | I was 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 mud flat. 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?  
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.  
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).  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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."
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Reservoir.

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.

My specific concerns are listed below.

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, cooper’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 prune roses, golden asters, prairie spirewort 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.

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.

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.

Please take into consideration the far less damaging alternatives to the proposed expansion listed below:

• 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.

• 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.

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.
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-site Scoping Hearing held on Oct. 14, 2021. I. NEPA process. The potential level of impacts of such a Reallocation require that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USE) 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 valuable habitats typical in the State of Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife 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 side of a reservoir 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 equal 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 this corridor. Of these, 133 species, about 55%, are neotropical migrants. Observations have confirmed the presence of 138 of these 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). 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 (USE) 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 definition 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/USE/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, 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 included 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 would be very clear. With flood control capacity reduced at Chatfield by this 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. III. The Best Scientific Information Available. For estimating impacts on bird populations, the USE 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 USE should not disdain to use them. Contacting local birdwatching groups 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. (continued below)
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 breaching would be seen immediately. Normally, I cannot see Bear Creek Lake from my house. But I can see the lake when the flooding has occurred, 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!!

ATTACHMENT: Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion: Talking Points

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.

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 increased to the level you are proposing? • City and County of Denver is a major stakeholder. Denver’s involvement to date is unclear.

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 • Loss of 0.4 miles of Turkey Creek 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!

• Reduction and/or loss of numerous 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 Fowlstaff). 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 floods that have occurred there in prior years!!!

Alternative Water Storage Solutions • Deepening/encaving 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.

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.

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 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.

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 creates 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.

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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.

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<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Rusch</td>
<td>Sue</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. Added comment: 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.</td>
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<td>4/1/2022</td>
<td>Sakimoto</td>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>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!</td>
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<td>10/29/2021</td>
<td>Scheffers</td>
<td>Michel</td>
<td>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. 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). 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.</td>
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<td>10/19/2021</td>
<td>Schindler</td>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>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. 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. 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. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
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<td>2/22/2022</td>
<td>Schulten</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1”. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1”. (No added comments)</td>
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Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"
### Comments submitted to USACE and CWCB (from Oct 2021 to April 26, 2022)

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<td>11/9/2021</td>
<td>Schweich</td>
<td>Matt</td>
<td>Attached are several questions and comments that I believe should be addressed in the study and any subsequent project documents. 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. 1) Type of Analysis 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. 2) Purpose and Need 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 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 practical alternative that will ultimately be identified. 3) Proposed Action Averages are not particularly informative. Please provide ranges, or proportions to clarify when and to what extent the proposed action would actually provide water storage in support of the purpose and need. Specifically: How often would water be available in Bear Creek Dam for diversion to storage? What water rights are available for this storage, and what are their priority dates? Estimate days per year, not in an average year, but in wet years, dry years, provide a range, are there some years when no water would be available? How often would the additional 20,000 acre-feet actually be present in the lake? Estimate days per year, not in an average year, but in wet years, dry years, provide a range, are there some years when no water would be available? When the full 20,000 acre-feet are not in storage, how much land would be exposed, with little or no vegetation cover? Estimate days per year, not in an average year, but in wet years, dry years, provide a range. 4) Alternatives Please identify and analyze in detail alternatives that include the following: a) Reallocation of up to 20,000 acre-feet to water supply storage (essentially what appears to be the USACE’s proposed action); b) Use of conservation measures to reduce the anticipated shortfall by at least 20,000 acre-feet; c) Off-stream or off-site storage locations. For example, how much water could be stored in the basin between the current reservoir and the South Embankment, by construction of a new dam south of Turkey Creek? I would guess at least several thousand acre-feet, in an area with no Waters of the US or riparian habitats, and substantially less recreational use compared with other parts of the park. Beyond the off-stream location adjacent to the South Embankment, are there other off-site locations that offer similar or greater storage options? With perhaps lower costs and reduced negative effects? Considering that water storage would be of little or no benefit to the community around Bear Creek Lake Park, are there storage locations that would share the costs of the project with the communities that stand to benefit from it? d) Reallocation of up to 20,000 acre-feet of water from agriculture to municipal supply. e) No action 5) Issues to be analyzed in detail Please analyze in detail the following issues: a) Air Quality 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 in the Front Range. Please analyze and disclose effects of the project on particulate matter emissions, including PM10 and PM2.5. b) Have baseline conditions been properly documented for areas that would be progressively affected or affected during worst-case dust events? How would the project comply with Executive Order 12898? Please analyze the effects of the project on minority and other sensitive receptors, especially those close downwind of the project (general east and south). What mitigation measures would be employed to minimize new emissions of fugitive dust? How effective would these measures be, especially in worst-case conditions?</td>
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My name is Jamie Seemiller and I am a Jeffco resident in the Creekside at Fox Hollow neighborhood. Our house is adjacent to 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 - [link](https://www.bearchasetrailrunners.com) 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?

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.

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.

Here are some things you should consider when completing a research on Bear Creek Lake Park. Please be creative, resourceful, and consider keeping Bear Creek Lake Park the treasure that it is in its current state.

### Date Rec’d Last Name First Name Comment

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| 2/20/2022  | Scott     | Ron        | Objection: Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project is Wrong!
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).

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.

I stand in objection to any part of this stupid idea, and frankly, whoever is responsible for trying to get this scheme passed should be fired.

There is nothing that you need to waste our taxpayer dollars to study here. Just stop it immediately!

If you don’t, we will organize and fight this all the way. |
| 10/23/2021 | Selleck   | Karen      | 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 - [link](https://www.bearchasetrailrunners.com) 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?

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. |
| 10/20/2021 | Selleck   | Karen      | 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.

Here are some things you should consider when completing a research on Bear Creek Lake Park.

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.

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.

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 unpolluted 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.

Please be creative, resourceful, and consider keeping Bear Creek Lake Park the treasure that it is in its current state. |
| 3/1/2022   | Singh     | David      | 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.

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. |
| 11/8/2021  | Sivesind, MD | Torunn | Thanks for your consideration. |
| 2/14/2022  | Slavsky    | Anda       | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1". See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". (No added comments). |
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.

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.

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.

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.

While I completely understand that Colorado’s population is growing and with it the demand for water and water storage. Bear Creek Lake Park is just not the right place for expanding water storage capacity.

***

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.

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.
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<td>Stechert</td>
<td>Timothy</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2021</td>
<td>Stocker</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>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, <a href="mailto:tom@thstocker.com">tom@thstocker.com</a>.” [Additional comments provided 10/11/21]: Thank you for your prompt response. Please provide me with the Agenda and/or link to materials. I plan on attending Thursday’s meeting. I’ve been a park user for more than two decades (bicycling and bicycle racing training), but I am only one of thousands, probably tens of thousands of users. As word gets around, I think you will find very substantial opposition to the inundation proposed. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/2022</td>
<td>Stupp</td>
<td>Glynda</td>
<td>I have been enjoying all aspects of Bear Creek Park (hiking, biking, picnicking, 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 their 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 destruction 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”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Rec’d</td>
<td>Last Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/22/2022</td>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>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 (ht_tps://scholar.i:oogle.com.au/citations?hl=en&amp;usePocplEVIJiAAA_AJ&amp;view=op-list works&amp;sortby=pubslIke ). 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: 1) Increasing the capacity of the dam will degrade its initial purpose of flood control. 2) There are better places along the South Platte (rock qualities closer to Brighton) that are far superior locations for increased water storage. 3) It contributes to a dangerous degradation of flyway habitat for many birds 4) It destroys an important and heavily used recreational habitat for many local humans. 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. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/2021</td>
<td>Tamborlane</td>
<td>Alison</td>
<td>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 –&gt; 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! 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!) 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 impact 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! 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. 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 glad to have you all joining us in this learning process so we do not make a catastrophic and irreversible 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 2% 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 challenged? It is deep up front 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 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 (exisitcap, 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 Greek. 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 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 be altered 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 Riparain Zone Keen [Attached previous comments, dated 10/23/21 from Alison Tamborlane; and 10/29/21 from Michel Scheffers- see previous comment ] Also attached the following comment: To City Council Members/Lakeewood.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 asking 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, floods waters 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

Robert F. Brown

Submit/signed "FORM LETTER 1. See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment: 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).

I understand that a 20,000 acre feet expansion would reduce the land area of the Park by 615 acres (44% of the Park) and result in a loss of over 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, Solltoria, 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.

Recorded visits exceeded 650,000 people in 2020. Those numbers are likely higher in 2021 and the Park will certainly increase as residential development continues in it Solltoria 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.

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 bathroom 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.

Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1. See sample of "FORM LETTER 2". I urge you to support compromise and to seek less impactful alternatives. The current pool can be deepened to increase the volume of water behind the Dam, 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.

Debbie Tschudy

Submitted/signed “FORM LETTER 1. See sample of “FORM LETTER 1” and “FORM LETTER 2” Page 42 of 46
Date Rec'd | Last Name | First Name | Comment
--- | --- | --- | ---
3/24/2022 | Vanvooren | Camilla | 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 Horned Owls, their nests and fledgling babies. I have been blessed with sightings 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. The news of the proposed expansion of the reservoir brings me great sadness. I planned to live out my days here in Lakewood but, with the absence of my beloved trails at Bear Creek Lake Park, that notion would give me pause.

An excellent article in today's Denver Post suggests to propose 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 us residents so that love this community to continue to do so and sustaining wildlife and the environment for generations to come.

Lakewood resident

4/5/2022 | Venner | Marie | 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.

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: https://hedonometrics.org/timelines/en_all?from=2021-06-09&to=2022-03-25&is=wordshift] on the happiness people experience during holidays like New Year's

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.

3- 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.

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.

4/27/2022 | Vigil | Paul | Submitted/signed "FORM LETTER 1": See sample of "FORM LETTER 1". Added comment.

This park is so important to the civic life of Denver: Trails & nature & open space is important to the lives of Denver citizens!

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2/12/2022 | Vogelsang | Chris | I'm writing to express my concern about increasing water storage capacity at Bear Creek Lake Park. I've got 4 main concerns:

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 mosquitoes around the lake and create an area for mosquitoes to gain a foothold.

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.

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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.

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4/27/2022 | Wacht | Lynda | Alternatives to the current proposal to flood Bear Creek Park

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.

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 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 this alternative if properly executed.

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2".
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<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2021</td>
<td>Wasinger</td>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19/2021</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Nike</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27/2021</td>
<td>Winn</td>
<td>Monica</td>
<td>I live near Bear Creek Park, and I oppose the flooding that is being proposed of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17/2021</td>
<td>Wilkins</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>I am strongly opposed to the expansion of Bear Creek Lake that would change it to a water supply reservoir. 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. They also use the park for children's programs. They introduce them to nature and the history of the land, the wetlands, the meadows, and the prairies. They also have events such as organized bike rides and running (races) flooding is also a potential problem for nearby neighborhoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/2022</td>
<td>Wilkosch</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>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. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1/2021</td>
<td>Woodward</td>
<td>Lisa and Rick</td>
<td>The Town of Morrison would like to receive the letter referenced in the agency scoping meeting. It can be mailed to the address below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26/2022</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Kathleen</td>
<td>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 acreage that will be destroyed. Thank you! Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17/2022</td>
<td>Whittfield</td>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>I would 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, &quot;If this project is not undertaken, where will Denver Water exercise their water right?&quot; 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 &quot;no action&quot; 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. Please include me in future announcements for public meetings or comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2022</td>
<td>Wiechman</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>The Bear Creek Lake Park reallocation you propose must not happen. My family and I are native Coloradans 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 lives of many depend on this decision. Please do not change Bear Creek Lake Park. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27/2021</td>
<td>Winn</td>
<td>Monica</td>
<td>I live near Bear Creek Park, and I oppose the flooding that is being proposed of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2021</td>
<td>Winters</td>
<td>Kara</td>
<td>The Town of Morrison would like to receive the letter referenced in the agency scoping meeting. It can be mailed to the address below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/2022</td>
<td>Woloschuk</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/2022</td>
<td>Woodward</td>
<td>Lisa and Rick</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. See sample of &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. (No added comments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2/2022</td>
<td>Yasuhara</td>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Submitted/signed &quot;FORM LETTER 1&quot;. 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!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Please consider alternative water storage solutions, including 1) deepening/excavating the current pool, 2) aquifer storage and recovery, and 3) sand and gravel mining.

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 • Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Riparian and Creek 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 • 650,000+ visitors to BCLP in 2020, not including those who walk or bike in. These numbers are likely higher in 2021. • Park use will increase as residential development continues in at Solterra and in 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.

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. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.

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.

Thank you for your time.
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 when 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.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the State of Colorado/City of . 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 current 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. 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. The proposal at 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 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 SaveBearCreekLakePark.org

Note: See last page for sample comment text from "FORM LETTER 1" and "FORM LETTER 2"