



Date: July 11, 2024

From: Save The World's Rivers

To: Scott Fitzwilliams, White River National Forest Supervisor, c/o Leanne Veldhuis, District Ranger Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest, PO. Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645.

RE: Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project, NOI, SLDP #64047

Submitted via website: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64047>

On behalf of Save The World's Rivers thousands of members and supporters in Colorado, we respectfully submit the following comments in response to the NOI for SLDP #64047.

Colorado's sensitive mountain ecology and water resources hang in the balance of increasing pressure from various types of extraction and overuse trends, including but not limited to recreational tourism pressures. The increased recreational and development pressure that USFS proposes for the Sweetwater Lake area raises critical water resource and ecological concerns that must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement process including:

- Water quality and quantity impacts to Sweetwater Creek above and below the Lake.
- Water quality and quantity impacts to Sweetwater Lake.
- Source of water resources for the proposed increase in development and public use including:
 - Groundwater resources, well extraction, and any related impacts proposed to be caused by the increase in development and recreation.
 - Surface water resources, including diversion and/or extraction, and any related impacts proposed to be caused by the increase in development and recreation.
 - Water rights intended for use of the increased development must be identified.
- Impacts to riparian ecosystems in the development area including wetlands, plants, fish, and other wildlife.

Thank you for considering our comments and addressing our concerns in the EIS process. We reserve the right to offer additional comments, as well as expand on these comments, throughout the process.

Gary Wockner, Director

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