

December 15, 2022

Hello BCLP friends,

It's been a while since we've had any news to report on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study, but the Study is continuing. Current estimates suggest the next public meeting with the Corps of Engineers will be in the February-April window of 2023. We will get a minimum of 30 days advance notice. Vigilance requires patience. Thanks for staying tuned.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been working with Brown and Caldwell Engineers towards a general yield analysis of the inflow potential from Bear Creek into the reservoir. Results are preliminary and therefore not available for public review at this time. The availability of inflows from Bear Creek is a significant feasibility factor. Once the yield analysis is complete, USACE will further assess flood risk/dam safety along with environmental and recreational impacts of a potential reallocation.

The alternatives are:

- 1.) No change
- 2.) Increase Reservoir Capacity and Normal Operating Pool (up to 20,000 acre feet) This includes consideration of structural modifications to the dam and/or spillway and excavating the reservoir and upstream forebays to increase water supply.
- 3.) Reallocation of Existing Capacity (up to 20,000 AF) from flood control to water storage
- 4.) Operational Changes (release more water, release water sooner) to Increase Normal Operating Pool
- 5.) Nonstructural Measures (flood proofing downstream to decrease consequences)

Regarding the Environmental Impact Statement process, a Notice of Intent to conduct an EIS would not be filed until the Draft Feasibility Report is complete. An EIS needs to be specific to the proposed project. So, if for example, a reallocation is deemed not feasible, and "no change" is recommended, there would be no need to conduct a full EIS. If a reallocation of some extent is recommended, the EIS would need to be specific to the extent of inundation, pool fluctuation, structural modifications on the site, etc. The Corps anticipates the EIS process would begin towards the end of 2023, but only IF a feasible alternative is found.

Thanks to all of you who submitted comments to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) during the Colorado Water Plan Update process. The November Director's meeting included a three hour session on the Water Plan Update, during which CWCB staff acknowledged their awareness of our concerns regarding Bear Creek Lake Park. The CWCB received 1,172 submittals and their staff identified approximately 1,500 suggested edits to the Plan. About 40% of the comments resulted in revisions to the Plan. A central theme from public input that will be included is Leading with Conservation. The final draft is set for approval at the CWCB Board of Directors meeting on January 24, 2023. You can follow this process through their website here: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov>.

I'd like to apologize to those of you who did not appreciate receiving my email regarding the opportunity to comment on the Jefferson County Climate Action Plan. While climate and

water supply are closely connected, we will maintain a tighter focus on BCLP and water-specific issues in the future.

Happy Holidays,

Katie Gill
Chair, Save Bear Creek Lake Park