THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP IS SEND A COMMENT LETTER OR EMAIL. Suggested format and ideas:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC

Date

Dear Bear Creek Lake Study Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study.

- *Describe the activities you enjoy in the Park and/or how often you visit the park.*
- *Describe what you value most about the park.*
- *How does the BCLP improve your quality of life?*
- *Choose one or two of the concerns below to highlight.*

Respectfully,
Your Name

Visit the **Take Action** Page at **SaveBearCreekLakePark.org** to view comments that have already been submitted.

Impacts of a 20,000 acre feet Reallocation (reservoir expansion)

- Reduction of land area by over 500 acres
- Loss of over 1 mile of Bear Creek Riparian Corridor
- Loss of 3/4 mile of Turkey Creek Riparian Corridor
- Loss of 12 miles of trails, and additional trails disrupted through segmentation
- Loss of wildlife habitat within the inundation zone (nearly a square mile)

- Reduction and/or loss of numerous Park amenities including:
  - Equestrian area
  - Turtle pond fishing and wildlife viewing area
  - Numerous picnic shelters and areas
  - Access for major regional bike route between downtown Denver and Jefferson County on paved road that crosses the dam

- Over 800,000 annual Park visits
- Park use will increase as residential development continues in the Rooney Valley.

We must lead with conservation

- Colorado's water use by sector:
  - Agriculture: 90% (of Colorado's water use)
  - Municipal: 7%
  - Industrial: 3%

- Innovations and efficiencies in agriculture offer tremendous opportunity to conserve water while maintaining crop yields. Water Education Colorado's summer 2022 edition of Headwaters Magazine focused on the promise of conservation in the Agricultural Sector. The lead article, *Farms of the Future*, describes efficiencies of improved irrigation infrastructure and methods. The article describes the benefits of regenerative agriculture, citing a 2020 study which found that corn fields of eastern Colorado can require 10% less irrigation water depending on tillage and soils management practices. A mere 4% percent reduction in Colorado's agricultural water use is equivalent to a 50% reduction in state-wide municipal use.

Lack of Dependable Inflow from Bear Creek (low dependable yield)

- Unconstrained inflow from Bear Creek is not sufficient to maintain a 20,000-acre foot storage pool in the Reservoir.
- 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

- Reallocating (converting) Flood Control capacity to Water Storage raises concerns around increased flood risk.
- The Dam was constructed primarily for short term flood control, not long-term storage. Infrastructure required to mitigate flood risk may include raising the dam and/or renovating the emergency spillway.

Alternative Water Storage Solutions

- Deepening/excavating the current pool could increase storage with fewer park impacts and lower evaporative losses. Save Bear Creek Lake Park can support this alternative if properly executed. We seek a balance between storage and the preservation of environmental and recreational values.
- Underground Water Storage (Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or ASR) is increasingly promising in Colorado. Save Bear Creek Lake Park supports increased emphasis on developing ASR across the state as a less impactful, less evaporative means of water storage.
- Sand and gravel mining along the South Platte create significant off-stream reservoir potential. This capacity continues to grow with development. We encourage the CWCB and the USACE to consider further utilization of gravel pit storage potential, recognizing that additional water storage in Bear Creek Lake Park comes with significant riparian, recreational and quality of life impacts for the people of Jefferson County.

Submit written comments to:

Bear Creek Project Development Team
US Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC
1616 Capitol Ave, Omaha, NE 68102 .
Email: **Bear-Creek-Study@usace.army.mil** **ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC**