

Dear SaveBCLP friends,

In 2019, The Army Corps of Engineers launched a Feasibility Study into storing more water in Bear Creek Lake. The Study investigated adding up to 20,000 acre feet (AF) to the reservoir, up from the 2,000 AF it is currently authorized to store. The rest of the reservoir's capacity is reserved for flood control. Last fall, the options were narrowed to either 300 AF or 6,000 AF. Monday, at a Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) meeting, CWCB staff recommended the 300 AF alternative as the "final" decision.

*As stated in the supporting CWCB Memo, "November 2025 communications with the Corps have effectively ruled out all alternatives except for the 300 AF volume. The Corps will not be receiving additional funding for the study, and anticipate only being able to complete the NEPA process for 300 AF with the funding that is currently allocated. Potential Participants are in support of CWCB working with the Corps on further investigation of the 300 AF."*

The Corps still needs to complete the environmental impact analysis portion of the Feasibility Study, and a consulting firm is finalizing a yield analysis to determine how much stream flow is reliably available for additional storage. Once this work is done, we expect the Corps will schedule a final public scoping meeting on the selected alternative.

If you'd like to watch CWCB's Bear Creek Update, followed by SaveBCLP's presentation, open the agenda link below, then scroll down to the video links and select **Monday, January 26** (right side of screen). The Bear Creek item begins at the 5:42:30 minute mark.

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/events/board-meeting-january-26-27-2026>

While a 300 AF increase in volume is minimal, it would still have minor impacts. Your board and others will be working to understand and clarify these impacts so we all can communicate our concerns to the Corps for their mitigation efforts.

Thanks for your help in reaching this point. Your letter writing, networking, volunteer hours, vigilance, encouragement and donations have gotten us this close to the finish line.

So, take a deep breath, let out a sigh of relief and wait for our next email with a further update about how you can still help.

Sincerely,

Katie Gill and Don Baumgardt  
Directors, Save Bear Creek Lake Park