

A very happy springtime greeting to all Save Bear Creek Lake Park supporters!

In a January Colorado Water Conservation Board staff presentation, a small 300 acre feet (AF) increase in storage at the Bear Creek Reservoir was advanced as the preferred alternative. We are still awaiting the final draft of the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study, which is in process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While a 300 AF reallocation will have minimal impacts on the park, it would require investment by those interested in the storage. At this point, we are not certain that even such a small reallocation will be selected. It's our understanding that the Study is now "under Administrative Review at the Corps."

We expect the Corps to provide us with at least 30 days notice of the next Public Scoping meeting on the study, at which time we can learn more official details. Our team wants to see the storage yield analysis (how much water is actually available for increased storage) and the final feasibility report. As soon as we learn of a meeting date or receive any other important details, we will let all of you know.

We still feel relatively confident that the outcome will be acceptable, but until these last steps occur, we must all stay tuned and remain prepared to take further action.

If you've been to BCLP this spring, you've no doubt noticed how low the flows are in Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. It's stark evidence of Colorado's low snow pack and drought situation. The water volume in the main reservoir was recently at the lowest point in this decade, around half of the authorized storage volume.

Low stream flows and lake levels seem to support our position that on a regular basis, runoff will be insufficient to make a major reallocation economically viable. And, the environmental damage from drastic fluctuations in water levels would be devastating.

To be clear, we want to see snow and rain as much as anyone else in the state. Let's hope for more precipitation and prepare for a world with less.

Stay tuned. We won't predict when a public meeting will happen but we'll let you know as soon as we get word.

Katie Gill and Don Baumgardt

Save Bear Creek Lake Park Directors