Wakeless Recreation Public Engagement

February 22, 2021
● Meeting is being recorded.
● Because of the size of this group, everyone is automatically on mute to minimize background noise.
● Conversations will happen in smaller groups.
Meeting the Needs of Multiple User Groups
Desired Outcomes

Public Meetings

Monday - February 22
4:30-6:30

- Work within user group categories to identify desired experiences and needs.
- Hear and understand the needs of other user groups.

Wednesday - February 24
4:30-7:00

- Work with other user groups to explore options for adapting the balance of uses at Lake Nighthorse while meeting the needs of all users.
Agenda

- Roles
- Presentation
- Instructions for Small Groups
- Small Group Discussions
- Small Group Report Back
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Joy Lujan</th>
<th>Cathy Metz</th>
<th>Joanne Gantt</th>
<th>City Staff</th>
<th>Le`alani Boykin</th>
<th>YOU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Facilitator</strong></td>
<td>Presenter</td>
<td>Zoom Host</td>
<td>Small Group Facilitators</td>
<td>Small Group Support</td>
<td>Active Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>- Manage the meeting PROCESS</td>
<td>- Share background information</td>
<td>- Manage Zoom, recording, breakout rooms, etc.</td>
<td>- Answer questions</td>
<td>- Small group support</td>
<td>- Listen to absorb background information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Won’t</td>
<td>- Offer opinions on CONTENT of this conversation</td>
<td>- Participate in small groups or contribute to the CONTENT of this conversation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>- Offer opinions on the CONTENT of this conversation</td>
<td>- Only sit and listen</td>
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Context
Ownership & management of the land and water as well as recreational use is a partnership.
Regional lake management specific to wakeless and/or motorized use
• 2010 Economic Impact Study aided the decision for the City of Durango to accept the responsibility of managing recreation at Lake Nighthorse
  • Study estimated significant benefit to La Plata County through tourism and local spending as well as job creation

• Lake Nighthorse revenue sources in 2020:
  • 20% Contracted programs
  • 80% Entrance pass sales
  • Bureau of Reclamation and City cost share operational subsidy
5-Year Plan for Construction of Recreational Amenities

- Year 1 = 2018: Parking lot at swim beach; chip seal road; entrance station; resurface boat ramp parking lot; wave attenuation at boat ramp; docks
- Year 2 = 2019: ADA fishing dock and picnic pavilion
- Year 3 = 2020: Swim beach; wave attenuation; lifeguard station; additional parking
- Year 4 = 2021: Floating play structure; additional picnic tables
- Year 5 = 2022: Entrance station building; watercraft inspection station
Visitor Use Patterns

2020 Lake Nighthorse Visitor Use

- Swim: 12%
- Walk/Run/Dog Walk: 25%
- Fish by non-motorized boat: <1%
- Fish by foot: 7%
- Sail Sport: <1%
- SUP/Kayak/Canoe/Rower: 5%
- Motorized Ski/Wakeboard: 5%
- Motorized Fishing: 1%

Daily Visitation by Season

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Season:</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Season:</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Total Visitation by Season

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season:</td>
<td>48,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 Season:</td>
<td>63,735</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Season:</td>
<td>93,302</td>
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Adaptive management specific to wakeless recreation

- Designated No Motorized Craft area of 107 acres
- 38% of the lake surface is wakeless or non-motorized
- Wakeless Mondays & Wednesdays (2018 – 2020)
- Construction of swim beach and paddle craft rental & launch area
- Addition of wave attenuation at swim beach
Customer Feedback

- Feedback from Lake Nighthorse users in 2020
  - 92% rate their customer service experience as good to excellent
  - 85% rate their overall experience as good to excellent
  - 84% rate facility cleanliness as good to excellent
  - 68% would be in favor adding another wakeless day
  - Most favored adding Friday as a wakeless day
Decision Making Process

Public input from the community at the 2/22 and 2/24 zoom meetings

Public comments sent to rec@durangogov.org through February 28

Evaluate potential solutions:
• Inclusive of multiple uses
• Doesn't leave anyone out
• Financial viability

Feasibility and concurrence with Bureau of Reclamation and Animas La-Plata Operations, Maintenance and Replacement Association

Parks and Recreation Department staff will decide

Announcement to the community in March 2021 (Email to participants, City website, presentation to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council)
• Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area *IS WORKING*
• Need high cost recovery to achieve economic commitment to the community
• Conditions of Lake Nighthorse:
  • High, irregular wind activity
  • Very popular / high activity
  • Lake access limited to eastern shore
• This is not a process for reconsidering uses
• It is not necessary to exclude anyone
• There will not be a vote about who gets their way, but a dialogue about how to meet the needs of all users
• This is a conversation about adaptive management to balance wakeless use
Before we transition into the next phase of the meeting...

Questions on Management of Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area?
Small Group Discussions

- You will be sent to small groups based on your primary area of interest
- A small group facilitator from the City will join you
- Choose a person to report back to the full group
- 30-minute discussion in small groups then 3-minute report back per group
Small Group Ground Rules

A. Be respectful of the ideas and opinions of others, even if you don’t agree.

B. Listen openly and with respectful curiosity to try to understand other perspectives.

C. It’s OK to disagree. Disagree with the idea, not the person presenting the idea.

D. Give everyone an opportunity to participate, no person or idea dominates. Please be mindful of your impact on others.

E. One person speaks at a time. Try not to interrupt each other.

F. Be willing to entertain ideas that are not your own.

G. Consider other people’s needs too. Look for ways to help others get what they need.
1. When I am recreating at Lake Nighthorse, I want to experience....

(create a list of descriptions of your desired experience)
2. In order to have that experience, I need....

(create a list of things you need in order to have your desired experience)
3. What’s working? How does current management at Lake Nighthorse contribute to your desired experience?
Knowing we have others to consider...what kinds of changes or adjustments might help you get more of your desired experience?
Report Back Instructions

- One group at a time
- 3 minutes each
- We will be managing time carefully so we can hear from every group
Please email any additional comments to:

rec@durangogov.org
Next Steps

- Register for the next meeting on February 24 at 4:30 p.m. via email to: rec@durangogov.org & include your primary area of focus or interest
- Be prepared to answer the question: “How might we....?”

THANK YOU!