Virtual Meeting Logistics and Requests

- 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.
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
- Reminders about Context
- Summaries of Desired Experiences
- Instructions for Small Groups
- Small Group Discussions
- Small Group Report Back
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Meeting Facilitator</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Zoom Host</th>
<th>Small Group Facilitators</th>
<th>Small Group Support</th>
<th>Active Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will</strong></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></td>
<td>Give instruction for activities</td>
<td>Answer Questions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Help small groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>Articulate your desired experiences and needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Small group support</td>
<td>Small Group Facilitator</td>
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<td>Share your thoughts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Won’t</strong></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>
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<td>Hear and begin to understand one another</td>
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<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

- Motorized: Ski/Wakeboard: 5%
- Motorized: Fishing: 1%
- SUP/Kayak/Canoe/Row: 50%
- Sail Sport: <1%
- Fish by non-motor boat: <1%
- Fish by foot: 7%
- Walk: 25%
- Walk/Dog: 12%
- Swim: 12%

Daily Visitation by Season

<table>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Visitation by Season

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season:</td>
<td>48,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Season:</td>
<td>63,735</td>
</tr>
<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
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 of adding another wakeless day
- Most favored adding Friday as a wakeless day
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)
Before we transition into the next phase of the meeting...

Questions on Management of Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area?
Discussion Parameters

- 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
Summaries
Swimmers and Sailors

- Safe place for swimmers and sailboats
- Removal of underwater vegetation
- Another area to launch sailboats with a beach
- Clean water for swimming that is free of residue
- Enforcement of no watercraft in swim area
- Appropriate areas for specific uses
- No wake morning instead of full no wake day
- Staging dock for solo boater to rig boat
- Expand wakeless area and possibly second buoy line for swimming
Fishing by Foot and by Boat

- We like the way it is currently
- Would like a wakeless morning if we couldn't get the whole day
- Opening the lake earlier in the morning would help for better fishing
- There are fewer people in the morning which means a less noisy experience
- Mitigate congestion at the boat ramp
Motorized Boaters and Paddlers

- All lake visitors can enjoy a period of shared wakeless quiet time each day
- More education & enforcement, specifically at boat ramp
- If wakeless area is expanded, make sure safety is considered for boats in smaller open use area
- Consistency in rules/management
Surfers, Waterskiers, and Wakeboarders

- We want people to know we are all users wanting to be inclusive.
- Don’t exclude motor boaters.
- Be a Lake community with all users, not a segregated community.
- Safety education and enforcement for all users.
- It is not broken as it is.
- Less wakeless days - be treated as the same as all users.
- 7 Days Equal access.
- Eliminate wakeless times.
- We all pay the same.
- More accurate research needs to be done to confirm users.
- Safety at Launch Points.
- Separate launch points.
Paddlers

- Open earlier in the day when the water is smooth.
- Would not want to lose any of the wakeless time already have.
- More wakeless days and/or time periods.
- Prefer a quiet experience.
- Wakeless weekend morning - have part of a weekend day.
- Possibility of additional access/entry areas.
- Easier and safer access for loading and unloading paddle craft or designated separate area.
- Consistent days/ times for wakeless/wake days.
- Expand wakeless area from launch area.
- Continue to provide inclusive experience.
- Access to west side of reservoir.
Common Themes

- Safety, education, and enforcement
- Separate launch points
- Inclusivity of all users
- People enjoy and value their recreational experience at Lake Nighthorse
- Everybody likes to be at Lake Nighthorse at the same time of day (9am – 2pm)
- Not enough convenient parking
- Reconsider expanded operating hours
"Nonstarters"

There will not be:

- Year-round recreation because of federal mandate to protect wildlife
- Access to west side of reservoir is not supported by BOR, ALPOM&R, or City
- Expanded trails around Lake Nighthorse
- Exclusion of motorized boating
Small Group Discussions

- You will be sent randomly to mixed groups with a variety of different lake users
- A small group helper from the City or Connected Realities Team will join you
- Choose a person to report back to the full group
- 1 hour 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. **Name**

**Primary recreational focus**

**What would you like other people in this group to know about your desired recreational experience on Lake Nighthorse?**
2. In consideration of the information that has been collected about use at Lake Nighthorse over the last 3 years, what are some ideas for adapting the balance of uses in ways that meet the needs of all user groups?
Please email any additional comments to:
rec@durangogov.org

Additional comments
• 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.....?”