Lake Nighthorse 2000-2018
Highlights and updates
Community Interest: Public Safety

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The Result

- 1,490 acres of water and 436 acres of land annexed
- Law Enforcement provided by City of Durango Police Department and the La Plata County Sheriff
- No boats shall operate from sunset to sunrise
- No wake zones designated
- Wave attenuation system at boat ramp
- Dam and inlet structures closed to public

Action Taken

- Executed Lease Agreement between City of Durango and Bureau of Reclamation
- Annexation into Durango City limits
Community Interest: Recreation Development

**The Result**

- Partially funded by $285,000 grant awarded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Paved parking and boat ramp
- Overflow gravel parking lot
- Crusher fine trail accessing lake and linking parking areas
- Three courtesy docks

**Action Taken**

- Robust Public Process
- Community-Generated Design Ideas
- ALPOM&R Association consultation
- Grant preparation to secure funds
- Bureau of Reclamation 2016 Environmental Assessment
Community Interest: **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)**

**Action Taken**

- Consultation with Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Consultation with Bureau of Reclamation and adoption of 2016 Environmental Assessment

**The Result**

- ANS Inspection and Decontamination Areas at Entrance Station
- All Lake Nighthorse staff certified in ANS Inspection and Decontamination
- Compliance with Colorado Department of Natural Resources Rules & Regulations
- Use of standardized inspection seals and Nation-wide boat registration database

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Boats are given green seals following an inspection or decontamination upon exiting a lake or reservoir.
Community Interest: **Noise Levels**

**Action Taken**

- 2011 Noise Study conducted by Hankard Environmental Acoustics and Vibrations Consulting
- Bureau of Reclamation 2016 Environmental Assessment

**The Result**

- Above-water exhaust boats prohibited
- On-water patrols
- Staging of County Sheriff boat on-site
- At minimum pool (750 acres), the entire lake will be zoned as a no wake zone
- Muffler requirements for motor boats established to minimize impacts on neighboring residential areas
- Snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, and aircraft will be prohibited
Community Interest: **Cultural Resources**

**Action Taken**
- Undertaking NHPA Section 106 Process
- Identified appropriate SHPO/THPO
- Extensive Tribal consultation
- Comprehensive studies to identify and evaluate historic properties conducted

**The Result**
- Compliance with Federal Laws, including ARPA of 1979
- Cultural Resource Management Plan and Programmatic Agreement
- All staff and contractors are required to take cultural resources sensitivity training
- Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbing activities
- Public access beyond developed areas and the lake shoreline is not permitted

*Photo courtesy of SWCA*
Community Interest: **Water Quality**

### Action Taken
- Bureau of Reclamation 2016 Environmental Assessment
- Reclamation developed and implemented a program to monitor water quality

### The Result
- Fuel spill capture and containment units installed at boat ramp parking lot
- Water quality sampling commitment from Bureau of Reclamation
- No fueling allowed on the lake, and all fueling shall be restricted to entrance station only
- Emergency spill equipment available
- Houseboats that are used as a human dwelling and cabin cruisers with full living quarters on board (including plumbing) will not be allowed on the lake
**Community Interest: Wildlife**

**The Result**
- General FSEIS Wildlife Corridor identified
- Golden Eagle Nest protective closure of 0.25 mile radius
- Biological surveys conducted prior to construction activities
- Winter seasonal closure of lake for all motorized boating recreation
- Wildlife-resistant trash receptacles
- Native vegetation for all landscaping activities

**Action Taken**
- Bureau of Reclamation 2016 Environmental Assessment
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife Consultation

Map showing:
- General FSEIS Wildlife Corridor
- Golden Eagle Nest Closure
- City of Durango Annexation Area
- Golden Eagle Closure
- Native vegetation for all landscaping activities
Community Interest: Economic Benefits

The Result

- Phased development of recreational facilities
- Entrance fees required for lake and recreation area access
- Projected $12,718,000 total annual economic benefit for the Durango community
- 165 full-time equivalent jobs throughout the greater community
- Bureau of Reclamation stocking of trout to provide recreational fishery

Action Taken

- Economic Impact Study 2010
- Extensive research of comparable parks and recreational areas