

INFORMATION SHEET

Preparing Effective Public Comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement July 31, 2026

Purpose:

This information sheet provides general guidance for individuals and organizations interested in submitting public comments on the [Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project](#) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). Its purpose is to help commenters share information, concerns, and perspectives in a way that may assist agency decision-making.

What Makes a Comment Meaningful?

Comments are most helpful when they explain why a concern matters and provide supporting facts, examples, first-hand observations, studies, or local knowledge. Simply expressing support or opposition is permitted, but comments that identify specific issues and explain their significance are generally more persuasive.

- Reference specific sections, pages, chapters, tables, or statements in the Draft EIS.
- Explain how the proposed action may affect you or your area of expertise, local businesses, recreation, wildlife, communities, cultural resources, or other interests.
- Identify information that may be missing, unclear, unsupported, incomplete, or inadequately analyzed.
- Suggest practical solutions, additional analysis, mitigation measures, revisions, or alternatives.

Topics Commenters May Wish to Consider

Project Purpose and Need: Does the Draft EIS clearly explain how the proposed action advances its stated goals, including sustainable management and impact reduction?

Visitor Use and Resource Protection: Does the analysis adequately address how increased visitation could affect wilderness character, wildlife, recreation experiences, or natural resources?

Future Management Plans: Several management plans and mitigations measures have yet to be developed. Commenters may wish to consider whether enough information is available now to evaluate proposed mitigation measures and anticipated environmental outcomes.

Local Community Impacts: Are potential effects on traffic, tourism, infrastructure, public services, housing, land use, or community character adequately discussed?

Completeness of Analysis: Are there factual inaccuracies, unsupported assumptions, data gaps, or issues that would benefit from additional study?

A Simple Format for a Comment Letter

- Introduction: Explain your connection to the area or project.
- Key Concerns: Briefly summarize your principal observations.
- Detailed Comments: Discuss specific sections of the Draft EIS and cite page numbers where possible.
- Recommendations: Suggest changes, additional information, or mitigation measures.
- Conclusion: Summarize your concerns and recommendations.

Practical Suggestions

- Submit comments before the stated deadline of Sept. 23, 2026.
- Create comments that reflect your own experience and perspective rather than submitting identical form letters.
- Include photographs, maps, reports, or other supporting materials when available.
- Use clear language and focus on issues addressed in the Draft EIS.
- Keep a copy of your submission and attachments for your records.

Final Thought

You do not need to be a lawyer, scientist, or technical expert to submit a useful comment. Firsthand experience, local knowledge, professional expertise, and thoughtful observations can all contribute to a more complete environmental review process.

More information, including the proposal and how to comment, is available at:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=284162>