

## Lake Nighthorse Wakeless Public Engagement Comments

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**December 13, 2020**

I would like to comment on an ongoing effort by many of us to obtain another no-wake day at Lake Nighthorse this next summer. It seems crazy to be writing about this now, but this is time when decisions are made and summer brochures are printed.

A number of people have worked on getting more quiet days out there for four years. Some were even in the room 10 years ago when the Bureau of Reclamation was gathering information for the Draft Environmental Assessment for recreation at LNH.

A group of us met with Parks and Rec. in February 2020 for a formal discussion and request for more quiet days in 2020. However, the decision had already been made for only two quiet days and brochures had already been printed, but P&R promised to meet with us again for the 2021 year season before these deadlines.

Meet we did Thursday the 10th via Zoom. While Cathy Metz hinted that they might be considering more, those who have been in this dialogue for years were doubtful. P&R only offered 7am-10am on Fridays as a quiet addition.

We looked at the results of the 2020 user season, the study they do at the end of every year: 94% of LNH users were quiet users — paddle boarding, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, walking/running, fishing with no motors and sailing. The wake from motorized boats is allowed five of the seven days for only 6% of the users! And they want to give us, three more measly hours, at 7:00 am mind you. It was sort of an insult.

The October LNH survey of pass holders also showed that 70% wanted a third no-wake day. Under additional comments for the survey, about 60 underlined their wish for additional no-wake days while only 11 commented for no more wakeless days. We keep wondering why the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Natural Lands Boards are not brought into these discussions. It has been a significant community debate for years.

We're not quite sure why this is so difficult to balance out — the quiet vs. the loud wake days. The no-wake days should be in the majority with 94% of the users.

All we're looking for is a quiet experience in a natural setting where we can enjoy our sport and the beauty and peace without loud motors, people water-skiing, disturbing wake, and a more Disneyland tone.

Thank you,

Martha McClellan

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**December 16, 2020**

Hello Cathy

I saw an article in the herald that said 94 percent of users at Nighthorse were quiet users. The numbers are deeply flawed since for example I buy a pass for the year and count as one user when we bring about 200 users throughout the year. Also many of our users are counted as quiet users in the stats as they drive separate and pay to park to ride in the boat. This doubles the error that's already wrong by a factor of 200 to 1. What can we do to correct these numbers as they are being used to make a false argument against boaters who provide the majority of the revenue.

Thanks, Tony

Anthony Hollars

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December 21, 2020

Dear Parks and Recreation Staff and Advisory Council,

It recently came to my attention that there was a meeting regarding the usage of Lake Nighthorse and the recommendation by the majority of users that another wake-free day be added to the schedule for the 2121 season.

I have looked at the pie chart of usage from the 2020 season which shows that non-motorized craft made up 64% of users and motorized only 6%.

I find it troubling and extremely unfair after seeing those numbers that the decision was made to add only 3 hours per week of wake-free time for next season.

I am a lake user and I see the large numbers of people that come on wake-free days. It is also worthwhile mentioning that many of those folks are older and need a peaceful body of water in order to feel comfortable and safe. Lake Nighthorse is an important and valuable asset to Durango and should meet the needs of those who utilize it the most.

I would encourage you to reconsider your decision and if you are unable to add another full day of wake-free recreating maybe you could consider at least a half day on Friday, say from 7am-1pm. Many non-motorized users prefer the mornings when the wind is calmer which does not seem to have an effect on motorized usage.

Thankyou for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely, Marjorie Brinton

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February 3, 2021

Hello,

I would like to attend the Lake Nighthorse virtual meetings. My name is Tiffany Mapel, and I'm a 30+ year resident of Durango. I bought a pass to Nighthorse last summer, and went paddle boarding at least twice a week all summer long. I went on wakeless Monday/Wednesdays, and also other days when boats were allowed. I didn't see any problem or trouble with the user groups mixing.

Thanks,

Tiffany Mapel

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February 3, 2021

Wakeless zones need to be clarified. Some people think that small boats with a trolling motor are not allowed in a wakeless zone. Additionally, paddle boards and kayaks should not be launching at the boat ramp.

Thomas Fritz

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February 3, 2021

This is absolutely ridiculous to even consider such a thing. There is currently a balance, a "win-win" for both sides. Why would you even consider to divide our community even further than what it is. I swear to God Durango has gone to far and eventually it will deserve what will happen. There will be NO funds to support any recreation, consider that.

Signed  
Unhappy Boater  
Michael Harvey

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February 3, 2021

My name is Sarah Vogt, my main area of use motorized for wake surfing. But I also paddle board there a lot too. A few Wakeless mornings until 9 would be my vote.

Sarah Vogt

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February 3, 2021

Greetings,

I recently sent a lengthy email to City Council to address the issue of allocating more user time for wakeless activities at Nighthorse. Now it seems we will begin a round of public hearings on the allocation of times for wakeless vs motorized use at Nighthorse. At the risk of repeating myself, here's my input?

The current user scheme heavily favors motorized users. This is unacceptable. Wakeless users should be given more time at the lake, and not just on traditional week days. I bought a punch pass for 2020 but was able to use it on a wakeless experience only once due to my weekday work commitments.

Requested change: Add wakeless Fridays and Sundays from opening time until noon. (The full schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday opening to noon reserved for wakeless activities)

I would like to be able to spend a few hours on my SUP at Nighthorse every week, and given that I have a job, that will probably be possible only Sunday mornings. If I'm lucky, I might be able to get on the lake for Friday late a.m. as well, and I'd really like to have that option. It is unsuitable to suggest just early a.m. for wakeless use because most SUP users don't want to get wet before the sun has warmed things up a bit. Wakeless Friday and Sunday a.m.s from opening time to noon would accommodate fishers, SUPs, canoes, kayaks and swimmers. Since the wind rises on most days after noon, the full a.m. would be the most popular option and that gives the afternoon over to motorized use.

My one time out on a Wednesday, the ramp was jammed with all kinds of paddled craft - it was very well attended and it was great to see all those people exercising and enjoying the quiet grandeur of the lake. Based on my (admittedly, and sadly, very limited) experience, plus the word of friends who were able to get out there more than I did this past summer, attendance on wakeless days was high.

For some reason, I'm not on the notice list for Nighthorse business despite having sent several letters to Parks & Rec and Council on this issue. I would like to be informed of all meetings, hearings and recommendations. Please add me to the email notification list.

Thank you,  
Susan

Susan H. Ulery

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February 3, 2021

Hello!

My name is Katherine Blackwell and I received your email about community participation concerning wakeless time on Nighthorse.

I would love to be able to join in on the meetings that are scheduled. Will this email suffice for registration or do I need to do anything further? I wouldn't be able to attend the meeting until a little later as well due to work. 5:30 on more than likely.

My main use of Nighthorse is paddle boarding and where I don't mind having wake days, I feel like a few more wakeless days would be amazing. Most boaters tend to be very courteous but the occasional jerk shows up causing large wakes while I'm out on the lake and honestly, a few more wakeless days would get me there when boaters aren't there.

Looking forward to your response!

Katherine Blackwell

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February 4, 2021

Cathy,

I will not be attending any "Zoom" meetings as I care not to listen to a generation of "cry babies" who's mommy and daddy failed to teach them how to share. However, I will say this, as "Parks and Recreation Director", it becomes your responsibility to ensure ALL members of the community can share the same resources that Durango has to offer. All children should learn skills that including water skiing, wake boarding and tubing behind a boat. And, yes, I will teach my Grandkids how to share.

Michael Harvey

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February 4, 2021

My name is Cammie Willis and I would like to register to join the public meetings on February 22 and 24 to support motorized boating at Lake Nighthorse.

I live very close to the lake and have had a season pass since the City opened the lake to public use. I support all uses at the lake including motorized boating and do not support additional wakeless days/hours. I frequently walk the paths at the lake with my husband, son, and dogs and have never seen any issues with the joint use (both wakeless SUPs and boats with wakes) at the lake. In fact, it seems like the wind usually picks up at some point most days anyways and paddle-boarders, etc. can't move far past shore anyways - which is where the boats with wakes usually are. Most of the boating occurs at the far sides of the lake far away from the designated wakeless zones. (They are trying to find smooth water too for skiing, wakeboarding, surfing, etc.) I do not support restricting boating that creates wakes or increasing the number of wakeless days or hours at Lake Nighthorse. From my experience visiting the lake, I think that the lake is large enough to be shared by all user groups. It is very frustrating to me to see meetings like this come up due to members of our community that want to restrict usage types. I am completely against having the number of wakeless days increased or changed to include a weekend day. I am already upset that there are wakeless days on Mondays and Wednesdays. Boating that creates wakes doesn't restrict others from enjoying the lake, but wakeless days certainly do for the boater user group.

Thank you for your consideration.

P.S. I would like to thank the City of Durango for opening and managing Lake Nighthorse. I love all of the improvements to parking and the beach areas too. It is probably the City amenity that I use most. I love the lake!

**Cammie Willis**

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February 4, 2021

I am interested in commenting on any change in the current overly restrictive wakeless regulations at lake Nighthorse I am a motorized boater / fisherman please include me in your public input for this issue. I do not support further restrictions on motorized use. Motorized users pay for annual boat permits to the state unlike nonmotorized users.

Sent by David Dallison

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February 4, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my preference on the management of Lake Nighthorse with respect to non-motorized use. I appreciate you holding public meetings on this issue and regret that I am unable to attend, which is why I am emailing my comments for consideration. I am a Durango resident and would very much like to see non-motorized use expanded both geographically and in time. I request there be some times/days where motorized use is simply not allowed so there can truly be a quiet time/use. I would also like to see an additional non-motorized area on the Southeast corner of the reservoir. It is a wonderful place to enjoy with children and it would feel much safer having more areas where paddle boards, kayaks, etc. could explore and relax without fear of motors. It would also be nice for the area to be close to the boat put in areas since it takes a lot of work to go far distances without a motor.

Thank you,  
Erika Brown

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February 4, 2021

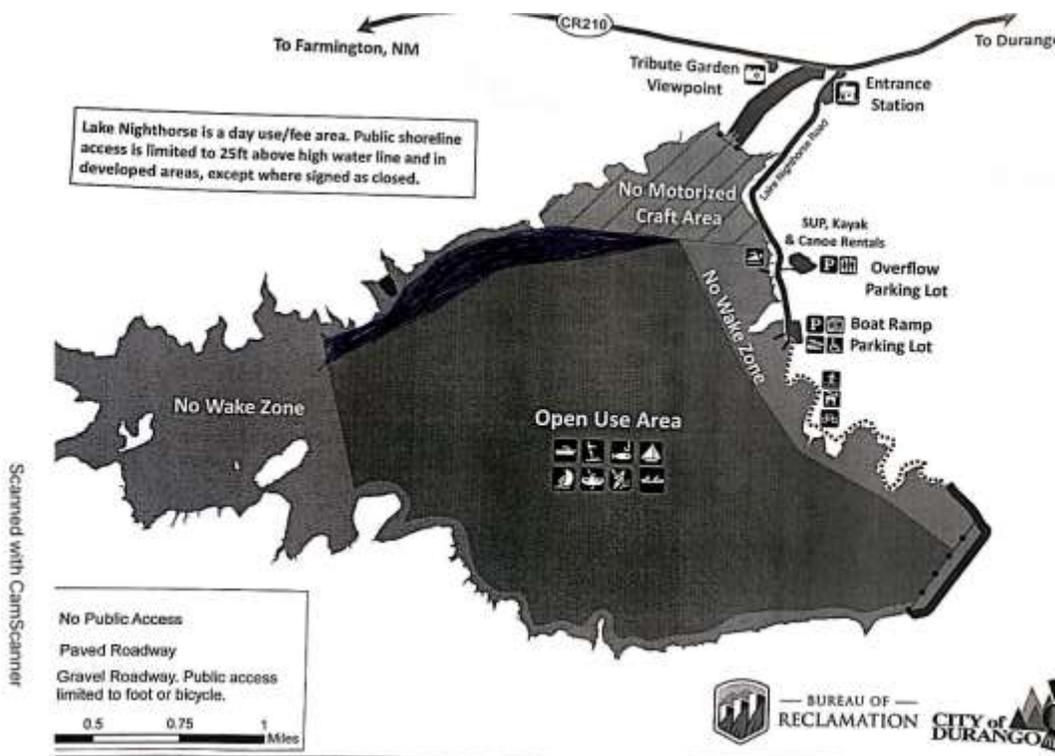
Thank you Cathy,

Also, besides the meeting here is my two cents:

On the attached map it would be great to have the no wake zone extended on the north side of the lake to connect the East and West no wake zones. This is depicted in black on the attached map.

And keep the Monday and Wednesday no wake days !

Thank you, Robert Holmes



February 5, 2021

Please sign me up for your Vertual meetings on Monday and Wednesday. My wife and I are avid paddlers. We always paddle on no wake days, and at least one other day each week. I would like to address my thoughts, as I may not get the opportunity during the meetings. I have done my own personal survey each time I go to Lake Nighthorse, on wakeless day usually on average about 2 motorized boats are in the lot during our 3 hours visit. We usually paddle in the morning and I believe that this is when most fishermen would be out as well. On normal days it appears that usually 10% of the parking spots have trailers. One would have to conclude that 90% of your customers are non-motorized. It seems that you should focus on your actual customer base.

My recommendation-

Most importantly , increase the no wake days to include one on the weekend . Most people have a normal work week, thus we should share the weekend, to service all customers.

Increase boat launch parking as customers/ pass holders were being turned away last year.

Develop a separate launch area for non motorized boats to alleviate congestion at the current small ramp.

Prohibit animals from being in the water, especially in the ramp area as un-responsible owners constantly congregate with their pet, creating an unsafe environment.

Have staff brief vehicle about any restrictions, ie. No Wake day, ramp restrictions, no pets/ no swimming. I know that you have signs and people continue to ignore them. So that is not effective.

Gordon Macaulay

February 8, 2021

Cathy,

My research uncovers decades of discussion over impact of noise in natural parks. Respectfully request that materials presented for Lake Nighthorse community discussion include data on this subject.

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/fee.2112>

Seth Furtney

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February 9, 2021

I don't know if I'll be able to attend the zoom meeting since it is scheduled during work hours but definitely want to express concern over increasing the amount of time that the lake cannot be used by boats. The lake should be able to be shared without excluding the use of boats. There are already so many areas that are exclusively for non-motorized watercraft that there shouldn't be anymore restrictions placed on that. As a matter of fact I think that the whole lake should be open at anytime for whoever is there and wants to use it.

We fish, waterski, and swim. This is a wonderful gift to our community that should be shared by all.

I will try to zoom in

Thanks!

Brenda DeBolt

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February 14, 2021

Hello Nighthorse Planners,

First of all. Thank you so much for this amazing resource. The lake has added a another dimension in high quality recreation to the city of Durango. Bravo!

I am retired and use the lake frequently. My primary use is paddleboarding and fishing from my paddleboard. I own a power boat that I use for bass fishing but keep it at navajo reservior and use it there. I have used it at Nighthorse. One thing I have noticed is the uptick in surf boat activity on Navajo. The waves and impact on the shore are much more profound than typical ski boats or fishing boats. I sat in on the original discussions for recreation at Nighthorse 6 years ago? I fully supported power boats at Nighthorse at the time but had not envisioned the trend in surf boats and the large waves they generate. I'm not sure they are appropriate for a lake the size of Nighthorse.

My other request is sand or gravel on the beach area and into to the water several feet. Mud beaches are not that much fun. Or a paddleboard ramp so we can get into and out of the water without our feet getting covered in mud. A wash down area would be nice.

So that's my two cents. Love the Lake and new recreations area. Looking forward to many more uses. You're doing a great job. Thank you again.

Regards,  
Samuel King

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February 14, 2021

Hello, my name is Gregg Esenwein. My main area of recreational interest at Lake Nighthorse is sailing.

I have a small sailboat that I have been sailing at Nighthorse for the last 2 years.

The one area that could stand improvement is the boat ramp. It should be reserved for trailer launched watercraft only. No swimming and no launching of paddle boards.

Trying to back a trailer down the ramp to launch and retrieve a sailboat is a chore. When you add people with paddle boards walking right behind your trailer as you're backing up makes it even more stressful. The folks with paddle boards seem to think it is perfectly fine to jump in right ahead of you, to launch their boards.

In addition, they tend to congregate on their boards right at the end of the ramp. This creates further obstructions - especially to small motorless sailboats that have to leave the ramp under sail and return under sail.

At every other lake I've been to, the ramp is for launching and retrieving trailered boats only. No swimming or paddle boards.

Paddle boarders can easily launch from anywhere along the shore. Trailered boats can only launch from a ramp.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Gregg Esenwein

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February 14, 2021

Thanks for reaching out to the community. My interests are paddle boarding and walking—a trail that looped around the lake would be lovely.

I especially appreciate the no-wake days.

I would love to see better access for paddle boarders and better parking.

Thanks again!

Liz Proper

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February 14, 2021

Hi !

Appreciate your getting user input/ideas.

I wish there was more shady spots for dogs to hangout; and real hiking trails 'around' the lake for walking dogs—I brought my small boat but couldn't leave my dog in car because there were no shady parking areas; or shade along shore where dog could hangout with my husband—haven't been back...

I like the idea of swimming/play areas to cool off—is there something like that for dogs? And is water being tested for bacteria, etc for swimmers?

I am passionate about fishing, so anything you can do to improve that option for those without boats as well as boaters would be nice (I sold my single person boat, too lonely;)

Shaded picnic areas, changing rooms, running water, toilets...Any and all amenities would be nice—

Thanks,  
Addi Greer

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February 14, 2021

Dear Ms.Metz

As I am unable to attend the zoom meeting being held for public input I am writing to suggest the addition of one more wake free day to be added to the schedule preferably but not necessarily on a weekend .I am a senior pass holder and use the lake to swim,paddleboard and fish.Thankyou for you consideration.

Sincerely Helen Kunz

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February 14, 2021

Hi there,

My name is Amy Hartline and I am a resident of Durango. I will not be able to attend the public comment sessions on the uses of Lake Nighthorse that coming up later this month, so I am writing to offer my perspective.

As a recreationalist, my preference is to have as much non-motorized time as possible available at Lake Nighthorse. I appreciate the quietness and the calmness of outdoor areas without motorized access. While I know that others prefer to recreate in other ways, this is my preference.

Thank you for your time and for sequestering public input.  
Sincerely,

Amy Hartline

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February 14, 2021

I am a waterskier. Would like to see beaches in the coves for the boat to pull into without coming back to the dock.

Melinda Michael

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February 15, 2021

I won't be coming to your Zoom meetings, but I wanted to submit a comment for consideration.

I paddle an inflatable kayak, and was at the Lake a handful of times last year. I always tried to arrive early before the parking lot got full.

I would prefer to exclude motorized use, but I understand that is not possible given the history of the Lake. I think the City has done a fine job of scheduling and accommodating all uses, and would be happy if the current schedule was continued.

**My one gripe** is the loud music playing from the waterski boats! There was an occasion where a fast boat was towing someone at the top end of the lake, courteously avoiding the quiet use areas. But the music system was tied to the motor speed, and when the boat went fast the music was disturbingly loud over the entire lake! That seemed completely unnecessary. They were doing fine with the motor noise and wakes, but were oblivious to how far the music was carrying over water. Can you add something to address this? Maybe education, not regulation, would be enough.

Thanks.  
Kay Zillich

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February 15, 2021

Good day,

I am sorry I cannot attend the 2/22 Zoom meeting about Lake Nighthorse improvement suggestions.

Regarding WALKING

In a perfect world there would be a walking trail completely around the lake, making it possible to hike and circumvent the entire reservoir. While it might not actually be possible, especially in the short run, perhaps a phased approach to building a path around as much of the lake as possible would be a great benefit for the area's seniors, and others. This should be a natural trail and not anything paved.

I think the benefits are obvious enough that I needn't list them here. But currently one cannot explore this beautiful mountain lake, except by watercraft.

Thank you for any consideration and all the continuing efforts to improve this beautiful resource.

Best regards,  
Charles Whyte

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February 15, 2021

Hi, I would like to register for public meeting regarding activities at Lake Nighthorse. We use the lake mostly for water skiing but might use the new beach area now that it is finished. I feel there are a few safety issues with motorized watercraft users and the people paddling that should be addressed.

Becky Leonard

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February 16, 2021

Hi, I primarily use Lake Nighthorse for paddle boarding, swimming and would be interested in hiking trails. As such I favor more wakeless days on the lake.

Thank you,  
Lorie Hansen

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February 16, 2021

Hello,

My husband and I recently moved to Durango for a position at Mercy Hospital and we are hoping to take our boat on Lake Nighthorse for wake surfing. We look forward to summer! Thank you for the support.

Morgan Marcuccilli

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February 17, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I prefer a wakeless experience at Nighthorse for the following reasons:

1. Our lives are filled with the incessant roar of combustion engines already.
2. Motor boat owners have the means and plenty of options with Dolores, Vallecito and Navajo.
3. A wakeless Nighthorse is friendlier to children and families with less income accessing the lake with human powered craft.

Thank you, James Wilkes

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February 17, 2021

Hi, I am interested in attending one of the meetings. Although from the report that was put out recently non motorized use far outweighs motorized use. I am in the non motorized group and use the lake primarily for paddle boarding/kayaking, swimming and walking. I attended a few meetings during the formation of the recreation area and voiced my same concern as did many people who wanted a non motorized experience for this lake, yet that is not how it turned out.

Let me know what I need to do to attend the meetings, but I would rather just voice my same concerns, as I have in the past for non motorized use of Lake Nighthorse.

Thanks,  
Candee Pearson

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February 17, 2021

My own comment is that there should be a "No Wake" zone close to the boat ramp and shores.

Rob Dawes

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February 17, 2021

I would like to register for the Lake Nighthorse zoom meeting on February 22nd. I live just 10 minutes from the lake off CR 125 in Hesperus and go to the lake at least twice and sometimes three times a week. I start when the lake opens in late spring fishing from my kayak then start paddle boarding as the summer heats up and the fishing drops off. I then fish again in the fall until the lake closes. I would certainly like to see an expansion of the no-wake periods, possibly adding a full day or at least setting aside some additional morning hours for no-wake use. The mornings are the best for both fishing and paddle boarding and there are many days where I am at the lake when the gates open. Having a no-wake morning then opening up the lake to all users say at 10:00 or 11:00 am would I think fit the needs of the majority users of the lake.

Looking forward to the meeting and some expansions of the no-wake use periods at my favorite local lake.

Gary Magno

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February 17, 2021

I wish for a nice level area for a picnic. When I was there we had to struggle with eating on an uncomfortable incline.

Thanks  
Diane Highland

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February 17, 2021

I think that an additional day of No Wake/Low Wake would be beneficial to a majority of the population.  
Thanks for asking  
Wes Hartman

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February 17, 2021

Thank you for inviting input on the use of Lake Nighthorse. I have been thrilled with being able to use this beautiful recreation area since it opened a couple years ago and hope that I will continue to enjoy its beauty and recreation opportunities. I primarily use the lake for paddle boarding, however my husband brings his canoe out to fish. I often use the trail that runs next to the lake for a short walk.

I absolutely would go more often in the summer if there were more wakeless days. Unfortunately, the size of the lake doesn't leave much room for both motorless as well as wake producing watercraft-despite attempts made to stay distant from one another. I avoid going on days I know there will be motorized boats as I know I will have to limit where I can comfortably paddle safely.

Thank you in advance for considering more wakeless days on the lake!

Susie Robertson, MA

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February 17, 2021

These are the changes I would like to see. We like to use the lake for walking, SUP, windsurfing and kayaking. Please extend the wakeless hours and have added days of the week that are wakeless use only. The most beautiful times of the day to paddle on the lake are early morning and evening, it would be great to see the hours that the lake is accessible to be extended. Another access point is needed for wind sports that offers a side shore advantage. Also please allow lake access to walkers when the lake is closed.

Thanks  
Sherlyn Kordes

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February 17, 2021

As avid paddle boarders and also lovers of boating, we feel the SUP users deserve another day of no wake at Nighthorse. It is so much safer as well as a more pleasant experience without the worry of boaters and the wake caused by them. I love the quiet of the lake on a no wake day. While Suppers pose no safety threat to boats,

boats do pose a threat to paddle boarders. It would be nice to have two days a week devoted to non motor vehicles.

Thanks!

Jerry and Sally Smith  
Durango

Sally S. Smith

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February 17, 2021

Hello:

I would like to attend the Lake Nighthorse Meeting on February 22nd from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. I am interested in advancing the number of wakeless days at the lake and providing paddle boarders, kayaker and swimmers an opportunity to spend mornings (and whole days) without the nuisances, toxicity and dangers imposed by motorized vehicles.

I am an avid long distance swimmer and kayaker. I have been surprised on how much time is allotted to motorized boats in comparison to those without motor boats. Just a few boats on that lake create so much noise (motors and large audio systems blasting music), water disruptions-- waves, ripples and gas spillage.

As a swimmer I can always smell and taste gas in the water on days where there are motor boats.

Please consider giving swimmers, paddler boarders, kayakers, canoers **one wakeless weekend day and 2 weekdays without motorized vehicles in the water all day.**

Thanks, Michele Mals

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February 18, 2021

Hey Cathy,

I can try and make the Monday meeting, however, I'll be running a little late due to an eye doctor appointment.

As far as adapting the management of the wakeless use, my point of attending would be to simply say that we all can coexist, be courteous, and have a great time together. We have a little 17.5ft runabout and our 10 year old son loves to water ski. At the same time, we always bring our SUPs and paddleboard around the lake (my wife and my preferred activity). Anyone that says you can't do this (paddleboard, swim, fish, etc.) because of that (boating) and vice versa is being disingenuous and probably has other motives (ex - environmental). The fact is - we personally do all of these things (skiing, paddleboarding, swimming, fishing, etc.), and we've never had any significant problems once on the lake.

With that said, the elephant in the room from my perspective is mitigating the dangers around the boat ramp. I've sent you pictures documenting the chaos at the boat ramp. The boat ramp should be exclusively

reserved for boats entering and exiting the lake - no swimming, no floatables, etc. I personally think you need a rope on the water partitioning off the boat ramp area. At the same time, I do want to say that folks with SUPs definitely need an easy place to drop off their SUPs and put in. In all scenarios, we need clear signage, education efforts, and actual enforcement to help people understand where they should and shouldn't be.

Otherwise, I would like to put one issue on the city's radar - the impact of surf boats specifically designed to displace large amounts of water and create a large wave. As a small body of water, I think that the waves from surf boats do potentially present a danger to smaller boats and SUPs. I've personally taken on water from surf boat waves. I also wonder whether the gentleman that drowned last year got knocked out of his canoe by a surf boat wave. With that said, I don't think that surf boats need to be banned. However, it might be best to encourage or restrict surfing to the area of the lake by the dam, down wind and away from the beach, SUPs, and fishing areas.

Finally, if the city is considering adapting the management of the wakeless use, I would advocate for eliminating wakeless days altogether. Wakeless days are designed to preclude one specific user of the lake - those with boats travelling over a few miles per hour. By having wakeless days, the city is basically reinforcing the idea that it's an us vs them situation, which leads to conflict. I don't believe in this us vs them mentality. Again, we all can coexist, be courteous, and have a great time on this wonderful resource.

Heath Anderson

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February 18, 2021

Instead of spending 3 hours in a Zoom meeting on February 24, I'd like to share a few comments this way.

I occasionally use a kayak on Lake Nighthorse. Last year, the only place with convenient loading/unloading access for small boats was the constructed boat ramp that was intended for larger motorized craft. This is also the only place where launching doesn't require dealing with mud so it's become the most popular launching spot for small boats.

Loading/unloading access near the 4CRS rental site is inadequate. If the few diagonal parking spaces there are full, there's no place to briefly stop on the shoulder and unload a boat for a reasonably direct path to the water before parking in the overflow parking lot on the hill. Currently the diagonal parking spaces there are signed for back-in parking only; that works only for traffic from the entrance to the north. If one initially must park in the overflow lot, but a diagonal space is available later when one needs to re-load a boat, it's impossible to back into one of those spaces if one is driving northward toward the diagonal spaces from the overflow lot to the south. The road next to the diagonal spaces isn't wide enough for someone driving from the south to turn around in order to back into one of those spaces. The only place where someone approaching from the south could turn around, in order to back into one of those spaces, is all the way back north at the entrance area. Also, car tracks opposite to these diagonal spaces on the unpaved east shoulder also show that the road there isn't wide enough for some drivers, who've backed into the diagonal spaces, to make the >90 degree turn to drive out toward the north.

I know the agencies involved were hoping to limit impacts and road costs by keeping the road narrow. The easiest solution to this problem would be to allow both back-in and front-in parking at those diagonal spaces (change or remove the signs specifying back-in parking only).

I could go on about how, during one of my visits last year, I and my friends had to carry a couple 40-lb boats from the vicinity of the nearby toilet building by a very circuitous route a couple hundred yards long, over a rock embankment, because of maintenance blocks to sidewalks that would have provided a safer (but not shorter) route. Parking at one of the few parallel spaces near the toilet building doesn't solve the drop-off problem because the carry is so far.

Some features of this area probably looked good on a planning map but are not practical and can be very inconvenient.

Thank you,  
Mary Gillam

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February 18, 2021

Dear City of Durango,

Please consider expanding the number of wakeless days at Lake Nighthorse. It's really nice to be able to paddleboard, kayak and canoe Lake Nighthorse without having to contend with the noise and wakes of speeding motor boats. Durango should work towards reducing its carbon footprint by encouraging more non motorized recreational activities. I would like to see Durango continue to be the mecca for non motorized outdoor sports that it is today.

Thank you, Dave Barlow

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February 18, 2021

Hi Durango rec – I am a paddler (paddleboard)and have enjoyed many wakeless days in the morning when the wind is down. Perhaps you could have wakeless in mornings and motor in afternoon? However it seems to me that there are far more paddlers, swimmers, ect than motorized wake producing boats (Putt, putt fisherman excluded) The impact of the few who are wake riding or speed boating that affects the many more paddlers seems unfair. I may be wrong re the imbalance in numbers but I do not think so.

Thanks SeanO

Sean Owen

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February 18, 2021

To Whom it may concern,

I am in full support to keeping the lake open to motor boats, full time.

The 1 or 2 days a week that are motorless should provide ample time for the wakeless folks and is more than generous to this submarket of users. I have been on paddleboards countless times out there with the motor boats and not once have I been uncomfortable.

If there is a need for wakeless water, perhaps lemon reservoir and Animas River should be focused on.

There is a huge opportunity to increase revenue at the lake – like a store with ice, basic goods and lake toys/equipment.

Regards,  
Zane Wells

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February 18, 2021

My husband and I enjoy using Lake Nighthorse for fishing from our MOTORIZED boat. We feel that the lake is quite large and can easily accommodate multiple usage on any day. The non motorized crowd rarely venture very far from the put in areas.... maybe the closest 1/4 of the lake. Surely we can all share this beautiful resource.

Emily Sanford

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February 19, 2021

Primary area of interest is wake surfing, swimming & paddle boarding, usually do all 3 the same day and prefer that the lake does not become more restrictive to user groups.

Thank you,  
Moiria Montrose

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February 19, 2021

My name is below. My interest in flatwater recreation is to have it flat (wakeless) for: kayaking, rowing (shell), and paddle boarding. Lack of motor noise is a bonus too!

Tim Thomas

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February 19, 2021

I am unable to attend the meeting about Lake Nighthorse, but my interests are kayaking, canoeing and swimming. I hope there will be plenty of time set aside for motorless use since that does seem to be what the majority of users do. Thank you for considering public comments.

Lynn May

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February 20, 2021

I am letting you know that I support motorized boats. We like skiing, tubing, fishing, trolling, and just relaxing on the open water.

Yes I would like to be part of the meetings next week.

Thankyou,  
George Morley

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February 20, 2021

Kathy,

I am not going to be able to attend the upcoming meeting on Lake Nighthorse, I hope it's ok I email with my suggestion.

My suggestion is to consider making Sunday Mornings wakeless and trading it for a different weekday. Many locals work M-F and so can't take advantage of the wakeless days during the week, and many locals enjoy non-motorized boating. Sunday mornings in our society are often conceived as a more relaxing time so it would be in line with that sentiment. With the typical wind pattern there are enough waves that it usually makes it less pleasant to be on a paddleboard or in a kayak after noon, so many people in non-motorized craft are off the lake by then anyways. Just a thought, thanks for your work on the lake- we have really enjoyed it!

Will Finn

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February 20, 2021

Hi,

I know that there is an upcoming zoom meeting on Lake Nighthorse coming up and I would like to register my opinion here , as I won't be able to attend the meeting. I would be in favor of there being added on, **an additional** day for **no** wake. Which would bring the no wake days to 3, allowing 4 days of wake days.

Thanks,  
Lissa Paak

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February 21, 2021

To: Durango Parks and Recreation Staff and Joy Lujan, Facilitator,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in writing for your records and mine.

I am hopeful that Parks and Recreation's own internal LNH pass holder survey from October 2020 will be or already is a written part of this community engagement process. I appreciated seeing those results and the usage chart in the agenda packet (pages 105-139) for the December 9, P&R Advisory Board meeting.

The survey and the usage chart validates numerous meetings and written comments over the years (including the Bureau of Reclamation Environmental Assessment process in 2010/11 and 2017) from hundreds of people showing that the preponderance of community members desired and still desire a quiet lake with restricted motor boating. While the Quiet Lake Coalition had always hoped for more than two days of no-wake, the two no-wake days has demonstrated how tranquil and busy a lake can be at the same time. Three days of no-wake (including half day configurations) would make a stronger statement about how unique and inviting Durango's home lake is. Paddle boarding is still exploding and many newbies need the quiet water for learning and some of us will never be able to take on bigger wake waves very comfortably. New paddle boarders across the country are encouraged to rent and try out different boards and LNH has the only rentals on site that I am aware of in our vicinity.

In the 2020 LNH survey, it is worth underlining that about 70% of pass holders requested a third day of no-wake. About 60 respondents added written comments supporting added no-wake in some fashion—especially the weekend paddlers who have not had a chance to experience the no-wake days. Only 11 respondents added their comments for no more no-wake days or no, no-wake days.

I think staff has done a remarkable job in keeping track of the various user groups at the lake. Each year, the only percentage that has been puzzling to me is the break out of motorized users. This one can be difficult because there are any number that do both fishing and water skiing, etc. For the dozens of times I have been at the lake—even on busy weekends/holidays—the vast majority of motorists appear to be out on the far west no-wake side or near a shore fishing. It sometimes depends on how the lake is stocked, but last November, thousands upon thousands of rainbows, etc. were stocked by the BOR. Fishing is going to be most popular again come spring 2021. This year showed just 1% use as fishing motorized and I honestly think that is off kilter.

I, personally, have thought that allowing those anglers who get antsy going 5 miles per hour to their fishing spot on no-wake days could be allowed (showing the usual consideration to paddlers) a 10 mph slow or low wake. I imagine some are already managing that informally when they are the only ones out there in the very early hours.

Some are suggesting that the consistent low percentage of motorists already addresses those who are asking for more balanced no-wake time. Those of us who have lived in Colorado for decades and watched different lakes evolve (let alone the current explosion in outdoor interest) know that the percentage of of motorists will be climbing over time. I know one former swimmer at Boulder Reservoir who does not go there anymore because of the exhaust from motorboats. I recently talked with two kayakers from Boulder Reservoir who said they never kayak there on weekends—a very common response everywhere there is motorized use, including LNH. Unless they are motorboat owners, Durangoans generally do not even go to State Parks that are taken over by motorboats on weekends. This past week an informal check-in with a couple of State Parks revealed motorized use to be around 40 to 60 % at their lakes during the busiest summer days. That figure speaks for most all State Parks I was told. The figure used to be "a lot higher before the advent of paddle boarding." Stagecoach (820 acres) in northwest Colorado manages its approximate 50/50 usage (paddlers/motorized) by having about 50% of the lake **accessible** no-wake and 50% open motorized. The main point here is that even 30% of motorized use at Lake Nighthorse would change the entire wildernes/open space character of the lake and would discount the huge paddling community. Added no-wake time would hold some balance.

I have attempted to present new information today that has not been emphasized in the dozen prior meetings I have attended. LNH community meetings and our smaller advocacy meetings have generally not recorded details or dialogue so I appreciate the opportunity to organize my thoughts and spell out some details here.

Many Thanks, Kristine Johnson

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February 21, 2021

To Whom It MAY Concern:

We realize that it is difficult to pacify all stakeholders who utilize Lake Nighthorse, but we would like to add to the discussion ( even though we cannot attend the zoom meeting on the 24th). We are in favor of as much wake-free time at the lake as possible! Also, we cannot wait for a good sand beach to go in. And for icing on the cake, if Parks and Rec ever offered classes for adults in sailing, wow, that could be fun  
Sincerely,

Mary and Bob Oswald

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February 21, 2021

First of all, let me say how much I appreciate having Lake Nighthorse here in this community. It is a beautiful resource and the fact that it is so close to town is a real bonus. We have been taking advantage of the mornings for slalom skiing for the last three seasons. The wind typically dies down in the morning as it switches from the north to the south providing a small window to ski on "glass", which is a real joy. I've also taken advantage of the paddle boarding opportunities on quiet/wakeless days and appreciate the ability to rent boards at the lake. I know a lot of people in town who enjoy paddle boarding there and I think it's a great idea to have wakeless days for those types of usage. It is so much more enjoyable to experience a glassy lake on a board, canoe or kayak without having to battle boat waves.

I do have two suggestions for your consideration:

1. Since the lake has opened, Monday's have been designated as wakeless days and Fridays allow for wakes. Because I, and the small group of people I ski and with, have Monday's off from work, I would love to see Monday's open to wakes and would be glad to swap that day for Friday's, making Fridays wakeless. That is, obviously, a selfish and personal request but there may be other boaters who would be open to that. And, perhaps, there would be many more wakeless users who would be glad to make that exchange.
2. It would be great if hours could be extended from sunup to sundown. This would give everyone more hours of access to the lake and would give a lot of people opportunities to access the lake after work during the week.

Thanks very much for asking for input and your consideration. And thanks for making this great resource available. Also, I'd like to state how friendly and helpful all of the staff at the lake have been. Well done!

Sincerely, Bob Brown

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February 22, 2021

Hi Joanne,

My perspective, I like the current rotation of wakeless and power boats. I feel there needs to be the opportunity for both type of users. I went to the lake twice this summer with my power boat on wakeless days and trolled with my electric motor instead of my old2 stroke engine. I strongly feel the sharing of uses is important so there is no discrimination of types of users.

Take care,  
Jack Llewellyn

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February 22, 2021

Hi,

My husband and I go paddleboarding at Lake Nighthorse on the weekends because that is when we are off work. We bought paddle boards specifically to use at Lake Nighthorse.

It would be nice if there was no wake/wakeless Sundays *until* noon.  
Barring that, Mondays remain wakeless even on holidays.  
Having both those wakeless days would be wonderful!

Thank you for your consideration,  
Denise Lane

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February 22, 2021

I'm not a passholder but I chip in to help pay for my roommates annual LNH pass. Can I do a survey re: my preferences for the lake? I'd appreciate it, I'm a kayaker and paddleboarder who enjoys the no-wake times, ones I'd like to see expanded. Thanks,  
John Culver

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February 22, 2021

Hi, I've got City Planning Comm'n meeting tonight, so unable to attend the LNH meeting. If you can please make note of these points, this is what I'd contribute if I were available.  
Personally, I identify as a SUP user. Motorized uses and non-motorized uses are largely incompatible, at least for me (and for a fair number of other non-motorized users, judging from the comments made over the years about LNH use).

The non-motorized user community (SUPs, rowers, kayakers, fisherpeople, etc.) is currently granted only 2 weekdays to enjoy LNH. For those of us who have to work during the week, this effectively means we can't enjoy non-motorized activities at LNH. I bought a punch pass and found that I was able to use it exactly once during the 2020 season - because I couldn't get out of work to go play on the water during the weekday times available, which were limited to just Mon. and Wed. I'm asking for a fairer share of dedicated non-motorized use time, with the addition of time during the weekend. We should be provided at least one, and preferably two, additional half days. I suggest mornings from 7 a.m. to noon), with one day to fall on a weekend. Then working people could use this wonderful resource. I suggest adding Friday and Sundays 7a.m. - noon for non-motorized users. Mornings are preferred for non-motorized use. The wind pattern seems to be that it whips up after 11 a.m. As many will attest, after-work hours in the evenings are often windy and can be hazardous if the wind prevents you from beating your way back to the take out.

To be fair, non-motorized users should be offered a better share of morning - and some weekend time - to enjoy LHN. I believe the sales of annual and punch passes to non-motorized users bears witness to the demand for non-motorized use. The one time I was able to make use of my pass, it seemed immensely popular - there were SUPs and kayaks everywhere!

Thank you!  
Susan Ulery

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February 22, 2021

Hellos,

I just finished with the first discussion about possibly changing the usage for the lake.

The big question here is why is this discussion happening? Have there been conflicts between users? If the motorized users are only making up 6% of the overall, how do they even affect the other users? This discussion is opening up a very dangerous precedents regarding usage of the cities resources. What comes next? Should there be certain hours where kids are allowed to play on playground equipment at other city parks? Are there times and or days where mountain biking is not allowed in Horse Gulch. You get it...

The city of Durango should stand firm in its commitment to allow for everyone to share and enjoy the cities resources equally.

Cheers,  
Jerry Olivier

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February 22, 2021

Hello, I failed to register on time to be a part of the discussion groups so I am sending this email in hopes that my comments might be considered.

My family has found Lake Nighthorse to be a treasure for family time and boating enjoyment. We also like to paddle board and hike the eastern trail towards the dam. We spend most of our time in our boat surfing and

wakeboarding. My family and friends spent over 100 hours on the lake this last summer and hope to do the same in future summers. Not only is it beautiful but very convenient for those of us that have 8-5 jobs 5-6 days a week.

My suggestion is this:

Have a rotating wakeless schedule so that those that do not participate in wake activities can always have access to wakeless days. I have had to adjust my activities so that I can go when it is designated wake days. For example; If my only day off during the week is Tuesday and that is a wake day and I don't want to be on the lake with boats creating a wake then I know that the next weeks schedule is different and Tuesday will be a wakeless day.

I have noticed that most of the kayaks and paddle boarders do not use the wakeless area to recreate. Maybe it would make sense to increase the area on the north side for wakeless as it is too shallow to surf and wakeboard on much of that area because of the trees that are close to the surface in many areas near shore.

I have never had a close call with those doing paddle sports on the lake. Just like everything we need to keep and eye out for those around us. I think that the daily limit is appropriate and necessary.

Thank you for your consideration, Sincerely,

John Gilleland

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February 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

We are unable to attend the virtual meetings this week regarding recreational use of Lake Nighthorse. Please accept this email in lieu of our presence.

We have been season pass holders at Lake Nighthorse since it opened for recreational use. We truly value it as a recreational option and also for it's water source for La Plata West Water Authority (our house is included in Phase II of LPWWA). We visit the Lake 1-2 times per week throughout the season and we waterski, fish, paddle board, swim and sometimes just float and enjoy the scenery. It is our opinion that two days per week of no wake is plenty for those enjoying the Lake without a motorized boat. Furthermore, the west side and northside (new beach) are also wake restricted which gives non-motorized patrons their own space all the time.

Instead of adding more restrictions on type of use, we suggest that the hours of operation be extended to accommodate more users. Specifically, we suggest that the hours should mirror sunrise/sunset. We also suggest the use of volunteers to help offset City employee payroll. For example, volunteers could be utilized early in the morning to check in users (whom are likely season pass holders) and also late in the day to remind all boaters that they need to be at inspection 30 minutes before closing. We would be happy to volunteer to help with the lake operations.

Please feel free to contact us directly. Again, we are sorry to miss the virtual meeting.

Thank you,  
Lisa and Steve Gates

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February 22, 2021

I am listening to the meeting. I saw the chart of lake users and see that wake boats are only about 5% of usage. I would be concerned that if boats are restricted to only a few wake days a week it would cause crowding on those days.

John Gilleland

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February 22, 2021

I was only able to attend the last part this evening after the breakout sessions ended and I have to say that the wakeboard and ski boat crowd is loud and inconsiderate beyond all proportion, especially considering how little percentage of the users they represent. They have little to no concern for the wake that they are pulling, the pollution they dump into the lake, the noise level they enjoy at everyone else's expense, and no understanding at all for the history and culture of Basin Mountain and all of its significance.

All users are there as guests of the Tribes who have made the Basin their home for centuries. Quiet respectful use of the lake respects that history and culture and its present-day keepers. Quiet users do not disturb the wildlife in and around the lake and do not as a rule, disturb other users.

I am not against all legal and respectful use of Lake Nighthorse. I am also not about to give up wakeless time in favor of inconsiderate users. I value the important resource that Lake Nighthorse is for all of our community. My own neighbors and I now depend on it for our drinking water.

Please make wakeless time a priority. It does not have to be restricted to whole days, to specific areas, or at the exclusion of anyone, and it promotes the best use of Lake Nighthorse.

Sincerely Yours,  
Jeff Wagner  
Rower and Sculler

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February 23, 2021

Thank you for your reply and explanation, however many in the boating community believe creating wakeless days is in fact the same as banning boats on those days. Motorised boats are in fact purchase to engage in various activities, skiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, fishing or just cruising the lake. None of these can be done without the use of a motor.

As a condition of B of Reclamation financing the Boat ramp was, that boats could use of the lake, can we agree of that?

While the agreement doesn't not specifically say that wakeless days could be implemented, it violates the spirit of the Agreement.

Additionally everyone in our breakout group does not believe the guesstimate of 6 percent of the users are boats. We all said that we have 5 to 8 people on our boats and the guests come in separate vehicles, yes some

have SUP boards on their cars because many people leave the SUP boards on their vehicles. Additionally when I come to the lake without my boat I have never been asked what activity I am doing, not once in 3 years.

So I would like to suggest a more scientific study if people are going to use that number or any number to argue their point.

We also agreed that increasing fees to help avoid any subsidies that may exist and over crowding that may occur.

One final point, you and I have been around long enough to remember the many people opposed to Animas La Plata, ironically many of the same folks I saw last night are in several of the wakeless groups. Now they are trying to determine what activities we can enjoy.

Boaters for inclusion not exclusion.

Thanks again for making this discussion possible.

All the Best, Kerry Wanstrath

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February 23, 2021

Is this a fair summary of the wakeless issue?

A significant minority of lake users who now have the right to create wakes 5 out of 7 mornings a week are unwilling to compromise with a significant majority of lake users who now have wakeless conditions 2 out of 7 mornings a week.

Am I missing something?

Gunnar Anderson

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February 23, 2021

Thank you for organizing the wakeless public engagement meetings via Zoom. I attended yesterday but am unable to attend tomorrow. I wasn't able to speak much as a couple of people in our breakaway meeting, in my opinion, took the floor. It's quite apparent the boaters are struggling with this networking event via their defensiveness towards the discussion. Here's my 2 cents worth:

1. As a kayaker, the best experience for me is to be there on a wakeless day as I like the peace & quiet and hearing the birds chirping. I like to row to the northwest area and to do that on a non wakeless day would be a challenge and possibly dangerous. Last year I went on a Thursday and didn't get that peaceful experience due to a ski boat preferring to play loud music while buzzing around the lake. I almost got swamped by a boat leaving the boat dock but luckily I knew enough about pointing the nose of my kayak into the wake. It was no fault of their own; they were going slow to adhere to the 5 mph speed limit before getting out to open waters. After that experience, I chose to go on Monday & Wednesdays which was fine by me. I want boaters to enjoy the lake. I can relate....I used to own a power boat. But to have no wakeless days, in my opinion, would be a big mistake. Based on the graph that Cathy presented which many missed, due to tardiness, it appears 50% of the users of the lake are paddlers; it appeared it may have been the same representation at the meeting last night.

2. One thing I'd hate to see is not allowing paddlers to use the boat ramp. The 2 areas (former Four Corners Rental site & the public beach) are very muddy. That may be fine for a paddle board but my experience from last year was I was sinking into the mud, it was hard to get into my kayak, and once I did I drug a lot of mud with me. Not a pleasant experience.

3. In closing, leaving the schedule as it was last year would be fine with me. On those 2 days the boat ramp is open to paddlers with someone managing the ramp to let those who still feel the need to occupy the ramp to move along. With this schedule, there's not many fishing boats (at least I haven't seen that many), it's better for the parking area as there are less boat trailers. Just less competition between the pro boaters and non boaters.

4. In the future, and I don't know if this is possible, to let those who want to attend to be on time. Beyond 30 minutes late, they aren't accepted by the Zoom administrator. I experienced a lot of redundant comments and if they had attended the meeting from the beginning, they would have heard Cathy explain a lot. Example: The northwest will not have an entrance due to Trappers Crossing association. Ones who arrived late, were making unnecessary comments in chat that didn't at all pertain to the goals you were trying to achieve.

Thank you,  
Linda Thompson  
Durango

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February 23, 2021

Hello,

I forgot to mention this during last night's meeting, but it would be helpful to have the current water temperature posted on a website. The staff are always good about providing this information by telephone, but it would be more efficient to have it easily accessible.

Pat Gerstenberger

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February 23, 2021

Primary Interest: Human-powered boating

Please add my comments to your collection of feedback on Lake Nighthorse. Although the main activity I do there is paddling a kayak, I also enjoy observing the plentiful bird life that shows itself each time.

It is no accident that the birds love the lake, too. In such an arid region, clean water in relatively peaceful, relatively undisturbed surroundings must be a welcomed haven.

Please do not increase any motorized uses allowed at Lake Nighthorse. There are many other places in the region where that kind of recreation is allowed. In contrast, hardly any lakes are for solely nonmotorized use,

and not a single one is large. As it is right now, there are only two no-wake days per week at Lake Nighthorse. I think it would be reasonable to add a third no-wake day.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Patricia Lee

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February 24, 2021

Good morning,

I participated in the Monday night meeting, in the Boating Fisherman group. I have additional comments. I am on the lake one two times a week.

I feel this meeting was held to try to fix something that is not broken. The lake has a great setup for all that use it. The true facts are the paddle boards and non motorized water crafts have a "private" area. This is the only exclusion on the lake. Now this group is wanting more exclusion in the form of additional wakeless days??? Lake Nighthorse needs to focus on including all that want to use the lake. No changes are needed.

The boat ramp funding was provided by boater fuel tax, motorized watercraft. An area with non-motorized watercraft is understandable and is a good thing. But additional restrictions on motorized crafts is not. Adding additional wakeless days is a motor craft restriction. No changes are needed.

There are several wakeless lakes within one hour of Durango. If individuals want no motor crafts they already have plenty of options. On Lake Nighthorse the wakeless users are not showing up on the existing wakeless days now. Financially how can more wakeless day be justified?

No changes are needed. The City of Durango has done a fine job setting up Lake Nighthorse for all water activities. The increase in public use proves this. This is becoming a destination and will continue to be a destination if no changes are made to the wakeless days.

Thank you,

Garry Gomez

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February 24, 2021

Hi!

Just letting you know that I regret I will be unable to participate in tonight's meeting.

However, just an observation from the discussion group I participated in on Monday...

the most vehement objection from the boater folks seems that they claimed to never be quite sure what days were wakeless.

My thought would be that one way to solve that, since most quiet (non-motorized) users prefer mornings when the wind is minimal, is to maybe have no full days that are wakeless, but have four days that are wakeless until noon. (And I'd prefer to see at least one of those half-days be on a Saturday or Sunday!)

That's my two-cents! Thanks for your efforts to listen to and accommodate everyone as best as is possible. That is very much appreciated!

Cheers,  
Joyce Thomsen Stransky  
(canoe paddler)

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February 24, 2021

Cathy,

I wanted first to thank you and the City of Durango Staff for their amazing work and commitment to the management of the Lake Nighthorse recreation area. I understand the city has challenges with allowing multi use activities at the lake but I have no doubt the city will continue to be very inclusive of all hobbyist no matter if they choose to paddle, boat, swim, fish or enjoy a great walk at the lake.

I would like to make a few comments on the public engagement meetings concerning the possibility of adding wakeless use time. I will say my main use at the lake includes the use of a motorized boat. My use is not only to explore the beautiful lake but to also fish, tube, paddleboard, swim, surf and enjoy an amazing time with multiple family and friends. It's very concerning to me that the group of folks whom currently have the most time access to the lake are now requesting that the city give them even more all-encompassing time. I have attached a spreadsheet outlining the "wake vs no wake" available time usage per the 2020 season schedule. As you can plainly see the no wake usage group has access to 100% of the lake 100% of the time the lake is open. In stark contrast the wakeless/boat group only has access to 62% of the lake (38% is currently wakeless) 63% of the days the lake is open. There is no doubt that the wake/boat group has already been greatly restricted to the usage of the lake. I implore you and your staff to keep this in mind when you make your final decisions following the public engagement meeting for usage this year. This decision to limit more will set a very negative precedent in the future concerning many other outdoor activities and diverse beliefs the community have. I was born and raised in Durango and I have seen this community grow and flourish with the great diversity of people whom choose call Durango home. Let's help to keep Durango open to everyone's hobbies, beliefs and interests and not side with one groups personal agenda. Two more quick items of concern. As I'm sure you are aware there is no doubt the 2020 usage numbers are very skewed given the fact every time I go to the lake there is at very least 6-8 people that come in a different car or two that are being classified incorrectly for usage of the lake. I would also appreciate to see additional oversight and enforcement of the boat ramp and the boat parking areas. I would like to again thank you and your staff for the great work managing the lake and look forward to the city making the best decision while being equally inclusive to the community as a whole.

Thank You,  
Logan Noonan

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February 24, 2021

Hi Joanne,

I participated in the entirety of the Monday meeting, and had hoped to do so again tonight, but a conflict is going to cause me to have to leave roughly 45-60 minutes in tonight and I may, or may not, be able to get back for the wrap-up.

If it's at all possible, do you think you could pass these comments along, for the record, to whoever is chairing the paddling break-out group to which I'll be assigned? If you can, at least I will have been able to share my thoughts after having some time to reflect on all the good discussion Monday.

My use of Lake Nighthorse is among what I perceive to be a very small number of hardcore 'workout paddlers' and I'm not sure that any of the policy/use changes under discussion are going to have much of an effect on my enjoyment of this great resource. I paddle a 15' "performance oriented" hard shell Hurricane kayak and, depending how much time I have, will generally cover a great deal of the lake or circumnavigate it staying barely offshore all the way around. Even though my boat is "tippy", it's manageable in even high wind, but when the wind is coming from one direction and powerboat wakes are coming from another, things do get a little sporty out there. So, I primarily paddle on Mondays and Wednesdays now to mitigate one of challenges of a thin/fast boat on a small lake. That's just me though, and after listening to all the other ways people use and enjoy the lake, I'm not going to lobby for anything that's of benefit to me personally. I do however think there are some things we could do to address the competing desires expressed by the different constituencies and perhaps better balance the enjoyment of all users.

So, my suggestions, for what they are worth, would be:

- 1) Extend the evening hours, as permitted by later sunset times, when access is allowed. The winds die down in the late afternoon/early evening so that time is valuable for pretty much all users, especially those who'd like to drop in after work.
- 2) Better mark the existing "no wake zones" with additional buoys so power boats have better visibility and can avoid getting too close to those perimeters (this applies primarily to the NW corner)
- 3) Connect the existing two wakeless zones with an additional zone running the entire north coastline so kayaks and paddleboards could have a "safe space" to get out to the northwest corner that has the majority of the water fowl activity
- 4) Eliminate "wakeless days" entirely, but dedicate some time(s) of the day solely for wakeless use. (And if suggestion #3 above was adopted, and the wakeless zones were expanded and connected, you could probably just open up the rest of the lake to power boating at any time and ignore this alternative.)
- 5) Construct a separate concrete launch for kayaks and SUP's; the latter get in the way of trailered power boats coming and going and the congestion at the existing launch creates a dangerous situation, especially when people, kids, and animals are milling around there
- 6) Add sand to the launch and swim areas; nobody likes sinking in mud getting in or out of the water

I hope to be able to rejoin the meeting after my other business concludes, but I'm not sure how long that will last. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute and will honestly be perfectly happy if very little changes, but I can see that some existing elements of the experience could be altered to great benefit for many other users.

Best regards,  
Scott Wilson

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February 24, 2021

Hello,

I had to leave early for another meeting on Wednesday. I left just prior to the breakout meeting. One observation: most of the comments surrounded having wakeless days and motor boaters feeling discriminated. I saw no comments asking to limit wakeless areas.

For me, safety is the number one priority. When paddleboarding, I do not feel safe around motor boats. Thus, I stick to the wakeless areas next to the shore line or the no boat area.

The second, is noise. I don't like motor boats engine noise and loud music. Thus, I like to get to the lake early (motor boaters don't get up early). No loud motor boats and the water is calmer.

While I do enjoy the wakeless days and the quiet--I can't use them because I work and those days are during the week. And, the lake does not stay open late enough for me to take advantage of the wakeless days.

My compromise - I'll give up the wakeless days, but please do not decrease the non-motor boat areas or wakeless areas.

And, I don't like crowds. So, when Haavland opens up, I'll probably spend more time there as well.

Thanks for putting together an opportunity for input.

And, can you stay open later in the evening?

Thanks,  
Marnie Clay

---

February 24, 2021

modular floating dock jetty pontoon cubes

Take a look at this example of a floating dock, from [alibaba.com](http://alibaba.com). These can be linked together in many configurations and have a low profile to the water to facilitate getting in and out of the water. They also flow with the motion of the water level, so they can absorb and move with surface waves.

Regards,  
Michael Taylor

---

February 24, 2021

Please please keep Lake Nighthorse accessible to all. Stop regulating enjoyment for the masses at the whim of the few. Thank you.  
Heather Harlan

---

February 24, 2021

I support all use for everyone, everyday at Lake Nighthorse. Everyone is equal and deserves equal opportunity in Qi utilizing the lake.

Thank you,  
Craig Butler

---

February 24, 2021

Hello. Please do not make further restrictions to motorboats on lake night horse. Let's keep this something we can all equally enjoy.

Branden Murray

---

February 24, 2021

There were some constructive outcomes in this evening's meeting. At least it did produce some good ideas for the management to work with. I also think the format lent itself well to listening and understanding different viewpoints and producing results.

There are still misunderstandings that get in the way however.

Time was wasted discussing ideas that should not have been brought up in the first place. It was clearly stated at the beginning that there will not be access at the W end, and that there will not be trails built around the lake, yet still these made it through to the final discussion.

There seems to be a lot of discussion among the motorized crowd that wakeless time prohibits them from being on the lake. They also continuously state that a motorized boat is a boat and nothing else qualifies. They continuously state that wakeless time is divisive and excludes them. None of that is true.

I thought good ideas that followed the parameters of the meeting and that produced good results included:

Installing floating docks

Granting more wakeless time and not designating it as wakeless days.

Considering a wakeless corridor that allows access all of the way to the W end.

Increasing safety, education and awareness on all levels Making visitors aware of the history of the Basin and its cultural significance.

And there were several others as well.

Yours,  
J. Wagner  
Rower

---

February 24, 2021

Please consider banning wake surfing

They need to create giant dangerous waves to surf An inspection of these wake surfing boats typically takes 45 minutes causing long lines for everyone else.

The big dangerous waves they create cause erosion of the new beach ,the entire shoreline ,and has caused more than a few capsized small craft Muddy waters along the entire shoreline results in very poor fishing ,swimming and a deadly aquatic habitat.....muddy water just doesn't look very inviting.

Water skiing and wake boarding do not create the big waves .....big difference Nighthorse is entirely too small for Wake surfing Buz. Branch Durango

Buz Branch

---

February 24, 2021

Thanks. Wanted to provide my feedback on more wakeless days. If we go more wakeless I will skip getting the pass and go to the other lakes around us. I hope we can just restrict it to two wakeless days and wakeless zones. Just my two cents. Thanks.

Have a Swenk Day!  
JASON SWENK

---

February 25, 2021

Hello Lake Night Horse usage plan,

Please do not change the rules and I support all users on the lake all the time. Boaters, paddleboards, kayaks, people, etc...

Please don't make it so we can't go on Lake Nighthorse it's the greatest and I've lived here since 1990

Thank you  
Nancy Nichols

---

February 25, 2021

**I support all users, all the time at Lake Nighthorse.** I feel it sets a dangerous precedence on user discrimination for all parks managed by the City of Durango.

Many thanks!  
Liz Olivier

---

February 25, 2021

<https://youtu.be/qY4OpMMzEyc>

Cathy,

Here is an example of a floating doc I think could work quite well for swimmers and folks launching smaller, non-powered, crafts. Is there contact information for Sean Willis, in order to send him this link, as well. He seemed open to ideas like this.

Regards,  
Michael Taylor

---

February 25, 2021

<https://youtu.be/Gn-GOKp9BSw>

Here is another video, showing the versatility and capability of this type of system. The video is, also, kind of relaxing to watch.

In my opinion, the advantage of this system is the surface of the floating doc is not too high above the surface of the water. This could be important to the users of paddle boards and other small craft. Transitioning from dock to craft can be challenging.

Regards,  
Michael Taylor

---

February 25, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Please don't change the usage for power boats at Nighthorse. Our family loves going up there and we are happy to share with ALL users, motor, paddle or swim.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Durango City Residents  
-The Hartleys.

---

February 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I was opposed to the Animas LaPlata Project, believing that there should never be a dam in any form, on one of Colorado's last remaining undammed rivers. As a college student I would sit in a tree stand during archery season, reading my homework while waiting for the magic hour when the animals would start to move hoping to get a shot at one of the many deer and elk that frequented Bodo Park. Later I used the open space to train my first bird dogs and look for shed antlers. I was extremely disappointed when the Animas Laplata Project was approved. Construction began and eventually the basin was flooded to create Lake Nighthorse.

Now, several years later I am married and have teenage children. Like most people our age living in or around Durango, my wife and I work nearly every day in the summer. On our days off we look forward to spending time as a family on Nighthorse in our ski boat. Usually in the morning, slalom skiing and wakeboarding. Our days off are not consistent, often falling on wakeless days. We are opposed to additional wakeless days as well as the wakeless days that currently exist. We buy our passes, pay city taxes on fuel and use local mechanics to service our boat. We have never had a conflict with other types of lake users and respect no wake zones. Yes, ski boats make noise and create wakes but we should not be excluded from using the lake 7 days a week simply because a segment of the population believe our form of recreation is not equal or as pleasing as their form of recreation.

We feel it would be a great benefit to all users if the hours were extended, dawn to dusk and a permanent hard bottom paddle board put in established. By extending the hours ALL of the users would have more time to enjoy the resource while possibly lessening the early morning impact paddle boarders and skiers alike seem to covet.

Thank you for considering my input,

Aaron Carithers

---

February 25, 2021

Dear Cathy,

Thank you for the zoom call last night. I was only able to attend the first half hour.

Our household buys 3 season passes to Lake Nighthorse each year for 2 paddleboards and 1 kayak.

I am sorry we did not receive or respond to the survey you sent earlier in the year.

My husband stayed on last night's call the entire time. When asked what he liked most about the lake, he responded, "the quiet". Another attendee immediately responded, that if he likes quiet, he should go somewhere else. My husband listened to the rest of the call quietly and made no further comment.

We work on weekdays and would appreciate a wakeless *morning* on the weekend. If that is not possible, we would like for wakeless Monday to remain wakeless on holidays. We would like to maintain at least two wakeless days a week.

We appreciate your consideration and understand you must do what is in the best interest for the majority.

Respectfully,  
Denise Lane

---

February 26, 2021

After attending the public meeting sessions (and using Lake Nighthorse 2-3 times a week during the last three years it has been open), I would like to make the following recommendations.

1. Since only 6% of the use is by motorized ski boaters, and 90% of their use is on Friday, Sat. and Sun., why not give the wakeless paddle board/ kayak crowd Mon-Thursday as "no wake" days. Having the existing "no wake" days on Monday and Wednesday is somewhat confusing, and it would be very simple to have three or four days in a row of "no wake" days, and then three or four days in a row that ski boaters can use the lake.
2. I owned a ski boat for 20 years and for waterskiing, you want calm water, which is best early in the morning or late in the evening. So when the "no wake" crowd says the ski boaters can have the time during the middle of the day, that does not really work for water skiing.
3. Seems like all users would like to see the lake open later in the day so that more calm water is available for all uses (paddlers, anglers, ski boaters, etc.).
4. Really need to put some sand along the beach area that is now a mud bog for everyone trying to get access to the lake. Kids playing at the water's edge are covered in mud (which they probably love!) and paddle boarders swimmers and kayakers have to scrape the mud off themselves when they get in and out of the lake.

The City Staff is doing a great job in being responsive to the changing needs at Lake Nighthorse. Some of these recommendations will require increased costs. I think you can raise the entrance fee to allow for increased costs for management.

Richard Speegle

---

February 26, 2021

Hi,

Thank you for taking public comment on the issue of a wakeless Lake Nighthorse. We were not able to attend either of the zoom meetings this week.

We are writing to let you know our views:

Raymond wants a completely wakeless Lake Nighthorse. It's better for fishing and for small motorless crafts. It seems from our experience that larger boats also have the additional negative of often playing loud music which is heard over a good portion of the lake and greatly takes away from the experience of being in a kayak or on a paddleboard.

Jane concurs with the music issue. However, I believe you may need to keep some days for motor boating. I would like to increase the number of wakeless days per week adding at least one weekend day and decrease the amount of motorized days. If you are able to add any further restrictions onto motor boats regarding noise and distance from non-motorized craft, that would be appreciated as well.

Thank you for your time listening to the community.

Raymond Evans and Jane Looney

---

February 26, 2021

One of the responsibilities of governments and their agencies is the regulation and safe management of the properties under their care. Durango's Park & Recreation Department has many balls in the air and Lake Nighthorse is a very large ball, with lots of diverse users and opinions. In Durango, motorized vehicles are prohibited from the Animas River Trail (*Class I pedal-assist and Class II throttle-assist e-bikes are allowed on City of Durango hard surface trails. No electric-assist motorized skateboards, scooters, onewheels, etc. allowed on City trails.*) At Lake Nighthorse public shoreline access is limited to 25 ft. above high water line and in developed areas; watercraft, pets and fishing not allowed in the swimming area; No Wake areas exist; and previously there were scheduled non-wake days.

My primary suggestions are to

(1) create a **separate launch area** for SUP/rowing/kayak/canoe (south of swim area) of a low profile floating pier and a smaller solid surface ramp helping to reduce traffic in the boat launch area.

(2) **slightly increase the No Wake Zone** along the north shore creating a corridor to the No Wake Zone in the west which would also buffer the swim area, and thus helping to reduce non-motorized users from the Open Use area at the lake's center.

Competing uses of wake creating and wakeless need separation by either distance or time. Excessive wind can be a challenge for all on-water users even sailors. The prevailing wind direction is from west to east which leaves the western end and southern shore as more desirable to non-sail users, both motorized and human powered. One of my breakout group members mentioned that while they can manage some wind on their SUP that it becomes much more challenging when there were large wakes from motorized craft coming from yet another direction. Even in the western No Wake Zone you can still feel wakes generated but motorized craft making their counter clockwise turn near the buoy line. That isn't particularly disruptive since the wake typically travel in the same east-west direction as the traffic in the west No Wake Zone.

There seem to be a number of recurring view-points expressed during each of the public forums 2011, 2018, 2020, 2021 concerning uses and their regulation. It doesn't appear that the ideal balance has yet been found.

Options:

Do nothing – without making progress to make the current situation better.

Change either the time or location where each of these two competing uses (wake creating and non-wake) are allowed; the west end is already a No Wake Zone and thus a desirable destination for SUP/rowing or other human powered craft but it is still about a mile and a half across the main part of the lake from the launching areas. At least some among the ski/wake surfing/wake board users suggested eliminate all wakeless time, while a number of the "quiet users" ask for at least another wakeless day or morning. During the February 22 meeting there seemed to be a vehemence and feeling of entitlement that a motor boating minority expressed. The feeling from that group was that there should be zero non-wake days. They seemed to see it as a zero-sum game, any gain for someone else is a loss for them. The mixed breakout groups on February 24 were more productive. Absence of regulation, favors motorized users (as on trails and the snowmobile

versus skier conflict in the backcountry) at least to a point where motorized use increases to become too dense. Realistically who would want as many ski/wake boats as there are parking spots [33] on the lake at the same time or it would be totally unusable even for them (conflicting wakes). Nighthorse is a good size lake but it isn't as large as Navajo (10 times as large) and 35 miles long or even McPhee (3 times as large).

I would like to point out three primary conflicts that I have noted.

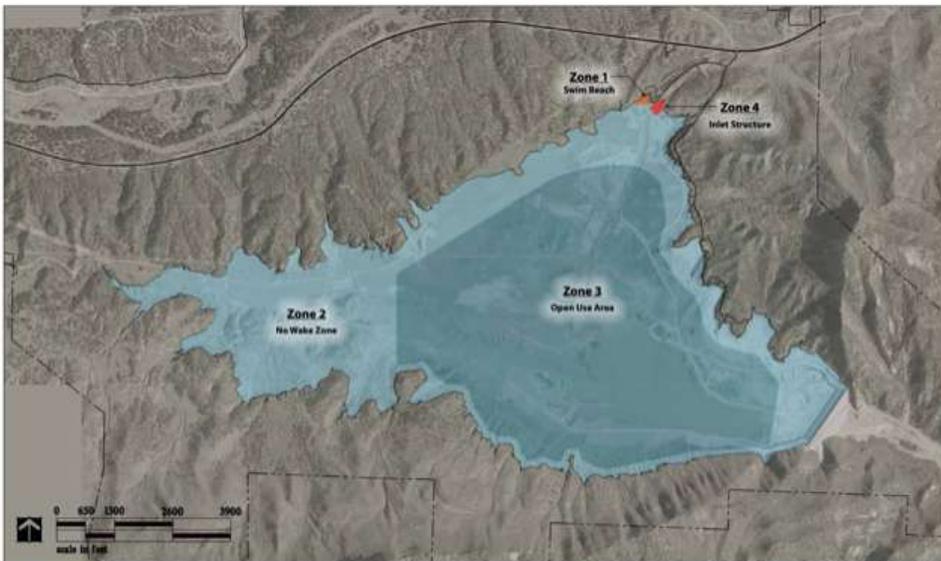
**Conflict 1: the need for calm water**

Water Ski/Wake Surfing/Wake boarding: users argue for no wakeless days, not to be excluded from calm conditions in the morning, not to be impeded by slower human-powered water craft in line of travel. They cannot operate without creating a wake.

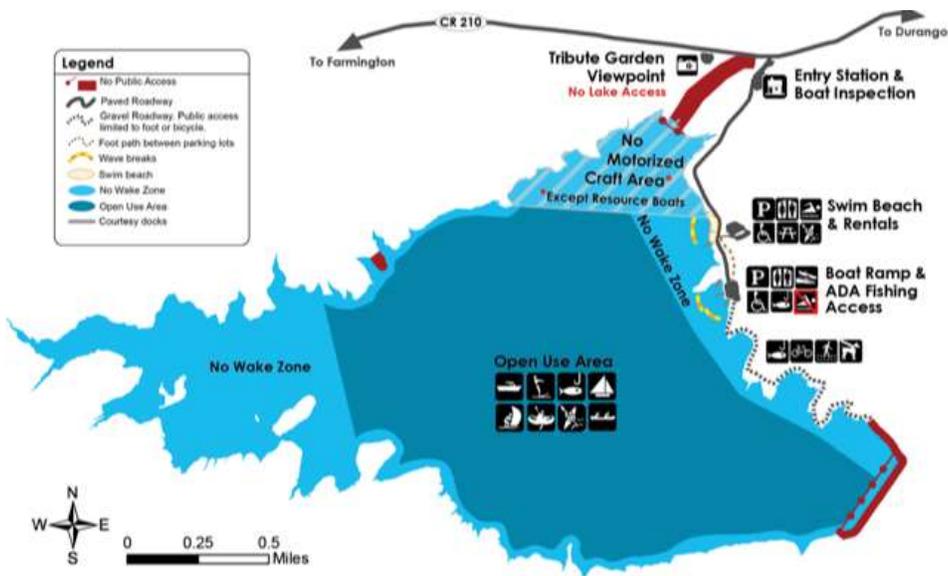
Paddlers (primarily SUP)/rowing: users argue for additional wakeless days (in the past, Monday and Wednesday) or for increased hours of wakeless. They can not operate in excessive wake.

Potential solution: While options about eliminating, adding to or even maintaining the current two days of wakeless seems to adversely effect one group or the other, perhaps a better option is creating a larger corridor from the launch area to the west No Wake Zone which would also buffer (wake and sound) the beach and shoreline. I personally think this might be the way forward that supports wake creating and quiet users.

*May 2011 Final Lake Nighthorse Master Plan (p. 16) shows the plan for No Wake and Open Use Zones*



There is a noticeable decrease in the No Wake Zone from that 2011 plan and the current 2021 map both along the north shore and the angle of the west No Wake boundary, and a small amount less of the Open Use Zone near the current swim area.



Although I had made a proposal to Park and Recreation staff in December 2020 of significantly enlarging the No Wake Zone (below in green), I would be satisfied with the smaller enlargement of the No Wake Zone to create a traffic corridor from the launch areas in the northeast to the west No Wake Zone similar to the 2011 plan (shown above).



**Conflict 2: parking in lot by boat ramp**

Motorized/trailer boats: other users taking up double length (33) spots with individual vehicles.

SUP/rowing/kayak/canoe/walkers/fishing on foot: not enough parking spots close to launch area and trailhead.

Potential solution: While parking is the limiting factor on the total number of cars that the park can accommodate, the paved lot near the boat ramp {33 vehicle&trailer spots (19 are pull through) and 25 single vehicle spots} is currently the most desirable for most users except those using the swim area and some paddlers because of the location of the only launch ramp and the trailhead. Non trailer users are making use of the double length spots thus limiting the parking of boat trailers, however would there typically be 33 trailered boats on the lake at a time? Having volunteers or staff on hand to monitor parking, doubling cars up in double length spots while still maintaing space for trailers (the 14 non-pull through

spots against the hill could be exclusively be for trailers – fill them first). That is still a challenge and would require management while a better solution would be to create a separate launch area to accommodate SUP/rowing/kayak/canoe.

In the southern/boat ramp area:

- 33 vehicle&trailer spots (19 are pull through)
- 25 single vehicle spots

Who parks there:

- Motorized/trailer boats
- Sail boat trailers
- ADA fishing
- Walkers
- Fishing on foot
- Rowing, SUP, kayak, canoe

Swim beach area:

- ~16 single vehicle spots
- ~ 7 handicap single vehicle spots
- Loading/unloading area

Who parks there:

- swim beach users
- SUP, kayak, canoe

Overflow parking: *{not sure about number of spots since unpaved and has no markings}*

Who parks there: any users that can't park closer to the beach

**Conflict 3: congestion at the boat ramp**

Motorized/trailer boats: other users slowing down launch and cluttering launch ramp.

SUP/rowing/kayak/canoe: not having an alternate suitable launch area close to parking.

Potential solution: provide a separate launch area for rowing/canoe/kayak/SUP with a low profile floating dock and a smaller concrete ramp. Certainly education of users and enforcement of current signage would decrease congestion in the boat ramp area.

Providing separate access for paddlers and rowers separate from the launch ramp and swimming areas to increase safety and congestion in both of those areas. A 10'x40' low profile floating pier has been suggested by the group of rowing users. Providing a separate floating dock and a smaller concrete ramp to stage and then launch canoes, kayaks, SUP and rowing shells from a reasonable loading/unloading area would hopefully reduce demand for parking near the current boat launch ramp.

**Other suggestions that would benefit all groups:**

- Extend daily hours.
- Increase presence of staff or volunteers to educate users especially in boat ramp parking area.

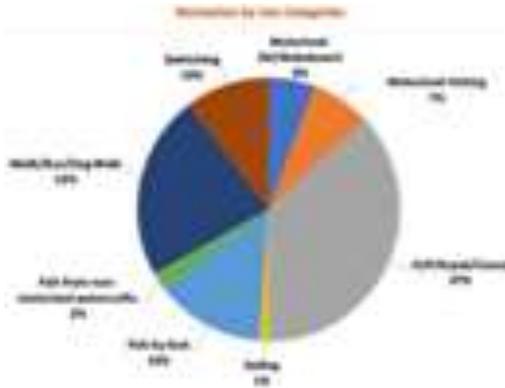
- The planned 2021 floating play structure at least delayed to fund a separate low profile floating dock and small concrete ramp for rowing and paddlers. Still go ahead with additional picnic tables.

--- Background information ---

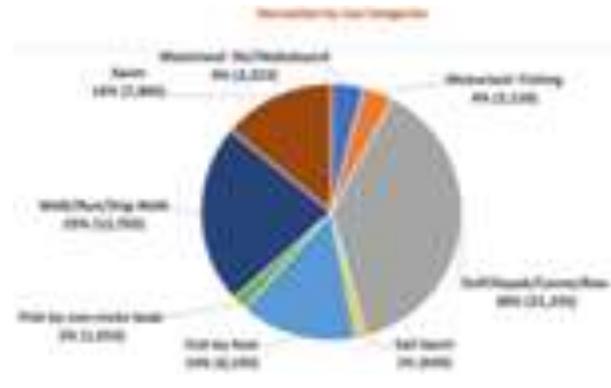
Potential type of use:

We know from the use pie charts that a majority of the users are quiet users and a small percentage are motorized users. {The user pie charts are based on visual estimates by the lake staff.} Even though it was stated that there was not going to be a “vote” by users or the number of users by type, it should be clear that there should be some additional accommodation for quiet users

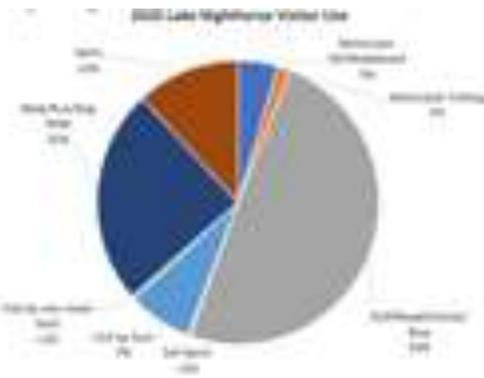
2018:



2019:



2020:



From the 2020 Durango Recreational Master Plan (p. 26, 30 and 194), Kayaking and Stand-Up-Paddling are trending up while Water Skiing and Wakeboarding are trending down over both one and five-year intervals, both at *casual* and *core* levels.

National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities						
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change		
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend	
Kayaking (Recreational)	8,716	10,533	11,017	26.4%	4.6%	
Canoeing	10,153	9,220	9,129	-10.1%	-1.0%	
Snorkeling	8,700	8,384	7,815	-10.2%	-6.8%	
Jet Skiing	6,413	5,418	5,324	-17.0%	-1.7%	
Sailing	3,915	3,974	3,754	-4.1%	-5.5%	
Stand-Up Paddling	1,993	3,325	3,453	73.3%	3.8%	
Rafting	3,836	3,479	3,404	-11.3%	-2.2%	
Water Skiing	4,202	3,572	3,363	-20.0%	-5.9%	
Surfing	3,658	2,680	2,874	-21.4%	7.2%	
Scuba Diving	3,174	2,874	2,849	-10.2%	-0.9%	
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,694	2,955	2,805	4.1%	-5.1%	
Wakeboarding	3,316	3,005	2,796	-15.7%	-7.0%	
Kayaking (White Water)	2,146	2,500	2,562	19.4%	2.5%	
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,324	1,573	1,556	17.5%	-1.1%	

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

**Legend:** Large Increase (more than 20%) Moderate Increase (5% to 20%) Moderate Decrease (5% to -25%) Large Decrease (less than -25%)

Figure 15: Water Sports / Activities Participatory Trends

(p. 30)

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY MARKET POTENTIAL

Local Participatory Trends - Outdoor Activity				
Activity	Estimated Participants	% of Population		MSP
		Change	15A	
Boating (Inlet)	3,071	18.8%	10.7%	181
Hiking	2,778	17.2%	10.8%	166
Canoeing/kayaking	3,728	20.7%	5.8%	180
Fishing (fresh water)	2,620	16.2%	12.0%	94
Recycling (involuntary)	1,929	6.3%	4.1%	159
Backpacking	973	6.0%	4.2%	188
Mounting (involuntary)	761	4.7%	3.0%	94
Fishing (salt water)	541	3.8%	4.7%	81
Motorboat riding	898	5.5%	2.8%	127

Figure 16: Outdoor Activity MSP

WATER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities									
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change		
	2013		2017		2018		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend	
#	%	#	%	#	%				
Canoeing	10,153	100%	9,220	100%	9,129	100%	-10.1%	-1.0%	
Kayaking (Recreational)	8,716	100%	10,533	100%	11,017	100%	26.4%	4.6%	
Snorkeling	8,700	100%	8,384	100%	7,815	100%	-10.2%	-6.8%	
Jet Skiing	Casual (1-7 times)	6,893	79%	6,721	80%	6,321	81%	-8.3%	-6.0%
	Core(8+ times)	1,807	21%	1,663	20%	1,493	19%	-17.4%	-10.2%
Sailing	Casual (1-7 times)	4,407	69%	3,928	72%	3,900	73%	-11.5%	-0.7%
	Core(8+ times)	2,006	31%	1,490	28%	1,425	27%	-29.0%	-4.4%
Water Skiing	Casual (1-7 times)	2,682	69%	2,720	68%	2,596	69%	-3.2%	-4.6%
	Core(8+ times)	1,233	31%	1,254	32%	1,159	31%	-6.0%	-7.6%
Rafting	Casual (1-7 times)	3,069	73%	2,575	72%	2,499	74%	-18.6%	-3.0%
	Core(8+ times)	1,133	27%	997	28%	863	26%	-23.8%	-13.4%
Stand-Up Paddling	Casual (1-7 times)	1,629	61%	1,705	64%	1,971	69%	21.0%	15.6%
	Core(8+ times)	1,029	39%	975	36%	904	31%	-12.1%	-7.3%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	Casual (1-7 times)	2,306	70%	2,301	70%	1,900	68%	-17.6%	-9.6%
	Core(8+ times)	1,010	30%	903	30%	896	32%	-11.3%	-0.8%
Surfing	Casual (1-7 times)	1,629	61%	1,705	64%	1,971	69%	21.0%	15.6%
	Core(8+ times)	1,029	39%	975	36%	904	31%	-12.1%	-7.3%
Kayaking (White Water)	Casual (1-7 times)	2,146	100%	2,500	100%	2,562	100%	19.4%	2.5%
	Core(8+ times)	1,324	100%	1,573	100%	1,556	100%	17.5%	-1.1%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	Casual (1-7 times)	10,960	828%	1,289	82%	1,245	80%	-8.0%	-4.4%
	Core(8+ times)	234	1788%	284	18%	310	20%	32.5%	9.2%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

**Participation Growth/Dedline:** Large Increase (more than 20%) Moderate Increase (5% to 20%) Moderate Decrease (5% to -25%) Large Decrease (less than -25%)

**Core vs Casual Distribution:** Heavy Core Participants (more than 75%) More Core Participants (50-75%) Evenly Divided (40-60% Core and Casual) More Casual Participants (30-45%) Heavy Casual Participants (more than 75%)

Noise:

*Conceptual Recreation Plan Oct 2014* (p. 10) states that:

All motor boats would be required to be equipped with mufflers that maintain sound levels below 86 decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA) at 50 feet from the boat and below 55 dBA in

neighboring residential areas.

From the *May 2011 Final Lake Nighthorse Master Plan* there was an exploration done with one and ten motorboats showing the estimated noise level in decibels. One would certainly wonder what that level would be if there were actually 33 motorboats (total number of vehicle/trailer parking spots) active on the lake at the same time.

LAKE NIGHTHORSE RESERVOIR  
WATERCRAFT NOISE ANALYSIS AND CONTOURS  
HAWKARD ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Figure 1 - Lake Nighthorse - One Boat - Predicted Noise Level Contours (dBA)

LAKE NIGHTHORSE RESERVOIR  
WATERCRAFT NOISE ANALYSIS AND CONTOURS  
HAWKARD ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Figure 2 - Lake Nighthorse - Ten Boats - Predicted Noise Level Contours (dBA)

Guy Weaser

February 26, 2021

Rec Department,

After attending both meetings It seems that there is not wakeless issue to be addressed, and definitely not another wakeless day to further segregate and divide the users. My biggest takeaway is to keep things the same and extending the hours would appeal to some users and more safety enforcement wanted by all. I want to say the staff at the lake has always done a good job and listens when I bring up concerns.

Thank you, Chris Anderson

---

February 27, 2021

Parks and Recreation Department,

I would like to point out that the exclusionary wakeless day policy currently in place at LNH is not consistent with the City's typical management plans for recreational resources. Take, for instance, trail usage in city open spaces. The City has been strictly against any type of segregated use on the trails. All trails are open to all users all the time even though there is plenty of user conflict and several different user groups advocate regularly for segregation of the trails; bike only, hike only, up only, down only. I believe the City takes the opinion that these trails are a special and scarce resource and thus it would be unfair to limit their use to any one special interest. If we could have unlimited trails it would be much more likely that the City would consider some special use trails. I think LNH should also be considered a special and scarce resource. Our community is so lucky to have access to this great reservoir within 10 minutes of town and additionally lucky that the Parks and Rec department has agreed to manage it as a recreational resource. LNH is truly a one of a kind resource and limiting one group's access for the benefit of another group seems very out of character for Durango Parks and Rec. If there was any reason other than the desire of a special interest to limit use I could see the argument. But, since motors and wakes are completely in line with the overall LNH use plan it seems that the City is taking a new and, in my opinion, precedent setting stance to prioritize one user group over another. If this becomes the City's stance I think you can expect the special interests related to other City managed recreational resources to be knocking on the door in the near future asking for similar special treatment. My understanding is that there was overwhelming agreement that the LNH experience was a good one. I am not sure why this issue needed to be brought up and debated in a public forum. No that it has; the genie is out of the bottle and it may be hard to put back in.

Respectfully,  
Ted Compton

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February 28, 2021

I paddle board and canoe on the lake

I would like to see a covered shelter adjacent to the parking lot at the lake, hopefully with a view of the lake. This would allow some disabled and elderly relatives some shade while family enjoys the lake. Users could also socially distance while picnicking and gathering in family groups.

Thanks  
Sue Weber