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

The Result

• Executed Lease Agreement between City of Durango and Bureau of Reclamation
• Annexation into Durango City limits

Action Taken

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

**Action Taken**

- Robust Public Process
- Community-Generated Design Ideas
- ALPOM&R Association consultation
- Grant preparation to secure funds
- Bureau of Reclamation 2016 Environmental Assessment

**The Result**

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

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**Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area**

- No Wake Zone
- Open Use Area
- No Wake
- Overflow Parking Lot
- Boat Ramp and Parking Lot

**Legend**

- No Wake Boundary Line
- Closed Area Line
- No Shore Access

Public shoreline access is limited to 25 ft. above high water line around the perimeter of the Lake with the exception of the marked no public shoreline access areas.
Community Interest: **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)**

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### Action Taken

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

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### The Result

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

**Action Taken**

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

**The Result**

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

**Action Taken**

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

**The Result**

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

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

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

**Action Taken**

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

**The Result**

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

**The Result**

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

**Action Taken**

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