

## **Open House Report for the Resource Management Plan & Environmental Assessment for Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal & Common Point**

Town Hall, Room 202 & 203, Estes Park  
August 28, 2007 4 –8 PM

The following information was displayed at an open house that was held to discuss issues and opportunities related to the management of Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal and Common Point. Approximately 50 people attended the open house and contributed their ideas and opinions. Comments that participants added have been indicated in parenthesis. Participants were asked to place a green or red sticker next to previously identified issues, opportunities or guiding statements. A green sticker meant the item is important to them and they agree with it. A red sticker meant the item is important to them and they disagree with it. The number of stickers that were placed next to each item is indicated in this report by the number shown in parenthesis. While this was not meant to be voting process, it does show which items are important to participants and how many people at the meeting had an opinion about that item. Not all attendees choose to participate in placing stickers. Some new issues and opportunities were identified and are indicated with a note.

The comments and suggestions provided by the public will be considered by the entire planning team before developing proposed actions. *Note: Some comments in this report come directly from attendees and are not necessarily the opinion of the Planning Team.* More information about the project can be found on the public website at: <http://www.estesvalleyrecreation.com/RMP.htm>

You can provide additional comment by emailing it to: [klamb@gp.usbr.gov](mailto:klamb@gp.usbr.gov) or Fax: (970) 663-3212, or mailing it to: Kara Lamb, Bureau of Reclamation, 11056 W. County Road 18E, Loveland, CO 80537. If you have questions, contact: Dale Stapleton, EVRPD Administrative Assistant at (970) 586-8191.

## **Open House Exhibits were Organized in these Stations**

### ***Station 1 - Sign-in and Welcome Table***

### ***Station 2 - Orientation Displays***

#### ***Project Process and Schedule***

1. Purpose and Need Statements
2. List of Participating Organizations: Planning Team, Work Group, Stakeholders
3. Description of EVRPD
4. Map of EVRPD and Other Public Lands in Estes Valley

5. Description of Reclamation
6. Major Accomplishments Since the 1996 RMP was Adopted
7. Guiding Statements – Park Purpose & Significance
8. Guiding Statements – Park Planning Constraints
9. Guiding Statements – Desired Visitor Experience
10. Guiding Statements – Desired Resource & Management Conditions

### ***Station 3 to 6 - Displays and Maps of Each Park/ Property***

11. Lake Estes Overview - General Statistics, Photographs and Information about each use site
12. Lake Estes List of Issues and Opportunities
13. Lake Estes Map – aerial base
14. Marys Lake Overview, Photographs and Information about each use site
15. Marys Lake s List of Issues and Opportunities
16. Marys Lake Map – aerial base
17. Marys Lake Campground Overview, Photographs and Information about each use site
18. Marys Lake Campground List of Issues and Opportunities
19. Marys Lake Campground Map – aerial base
20. East Portal Overview, Photographs and Information about each use site
21. East Portal List of Issues and Opportunities
22. East Portal Map – aerial base
23. Estes Park Campground List of Issues and Opportunities
24. Estes Park Campground Map – aerial base
25. Common Point Overview - General Statistics, Photographs and Information
26. Common Point List of Issues and Opportunities
27. Common Point Map – aerial base

### **Plan Participants**

- Planning Team
  - Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD)
  - Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
  - EDAW (consultant)
- Work Group
  - Larimer County Parks and Open Lands
  - EVRPD Trails Committee
  - Town of Estes Park
  - Estes Valley Community Development
  - Rocky Mountain National Park
  - US Forest Service
  - Colorado Division of Wildlife
  - Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau
  - Chamber of Commerce
- Stakeholders

- Government Agencies
- Community Organizations
- Park Visitors
- Concessionaires
- Park Neighbors
- And You!

## **Estes Valley Recreation and Park District Overview**

Estes Valley Recreation and Park District's mission is to provide, manage, direct, and organize leisure programs and opportunities for residents of the District and visitors to the community. Programs are to be implemented to meet a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including both active and passive leisure experiences. Programming opportunities shall be made available to all age groups with diversity in programming. Activities and programs shall be made available within the financial limitations and scope of the District.

### ***Programs***

- Aquatic Center and Programs
- Youth Center and Programs
- Adult Recreation Programs
- Classes (dance, dog training, nature)
- Special Recreation Events
- Trips to Denver, Ski Hills and Other Destinations
- Open Gym at the Middle School

### ***Parks/Golf Courses***

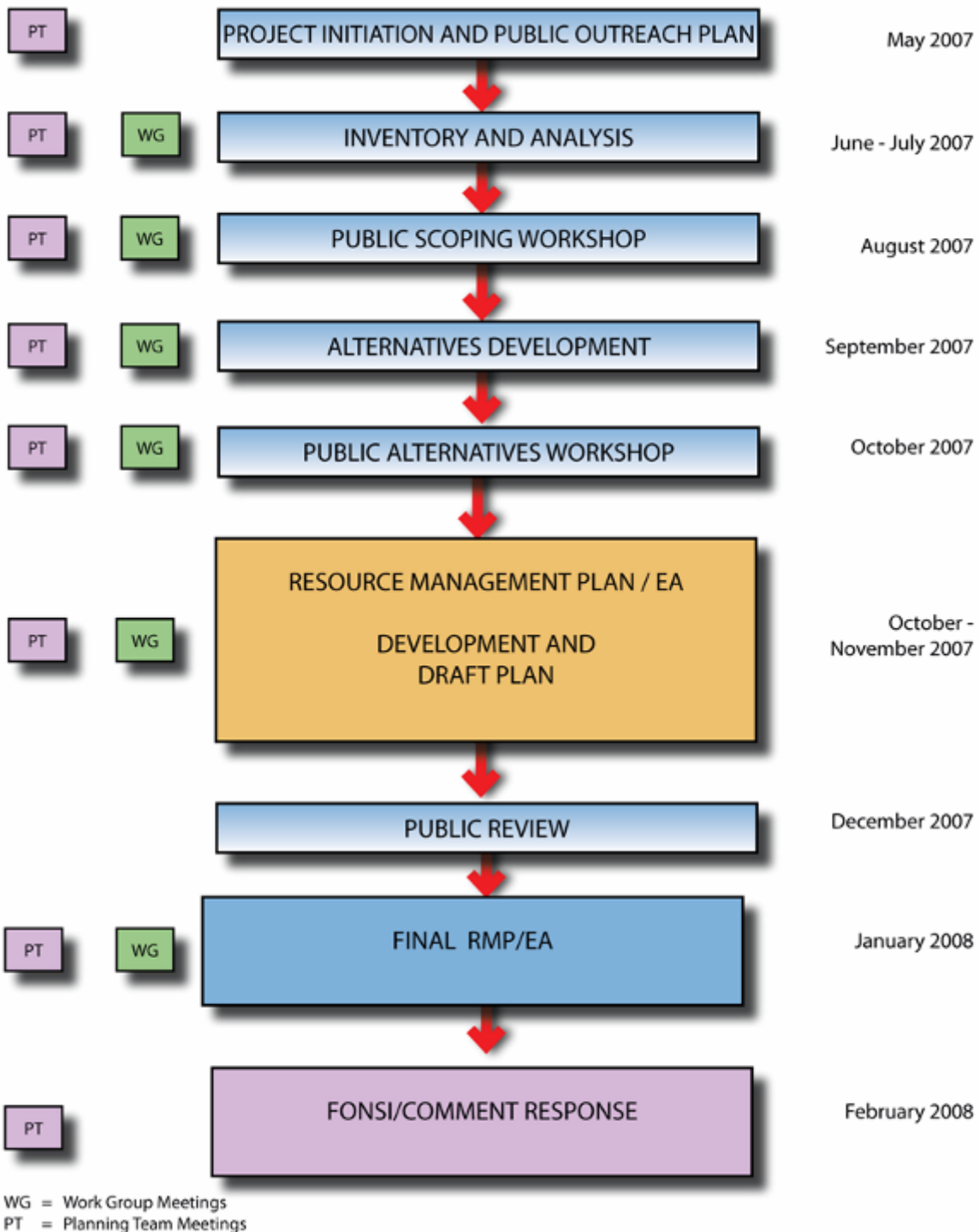
- Stanley Park
- 18-Hole Golf Course
- Reclamation Properties Managed by EVRPD:
  - 9-Hole Golf Course at Lake Estes
  - Lake Estes and Marina
  - East Portal and Estes Park Campground
  - Marys Lake and Marys Lake Campground
  - Outdoor Shooting Range at Common Point

## **Bureau of Reclamation Overview**

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

- Reclamation is a water and power provider
- Reclamation operates in 17 western states
- Reclamation owns Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal & Common Point, which are part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project

## Process and Schedule



## Relevant Recreation Trends

- Estimates show a 50–100% increase in demand for water-based recreation opportunities over the next 20 years.
- Recreationalists are participating in multiple activities during their leisure time and staying at their destination longer.
- Outdoor activities projected to grow the fastest in Colorado are: 1) visiting historical places, 2) wildlife viewing, 3) sightseeing, and 4) biking.
- “Wildlife viewing” is an activity that has seen the greatest increase in participation over the last 10 years for visitors to Estes Park.
- Camping reservations at Colorado State Parks have increased 500% in the past 15 years.
- As land values continue to increase in Colorado, campgrounds are being purchased for development.
- Small camper cabins are increasingly common in campgrounds due to the comfort they provide to people who do not have RVs.
- Colorado residents most often participated in trail and driving activities, viewing/learning activities, and social pastimes (SCORP, 2003)
- A Colorado State Park survey showed people would use parks more often if there were smaller crowds, better quality facilities, more trails, and a greater range of recreational opportunities.

## **Major Improvements to the Parks since the 1996 RMP was Prepared**

- Marina Area Picnic Shelters – 1998
- Handicap Fishing Pier at Fisherman's Nook Built – 1998
- Lake Estes Trail Completed – 1999
- Picnic Shelters at Cherokee Draw – 2000
- Lake Estes Marina & Store Opened – 2001
- New Restrooms Built at Marina – 2002
- Artificial Wetland Creation at Wapiti Meadows – 2002
- Fisherman's Nook Parking Lot - 2002
- Lake Estes Underpass to Stanley Park by Town - 2003
- Fisherman's Nook Picnic Shelter – 2006
- Lake Estes Golf/Admin Building Renovation – 2006
- Group Pavilion at Lake Estes Marina Completed - 2007

## **Purpose and Need**

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of this Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) is to provide formal program and policy guidelines, enabling the orderly use, development, enhancement and management of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) properties in Estes Valley. The RMP/EA will promote

the following Reclamation and Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD) management goals:

- Provide appropriate opportunities for recreation in a natural setting while balancing natural resource considerations and accounting for future recreation demand (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Manage and protect water quality and related natural and cultural resources in an environmentally sound manner (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Partner and coordinate with other programs and agencies to manage park resources and provide complimentary recreational opportunities in the area (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Promote active outreach efforts that celebrate park resources (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Manage park resources in an economically sustainable manner (2 agree, 0 disagree)

### ***Need***

The current RMP and EA were completed in 1996 and were intended to provide management direction until 2006. This integrated RMP/EA will replace the 1996 documents and will establish a 10-year plan detailing the management framework for the conservation, protection, development, and enhancement of the properties.

## **Draft Guiding Statements**

### ***Park Purpose Statements Help Us Understand the Parks were Established***

- Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal and Common Point were purchased as part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project to provide water for irrigation as well as to generate electricity. The 1992 Bureau of Reclamation Recreation Management Act authorizes the use of the properties for recreation purposes.
- A management agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (through 2032) authorizes the District to manage the properties for recreation purposes. (2 agree, 0 disagree)

### ***Park Significance Statements Help Us Understand why the Parks are Unique and Interesting***

**Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal and Common Point share these qualities:**

- Have interesting reservoirs and/or infrastructure from the 1940s that was created as part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project.
- Add to the scenic quality and character of Estes Valley. (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide a very good opportunity to view Rocky Mountain wildlife close to the Town of Estes Park. (2 agree, 0 disagree)

- Provide the only open water boating and fishing opportunities in the Estes Valley.
- Provide recreation opportunities in a natural setting adjacent to the Town of Estes Park. (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Have state-significant bird habitat around Lake Estes. (7 agree, 0 disagree)
- Make an important contribution to the visitor experience and therefore the economy of Estes Valley. (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Common Point provides a shooting range experience in a natural setting close to Estes Valley.

### ***Planning Constraints***

- Bureau of Reclamation requires NEPA compliance for Federal land management actions
- Dam and facility security is required (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Changing water levels at reservoirs
- No net loss of water storage is allowed (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Federal land must provide equal public access (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Seasonal closures for wildlife (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Easements/ Permits
  - Dannels Fire Station
  - Upper Thompson Sanitation District
  - Marys Lake Water Treatment Plant (city) (1 agree, 0 disagree)
  - Utility and road (1 agree, 0 disagree)
  - Other easements or permits (1 agree, 0 disagree)

### ***Desired Visitor Experiences***

#### **Recreation**

- Provide both highly social and somewhat private camping experiences, including multi-use and tent campsites
- Opportunities for no-wake boating and paddling (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Picnicking in scenic locations (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Trail use in the parks with connections to regional trails (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide a setting for family and other group gatherings (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- A shooting range experience in a natural setting
- Shoreline and stream fishing opportunities close to Estes Park (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- A unique golfing experience in a beautiful setting with the sights and sounds of wildlife (3 agree, 0 disagree)

#### **Interpretation**

- Tell the story of water in Colorado and local history (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Describe the migration and habitat of birds in the Estes Valley (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Describe the wildlife and habitats found in the parks (3 agree, 0 disagree)

- Take advantage of key views to describe Estes Valley geography (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide information about regional conservation lands and trails
- More education information about the Colorado Big Thompson (CBT) project throughout the facilities (comment added at open house)
- Describe “Leave No Trace” principles as well as how to recreate safely out-of-doors (comment added at open house)

### Desired Resource Conditions

- *Water Quality:* Maintain water quality suitable for water supply and healthy fish populations (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- *Wildlife:* Protect habitat and manage for healthy wildlife populations (6 agree, 0 disagree)
- *Vegetation:* Protect habitat and manage for healthy populations of native vegetation while controlling exotic vegetation and limiting Pine Bark Beetle infestation and fire risk (7 agree, 0 disagree)
- *Level of Development:* The majority of the park areas will remain natural, with trails and a few highly developed areas (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- *Cultural resources* will be protected to ensure their preservation

### Desired Management Conditions

#### Park Staff Presence

- High at marina and campgrounds
- Low/moderate at day use areas, golf course, and shooting range
- Low for fishing and hunting
- Ensure the security of infrastructure

#### Level of Maintenance

- Pack it out approach where practical
- Keep high use areas clean and remove trash regularly (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Very high at campgrounds, marina, golf course (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Moderate for roads

#### Security, Safety & Access

- Emphasis on water safety at the marina
- Educate/supervise people about elk safety
- More information in high risk areas (Marys Lake, East Portal reservoirs) (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Ensure equal access to recreation facilities through Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Protect against the risk of downstream flooding
- 

## Lake Estes Overview

### Size:

Land: 143 acres

Water: 152 acres

Total: 295 acres

### ***Primary Public Use***

Trail use, fishing, picnicking, group gatherings, boating, paddling, bicycling & wildlife viewing

### ***Trails***

*3.75 miles of multiuse paved trail*

### ***Sensitive Resources***

*Bird habitat, wetlands, riparian areas*

### ***Developed Areas***

#### **Marina Day Use Area**

- Trail access
- Marina store
- Boat slip rentals
- Boat and bike rentals
- Boat ramp
- Picnic area with restroom
- Group pavilion
- Wading beach

#### **Wapiti Meadows Day Use Area**

- Trail access
- Restroom
- Picnic shelters

#### **Cherokee Draw Day Use Area**

- Trail access
- Restroom
- Picnic shelters

#### **Fisherman's Nook Day Use Area**

- Trail access
- Restroom (at Golf Course)
- Picnic shelters
- Fishing pier

#### **9-Hole Golf Course**

- Club House and EVRPD Office
- Restroom

## Lake Estes Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

### ***Issues***

- Some facilities need to be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheelchair accessibility) (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Riparian bird habitat is threatened from overgrazing by elk (6 agree, 0 disagree)
- Park visitors are at risk from elk attacks during calving and rut periods (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Some commercial fishing guides do not pay concession fees
- Portions of the river going through the 9-hole golf course have to be closed to fishing due to the risk of fisherman being hit by golf balls
- Review speed limit for bicycles on the trail
- Remove some silt from Lake Estes, but keep some shallow areas for shore birds (6 agree, 0 disagree)
- Others?

### ***Opportunities***

- Expand and improve fishing (1 agree, 1 disagree)
- Expand swimming (4 agree, 1 disagree)
- Expand group facilities (0 agree, 1 disagree)
- Dredge under the marina docks
- Manage Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary to protect birds and their habitat (11 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide interpretation (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Install osprey nesting boxes (comment added at open house)
- Improve sand quality, beach delineation, and warm up the water ☺ (comment added at open house)
- Provide more year-round opportunities for family recreation (comment added at open house)
- The next time that they dredge the fill at the inlet of the Big Thompson, could they leave a significant pile of sand/silt in the area which becomes an island at low lake levels? This has been a nice stopping point for migrating shorebirds. It would be nice if there could be a permanent island for the shorebirds. No trespassing signs could be put up on the island to keep people from disturbing the birds. (comment added at open house. 1 agree, 0 disagree)

## Marys Lake Overview

### **Size**

Land: 93 acres

Water: 40 acres

Total: 133 acres

### **Primary Public Use**

Fishing, walking, picnicking, bouldering/climbing, wildlife viewing & seasonal bow hunting

### **Sensitive Resources**

Wetlands, riparian areas

### **Developed Areas**

- West Side
  - 15 parking spaces
  - Vault toilet
- Central Day
  - 10 parking spaces
  - several picnic tables
  - Vault toilet
- South Side
  - 10 parking spaces
  -

## Marys Lake Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

### **Issues**

- Some facilities need to be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheelchair accessibility) (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Under-developed day use areas (2 agree, 1 disagree)
- Soil erosion in the day use areas
- Continue to provide information about bow hunting periods (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Pine beetle forest damage (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Fencing needs to be repaired without impacting wildlife (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Day use is occurring in the rocky area and may be impacting vegetation, wildlife and private property (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- At times, trash accumulates
- Risk of drowning due to undercurrents in the reservoir (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Bears and mountain lions in area (comment added at open house)
- The Shuttle is going to Marys Lake, which has increased the day use potential - sic. (comment added at open house)

## ***Opportunities***

- Expand and improve fishing
- Expand group facilities (0 agree, 3 disagree)
- Proposed trail to Prospect Mountain, Highway 7 and around the Lake (10 agree, 0 disagree)
- Formalize a day use area for bouldering/climbing at Marys Lake (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- Expand interpretation (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Install non-barb type fencing (3 agree, 1 disagree)
- Add more toilets and trash cans (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Discourage public use above (west) of water treatment plant, west of area where tunnel goes underground, and west of an imaginary line between these two locations (comment added at open house)
- Provide more year-round opportunities for family recreation (comment added at open house)

## **Marys Lake Campground Overview**

### ***Size***

Land: 93 acres

Water: 40 acres

Total: 133 acres

### ***Primary Public Use***

Fishing, walking, picnicking, bouldering/climbing, wildlife viewing & seasonal bow hunting

### ***Sensitive Resources***

Wetlands, riparian areas

### ***Developed Areas***

- West Side
  - 15 parking spaces
  - Vault toilet
- Central Day
  - 10 parking spaces
  - several picnic tables
  - Vault toilet
- South Side
  - 10 parking spaces
  -

## Marys Lake Campground Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

### *Issues*

- Some facilities need to be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheelchair accessibility) (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Potential wildfire risk from the campground (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Campsites are too close to private property (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Campsites are visible from neighbor's homes (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Noise from campgrounds, especially during wildlife programs and July 4th band (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Light pollution (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Trash blows from campground into neighboring yards (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Smoke from campfires blows into neighboring houses (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Some trespassing on private land (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Campers use the campground boundary fence as a clothesline, which is unsightly (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Is the campground too crowded? (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Rainwater drains from the campground onto private property (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- RVs should only be allowed on the western edge of the campground (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Noise is an issue every day from about 6 pm till midnight (comment added at open house. 2 agree, 0 disagree)

### *Opportunities*

- Enhance RV camping by providing more full service sites, larger sites, pavement, more landscaping, and pull-through spaces (2 agree, 5 disagree)
- Retain & enhance tent camping area by providing larger sites, reducing the number of sites, electricity to all sites, and better water access in tent area (1 agree, 4 disagree)
- Improve vehicle circulation within the campground and to Peak View Drive (2 agree, 3 disagree)
- Pave roads to improve visitor experience; reduce erosion & dust (4 agree, 3 disagree)
- Keep the campground rustic and fees modest (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide group RV and camping sites (1 agree, 4 disagree)
- Provide multipurpose facility room / covered pavilion with cooking area for groups (1 agree, 3 disagree)
- Provide a larger swimming pool (0 agree, 5 disagree)
- Larger office and store (0 agree, 4 disagree)
- Upgrade bathhouses (3 agree, 1 disagree)
- Expand interpretive programs (2 agree, 1 disagree)
- Install fire rings designed to contain the fire (4 agree, 1 disagree)
- Replace fences with a non-barb type fencing (2 agree, 2 disagree)

- Include in this plan a campground evacuation plan approved by the fire department (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Store flammable liquids and gases in a fire-safe storage container / area (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide a vegetative screen between campsites and neighbors (6 agree, 0 disagree)
- Install down lighting (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Create setback from private property (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- Create 100 foot setback from private property, 100 feet (comment added at open house. 4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Why not eliminate campfires? Only grills – gas grills (comment added at open house)
- Can't we limit the size of fires? Design small grates/pits? (comment added at open house)
- If there must be campfires, please limit size (height). Also, please supervise campfires. (comment added at open house)
- Prohibit overnight dispersed camping and fire outside of fire rings (comment added at open house)
- Noise abatement! (comment added at open house)
- Recommendation: No renewal of campground after present lease (comment added at open house)
- Recommendation: Day-use only (comment added at open house)
- We appreciate and support Marys Lake and EP Campgrounds. Camping opportunities are important to Estes! (comment added at open house)
- Maybe limit type of wood for less smoke. Something like this is done at Yellowstone? (comment added at open house)

## East Portal & Estes Park Campground Overview

### **Size**

Land: 69 acres  
Water: 2 acres  
Total: 71 acres

### **Primary Public Use**

Camping, trail use, fishing, picnicking, wildlife viewing & seasonal bow hunting

### **Trails**

0.6 miles of trail connecting to Rocky Mountain National Park

### **Sensitive Resources**

Wetlands, riparian areas

## ***Developed Areas***

### **Estes Park Campground**

- Established in the 1960's
- 39 tent campsites
- 36 small RV/ tent campsites
- 2 shower houses
- 1 store
- 1 playground

### **Day Use Area**

- Picnic site
- 10 parking spaces

## **East Portal Preliminary Issues and Opportunities**

### ***Issues***

- Mountain pine beetle forest damage (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- The day use area needs to be upgraded (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Fencing needs to be repaired without impacting wildlife
- Continue to provide information about bow hunting periods (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- The fishing area needs to be better defined
- Weeds are growing in the area (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Forestry management is needed (2 agree, 1 disagree)
- Risk of drowning due to undercurrents in the reservoir
- Social trails that lead to vegetation loss (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Better define the open and closed areas (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Prevent trash at the day use areas (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Social trails lead to vegetation loss and trespassing
- No chemical spraying, please (comment added at open house. 2 agree, 0 disagree)

### ***Opportunities***

- Expand and improve fishing (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Improve trail to Rocky Mountain National Park and rehabilitate social trails (7 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide a toilet at the day use area (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide a bear-proof trash container or clearly sign if it is pack-in/pack-out (5 agree, 0 disagree)
- Install non-barb type fencing (1 agree, 3 disagree)
- Provide more signs about drowning risks (2 agree, 1 disagree)
- Why do you need a fence at East Portal? (comment added at open house)

- Continue to allow bow hunting elk at East Portal ([comment added at open house. 2 agree, 2 disagree](#))
- Periodic evaluation of concessionaire's performance ([comment added at open house. 1 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Provide more year-round opportunities for family recreation ([comment added at open house](#))

## Estes Park Campground Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

### *Issues*

- Some facilities need to be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheelchair accessibility)
- Potential wildfire risk from the campground ([7 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Soil erosion in the campground and parking areas
- Campground fires affect air quality in the area ([4 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Mountain pine beetle forest damage ([1 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Bears are attracted to garbage in the campground ([1 agree, 1 disagree](#))
- The shuttle to the campground may cause more traffic on Spur 66 ([4 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Forestry management is needed ([2 agree, 1 disagree](#))
- A larger campground store and office are needed ([0 agree, 2 disagree](#))
- Neighbors do not want to see Class A RVs in the campground due to traffic safety concerns ([7 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Some campsites are too close to private property ([2 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Congestion, noise and pollution from vehicles traveling to and from the campground ([5 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Better control noise from the campground at night ([1 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Neighbor concern about campground expansion and visual quality ([7 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- The concessionaire should be responsible for maintaining campfires that are at a reasonable size and under control. Regardless of county bans, having a roaring tall fire within a ring defies common sense. Sometimes it's reasonable to ban fires in extreme drought. Due to the density of campsites, overhanging limbs, and lack of supervision, fire is great risk. Should you burn out the neighbors, the Town and concessionaire's liability of \$1 million or so will be insufficient. ([comment added at open house; 2 agree, 0 disagree](#))

### *Opportunities*

- Provide more campsites with minimal impacts to neighbors ([3 agree, 8 disagree](#))
- Expand and improve fishing ([1 agree, 0 disagree](#))
- Install electricity and water at more campsites ([1 agree, 1 disagree](#))
- Campsites need more space ([1 agree, 0 disagree](#))

- Establish boundaries for the campground (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Protect natural vegetation and wildlife habitat (6 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide vegetative screen between campground and private land (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Install non-barb type fencing (0 agree, 3 disagree)
- Include in this plan an evacuation plan approved by the fire department (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Store flammable liquids and gases in a fire-safe storage container/area (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Retain open meadow to the north of the campground (8 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide more and better information to campers who arrive after the office is closed
- Allow only gas stoves, no campfires please. (comment added at open house; 2 agree, 0 disagree)
- Eliminate the new shopper shuttle which has so few riders (comment added at open house; 1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Add a bear proof storage bin to each campsite (comment added at open house)
- Strongly suggest reducing the diameter of fire rings. The wildfire risk is always high. (comment added at open house)

## Common Point Overview

### **Size**

Reclamation Land: 62 acres

EVRPD Land: 10 acres

Total: 72 acres

### **Primary Public Use**

Estes Park Gun and Archery Club Shooting Range

### **Sensitive Resources**

Riparian area

### **Developed Areas**

#### **Shooting Range**

- 100 & 200-yard rifle range
- 25-yard pistol range
- 25-yard archery range
- Trap range (non-lead shot only)

## Common Point Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

### ***Issues***

- Facilities need to be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheelchair accessibility)
- The shooting range needs to be designed and developed to improve safety, user experience, and contain lead (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Mountain pine beetle forest damage
- Potential wildfire risk
- Lead clean-up is needed at the shooting range (2 agree, 0 disagree)
- The shooting range could be better marked for safety reasons
- Spent cartridges and other waste left by users
- Range rules should be better enforced (2 agree, 0 disagree)

### ***Opportunities Identified to Date***

- Provide a skeet and trap range (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Expand the archery range (1 agree, 0 disagree)
- Provide more opportunities for the public to use the range with an associated fee (4 agree, 0 disagree)
- Add a new rule requiring members to pick up their spent cartridges (3 agree, 0 disagree)
- Add boundary markers (for safety)
- Build a culvert or cover Noels Draw and the spillway in order to reopen pistol range in original location and/or trap to lead shot (per NRA report) (comment added at open house)
- Noxious weed control (comment added at open house)
- Add lead detention pond (comment added at open house)