

Stakeholder Report

Interviews were held with individuals, groups and government organizations (stakeholders) to seek their opinions about the current state and future opportunities at Lake Estes, Marys Lake, East Portal and Common Point. These properties are managed by Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District (EVRPD) for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Several other agencies are members of the project work group and have contributed to the process in meetings (although their ideas may not be reflected in this report). This was the first step in the public outreach process for updating the Resource Management Plan / Environmental Assessment for these parks/properties.

Interviews were held in Estes Park on July 24 and 25, 2007. Stakeholders who were unable to attend the interviews in person will be interviewed by phone over the course of the following few weeks. The comments are organized by stakeholder type. The comments and suggestions provided by the stakeholders and public will be considered by the entire planning team before developing proposed actions. *Note: Comments in this report come directly from stakeholders and are not necessarily the opinion of the Planning Team.*

Stakeholders

Name	Organization	Interviewed
Harry Crocket	Colorado Division of Wildlife - Fisheries	Yes
David Bruce	Colorado Bow Hunting Association	Yes
Kevin Cooper	Common Point Neighbor	Contacted
Carol Beidleman	East Portal Neighbor	Yes
Jack & Ann Burnan	East Portal Neighbor	Yes
Gary Mathews & Scott Roederer	Estes Park Bird Club	Yes
Matt Reilly	Estes Park Campground	Yes
Tom Pickering	Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau	Yes
Robert Conland & Cherie Pettyjohn	Estes Park Gun and Archery Club	Yes
Lowell Richardson	Estes Park Police	Yes
Will Smith	Estes Park Urban Renewal Authority	Yes
Annie Hanson	Lake Estes Marina	Yes
Gary Buffington	Larimer County Parks and Open Lands	Yes
Tim Sullivan	Larimer County Sherriff	Yes
Wayne Otto	Arapahoe Meadows Homeowners Association	Yes
Art and Ruth Mutschler	Marys Lake Campground	Yes
Karen Lynch	Marys Lake Lodge	Contacted
Carlos Lora	Bureau of Reclamation	Yes
Jim Duell	Estes Park Sanitation District	Contacted
Jeff Hodges	Upper Thompson Sanitation District	Contacted
Madeline Framson	Shining Mountain Hiking Association	Contacted
Karen Umscheid	Summer Residents Association	Contacted

Name	Organization	Interviewed
Steve Goldman	Thunder Mountain Neighborhood Association	Yes
Tom Dewitz	Trail Trekkers	Contacted
Paul Fromme	Trout Unlimited	Yes
Don Darling	Windcliff Neighborhood Association	Yes
Gary VanHorn	YMCA of the Rockies	Yes
Mark Hackmeier	Arapahoe Estes Neighborhood Association	Yes
Neil Woodley	Arapahoe Estes Neighborhood Association	Yes
David Brado	Arapahoe Estes Neighborhood Association	Yes
Denny Dakan	Cherokee Meadows Neighborhood Association	Yes
Dan Dilts	Cherokee Meadows Neighborhood Association	Yes
John Baudek	Estes Park Mayor	Contacted
Wendell Amos	Estes Valley Land Trust	Contacted
Scott Dorman	Estes Park Fire Department	Yes
Kathay Rennels	Larimer Board of County Commissioners	Contacted
Greg Evans	Rocky Mountain Flycatchers	Contacted
Bryan Mitchner	Estes Valley Improvement Association	Yes
Keith Keenan	Trout Unlimited/Alpine Anglers	Contacted

Note: Those who are listed as "contacted" were notified, but did not request an interview.

Work Group Members

The following organizations are participating throughout the process and also serve as stakeholders in the process.

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization
Gary	Matthews	Volunteer	EVRPD Trails Committee
Amy	Plummer	Volunteer	EVRPD Trails Committee
Rick	ODell	Facilities Management	Estes Valley Recreation & Park District
Annie	Hanson	Marina Manager	Estes Valley Recreation & Park District
Greg	Farmer	Recreation Manager	Estes Valley Recreation & Park District
Bob	Joseph	Land Use Planning	Town of Estes Park
Dave	Shirk	Land Use Planning	Estes Valley Community Development
Jeff	Maugans	Interpretive Specialist	Rocky Mountain National Park
Kevin	Cannon	Recreation Forester	US Forest Service
Rick	Spowart	District Wildlife Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Tom	Pickering	Executive Director	Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization
Lois	Smith	Board President	Chamber of Commerce
Mike	Lewelling	Fire Management Specialist	Rocky Mountain National Park

Comments from Stakeholders

General Comments that Relate to All Four Properties

- Water and power management are essential project purposes and cannot be modified for recreation purposes
- Some areas must be closed to the public for safety and security reasons
- If the parks are annexed, or for those parts of the parks that are not already annexed, the Town can provide lower cost water and security services
- Work with police department to make dam and other secure locations more practical (i.e., use of security cameras)
- Keep areas open to regulated bow hunting where is it currently permitted
- Do not stock streams with fish; this leads to the introduction of diseases
- Conserve cold water streams (flow and water quality) for healthy fish populations
- Implement catch and release rules for stream fishing where possible
- Larimer County celebrates past and future partnerships with EVRPD and would like more opportunities to collaborate
- Work with Larimer County on how to have campgrounds in Estes Valley complement rather than compete with each other (i.e., Hermit Park, Estes Park Campground and Marys Lake Campground)
- Determine if dam security measures could be relaxed
- Consider opportunities for group facilities at the properties
- Opposition to any kind of chemical spraying (for beetles, exotics, etc.) on properties
- Maintain fire pits, and only allow approved fire rings in camping areas to reduce the risk of wildfire
- Make sure fire restrictions are enforced
- Can the campgrounds share more of their profit with EVRPD?

Lake Estes

Community Organizations:

- People like the trail
- Revisit / ensure bike speeds are appropriate for the trail
- The marina is well managed and developed
- Litter is a problem that could be solved by a semi-annual cleanup
- Rules need to be enforced (fees, etc.)
- Protect otter as they become established

- The lake bottom below the marina docks should be dredged to improve boat access in low water conditions
- Make the pier and docks ADA compliant
- Some restrooms need to be upgraded to improve quality and provide ADA access
- Keep open lawn areas for play
- Improve signage at entrance to Marina
- Consider upgrading fish cleaning station
- Lake Estes has salutation problems
- Protect sensitive bird habitat from people and elk (Bird Sanctuary, Fish Creek, Wapiti Meadows, mud flats)
- Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary should be officially designated
- Fence about 3-4 acres in Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary to keep elk from destroying riparian vegetation
- Control human use in Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary with signage and enforcement of rules
- Keep Wapiti Meadows/Terry's Pond and Fish Creek areas as open space; limit development
- Provide for more ADA birding opportunities
- Use bird list as an interpretive/educational opportunity
- Enhance/lengthen the time the temporary silt island, which forms in the western portion of the lake, is available for use by birds
- Establish a community vegetable garden

Marys Lake Campground

Concessionaire:

- Enhance RV camping by providing more full service sites, larger sites (reduce overall number by 10-20 sites), pavement, more landscaping, and pull-through spaces
- Enhance tent camping area by providing larger sites, reducing the number of sites (by 4-5), more trees along the fence line, electricity to all sites, and better water access in tent area
- Improve vehicle circulation and pave roads
- Mitigate dust
- Keep tent camping
- Keep the campground rustic
- Keep camping fees modest
- Provide group RV and camping sites
- Provide multipurpose facility room / covered pavilion with cooking area for groups
- Provide a larger swimming pool
- Larger office and store
- Upgrade bathhouses
- Continue and expand interpretive programs (especially about wildlife)

Fire Department:

- Fire rings must be designed for campsite use and must be well maintained
- Campgrounds should have an evacuation plan approved by the fire department
- Store flammable liquids and gases in a fire-safe storage container / area

Neighbors or Community Organizations:

- Campsites are too close to private property – there should be a setback (50 feet)
- Need to provide a vegetative screen between the campground and private land
- Concerned about wildfire potential
- Noise from campgrounds, especially during wildlife programs and July 4th band
- Reduce light pollution by installing down lighting
- Trash blows from campground into neighboring yards
- Smoke from campfires blows into neighboring houses
- Some trespassing on private land – improve fences
- Replace fences with a non-barb type fencing
- Campground may be over capacity
- Is water and wastewater adequate and safe? Contamination of wetland?
- Some neighbors are opposed to the proposed trail to the northeast
- Question asked by a neighbor: Could the campground be removed and the land restored to a natural state?
- Stormwater is draining from the campground onto private property
- Campers use the campground boundary fence as a clothesline, which is unsightly
- Campfires should be prohibited in the campground
- RVs should only be allowed on the western edge of the campground
- Vehicular circulation needs to be improved
- Redesign a safer entrance and exit to the campground from the highways

Marys Lake

Neighbors or Community Organizations:

- Provide a trail around Marys Lake
- Some people go to the bathroom and camp amongst the rocks, which is an undeveloped area. The area is a popular rock climbing area; there is some trespassing on private land
- Noise issues from people rock climbing
- Fencing needs to be improved without causing risk to wildlife
- Replace fences with a non-barb type fencing
- More toilets and trash cans are needed
- Provide more signs about drowning risks at the reservoir

- People occasionally boat at the reservoir despite rules against this; more signs and enforcement may be needed

Estes Park Campground

Concessionaire:

- The current concessionaire wants to continue managing the campground
- The concessionaire would like Reclamation to decide who should have the campground concession (by agreement with Reclamation, this decision is made by EVRPD)
- The campground has a good mix of campsite types; there is no interest in accommodating large RVs
- There needs to be better opportunities to build/grow the business, primarily through expansion of the number of sites in the campground
- Expansion of campground should be done in a subtle and non-offensive way to neighbors (out of sight), such as along the pole line road
- Continue installing electricity and water at more sites for pop-up campers
- Campsites need more space
- Provide better signage and better define the trail to the national park
- The previous RMP was not implemented at East Portal, and the campground expansion that was approved in the last RMP was not built
- Boundaries for the campground, day use area and reservoir need to be established
- A larger campground store and office are needed
- Interest in keeping the campground area natural and protecting natural vegetation
- Need to keep campers out of areas with natural vegetation
- Need to deal with soil erosion issues

Fire Department:

- Campground should have an evacuation plan approved by the fire department
- Store flammable liquids and gases in a fire-safe storage container/area

Neighbors or Community Organizations:

- Neighbors generally support continued use of the campground
- Neighbors support tent camping
- Do not want to see Class A RVs in the campground due to traffic safety concerns
- The campground negatively affects the visual quality of the area (especially the RVs)
- Concerned about wildfire potential from the campground
- Campfires can create a wildfire risk even if they are in fire grates
- Campfires in the campground affect air quality in the area
- Run water to all sites to control fires

- Better control campfire size
- Some campsites are too close to private property
- Need to provide vegetative screen between campground and private land
- Noise and pollution from vehicles traveling to and from the campground
- Shuttle buses add traffic, noise and pollution to the area with few people benefiting from the service
- Concern about visual and wildlife impacts from any new development
- Keep competent and vigilant concessionaires
- Better control noise from the campground at night
- Do not build campsites north of the campground office – no expansion
- Protect natural vegetation and wildlife habitat
- The campground is located in a canyon with only one exit which limits the number of people that can be evacuated in event of an emergency
- Weed management is necessary
- Do more fire mitigation through forestry and other methods
- Provide more and better information to campers who arrive after the office is closed

East Portal

Neighbors or Community Organizations:

- Provide more signs and better define the trail to Rocky Mountain National Park
- Better define the open and closed areas
- Do not expand the day use area, but upgrade it
- Open space is preferred instead of development (refer to the Spur 66 Corridor Plan)
- Reduce risk of beetle infestation and impacts from beetle kill, and have a plan for fire mitigation
- Provide more signs about drowning risks at the reservoir
- Bow hunting is not a problem
- More information should be provided when bow hunting is taking place on the property
- The day use area should have a toilet, or it should be removed; no toilet leads to human waste at the site
- The day use area should have a sign stating that trash must be packed out, or a bear-proof trash can should be provided
- Eliminate social trails and establish designated trails
- The road into the national park should be gated at all times to prevent unauthorized access

Estes Park Gun and Archery Club

- The club needs to pay a \$100K cleanup bond in order to keep using the shooting range (per Reclamation rules)

- Facilities need to be redesigned to keep lead out of the creek to improve safety and user experience
- Keep facilities simple to lower costs and reduce vandalism risks
- Desire to diversify types of shooting (skeet, trap, archery)
- Would be interested in providing public use of the range at designated times, with a use fee to support supervision and cleanup
- There used to be conflicts with the owner at the entrance, but relocation of the gate has resolved these issues
- Some private landowners access their property by traveling through the range
- Is electricity available near the range?
- Can trap be used with non-lead shot (steel, bismuth, etc.)?
- Improve shooting range boundary markings
- Consider a new rule that requires members to pick up their spent cartridges
- The club's webpage needs to be updated
- It is important to keep the shooting range open at Common Point as a training resource for Larimer County Sherriff, Town of Estes Park, Rocky Mountain National Park and the public