Wolf Creek reservoir project to have additional public engagement
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by Craig Press

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To facilitate additional early public engagement process, prior to the NEPA permitting process, on the Wolf Creek Reservoir project.

This map shows the location of the proposed Wolf Creek reservoir in northwest Colorado. The BLM is moving forward with an increase the opportunities for members of the public to weigh in on a controversial project.

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What the additional public engagement will look like remains unclear. BLM staff will figure out the best strategy.

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District General Manager Alden Vanden Brink was scheduled to go to trial. The water right gave Rio Blanco the amount of water it was seeking, but it does not allow the district all the water uses that it initially wanted, including for irrigation or Colorado River Compact compliance.

Gary Wockner, whose organization Save the Colorado opposes any new dams and reservoirs, said he is very much in support of additional public engagement.

Deirdre Macnab, whose 4M Ranch is adjacent to the reservoir site, also spoke and gave her reasons for opposing the project. She said a new reservoir in the proposed location would lead to water loss through evaporation.

Now is not the time to facilitate new reservoirs in hot, dry, desert areas,” she told RAC members of the Northwest Resource Advisory Council last week.

Heather Sackett is the managing editor at Aspen Journalism and the editor and reporter on the Water Desk. She has also reported for The Denver Post and the Boulder Daily Camera.

Moffat, myself, most of your collaborators … have always been requesting public engagement prior to Notice of Intent,” Comstock told BLM staffers at the Thursday sessions.

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More by Heather Sackett

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