

Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation #58221
Public Comment

Mr. Klein,

Having lived in Colorado Springs for six years and worked as *The Gazette's* environmental reporter, I understand the pressures on Colorado Springs to find more water for a burgeoning population. Like Aurora, the city is booming and must adapt. At the same time, I understand that Colorado Springs and Aurora are not doing enough to tackle water use and water conservation, although they may argue otherwise. Like many trying to downplay the role of ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel companies in tackling climate change by focusing on how the individual needs to alter their lifestyle, Colorado Springs focuses heavily on water use in the individual home instead of the use of the system. Building this reservoir is a way in which the cities can continue to ignore the system's water use at the cost of a Western Slope ecosystem, let alone a wilderness area.

Please do not endorse this continued gamesmanship that Colorado Springs and Aurora want to ignore their responsibility to enact water-saving initiatives in the face of climate change and record drought. Colorado Springs has played that game long enough with Martin Drake, landslide mitigation, and stormwater drainage. Don't let them play this game with a fragile ecosystem at a time when the world needs to prioritize ecosystem health over everything.

Liz Forster