

## **Klein, Matthew - FS**

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**Subject:** FW: Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigations

**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2020 8:50 PM

**To:** Klein, Matthew - FS <matthew.klein@usda.gov>

**Subject:** Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigations

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I rarely take the time to do stuff like this. But I have been fishing and hiking in the Homestake Valley and Holy Cross wilderness for over 60 years and this subject is very frightening to me.

I think about almost everything on a risk/reward or cost/benefit basis. It's hard to argue against people who need water. But in my view the risk here must be considered in light of the possible loss of rare, priceless resources that simply cannot be replaced. Pretty hard to put a value on the wetlands of Homestake Valley.

I am not familiar with all the technical issues involved here. But it seems to me that taking more water from the Homestake Valley should be done only in the most desperate of circumstances. I do not know to what extent other approaches to the problem have been explored, but seeing this proposal in isolation makes me very wary. This project should not be allowed to have a breath of air until it is clear that all other options are worse. I don't pretend to be knowledgeable about other alternatives but I'm depending on the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture to fully consider all options. I don't see the benefit of drilling before this work is done.

Fred Hayes