



To: Scott Fitzwilliams, Marcia Gillies, Leannie Veldhuies
White River National Forest executives

Dear Mangers and executives

July 30, 2020

My name is Roger Fuehrer. I was the chairman of the Colorado Mountains Club's Wilderness Committee during the 70's and 80's. I want to give a brief history of the Holy Cross area to show how critical this area is and the fight to preserve every inch of it will be monumental. Please make these comments as part of the proposed Whitney Reservoir project by Aurora and Colorado Springs.

During the late 70s my committee was made of over 200 people who studied and put together wilderness proposals for much of Colorado's wilderness areas. These studies and reports took over 2 years. On this list was the Proposed Holy Cross area. As it turned out, I had more knowledge of this area than any one, so I ended up making the final proposal, which was adopted by congress. I did the flora, fauna, wildlife, wetlands scenic, geology, etc studies including the exact boundary, which was about 96 % adopted.

In the 40's my father and grandfather would save gas stamps, so we could camp and fish the Homestake River. I led in the 80's the first recorded ascent from Cross Creek to the summit of Mt. Jackson. I also made the first recorded ascent of Avalanche Peak on the west side. I know this area well.

But long before that in the late 1890s and early 1900 hundreds, word hit Americans that there was a magical high peak in the Colorado Rockies that had a huge cross on it. This soon became a religious miracle. Thousands and thousands of people from all over came to Colorado to view this miracle by climbing Notch Mountain. And in May of 1929, President Hoover declared the area a National Monument. Unfortunately, President Truman was pressured to stop this area as a national monument. While there is no current proof, my belief is that the Cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs. presented their initial plans for their water development and did not want such declaration to interfere. In those days, there was no organized conservation watch dogs and the environmental movement did not exist.

Back to the Holy Cross wilderness study. During this process, an amassing thing became known: That of all the wilderness study areas going on at that time, that the Holy Cross area had the 2nd highest wilderness attributes and characteristics of all areas in the United States.

There is no other piece of land in the United States that has this kind of amazing history and character. Knowing almost every parcel of this area : lets make it clear: the conservation and environmental community will not allow one foot of this incredible area be compromised. It is time to stop Aurora and Colorado Springs their plumber mentality. They will try to drain every stream in central Colorado forever, until they realize that under the hand of the developer and real estate mindsets, they will not become cities of of 2 or 3 million beings and the wilderness is far more precious and valuable.

So do not allow these test drillings to occur. Save years have haggling, tremendous costs and head aches. It's time for these two cities to sell their water rights to the Vail/Eagle entities and spend the funds on serious water conservation methods.

Roger Zuehrer

Here is more proof of their mind set: I have seen personally Auroras plans for a Homestake 4 project. To build structures and collection items in the upper Cross Creek Valley.