Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/3/2020 2:53:40 AM First name: Lee Last name: Rimel Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the Forest Service approving access to the Whitney Lake, Homestake Creek area. While this is a proposed short-term (one year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations the damage caused by cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than one mile of low standard road or use and minor repair of existing roads will take 100's if not 1000's of years for the habitat to re-establish itself. There is absolutely no way the cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs can re-vegetate and recreate the habitat they damage. Additionally the disturbance to wildlife and wildlife's movement out of the area never to return is unacceptable. Aurora and Colorado Springs have other viable and proven options to supply the water needs thay are seeking for growth and increased population in their cities. For example there are available and proven significant water conservation opportunities. They can repair the leaks in their water distribution system including main lines and the feeder lines into individual structures. Millions of gallons can be saved with this maintenance process. The cities can restrict the watering of residential landscaping, limit immediately landscaping and the watering thereof for all new construction. They can significantly reduce public area landscaping and watering by converting parks and public areas to native, dessert landscaping and they can implement recycling sewage water for at least watering 100% of City Owned/Public areas & amp; parks.