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First name: Frances

Last name: Hartogh

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the requested special use permit and related Categorical Exclusion for geotechnical investigations in connection with Homestake Partners' proposed transmountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness for the Whitney Reservoir project. A full Environmental Assessment should be required as a condition to drilling ten 150-foot bore holes and conducting a seismic study in the Homestake Valley. Drilling rigs and road construction do not belong in these delicate and irreplaceable, fens, wetlands, Wilderness, or Roadless Areas.

Further, the proposed work is a critical step in advancing the Whitney Reservoir project, which would require making a Wilderness boundary "adjustment" to reduce the Holy Cross Wilderness by almost 500 acres. I oppose reduction of any federal Wilderness Areas, and especially the unique Holy Cross Wilderness which is already being dewatered by the Homestake Partners.

The Cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs should take real action to reduce their water needs, and not destroy our Wilderness.

Thank you.