

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/26/2020 5:51:13 PM

First name: Stephen

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have hiked in the Holy Cross Wilderness.

I support the comments of Save the Colorado.

Reducing flows in the Colorado River will make it harder for Colorado to comply with the Colorado River Compact in the future, and will lead to increased pressure against irrigation on the Western Slope.

oI strongly oppose the requested special use permit (SUP) and related Categorical Exclusion (CE) 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.

oThe requested SUP/CE would allow for up to a year of drilling, road construction, and cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment within the White River National Forest in support of the proposed reservoir and diversion project.

oI oppose both the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project.

oDiverting even more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River is a terrible idea.

oThe proposed work also 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.

oI am deeply concerned about the Whitney Reservoir project's impact on the environment and the complex fen wetlands. These wetlands are some of the finest of their type in the entire White River National Forest. Reclamation and restoration of complex fen wetlands has not been proven to be possible.

oThe communities of Aurora and Colorado Springs should take action to reduce their water needs, and not destroy our Wilderness and rivers.