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Organization:

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Comments: Like we in Arizona the communities of Aurora and Colorado Springs should take action to reduce their water needs, and not destroy our Wilderness and rivers.

Diverting even more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River makes the water supply of the states west of the great divide even more precarious.

I am deeply concerned about the impact of the Whitney Reservoir project' 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.

Therefore I oppose proposed Whitney Reservoir project and the requested special use permit (SUP) and related Categorical Exclusion (CE) for geotechnical investigations needed for the Whitney Reservoir project and the proposed trans-mountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness.

The 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.

The proposed 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.