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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I 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.

I oppose BOTH the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project.
Diverting even more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River is a terrible idea.

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. Not only is this proposed work a critical step in advancing the Whitney Reservoir project, it would also create new roads into a designated Wilderness area, and, in the process, essentially appropriate ("steal") almost 500 acres of that wilderness! NO!

I oppose the reduction of any federal Wilderness Area, and especially the unique Holy Cross Wilderness which is already being dewatered by the Homestake Partners.

I 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.

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

The U.S. Forest Service must be in the business of PROTECTING THE COLORADO RIVER, NOT USURPING IT!

Thank You