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Comments: The human footprint looms enormous! Unless we immediately scale back our constant push for developing our wild places, we will pay the ultimate price. Entire ecosystems will collapse and we will lose iconic, keystone species. Remember, extinction is forever! We must allow wildlife enough breathing room in order to survive. Otherwise, we will drive more and more species off the cliff to their doom. Ultimately, our fate is in our hands. Will we be good stewards for future generations or shall we leave them with an irreparably wounded planet? The choice is obvious. We must oppose both the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project. 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 - are short-sighted and reckless considerations. We must instead be looking for water conservation and efficient distribution methods or the well will run dry. This precious water resource already does not reach its terminus!

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 putting countless species at risk.

Diverting even more water out of the Colorado River basin is a terrible idea. This overburdened river system is on the verge of collapse, threatening water supplies and wildlife over a massive territory.

The 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.

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.