

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/28/2020 12:52:42 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the special use permit and any related Categorical Exclusion for geotechnical investigations related to Homestake Partners' proposed transmountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness for the Whitney Reservoir project.

This SUP/CE request would provide a year of drilling, access road construction, and related equipment to traverse the White River National Forest.

My opposition both the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project are for reasons as follows:

- 1) Diverting more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River is a horrible ecological concept.
- 2) Developing the Whitney Reservoir project would infringe and mitigate existing Wilderness boundaries in order to reduce the Holy Cross Wilderness by approximately 500 acres.
- 3) I'm vehemently opposed to the reduction of any federal Wilderness Areas, and particularly in the Holy Cross Wilderness which is already being dewatered by the Homestake Partners.
- 4) The Whitney Reservoir project's impact on the environment and the system of wetlands is disturbing. It is a needless measure that destroys some of the best White River National Forest. You simply can't replace these kinds of wetland through mitigation. Once destroyed, they are lost.
- 5) To justify this destruction due to water demands of a growing suburbia is to turn a blind eye to the lack of water conservation measures these communities are failing to take.