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Organization:

Title:

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

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.

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

The Whitney Reservoir project 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 Homestake Partners.

I am also 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.

Aurora and Colorado Springs can and should take action to reduce their water needs rather than destroying wilderness and rivers.