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Comments: I write in regards Homestake Partners' proposed trans-mountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness via the proposed Whitney Reservoir project.

I strongly oppose the requested special use permit (SUP) and related Categorical Exclusion (CE) for geotechnical investigations. These investigations, and the project and ultimate aim they are intended to further, are questionable and concerning.

The ultimate aim is a really bad idea and of greatest concern: diversion of yet more water from the already stressed Colorado basin. Apparently the motive is to meet desires of growth-boosters in Aurora and Colorado Springs. These cities can grow but can and should be working much harder to conserve water before trying to grab more of this ever-more-limited resource from the Colorado basin.

The proposed work to be permitted by the SUP/CE is intended to advance creation of a reservoir, the Whitney Reservoir, to enable the diversion. Besides the irresponsible diversion itself, this project would have other adverse environmental impacts, notably on the nearby outstanding complex fen wetlands.

Worse, the project involves reducing the Holy Cross Wilderness by almost 500 acres. It is extremely bad idea - and bad precedent - to reduce any federal Wilderness Areas. ,