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First name: Kevin

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Organization: Wilderness Watch

Title: Conservation Director

Comments: June 29, 2020

Ms. Marcia Gilles, District Ranger (Acting)

c/o Matt Klein, Realty Specialist

White River National Forest

PO Box 190

Minburn, CO 81645

Sent via: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=58221>

Dear Acting District Ranger Gilles,

Wilderness Watch submits the following comments on the proposal to issue a Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation Project. Wilderness Watch is a national wilderness conservation organization focused on the protection of all units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the 122,446-acre Holy Cross Wilderness in Colorado.

Wilderness Watch strongly opposes the issuance of a SUP for this project.

This project, if carried through to the conclusion desired by its promoters, will result in the flooding and destruction of 500 acres of the Holy Cross Wilderness, in violation of the 1964 Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136. The purpose of the drilling project is to determine the feasibility of building a dam that would violate federal law. The U.S. Forest Service should not nor cannot violate the Wilderness Act by approving steps in this destruction. Your agency must not pretend that the SUP is completely separate from the intended damage to the Holy Cross Wilderness; there is no sense in approving the SUP for any purpose other than destroying part of the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Please deny the request for the Special Use Permit, and instruct the promoters of this project that they need to design a project that does not violate the Wilderness Act or other federal laws.

Please put our organization on your mailing list for any future actions related to this project or for any other project affecting Wilderness on the White River National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kevin Proescholdt

Conservation Director