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White River National Forest

District Ranger

Homestake I and Homestake II were defeated by a massive outcry locally, statewide and across the country. This is Homestake III but even more damaging, in every way, to everything in the Homestake Valley and below especially in these times of environmental change.

My father, William Mounsey, became familiar with this valley in 1942 and later beginning in the '60's spent his life protecting wilderness and educating the public about its benefits. He was prominent in the Homestake I and II battles and I was his backup.

I became familiar with this unique valley beginning in 1965 and immersed in it during the Homestake I and II battles protecting it from destruction. I have enjoyed it as a camper, hiker, fisher woman and as a parent sharing this untrammeled, spectacular, yet accessible valley with my children. There are precious few of these places left. Which is tragic because they are so important to our mental health and physical survival.

As streams have lower and lower flows and earlier runoffs it is critical that water stays in its basin of origin and not be removed from its natural drainage. Front Range cities must adapt to their natural environment- not destroy ours.

Any exploration process is a huge impact on the environment - not any different than oil exploration. And now - at least in Vail - we have been made painfully aware that just human activity negatively impacts all wildlife and especially large mammals.

Do not allow step one of the destruction of this special valley. They do not need to explore for the best location for a dam when the dam should not be allowed. Just because the developers changed the name makes it no different than previously defeated efforts and besides - dams are incredibly inefficient and short lived.

Thank you for considering an EA or just plain denial.