

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/30/2020 4:07:01 PM

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Comments: The proposal to build new roads and drill holes in preparation for a new reservoir in the Homestake Valley shows a blatant disregard for the wellbeing of the Holy Cross Wilderness and the surrounding wetlands. The re-routing and construction of roads along Homestake Creek that would be required for the initial drilling to take place would destroy the wilderness area that's so treasured to Minturn residents like myself.

The Forest Service needs to take into account the seismic activity from the Rio Grande Rift that exists in the Homestake Valley. The presence of a rare mineral deposit, which has been shown to illustrate tectonic uplift, is widely known among scholars and geologists nationwide as an extraordinary phenomenon. Knowingly tampering along these faults could be catastrophic and is undoubtedly irresponsible.

The proposal to remove a whopping 500 acres from the Holy Cross Wilderness is a careless assault on our public lands and on the Wilderness Act. I strongly urge the Forest Service to deny the permit for drilling in the area, and I oppose the construction of the proposed reservoir.