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First name: Rich

Last name: Ranieri

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Morning,

I am writing this email to express my disapproval with the proposed Whitney Reservoir in the Holy Cross Wilderness Area. I volunteer as a forest ranger for you, and I am very familiar with this spectacular wilderness area. I'm opposed to any of the stages of this proposal, and believe the drilling test site destruction has to be considered together with the potential destruction to WILDERNESS if the reservoir was allowed to be built...and here is why. There would be no point to drill on the site if the reservoir is not allowed, so they are intrinsically connected. The weight and size of the drilling rigs would destroy the fragile riparian environment....YOU KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE. The 150 foot deep drill holes would add to that destruction. AND THIS IS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS, SO THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO PLACE ANOTHER RESERVOIR. Again, YOU KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE. You are delegated with the responsibility of managing this entire area AS WILDERNESS, so do your job, AND DENY THIS PROPOSAL! I don't understand how this can even be considered when we can't even use a chainsaw in this area! Let's not forget that all of the river's water is already allocated to different interests, and if everyone were to exercise those rights, there already would not be enough water in the system to meet those rights. We all know, and again, YOU BETTER THAN MOST, that the river has run too low at times, because of all the water we take from it already, and that threatens all the fish, plants, and wildlife that depend on viable river levels for their survival. And let's not forget to mention the depleting levels of both Lake Powell and Lake Mead. There are so many things wrong with this proposal, and it should be easily denied. Why do we continue to give up our mountain wealth and beauty for front range municipalities? There unending thirst for water to fuel their urban sprawl should not be our responsibility!! Please do the right thing, and do what you are paid to do...preserve our already designated wilderness, and refuse/deny this proposal. Thanks for doing the right thing.