

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/30/2020 6:38:48 PM

First name: Gail

Last name: Sovick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As the permit for the Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation proceeds, I feel that the impacts of this potential reservoir project on fragile wetlands is of primary concern. My family has been cabin owners in and stewards of the Homestake Valley for nearly 80 years. I have been myself visiting this valley for 40 years. In those years we have watched the wetlands change, dry up and lose valuable wildlife, due, in large part, to the prevention of natural water cycles by the Homestake dam at the top of the valley. Beaver dams have dried up and ponds have filled with grasses. The fish have diminished as flows are regulated. The consideration of an additional dam and reservoir in this valley has serious implications for this already compromised ecosystem. Wetlands of this type are extremely valuable to our mountain ecosystems. While I recognize the importance of water for the front range cities in question, I find it hard to justify the additional water needs when I see golf courses, highway grass medians and unregulated water use in those cities. I would HIGHLY encourage the forest service to pressure the cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs to show proof of their water conservation efforts equal to that which they are requesting before considering the theft of additional water from the western slope. I do not believe in granting water storage at this level of destruction to cities who have not made significant efforts to wisely use the water they already have. Even the proposed drilling and site testing has implications for these wetlands. I, personally, would like to see evidence of the absolute and unquestionable need for this water storage before granting permission to further pursue this permit. Thank you for your consideration.