

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/30/2020 7:04:38 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: US Forest Service

I strongly oppose the requested special use permit (SUP) and related Categorical Exclusion (CE) for geotechnical investigations in connection with Homestake Partners' proposed transmountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness for the Whitney Reservoir project.

I oppose BOTH the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project. Diverting even more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River is a terrible idea.

I am deeply concerned about the Whitney Reservoir project's impact on the environment and the complex fen wetlands. These wetlands are some of the finest of their type in the entire White River National Forest. Reclamation and restoration of complex fen wetlands has not been proven to be possible.

The communities of Aurora and Colorado Springs, frankly, should take immediate action to reduce their water needs, and not destroy our Wilderness and rivers.

This is a slippery slope, that once one dam is built, the population grows and another is needed. And so on.

STOP this Whitney Reservoir project now!

Sincerely,

John Owsley