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First name: Andrew

Last name: Zahn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the requested special use permit and the categorical exclusion 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 am opposed to all aspects of the SUP and CE, as well as the proposed Whitney Reservoir Project, as it would divert further water from the Colorado River, among numerous other serious negative impacts.

The SUP and CE would allow for an entire year of destructive road building, drilling, and cross country travel over sensitive environments within the White River National Forest. This destructive activity is in support of the even more destructive Whitney Reservoir project, which would destroy 500 acres of pristine wilderness within the Holy Cross Wilderness. I am strongly opposed to the construction of this reservoir, and the reduction in size of the Holy Cross Wilderness. I am opposed to the reduction and destruction of any federal wilderness area.

The project would also have a severe negative impact on the complex fen wetlands in the area. These wetlands are valuable and irreplaceable. Past reclamation projects to restore such wetlands have shown little success. Once they are gone they will be lost forever.

Furthermore, the extra water storage in the proposed reservoir is unneeded. The communities of Aurora and Colorado springs should instead reduce water consumption via water conservation measures.

Homestake Creek and the Holy Cross Wilderness are special and irreplaceable parts of our natural heritage. I am strongly opposed to any action that would destroy or degrade our federal wilderness areas in any way.