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Comments: I strongly oppose the requested special use permit (SUP) and related Categorical Exclusion (CE) for geotechnical investigations in connection with Homestake Partners' proposed trans mountain diversion of water from Homestake Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness for the Whitney Reservoir project. The requested SUP/CE would allow for up to a year of drilling, road construction, and cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment within the White River National Forest in support of the proposed reservoir and diversion project.

There is already a high percentage of fragmentation occurring throughout the Rocky Mountains and especially in the Holy Cross wilderness. Our elk populations have been reduced by more than 50% in the last decade along and now you propose that we fragment that wilderness even more. Have you ever thought about the ramifications of your actions? You are so short-sighted that you can't even see that by installing a dam you are rendering the problem in Aurora and Colorado Springs technical rather than addressing the root of the problem. By building a dam instead of giving a dam about the environment and addressing the actual problems these communities face will prevent them from growing or developing with the environment. Instead, they will be stuck in a loop that relies on environmental degradation for survival rather than finding ways to live with the local environment; which is a fundamental flaw in our current society that we all need to address.

How is it justified to degrade this much of an already degraded environment to service communities that don't even live near the area this degradation is occurring. What gives them the right to carelessly destroy the environment with such incredible disregard for the environmental ramifications of these actions? This ecosystem that is in question has been perfected by nature over millions of years, in such a way that humans will never be able to recreate, once this dam is built, there is no going back, and the unforeseen consequences will cost more than people anticipate. It will cost human lives, and not only that, but it will cost the lives of the organisms relying on that area for survival (even if those organisms are found in California because this damn will impact every organism downstream, considering this is a headwaters area, a very critical headwaters area. How ignorant are you to think you can put a dam in this area without thinking of the consequences? The amount of money alone that will be wasted on this project will be astronomical.

This damn is a short-term solution that will only bring about more problems than it would solve. The degradation that this dam would bring about to the environment and ecosystem will impact every human, animal, flora, and fauna species that relies on the headwaters found in the Holy Cross Wilderness. The lack of regard for the environment is disgusting and to put a damn in this area would only bring about more problems than it would solve. Looking at it economically, it is financially irresponsible to build a dam that is destined to fail, there will be more money spent trying to fix the problems that this dam will inevitably cause than the money that will be gained from it being built; in short, its more trouble than it's worth. Especially when you consider the long-term ramifications of these actions. This dam is a terrible investment, and the only reason you think it's a good idea is because you can't see a week in front of you and you are only looking for a short-term solution. To say otherwise proves my point of your ignorance because you do not fully understand the impacts that building a damn in this already degraded and fragile ecosystem will cause. You may think this is a solution, but guess what **THIS DAM IS NOT A SOLUTION**, it is a time bomb that will impact the lives of millions of Americans as well as every ecosystem and environment downstream of the holy cross wilderness. If this dam is built, there will be billions of dollars spent trying to reclaim and rebuild the environment once the dam fails - which will be in less than 50 years, if you want an example, look at any dam already built on Colorado and the failings we are currently seeing with them now. The money for this project would be put to better use finding solutions that **DON'T INVOLVE RUINING THE ENVIRONMENT**. Stop trying the same thing over and over again while expecting different results, that's the definition of insanity, and it is insane that anyone would think this is a good idea. This is the easy answer, and it's not even the right answer, literally you could save so much more water and money by

implementing a good piece of policy that limits water use and ensures that people use water more responsibly. By rendering this problem technical by building a dam, people will be inclined to waste even more water instead of fixing their wasteful habits that are the true root of this issue. This dam is like putting a Band-Aid on your arm to fix a wound on your stomach and expecting it to fix everything, IT WON'T WORK. If you really want a solution to the problem, look literally everywhere else besides building a dam and degrading an already stressed environment and ecosystem. There are better, more cost-effective solutions than the environmental disaster that you are proposing.

I oppose both the SUP/CE and the underlying proposed Whitney Reservoir project. There are ways to fix the water problem in Colorado Springs and Arura that don't involve destroying over 500 acres of the environment. What is wrong with you, we already know that dams are a terrible idea. The impact it has on wildlife, as well as the flow of nutrients and sediments in the river, will be enormous and will impact humans and wildlife for generations to come. All of this can be avoided if people could only use some common sense and look for ways to live with the environment instead of against it as we have since the existence of man on this planet.

Diverting even more water out of the headwaters of the Colorado River is a terrible idea. This river system is already being maxed out and it will only take a few years of low rain and snowfall to ruin multiple communities in over seven states because of how many people rely on water from the Colorado River. The headwaters of this area are by far the most crucial to the health and flow of the rest of the river downstream and by diverting so much water to the front range you are writing a death sentence to every man, woman, child, animal, plant, fungus, and organism relying on water from this complex system. Not to mention, this dam will ruin incredibly complex wetland systems in the Holy Cross Wilderness that will never be able to be recreated by man. This has been proven, man cannot fix nature, we can only ruin it, and implementing a dam in this area will destroy the future of the Rocky Mountains.

How short-sighted are you, get your head out of your butts, and pay attention to the world around you? Stop looking for the easy answer, because it is none. Have we learned nothing from every single dam that has already been put in place on the Colorado? They work for less than 50 years before they start failing and the ramifications of all the environmental impacts come in full swing to really show how poor of a choice it was to even consider building a damn in this area. Look at lake Powell for crying out loud. How well is that dam working? Can you see how the natural sediment flow has been completely ruined this damn? It is not worth the cost to build. Stop looking being so short-sighted and naïve as to think this dam is even close to a solution, because it is not a solution, it is a death sentence to the area and organisms counting on this area for SURVIVAL. If you keep messing with the environment and ecosystems in this way the environment will stop supporting life, and that includes humans, we are part of nature even though we act as we are superior to it. This is an illusion that will spell out our species downfall. Learn from the environmental disasters of the past and look to find solutions that don't involve degrading the environment in such a careless way.

The proposed work is a critical step in advancing the Whitney Reservoir project, which would require making a Wilderness boundary "adjustment" to reduce the Holy Cross Wilderness by almost 500 acres. I oppose the reduction of any federal Wilderness Areas, and especially the unique Holy Cross Wilderness which is already being dewatered by the Homestake Partners.

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 should act to reduce their water needs and not destroy our Wilderness and rivers. There are a number of ways this can happen that don't involve placing a damn in an area that these people rarely interact with. Consider limiting the growth in these areas because honestly, humans should not be living in these areas; at least in the way we currently do. These areas were not meant to support

such a high density of people degrading the resources each and every day at an exponential rate. In order to find a solution that will last lifetimes, address the root of the problem, which is human society as we know it today. Stop being so wasteful and start being more resourceful. Learn how to maximize water as a resource instead of wasting it as a commodity. Start reducing your own impact and work with the native environment for survival instead of justifying the degradation of the environment to support your survival; because that will fail dramatically and will do more harm than good. If you need to create a reservoir to pull water from in a place 75+ miles away from where water is needed, there obviously something very wrong about how that community is functioning, and it should be taken as an indicator that there is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. The creation of a dam is admitting this problem without addressing the root of this problem. The root of this problem being humans' wasteful habits. Ignoring the root of the problem by building a dam will lead to more problems on a larger scale, it won't help what so ever and it will only cause more damage. People will always look for a dam to fix their problems because that is easy, it lets them continue in their wasteful ways rather than fixing their problems themselves and learning how to truly live with the LOCAL environment. I want to highlight local because people in Aurora and Colorado Springs are relying on water from a source that isn't even close to them and the problems faced will impact so many others before it stats impacting them, it shows an utter lack of regard for their fellow man and for the environment. But that's nothing special, after all, who cares about the environment, let's continue to degrade it and see how well we can survive without it. After all, isn't man better then nature, even though man comes from nature (this is all heavily sarcastic if you couldn't already tell). We are of nature and we are killing the very thing that has given us life. To build a dam is a sin against nature, and it will only lead to our own downfall.

Implementing a policy to reduce water usage while being more responsible and sustainable with water usage in the front range will be dramatically more meaningful, impactful, and beneficial than building a dam that is destined to fail. STOP DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT AND FIX YOUR OWN PROBLEMS, if you don't nature will revolt, and the result will be an even larger man-made environmental disaster then that seen during the great depression with the dust bowl in the Midwest. Learn from the past, learn from the dams that are already in place and LEAVE THE HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS ALONE. It is not wanted, and it is not needed. Figure out a better solution because a dam is not the answer.