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Title:

Comments: The proposed Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation can not be commented on separately from what it's existence is predicated upon in the first place: the construction of a new reservoir in the Homestake Valley of the Holy Cross Wilderness, with the intended purpose of which is to provide water to front range communities.

I believe that the risk posed to the landscape and ecosystem of the Homestake Valley, and the broad destruction that will result from these operations even if the proposed reservoir does not come to fruition, is an unacceptable premise. At best, the land and ecosystem will be scarred, disturbed, and disfigured until left alone to recover at least some of it's previous untouched beauty, and at worst, will be transformed into yet another hideous, industrial blight on the countenance of our wild places, being gobbled up so quickly and ravenously by the spectre of commoditization, with no concern for consequence.

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.

I have family and friends who live within hiking distance of this area who would be deeply affected by this operation. I don't want to see their way of life upended due to this very unsettling option. The cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs need to search for other options to deal with their growth and insatiable need for water, which in this case, exploits the land, the animals and the very people who depend on it now. Taking from Peter to pay Paul is never a good option.

Finally, due to the fact that the major newspaper of record (Vail Daily) for the area nearest the proposal area only published an article discussing the project THE DAY BEFORE PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE DUE (June 29, 2020), it follows that the Public have not had enough time to evaluate and make useful and constructive comments to your department as required under NEPA.

Please, Please do not allow this testing to proceed! This is a terrible idea and the focus is destruction. Let's work together to come up with alternatives to this project.