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Comments: Comment regarding Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation #58221

To:

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Regarding:

Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation #58221

I wish to express strong disapproval of the Whitney Creek Geotechnical Investigation and any future actions by Homestake Partners to research or develop further reservoirs within the boundaries of the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Our wilderness areas are precious places. Much research, science, and public input has already been done to determine their boundaries. The Holy Cross Wilderness is an incredible place. I have backpacked there and I led a trip for 12 incoming freshmen at Colorado College to the wilderness area. For many of these students, it was not only their first backpacking trip but also their first time in a wilderness area. The Holy Cross Wilderness opened a door for these students to see Colorado, to sleep under the stars, and to experience life away from lights and cars and bustling cities as they never had before. It would be an extremely unwise decision to shrink any of our wilderness areas, especially one as popular and well-loved as Holy Cross.

The cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs should prioritize water conservation and reuse instead of developing new reservoirs. Building reservoirs is a band-aid solution to a much deeper problem, that 85% of Coloradans live on the Front Range and 80% of Colorado's water is on the Western Slope of the state. Pair that with increasing drought due to climate change and a rapidly growing population, and the situation with water scarcity goes much deeper than a few new reservoirs could ever fix. These cities should take the long view and focus on conserving and recycling water instead of bringing in more from the West Slope.

I strongly oppose this project and hope that it does not move forward. Colorado's wilderness areas are too well-loved to brush aside for development.

Thank you,
Audrey Wheeler
Boulder, CO