

Blessing or Boondoggle, The Homestake II Water Project

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the
Bachelor of Arts Degree in the program in Environmental Studies
at Brown University.

May 1993

Abstract



My thesis, *Blessing or Boondoggle, The Homestake II Water Project*, focuses on the controversy over a proposed water diversion project in the Holy Cross Wilderness Area, a federally designated wilderness area. Proposed by the cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs, the Homestake II water project raises questions about the national public interest in protecting interests of wilderness areas that are defined as places "where man is only a visitor and does not remain." The project also raises questions about the emerging state and regional interests in environmental protection which is in conflict with the demand for water to support growth and development. Homestake II also raises the question about western water policy that may establish precedent for similar projects on other federally reserved lands. This thesis will examine the various public and private interests that are concerned with the future of the Homestake II project and the Holy Cross Wilderness Area.