

## **San Juan Plan Revision Desired Future Narrative – Columbine Study Group DRAFT 2 And Supporting Materials**

### **Introductory Note:**

The Draft Desired Future Narrative directly below is the result of a 5 step process. 1) Study Group participants in Durango on June 16, 2005 provided input on the question of their desired future for the San Juan Public lands over the next 10-15 years, under the niche headings that begin each section below. All comments were recorded on flip charts. 2) The flip chart comments were integrated into a first draft Desired Future narrative using primarily the language of the original comments. 3) The Draft Narrative was broken into numbered points to make posters to provide a framework for a second round of comment at the August 11 meeting in Durango. 4) Participants at the August 11 meeting had the opportunity to write and stick on comments or additions to any and all of the poster comments. 5) The stick-on comments were integrated into the first narrative draft to produce Draft 2 directly below.

Some of the Draft 2 narrative reflects general agreement about the desired future among Study Group participants, while other parts of the narrative reflect significant differences of opinion. The resulting draft is not intended as a consensus statement, but rather as a rendering of the full range of opinion among Study Group participants.

Directly following the Draft 2 narrative is all of the supporting information from each step in the process leading to Draft 2 including flip chart notes, Draft 1, Posters, Poster Notes and Draft 2 with the changes highlighted in blue.

### **Desired Future Narrative – Columbine Study Group DRAFT 2** Narrative Revised to Incorporate Poster Exercise Additions at 8-11-05 Meeting

#### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses:**

While we recognize that more people and increasing use of public lands will result in conflicts, we desire a future that encourages multiple use recognizing the hard work involved in resource extraction, while maintaining the quality of resources and avoiding degradation from both recreational and traditional uses. One strategy for reducing conflict is to expand areas where multiple uses occur, relieving pressure on overused areas and opening up use in underutilized areas where trails are disappearing. This will require a partnership of forest managers, users and communities supported by education and communication, including future opportunities such as the Study Groups.

We appreciate the working lands because they provide renewable grass, lands, trees and commercial recreation opportunities. We recognize that grazing and timber management have improved over the past 20 years and wish to see the

stewardship of renewable resources continue to improve and refined as tools for benefits such as reducing wildfire hazards and improving wildlife conditions. We recognize the importance of grazing permits to the continuation of ranching and the open space that ranching provides. Proper grazing can contribute to forest health. Management of extractive uses such as mining oil and gas also need continued improvement to minimize conflict and damage during operation, and restore completed operations to a healthy and natural condition.

We wish to remain inclusive and maintain the mixture and diversity of recreational uses on public land—large wilderness areas, roadless areas, motorized areas, cross country ski and backcountry ski areas, etc. We're lucky here, because terrain has helped us define areas for different uses. A vision with balance and diversity is the most important because it leads to diverse uses and opportunities. It is important to maintain access to and use of public lands, for those willing to follow the rules and avoid harm to the land.

We acknowledge that a major challenge is addressing the social conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation use and the erosion, trash, and resource damage that can result from irresponsible use, particularly during intensive periods of use such as hunting season. A written message with each hunting license should outline rules for hunter camps. We desire a future in which uses are diverse and balanced, and there is a place for everyone supported by the means to resolve social and resource conflicts through user education and stewardship and better cooperation among all agencies and entities on issues such as enforcement and maintenance. It is important for motorized and non-motorized users understand the need to share as part of multiple use management. The Study Groups have provided an excellent way for conflicting users to sit together and talk. The USFS, BLM, and citizen groups need to be pro-active, and go beyond reacting when something is being ruined. There needs to be more effective use of science, with contributions made by local colleges and students.

### **Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife:**

We desire a future in which landscapes are kept as natural as they currently are with healthy, soundly managed wildlife populations, and effective controls on invasive species with the active participation of all users and resource managers. We recognize that many of our land areas and environments are fragile, and need management approaches that recognize these characteristics including enforcement where necessary.

We would like to see areas reflecting a diversity of landscapes (desert, forest etc.) remain relatively undisturbed. While we intend that appropriate theme allocations will support management that minimizes disturbance of natural areas, we hold different views over the creation of special areas and wilderness areas. Some of us are concerned that wilderness and special area designation will attract more visitors while limiting management flexibility and further reducing

multiple use areas, and that additional Wilderness is unnecessary. Others feel that such designations achieve protections, which can be accomplished in no other way by providing permanent protection from political and administrative whims and want to take pressure off of overused areas such as Chicago Basin by creating more Wilderness opportunities to keep up with population increases. Some advocate creating a system of RNAs representing all ecosystems, particularly at low elevation like Ignacio Creek, Archuleta Mesa and Deep Canyon.

We see the importance of considering wildlife as a critical part of the mix in making management decisions and view the rich geological history as an educational opportunity. Our public lands are unique in having large areas with few roads and we don't want to see more roads in these areas.

### **Recreation:**

We desire a recreational future that balances commercial outfitting with individual uses, with a strong stewardship ethic on the part of both commercial and non-commercial users. This balance should recognize the value of the opportunities that commercial outfitters offer for those wishing to experience public lands on horseback.

Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders need to be aware of terrain and weather so as to avoid erosion. We desire a system of routed and maintained trails, with more loop trails and users that stay on roads and trails. This will require funding for maintenance and attention to trails impacted by deadfall such as lost creek trail and other areas affected by the Missionary Ridge Fire. We would like to see loop roads and trails that are selected and designed to create a variety of opportunities including winter recreation and interconnection between Districts, while avoiding a proliferation of branches. Where separation of travel modes is possible and desirable, additional access points would facilitate natural separation. Some would like to limit ATV use to the needs of older people that are unable to see the forest in any other way.

We see education, volunteerism, good visitor information and maps, clear designation, signage and enforcement as key elements in improved stewardship and resolving conflicts among users. These outcomes must be supported by adequate agency budgets. In some areas such as Hermosa Creek, more enforcement of ORV activity is needed. Enlarged areas for non-motorized recreation are needed around Andrews Lake.

We envision a future in which volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt a trail groups.

We would like to see unneeded roads evaluated and closed or fixed especially roads and trails that are dysfunctional for reasons such as erosion, resource damage, poor construction and inadequate access. However, don't close roads where erosion is not a big problem which could continue to provide access even if they are used as trails rather than roads. Some are concerned about any closures because this would add to overcrowding.

We recognize the positive economic impacts of both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses. Visitors need to be educated before they go out through information outlets such as visitor centers, chambers of commerce and local businesses that provide goods and services to visitors.

We are concerned about overdeveloping recreation sites and drawing more use, but access to minimal facilities such as composting toilets should be available in areas of concentrated use. We want to manage the impacts of hunting season by improved cooperation and communication between the Division of Wildlife and SJPLC. Hunters need to understand rules about making and leaving camps, trail maintenance needs to be increased, especially water bars, and off trail horse travel should be restricted in fragile areas above tree line. We realize that with heavy use we've all got to be better stewards.

### **Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:**

We realize that it is easy for those of us lucky enough to live here to lose sight of how rare areas with as much natural and undeveloped country are. We wish to maintain this "wildness" to protect ecosystem health, scenery, wildlife habitat and corridors in order to support healthy wildlife populations including existing and potential habitation by large carnivores such as wolves. Wildness should allow for non-damaging recreation. Some don't want to see grizzlies or wolves introduced into the San Juan. Other concerns include the opinion that there is too much Wilderness, and the potential that land swaps will affect areas traditionally used by residents and the community. We recognize that undeveloped areas are good for the economy of the area because their uniqueness attracts visitors, but some are concerned that this attractiveness and undermine the undeveloped character.

We desire a future in which large expanses of undeveloped country are kept in tact by keeping public lands that are roadless as they currently are. To achieve this outcome, we need to keep enough existing roads open so that people don't feel the need to push into roadless areas. Some question whether keeping existing roads open will restrain the push into unroaded areas.

Some of us are concerned that the agencies are trying to create more de-facto wilderness which is the prerogative of Congress. Others see the importance of using management themes to keep roadless areas in tact and available for Wilderness designation by Congressional action in the future including low

elevation ecosystems which are under represented in terms of Wilderness designation.

### **Scenery:**

We desire a future with no degradation of scenery from view blocking development. We support a future which provides access to scenery along travel corridors including pull-offs and overlooks. We support protection and acquisition of key access routes including patented mining claims.

### **Clean Air and Water:**

We wish to protect watersheds and maintain clean air through active understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution. Some emphasize keeping the pressure on federal agencies to address power plant pollution and want the USFS and BLM to become leaders in research and designation of pollution sources on and off of public land. Others consider the air to be clearer than it was in the 60s. We wish to keep degrading activities away from streams including prohibitions on oil and gas drilling in stream beds, and to undertake mine reclamation to protect water quality. We are concerned about the discharge of water resulting from gas drilling and potential pollution from pump jacks including those on public land. Oil and gas companies should be required to comply with Colorado water law. Some support drilling on public land because it reduces the impact on private land and provides royalties to the public rather than a few individuals.

We seek a future with stronger monitoring of the air quality impacts from the Four Corners area power plants, and would like the USFS to maintain Class 1 air quality standards and monitor impacts on Forest land from off-forest uses and developments. Others see air pollution as regional in nature, and difficult to address through the Forest/BLM Plans. Still others emphasize the improvement in air quality that has resulted from new technologies and see no need for additional intervention.

We are concerned that the accelerated pace of growth and development can have a significant impact on water and air quality. There is concern with the air quality impacts when large areas are allowed to burn on communities and large recreation areas such as Vallecito. We recognize that compliance with Colorado water law must be considered in water management decisions. Some prefer application of the strictest water standards, state or federal.

### **Heritage Resources:**

We support the continued designation, protection and acquisition of heritage sites and lands. We desire a future which continues to build partnerships to protect mining structures while protecting responsible recreational use of heritage areas. Some would like to limit the designation of heritage resources and stricter guidelines because the resulting costs compete with the large number of

other priorities. We would like to see more exhibits on Native American history such as road side information on Highway 151 between Lake Capote and Ignacio and designation and signage of prehistoric Ute trails. Sensitive cultural sites that are difficult to protect should be kept off of maps. Signs can also make sites a target.

We would like to stop the exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes which have a negative impact on the landscape. We support a future which funds the protection of heritage sites backed by enforcement as well as acquiring patented claims in the Alpine Loop Country.

**Citizen Stewardship:**

We desire a future which builds on education and stewardship programs such as those provided by the San Juan Mountain Association. We support stewardship education in the schools and field trips for kids. We support the development of a stewardship council to promote better communication among all types of users. Some are concerned that a stewardship council may not fairly represent all interests.

We recognize that courtesy and education go a long way, but ideally needs to be supported by enforcement for example motorized users traveling too fast in the Hermosa. We also recognize that there is very little money for enforcement and that we must exercise user stewardship in order to avoid degradation and the resulting closure and locking down of areas where adequate agency enforcement is not feasible. At the same time the Agency and public need to push for adequate funding for management and enforcement.

We envision a future in which volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt-a-trail groups.

## **Supporting Materials: Desired Future Narrative**

### **Integrated Desired Future Flip Chart Notes Durango, June 16, 2005**

#### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses:**

- More people = increasing use conflicts both recreational and traditional uses
- Encourage multiple use while maintaining quality of resources and avoiding degradation from recreational and extractive uses.
- Partnership of forest managers, users and community supported by education, improved communication.
- Positive trend over past 20 years in improved grazing management reduced impacts. Continue this trend into the future.
- Use of grazing as a tool to improve wildlife conditions (e.g. re-opening access into aspen regeneration following the Missionary Ridge fire.

1. motorized recreation will dominate future uses
2. motorized uses make the forest smaller - the uses are exclusive (hikers and atv's)
3. concerned that new population of hikers will squeeze out traditional users
4. uses should remain diverse and balanced, there is a place for everyone
5. mining, grazing, drilling need to be managed tighter than it has in the past

- The future needs to include more activities like what is going on in this room – different users talking to each other.
- We can't go on as we have in the past – can't have conflicting uses and damage such as extreme ATV use and trashy hunter camps.
- This is the first opportunity I've had in seven years to talk like this with others.
- The USFS, BLM, and citizen groups need to be pro-active, not just react when something is ruined.
- Encourage better cooperation among all agencies and entities on issues such as enforcement, etc.
- The process has focused on humans and human activities – manage for wildlife, habitat, natural processes as well.
- Humans' economy is the top priority – don't lock anything up – my species comes first.
- The USFS/ BLM do a wonderful job considering their limitations, but I wonder if my grandchildren will be able to see what I do. We may have to make sacrifices to keep some things pristine.
- Be careful with uses that may wipe out all others, such as the oil and gas development in northern New Mexico.
- The USFS faces its biggest challenge ever in the next 15 years because of the population explosion in the San Juan Basin. This can't be everyone's playground – the budget isn't there for enforcement.
- Education and stewardship can help.
- Out-of-state hunters pay big fees, then think that entitles them to trash pick-up, etc. More enforcement is needed but the money isn't there.

- Important to be “inclusive” and maintain this mixture and diversity of public uses on the land—large wilderness areas, roadless areas, motorized areas, cross country ski and backcountry ski areas, etc. We’re lucky here, because terrain has helped us define areas for different uses.
- A vision with balance and diversity is the most important because it leads to diverse uses and opportunities
- Overall, a lot has stayed the same on the San Juan in the past 25 years. There’s been some change that is primarily access driven.
- Everybody has the right to use the public lands, adhering to the rules and without causing harm. Important to maintain the use and access to public lands.
- Concerned about overuse; need to preserve & protect what we have.
- Keep it SIMPLE. Don’t want to “over plan”. Like the Theme 3 because these areas are not “actively” managed until there is a reason to do so.
- Appreciate the working lands because we have renewable grass, lands, trees and appreciate the commercial recreation opportunities.

### **Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife:**

- Keep landscapes as natural as they are. Don’t degrade.
- Control invasive species
- Strong, healthy wildlife populations, based on sound management
- Important to consider wildlife in the “mix” of the vision and the group felt that the draft addressed wildlife adequate.
  - The current approach of breaking things into small management units is best.
  - The wide range of geological history is an educational opportunity.
  - It would be nice to set aside a certain number of acres of desert, forest, etc., for no use to show people what plants will grow and how it will look if undisturbed.
  - The worst thing we ever did to the high country was declare it wilderness – everyone goes there.
  - That’s true, but every place is growing more crowded.
    1. Many of our land areas and environments are fragile
    2. need unique management approaches that recognize special areas and manage them as such
    3. not very many areas like ours with so few roads, don’t want to see any more roads
    4. want to see management plan that doesn’t resist wilderness additions of special areas

### **Recreation:**

- Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders aware of terrain and weather so as to avoid erosion.
- Routed and maintained trails, and users that stay on trails and avoid erosion.
- Increasing use of volunteerism to maintain trails.

- Users involved in prioritizing and developing maintenance plans for trails to make most effective and coordinated use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt a trail volunteers.
  - Manage impact of hunters (many are once a year visitors) by improved cooperation and communication between DOW and FS and effective education methods.
  - Loop roads avoid branches
- Education is the key to resolving recreation disputes.
- The FS/BLM should have the budget to manage effectively.
  - Balance commercial outfitting and individual uses. Is enough emphasis put on land stewardship by commercial outfitters?
  - We outfitters have an interest in responsible use because of USFS regulations and because it's in our self-interest to have a pristine place to take people. There needs to be more management of individual users.
  - The USFS must be more upfront and aggressive and clear with private users about what the rules are. If you tell people clearly what to do, most will do it.
  - You need big signs and plastic bags for waste at trailheads. Signs should tell where the trails go and how to behave. Also, educate people BEFORE they're out there through the Chamber of Commerce, etc.
  - Beware of overdeveloping recreation sites with trails and parking lots, etc. – if you build it, they will come.
  - Bathrooms that are locked in the winter are a problem because people expect them to be available – try composting toilets or something.
1. Developing non-recreational land uses (extraction) impacts the potential positive economics of recreation uses, we should protect our recreation assets.
  2. Plan needs to specifically address motorized recreation
  3. want to see enforcement and a clear designation of motorized uses – they need to have a map that shows clearly which roads and routes are for motorized
  4. motorized users have a larger positive economic impact than non-motorized users – I know because I am a biker and we are cheap.
  5. non-motorized users can have positive economic impacts too.
  6. the uses need to be separated, additional access points would facilitate natural separation of uses

**Large Expenses of Undeveloped Country:**

- Keep them in tact.
  - Keep public lands as roadless as they currently are
  - Actively pursue these values (as citizens and public land users)
  - Keep enough existing roads open so people don't push into roadless areas.
  - Evaluate unneeded roads for closure
- Do not add anymore roads; use existing roads.

- Close roads that are dysfunctional. Some trails and roads are not constructed properly and cause resource damage, are inaccessible, and problematic (even maintaining them doesn't work.)
  - Let public groups help maintain routes that are “possible” to maintain.
  - Maintain what we have for access (trails and roads) that do not cause any further damage—don't create more and don't lose any.
  - Living here, we can lose sight of how “rare” areas like this are.
  - Important to keep the “wildness”. Don't want to see uses and activities that damage the ecosystem. Don't let anything take precedence over the “wildness” because it lends itself to the scenery, habitat and health that is so important.
- I worry the agencies are trying to create more wilderness – Congress is the only one that can do it.
  - The people in Washington, D.C., don't know our area.
  - Wildlife, especially big carnivores, are key to maintaining the health of the wilderness. See humans as part of the whole. It's a valuable feeling to hike and know you aren't at the top of the food chain – also, wolves, etc., are key to ecological health.
  - No. 4 is the most important part of the San Juan Public Lands even if I never see it.
  - Wildlife need corridors.
  - Undeveloped areas are good for the economy of the area because people come to see them.
1. I want my kids to be able to see the wilderness as it exists today (e.g. emerald lake)
  2. our views are based on our timeframe, uses change – emerald lake didn't use to exist
  3. water resources could be protected by the USFS now without waiting for a designation from congress
  4. want to see more specially designated wilderness areas
  5. want to see emphasis on currently road less areas to stay that way

### **Scenery:**

- No degradation of scenery
  - Provide for access to scenery along travel corridors
  - Avoid intensive, view blocking development
  - F.S. acquisition of mining claims for protection and access (e.g. Animas Forks and Eureka)
  - Acquire key access routes: (e.g. Pine River Trail, Upper Lightner Creek, Shearer Creek)
- Want to have scenery protected in management decisions.
- Pull-offs, the Animas Valley overlook, etc., are great for people not familiar with the area – they will spread the news to a greater audience.
1. should mention alpine tundra in the definition – people can see a lot of tundra from the roads even.

### **Clean Air and Water:**

- Protect watersheds
  - Maintain clean air
  - Active understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution
  - Keep degrading activities away from streams
  - Mine reclamation for water quality
- 
- We're downwind from a lot of dirty air – we need legislative help in protecting our air.
  - Pollution goes beyond power plants – a lot of pump jacks are dirty – the agencies should better regulate such uses that occur on public lands.
  - Colorado state water law supersedes public lands.
  - Why take pride in the state's clean air and water and then build thousands of new homes? It's a contradiction.
  - Keep it clean.
- 
1. continue cleaning and reclaiming mining sites to improve water quality
  2. increase concern and monitor air quality from 4 corners power plant.
  3. USFS should maintain class 1 designation by being proactive and monitoring surrounding land uses and developments- i.e. outside of the forest boundaries
  4. concerned about deletion of water by gas drilling
  5. want to see increased safeguarding of water and streams

### **Heritage Resources:**

- Protect them, don't lose them
  - Continue to build partnerships to protect mining structures, responsible recreational use
  - Exhibits on Native American history e.g. road side information on Highway 151 between Lake Capote and Ignacio
  - Stop the exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes, which have a negative impact on the landscape.
- 
- Keep sites off maps.
  - Keep doing what you're doing.
  - Improved signage and designations are needed for prehistoric Ute trails and other historic and cultural sites.
- 
1. It's a treat to find old mining sites
  2. designate and protect historical sites
  3. We need to fund enforcement and protection of heritage resources
  4. encourage acquisition of private land to protect heritage sites

### **Citizen Stewardship:**

- Build on SJMA, education and stewardship programs
  - Involve the schools, start young, include field trips
  - Develop stewardship council to promote better communication among all types of users.
  - Forum and opportunity for communication among various user groups
  - Education within schools.
- Courtesy and education goes a long way.
  - Enforcement needs to go with education. However the reality is that there is very little money for enforcement. Rather than seeing everything locked down and closed because it can't be enforced, we rather see stewardship. Stewardship is a big part of the vision.
- Kudos to the San Juan Mountains Association.
  - I hope the area's special feeling of land stewardship will continue.
  - Stewardship is great here but is no replacement for competent professional staff. You can't have a skeleton USFS/BLM and expect things to be taken care of.
  - Maintain or increase education and stewardship efforts such as field trips for kids.
  - Maybe have a regular newspaper column by the agencies.
1. Encourage it and continue stewardship

### **New Categories/Other Comments:**

- Forest Health
1. get DOW moiré involved in USFS decision making
  2. collaboration with other agencies
- consider wildlife habitat issues with regard to our growing popu

## **Desired Future Narrative Columbine Study Group Draft 1 Based on Flip Chart Notes, Durango, June 16, 2005**

NOTE:

Phrases Highlighted in **Bold Font** provided the basis for posters that follow

### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses:**

While we **recognize that more people and increasing use of public lands will result in conflicts**, we desire a **future that encourages multiple use, while maintaining the quality of resources and avoiding degradation** from both **recreational and traditional uses**. This will require a **partnership of forest managers, users and communities supported by education and communication, including future opportunities such as the Study Groups**.

We appreciate the working lands because they provide renewable grass, lands, trees and commercial recreation opportunities. We recognize that grazing and timber management have improved over the past 20 years and wish to see the stewardship of renewable resources continue to improve and refined as tools for benefits such as reducing wildfire hazards and improving wildlife conditions. Management of extractive uses such as mining oil and gas also need continued improvement to minimize conflict and damage during operation, and restore completed operations to a healthy and natural condition.

We wish to remain inclusive and maintain the mixture and diversity of recreational uses on public land—large wilderness areas, roadless areas, motorized areas, cross country ski and backcountry ski areas, etc. We're lucky here, because terrain has helped us define areas for different uses. A vision with balance and diversity is the most important because it leads to diverse uses and opportunities. It is important to maintain access to and use of public lands, for those willing to follow the rules and avoid harm to the land.

We acknowledge that a major challenge is addressing the social conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation use and the erosion, trash, and resource damage that can result from irresponsible use, particularly during intensive periods of use such as hunting season. We desire a future in which uses are diverse and balanced, and there is a place for everyone supported by the means to resolve social and resource conflicts through user education and stewardship and better cooperation among all agencies and entities on issues such as enforcement and maintenance. The USFS, BLM, and citizen groups need to be pro-active, and go beyond reacting when something is being ruined.

#### **Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife:**

We desire a future in which landscapes are kept as natural as they currently are with healthy, soundly managed wildlife populations, and effective controls on invasive species. We recognize that many of our land areas and environments are fragile, and need management approaches that recognize these characteristics.

We would like to see areas reflecting a diversity of landscapes (desert, forest etc.) remain relatively undisturbed. While we intend that appropriate theme allocations will support management that minimizes disturbance of natural areas, we hold different views over the creation of special areas and wilderness areas. Some of us are concerned that wilderness and special area designation will attract more visitors while limiting management flexibility. Others feel that such designations achieve protections, which can be accomplished in no other way.

We see the **importance of considering wildlife as a critical part of the mix in making management decisions and view the rich geological history as an educational opportunity. Our public lands are unique in having large areas with few roads and we don't want to see more roads in these areas.**

#### **Recreation:**

We **desire a recreational future that balances commercial outfitting with individual uses, with a strong stewardship ethic on the part of both commercial and non-commercial users.**

**Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders need to be aware of terrain and weather so as to avoid erosion. We desire a system of routed and maintained trails, and users that stay on roads and trails. We would like to see loop roads and trails that are selected and designed to create a variety of opportunities while avoiding a proliferation of branches. Where separation of travel modes is possible and desirable, additional access points would facilitate natural separation.**

We see **education, volunteerism, good visitor information and maps, clear designation, signage and enforcement as key elements in improved stewardship and resolving conflicts among users. These outcomes must be supported by adequate agency budgets.**

We envision a future in which **volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt a trail groups.**

We would like to see **unneded roads evaluated and closed or fixed especially roads and trails that are dysfunctional for reasons such as erosion, resource damage, poor construction and inadequate access.**

We **recognize the positive economic impacts of both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses. Visitors need to be educated before they go out through information outlets such as visitor centers, chambers of commerce and local businesses that provide goods and services to visitors.**

We are **concerned about overdeveloping recreation sites and drawing more use, but access to minimal facilities such as composting toilets should be available in areas of concentrated use. We want to manage the impacts of hunting season by improved cooperation and communication between the Division of Wildlife and SJPLC.**

### **Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:**

We realize that it is **easy** for those of us lucky enough to live here to **lose sight of how rare areas with as much natural and undeveloped country are**. We **wish to maintain this “wildness” to protect ecosystem health, scenery, wildlife habitat and corridors in order to support healthy wildlife populations including existing and potential habitation by large carnivores such as wolves**. We recognize that **undeveloped areas are good for the economy** of the area because their **uniqueness attracts visitors**.

We desire a future in which **large expanses of undeveloped country are kept in tact** by keeping public lands that are roadless as they currently are. To achieve this outcome, we need to **keep enough existing roads open so that people don't feel the need to push into roadless areas**.

**Some of us are concerned that the agencies are trying to create more de-facto wilderness which is the prerogative of Congress. Others see the importance of keeping roadless areas in tact and available for Wilderness designation by Congressional action in the future.**

### **Scenery:**

We desire a future with **no degradation of scenery from view blocking development**. We support a future which provides **access to scenery along travel corridors including pull-offs and overlooks**. We support **protection and acquisition of key access routes including patented mining claims**.

### **Clean Air and Water:**

We wish to protect watersheds and maintain clean air through active understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution. We wish to **keep degrading activities away from streams, and undertake mine reclamation to protect water quality**. We are **concerned about the discharge of water resulting from gas drilling and potential pollution from pump jacks** including those on public land.

We seek a future with **stronger monitoring of the air quality impacts from the Four Corners area power plants**, and would like the **USFS to maintain Class 1 air quality standards and monitor impacts on Forest land from off-forest uses and developments**.

We are **concerned that the accelerated pace of growth and development can have a significant impact on water and air quality**. We recognize that **compliance with Colorado water law must be considered in water management decisions**.

### **Heritage Resources:**

We support the continued designation, protection and acquisition of heritage sites and lands. We desire a future which continues to build partnerships to protect mining structures while protecting responsible recreational use of heritage areas. We would like to see more exhibits on Native American history such as road side information on Highway 151 between Lake Capote and Ignacio and designation and signage of prehistoric Ute trails. Sensitive cultural sites that are difficult to protect should be kept off of maps.

We would like to stop the exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes which have a negative impact on the landscape. We support a future which funds the protection of heritage sites backed by enforcement.

### **Citizen Stewardship:**

We desire a future which builds on education and stewardship programs such as those provided by the San Juan Mountain Association. We support stewardship education in the schools and field trips for kids. We support the development of a stewardship council to promote better communication among all types of users.

We recognize that courtesy and education go a long way, but ideally needs to be supported by enforcement. We also recognize that there is very little money for enforcement and that we must exercise user stewardship in order to avoid degradation and the resulting closure and locking down of areas where adequate agency enforcement is not feasible.

We envision a future in which volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt-a-trail groups.

## **Desired Future Columbine District Study Group Posters Framework for August 11, 2005 Study Group Stick on Comments**

### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses:**

1. Recognize more people, increasing use of public land will result in conflicts
2. Want multiple use while maintaining quality of resources, avoid degradation from recreational and traditional uses
3. Will require partnership: managers, users, communities supported by education including future opportunities such as Study Groups
4. Appreciate working lands which provide renewable grass, trees, commercial recreation opportunities

5. Recognize grazing and timber management have improved over last 20 years and want continued refinements as tools for wildfire mitigation, habitat improvement, etc
6. Manage extractive uses, e.g. mining, oil & gas to minimize conflict damage during operation, restore when completed to health, natural condition
7. Remain inclusive, maintain mixture and diversity of recreation uses – large wilderness/roadless areas, motorized areas, cross country/back country ski areas etc.

### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses-Poster 2**

8. Lucky on San Juan, diversity of terrain allows for and defines diversity of uses
9. Important to maintain public access to use of public lands for those willing to follow the rules, avoid harm to land
10. Acknowledge major challenges – addressing social conflicts between motorized use, and
11. Avoiding erosion, trash, resource damage from irresponsible use, especially intensive periods such as hunting season
12. Desire future of diverse, balanced uses, a place for everyone, supported by means to resolve social and resource conflicts
13. Key to resolving conflicts: education, user stewardship, cooperation among all agencies and partners on enforcement and maintenance.
14. USFS, BLM and citizen groups need to be proactive and go beyond reacting when something is ruined

### **Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife:**

1. Future with landscapes kept natural, with healthy, soundly managed wildlife populations, effective controls on invasive species.
2. Many land areas and environments fragile – manage to protect characteristics
3. Areas reflecting a diversity of landscapes (desert, forest etc.) should remain relatively undisturbed
4. Intend for theme allocations to minimize disturbance of natural areas, but hold different views on creation of wilderness, special areas
5. Some are concerned that special designations attract more visitors, limit management flexibility, others feel designations are essential to protection
6. See importance of considering wildlife as a critical part of the mix in making management decisions
7. View rich geological history as unique educational opportunity
8. Our public lands unique in have large areas with few roads, don't want more roads in these areas

### **Recreation:**

1. Desire balance of commercial outfitting and individual uses with strong stewardship ethic on the part of both
2. Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders need to be aware of terrain, weather so as to avoid erosion
3. Desire routed and maintained roads and trails with users that stay on them

4. Loop roads and trails selected and designed to create a variety of opportunities, while avoiding proliferation of branches
5. Where separation of travel modes is possible additional access points would facilitate natural separation
6. Education, volunteerism, visitor information/maps, clear designation/signage and enforcement are key elements to improved stewardship, conflict resolution – must be supported by adequate agency budgets
7. Future of volunteers increasingly involved in maintaining trails, developing, prioritizing maintenance plans coordinating effective volunteer use – grazers, outfitters, trail clubs, adopt a trail groups
8. Unneeded/dysfunctional roads evaluated and closed or fixed – to address erosion, resource damage, poor construction, inadequate access
9. Recognize positive economic impacts motorized and non-motorized recreational use visitors need education in advance through Chambers, visitor centers, local businesses that provide goods and services to visitors etc.
10. Concerned about over-developing recreation sites and drawing more use, but access and minimal facilities are needed in areas of concentrated use
11. Manage impacts of hunting season by improved cooperation between Division of Wildlife and SJPLC

#### **Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:**

1. Easy to lose site of how rare areas with as much undeveloped country as ours are
2. Maintain wildness to protect ecosystem health, scenery, as well as wildlife habitat, corridors, and populations including large carnivores, and wolves
3. Undeveloped areas good for the economy, uniqueness attracts visitors
4. Keeping large expanses of undeveloped and roadless in tact is desired
5. Keeping unroaded areas will require keeping enough roads open elsewhere to avoid the need to push into roadless areas
6. Some are concerned about agencies creating de-facto wilderness which is the prerogative of Congress
7. Others want roadless areas kept in tact to be available for Congressional action in the future

#### **Scenery, Clean Air and Water:**

1. No degradation of scenery from view blocking development
2. Access to scenery along travel corridors including pull offs and overlooks
3. Protection, acquisition of key access routes including patented mining claims
4. Protect watersheds and maintain clean air including understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution
5. Keep degrading activity away from streams, and undertake mine reclamation to protect water quality
6. Concerned about discharge of water from gas drilling and potential pollution from pump jacks

7. Stronger monitoring of air quality for 4 Corners power plants – USFS should maintain Class 1 air quality and monitor on and off forest impacts from use/development
8. Concerned about accelerated growth impacting air and water quality – recognize compliance with Colo. Water law a consideration in decisions

#### **Heritage Resources:**

1. Support continued designation, protection, acquisition of heritage sites/lands
2. Continue to develop partnerships to protect mining structures while also protecting responsible recreational use of heritage areas
3. More exhibits on Native American history e.g. roadside information on Highway 151 and signage of prehistoric Ute Trails
4. Keep sensitive cultural sites off of maps
5. Stop exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes – and resulting negative impacts on landscape
6. Future funds to protect heritage sites backed by enforcement

#### **Citizen Stewardship:**

1. Build on education/stewardship programs such as San Juan Mountain Assoc.
2. Stewardship Council to promote better cooperation among all types of users
3. Recognize value of courtesy and education, but ideally they need to be backed by enforcement
4. Recognize there is little money for enforcement, so must exercise user stewardship to avoid degradation and resulting lockdown of areas where enforcement is not feasible
5. Future of volunteers increasingly involved in maintaining trails, developing, prioritizing maintenance plans coordinating effective volunteer use – grazers, outfitters, trail clubs, adopt a trail groups

### **Desired Future Columbine District Study Group Posters August 11, 2005 Study Group Stick on Comments**

#### **Working Landscapes Diversity of Uses (James)**

##### ***#1 Recognize more people, increasing use of public land will result in conflicts***

- Enlarging Multiple use areas will reduce conflicts
- If conflicts happen, investigate and enforce if legitimate.
- Personally, I'm seeing many people cramming into some areas, some areas have become underused and the trails are disappearing.

##### ***#2 Want multiple use while maintaining quality of resources, avoid degradation from recreation and traditional uses.***

- We must truly uphold multiple use.

- We are not going to continue to learn and improve unless we have opportunities to do this.
- Don't make it so difficult to be an extractive user, this is hard work. There are less and less people willing to work hard (grazing, timber).
- The only good tree is a stump.

**#5 Recognize grazing and timber management have improved over last 20 years and want continued refinements as tools for wildfire mitigation, habitat improvements, etc..**

- Grazing is important to ranching, these ranching families keep our open space in the county.
- As a livestock permittee in Bear Creek, I'm pleased to see grazing recognized as a good tool in multiple use.
- Healthy forests need to be grazed.

**#10 Acknowledge major challenges – addressing social conflicts between motorized use and non-motorized use.**

- The study groups have provided an excellent way for conflicting users to sit together and talk.
- Make the tow sides got along by reminding thme that the areas are multiple use and they have to share
- Designate areas for non-motorized winter use especially on enlarged areas around Andrew's Lake.

**#11 Avoiding erosion, trash, resource damage from irresponsible use, especially intensive periods such as hunting season.**

- Important for the FS to tell hunters, through written message with their license, what the rules are for hunter camps.

**# 12 Desire future of diverse, balanced uses, place for everyone, supported by means to resolve social and resource conflicts.**

- Maintain a diversity of uses.

**#14 USFS, BLM and Citizen Groups need to be proactive and go beyond reacting when something is ruined.**

- Consider cooperation with local colleges that provide access to scientific projects amongst students interested in wilderness.
- Citizen groups are only one part of the community, listen so science.

**Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife: Marsha P-N**

1. Future with landscapes kept natural, with healthy, soundly managed wildlife populations, effective controls on invasive species.
  - all facets of USFS & users need to work more on invasive species
2. Many land areas and environments fragile – manage to protect characteristics

- definitely need more enforcement to protect area
3. Areas reflecting a diversity of landscapes (desert, forest etc.) should remain relatively undisturbed
  4. Intend for theme allocations to minimize disturbance of natural areas, but hold different views on creation of wilderness, special areas
    - no more wilderness area – multiple use area are already too small
    - need additional wilderness to ensure permanent protection to guard against administrative whims from different political administrations
    - USFS needs to create system of RNAs that represents all ecosystems, particularly low elevation like Ignacio Creek, Archuleta Mesa, Deep Canyon
    - No need to create more wilderness. We also have national parks.
  5. Some are concerned that special designations attract more visitors, limit management flexibility, others feel designations are essential to protection
    - The Weeminuche is overused in Chicago Basin because there are many more people seeking wilderness experiences. We've got to manage it better and have more wilderness opportunities.
    - As population increases destinations such as wilderness will be important to protect – roadless and other special features.
  6. See importance of considering wildlife as a critical part of the mix in making management decisions
    - Yes! Take care of the wildlife and that will take care of a lot of issues.
    - Yes! Wildlife makes wilderness come alive!
  7. View rich geological history as unique educational opportunity
  8. Our public lands unique in have large areas with few roads, don't want more roads in these areas.
    - possibly open up some existing roads for short times clean up dead fuel for example harvest poles or firewood
    - agree – we need fewer roads in many places such as Glade on Dolores District

**Recreation: Andrew**

1. Desire balance of commercial outfitting and individual uses with strong stewardship ethic on the part of both
  - Please be careful no to cut short the # of commercial horse outfitters. I'm seeing a pattern where a lot of people aspire to be in the mountain with horses but are intimidated. The forest plan must continue to cultivate professional guide opportunities.
2. Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders need to be aware of terrain, weather so as to avoid erosion

- Specific control of ATV usage and damage
  - Allow ATV use is only way some older people can see some of the country
  - Need adequate funding for trail maintenance. Experiencing significant deadfall on trails as result of missionary ridge fire avalanches have close major trails which need to be addressed in a timely manner most trails are already being rerouted because deadfall not being cleared – lost creek trail.
  - Winter recreation also
3. Desire routed and maintained roads and trails with users that stay on them
    - Create more loop trails
  4. Loop roads and trails selected and designed to create a variety of opportunities, while avoiding proliferation of branches
    - We need more interconnected trails that result in through travel opportunities within and between public lands districts
    - By branches do you mean branching trails sounds awkward here like tree branches
    - This goes for winter recreations as well
  5. Where separation of travel modes is possible additional access points would facilitate natural separation
    - In addition to separations of travel modes we need to look at separate motorized non motorized areas
  6. Education, volunteerism, visitor information/maps, clear designation/signage and enforcement are key elements to improved stewardship, conflict resolution – must be supported by adequate agency budgets
    - We need more enforcement of ORV activity. They are out of control in some areas – Hermosa creek
    - Budgets very key on this point
  7. Future of volunteers increasingly involved in maintaining trails, developing, prioritizing maintenance plans coordinating effective volunteer use – grazers, outfitters, trail clubs, adopt a trail groups
  8. Unneeded/dysfunctional roads evaluated and closed or fixed – to address erosion, resource damage, poor construction, inadequate access
    - Don't get too carried away closing dysfunctional roads if they are not a big erosion problem leave good enough alone. Some of these roads provide access in places that are otherwise too steep let them be trails.
    - Should not close anything already too crowded
  9. Recognize positive economic impacts motorized and non-motorized recreational use visitors need education in advance through Chambers, visitor centers, local businesses that provide goods and services to visitors etc.
  10. Concerned about over-developing recreation sites and drawing more use, but access and minimal facilities are needed in areas of concentrated use
  11. Manage impacts of hunting season by improved cooperation between Division of Wildlife and SJPLC
    - Trails in desperate need of maintenance especially water bars
    - Restrict off trail horse travel near or above tree line too fragile

- Excellent comments. 11 is very important hunters need help understanding NF rules for making and leaving amps. With heavy use we've all got to be better stewards.

### **Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:**

1. Easy to lose site of how rare areas with as much undeveloped country as ours are
2. Maintain wildness to protect ecosystem health, scenery, as well as wildlife habitat, corridors, and populations including large carnivores, and wolves
3. Undeveloped areas good for the economy, uniqueness attracts visitors
  - How can developed areas attract visitors and still be undeveloped?
4. Keeping large expanses of undeveloped and roadless in tact is desired
5. Keeping un-roaded areas will require keeping enough roads open elsewhere to avoid the need to push into roadless areas
  - It is unrealistic to think people won't feel compelled to push into road less areas whether or not there are roads open to them
6. Some are concerned about agencies creating de-facto wilderness which is the prerogative of Congress
  - Forest service can and should use management themes that adequately protect road less character. i.e. theme one can apply to any other than designated wilderness.
7. Others want roadless areas kept in tact to be available for Congressional action in the future
  - Road less area – we need representation from all groups serving on the state committee re road less areas
  - Road less primitive areas should be managed as wilderness congressional action in the future is possible but such action takes way to long to save the primitive areas
8. Forest service should propose for wilderness protection additional areas particularly low elevation ecosystems

### **Scenery, Clean Air and Water: 8/11, Columbine, Marsha**

1. No degradation of scenery from view blocking development
  - 1-8 excellent
2. Access to scenery along travel corridors including pull offs and overlooks
  - clean air and water – very important vision
3. Protection, acquisition of key access routes including patented mining claims
4. Protect watersheds and maintain clean air including understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution
  - pressure on federal agencies and government to address power plans and pollution
  - The air is more clear round here than in the 1960s

- USFS/BLM should become leaders in research and designation of pollution sources on and off public lands
5. Keep degrading activity away from streams, and undertake mine reclamation to protect water quality
    - No drilling activities along stream beds – esp. oil wells along New Mexico/Colorado border
  6. Concerned about discharge of water from gas drilling and potential pollution from pump jacks
    - support drilling on public land. If more drilling on public land, less drilling on private land along mineral royalties will be shared by the public not just a few
    - USFS should require that oil and gas companies comply with Colorado water law
  7. Stronger monitoring of air quality for 4 Corners power plants – USFS should maintain Class 1 air quality and monitor on and off forest impacts from use/development
    - Clean air is a very regional-type of issue. Hard to control through this Plan.
    - Forest should take aggressive proactive role in protection our air quality and should oppose new power plans, or insist on best technology for emissions
    - In the 1960s, you could see huge dark clouds from the power plan. Today, you seldom see the pollution. Tech on plants has been a big plus. No need to interfere here
  8. Concerned about accelerated growth impacting air and water quality – recognize compliance with Colo. Water law a consideration in decisions
    - adhere to whichever law is “strictest” – Colorado or federal

## **Heritage Resources: Gabe**

### ***# 1 Support continued designation, protection, acquisition of heritage sites/lands.***

- Of all the issues the USFS must deal with and fund, I would recommend limiting how many heritage sites you identify.
- Consider national conservation area designation for Alpine Loop area.

### ***# 3 More exhibits on Native American history e.g. roadside information on Highway 151 and signage of prehistoric Ute Trails.***

- Consider roadside information on geology visible in certain areas.
- If visitors have a choice, they want to go to the top of the highest mountain for a view, Native American stuff is not a high priority.
- Native American exhibit on 151. Forget the signs if you want to maintain the area. They’ll just become targets. If someone is interested in Native American culture they are very near Ignacio.

- Need stricter guidelines for designation of heritage sites such as:
  - Significant social impact
  - Unique architecture

**#5 Stop exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes**

- Support acquisition of patented claims in Alpine Loop Country.

**Citizen Stewardship Poster Notes: Shannon**

- 1. Build on education/stewardship programs such as San Juan Mountain Assoc.**
- 2. Stewardship Council to promote better cooperation among all types of users**
  - Forest Service should not turn over management to unbalanced advisory committees. How will all interest be fairly represented?
- 3. Recognize value of courtesy and education, but ideally they need to be backed by enforcement**
  - I am very concerned about the rule bending done by the motorized community. We need enforcement at least. They do not belong in the Hermosa and they are traveling too fast for the other users.
- 4. Recognize there is little money for enforcement, so must exercise user stewardship to avoid degradation and resulting lockdown of areas where enforcement is not feasible**
  - The enforcement piece is somewhat troubling. Citizens involved in enforcement as a “volunteer” effort is a scary thought (vigilantes, perhaps).
  - Agree. Would it be possible to train more BLM employees—giving folks who serve specific areas (summer and possible few in winter) to ticket and enforce violators?
  - The Forest Service and public must insist that Congress adequately fund management and enforcement.
- 5. Future of volunteers increasingly involved in maintaining trails, developing, prioritizing maintenance plans coordinating effective volunteer use – grazers, outfitters, trail clubs, adopt a trail groups**

Hi Marsha—

I was handed a sticky note comment that someone wanted to place on the poster you took home to type up. It's been a little hard to read (or just very fragmented

sentences), but I think I got their gist. Here it is...please add to your other notes (I'm not sure which statement they meant it for).

Need to consider the air pollution impact (not just danger to structures) that some large fires that are allowed to burn cause (e.g., Bear Cr. Fire). These fires need to consider air pollution impact to communities and large recreation areas e.g., Vallecito & Lemon Reservoirs (limit/control it).

-sm

### **Desired Future Narrative – Columbine Study Group DRAFT 2**

Narrative Revised to Incorporate Poster Exercise Additions at 8-11-05 Meeting

NOTE: Changes to Draft 1 based on poster notes are highlighted in blue font

#### **Working Landscape/Diversity of Uses:**

While we recognize that more people and increasing use of public lands will result in conflicts, we desire a future that encourages multiple use **recognizing the hard work involved in resource extraction**, while maintaining the quality of resources and avoiding degradation from both recreational and traditional uses. **One strategy for reducing conflict is to expand areas where multiple uses occur, relieving pressure on overused areas and opening up use in underutilized areas where trails are disappearing.** This will require a partnership of forest managers, users and communities supported by education and communication, including future opportunities such as the Study Groups.

We appreciate the working lands because they provide renewable grass, lands, trees and commercial recreation opportunities. We recognize that grazing and timber management have improved over the past 20 years and wish to see the stewardship of renewable resources continue to improve and refined as tools for benefits such as reducing wildfire hazards and improving wildlife conditions. **We recognize the importance of grazing permits to the continuation of ranching and the open space that ranching provides. Proper grazing can contribute to forest health.** Management of extractive uses such as mining oil and gas also need continued improvement to minimize conflict and damage during operation, and restore completed operations to a healthy and natural condition.

We wish to remain inclusive and maintain the mixture and diversity of recreational uses on public land—large wilderness areas, roadless areas, motorized areas, cross country ski and backcountry ski areas, etc. We're lucky here, because terrain has helped us define areas for different uses. A vision with balance and diversity is the most important because it leads to diverse uses and opportunities. It is important to maintain access to and use of public lands, for those willing to follow the rules and avoid harm to the land.

We acknowledge that a major challenge is addressing the social conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation use and the erosion, trash, and resource damage that can result from irresponsible use, particularly during intensive periods of use such as hunting season. [A written message with each hunting license should outline rules for hunter camps.](#) We desire a future in which uses are diverse and balanced, and there is a place for everyone supported by the means to resolve social and resource conflicts through user education and stewardship and better cooperation among all agencies and entities on issues such as enforcement and maintenance. [It is important for motorized and non-motorized users understand the need to share as part of multiple use management. The Study Groups have provided an excellent way for conflicting users to sit together and talk.](#) The USFS, BLM, and citizen groups need to be pro-active, and go beyond reacting when something is being ruined. [There needs to be more effective use of science, with contributions made by local colleges and students.](#)

### **Diverse Landscapes, Plants and Wildlife:**

We desire a future in which landscapes are kept as natural as they currently are with healthy, soundly managed wildlife populations, and effective controls on invasive species [with the active participation of all users and resource managers.](#) We recognize that many of our land areas and environments are fragile, and need management approaches that recognize these characteristics [including enforcement where necessary.](#)

We would like to see areas reflecting a diversity of landscapes (desert, forest etc.) remain relatively undisturbed. While we intend that appropriate theme allocations will support management that minimizes disturbance of natural areas, we hold different views over the creation of special areas and wilderness areas. Some of us are concerned that wilderness and special area designation will attract more visitors while limiting management flexibility [and further reducing multiple use areas, and that additional Wilderness is unnecessary.](#) Others feel that such designations achieve protections, which can be accomplished in no other way [by providing permanent protection from political and administrative whims and want to take pressure off of overused areas such as Chicago Basin by creating more Wilderness opportunities to keep up with population increases.](#) Some advocate creating a system of RNAs representing all ecosystems, particularly at low elevation like Ignacio Creek, Archuleta Mesa and Deep Canyon.

We see the importance of considering wildlife as a critical part of the mix in making management decisions and view the rich geological history as an educational opportunity. Our public lands are unique in having large areas with few roads and we don't want to see more roads in these areas.

### **Recreation:**

We desire a recreational future that balances commercial outfitting with individual uses, with a strong stewardship ethic on the part of both commercial and non-commercial users. [This balance should recognize the value of the opportunities that commercial outfitters offer for those wishing to experience public lands on horseback.](#)

Mountain bikers, horse and ATV riders need to be aware of terrain and weather so as to avoid erosion. We desire a system of routed and maintained trails, [with more loop trails](#) and users that stay on roads and trails. [This will require funding for maintenance and attention to trails impacted by deadfall such as lost creek trail and other areas affected by the Missionary Ridge Fire.](#) We would like to see loop roads and trails that are selected and designed to create a variety of opportunities [including winter recreation and interconnection between Distircts](#), while avoiding a proliferation of branches. Where separation of travel modes is possible and desirable, additional access points would facilitate natural separation. [Some would lie to limit ATV use to the needs of older people that are unable to see the forest in any other way.](#)

We see education, volunteerism, good visitor information and maps, clear designation, signage and enforcement as key elements in improved stewardship and resolving conflicts among users. These outcomes must be supported by adequate agency budgets. [In some areas such as Hermosa Creek, more enforcement of ORV activity is needed. Enlarged areas for non-motorized recreation are needed around Andrews Lake.](#)

We envision a future in which volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt a trail groups.

We would like to see unneeded roads evaluated and closed or fixed especially roads and trails that are dysfunctional for reasons such as erosion, resource damage, poor construction and inadequate access. [However, don't close roads where erosion is not a big problem which could continue to provide access even if they are used as trails rather than roads. Some are concerned about any closures because this would add to overcrowding.](#)

We recognize the positive economic impacts of both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses. Visitors need to be educated before they go out through information outlets such as visitor centers, chambers of commerce and local businesses that provide goods and services to visitors.

We are concerned about overdeveloping recreation sites and drawing more use, but access to minimal facilities such as composting toilets should be available in areas of concentrated use. We want to manage the impacts of hunting season by improved cooperation and communication between the Division of Wildlife and

SJPLC. Hunters need to understand rules about making and leaving camps, trail maintenance needs to be increased, especially water bars, and off trail horse travel should be restricted in fragile areas above tree line. We realize that with heavy use we've all got to be better stewards.

### **Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:**

We realize that it is easy for those of us lucky enough to live here to lose sight of how rare areas with as much natural and undeveloped country are. We wish to maintain this "wildness" to protect ecosystem health, scenery, wildlife habitat and corridors in order to support healthy wildlife populations including existing and potential habitation by large carnivores such as wolves. **Wildness should allow for non-damaging recreation. Some don't want to see grizzlies or wolves introduced into the San Juan. Other concerns include the opinion that there is too much Wilderness, and the potential that land swaps will affect areas traditionally used by residents and the community.** We recognize that undeveloped areas are good for the economy of the area because their uniqueness attracts visitors, **but some are concerned that this attractiveness and undermine the undeveloped character.**

We desire a future in which large expanses of undeveloped country are kept in tact by keeping public lands that are roadless as they currently are. To achieve this outcome, we need to keep enough existing roads open so that people don't feel the need to push into roadless areas. **Some question whether keeping existing roads open will restrain the push into unroaded areas.**

Some of us are concerned that the agencies are trying to create more de-facto wilderness which is the prerogative of Congress. Others see the importance of **using management themes to keep roadless areas in tact and available for Wilderness designation by Congressional action in the future including low elevation ecosystems which are under represented in terms of Wilderness designation.**

### **Scenery:**

We desire a future with no degradation of scenery from view blocking development. We support a future which provides access to scenery along travel corridors including pull-offs and overlooks. We support protection and acquisition of key access routes including patented mining claims.

### **Clean Air and Water:**

We wish to protect watersheds and maintain clean air through active understanding and engagement of external sources of pollution. **Some emphasize keeping the pressure on federal agencies to address power plant pollution and want the USFS and BLM to become leaders in research and designation of pollution sources on and off of public land. Others consider the air**

to be clearer that it was in the 60s. We wish to keep degrading activities away from streams including prohibitions on oil and gas drilling in stream beds, and to undertake mine reclamation to protect water quality. We are concerned about the discharge of water resulting from gas drilling and potential pollution from pump jacks including those on public land. Oil and gas companies should be required to comply with Colorado water law. Some support drilling on public land because it reduces the impact on private land and provides royalties to the public rather than a few individuals.

We seek a future with stronger monitoring of the air quality impacts from the Four Corners area power plants, and would like the USFS to maintain Class 1 air quality standards and monitor impacts on Forest land from off-forest uses and developments. Others see air pollution as regional in nature, and difficult to address through the Forest/BLM Plans. Still others emphasize the improvement in air quality that has resulted from new technologies and see no need for additional intervention.

We are concerned that the accelerated pace of growth and development can have a significant impact on water and air quality. There is concern with the air quality impacts when large areas are allowed to burn on communities and large recreation areas such as Vallecito. We recognize that compliance with Colorado water law must be considered in water management decisions. Some prefer application of the strictest water standards, state or federal.

### **Heritage Resources:**

We support the continued designation, protection and acquisition of heritage sites and lands. We desire a future which continues to build partnerships to protect mining structures while protecting responsible recreational use of heritage areas. Some would like to limits on the designation of heritage resources and stricter guidelines because the resulting costs compete with the large number of other priorities. We would like to see more exhibits on Native American history such as road side information on Highway 151 between Lake Capote and Ignacio and designation and signage of prehistoric Ute trails. Sensitive cultural sites that are difficult to protect should be kept off of maps. Signs can also make sites a target.

We would like to stop the exploitation of mining claims for vacation homes which have a negative impact on the landscape. We support a future which funds the protection of heritage sites backed by enforcement as well as acquiring patented claims in the Alpine Loop Country.

### **Citizen Stewardship:**

We desire a future which builds on education and stewardship programs such as those provided by the San Juan Mountain Association. We support stewardship education in the schools and field trips for kids. We support the development of a stewardship council to promote better communication among all types of users.

Some are concerned that a stewardship council may not fairly represent all interests.

We recognize that courtesy and education go a long way, but ideally needs to be supported by enforcement [for example motorized users traveling too fast in the Hermosa](#). We also recognize that there is very little money for enforcement and that we must exercise user stewardship in order to avoid degradation and the resulting closure and locking down of areas where adequate agency enforcement is not feasible. [At the same time the Agency and public need to push for adequate funding for management and enforcement.](#)

We envision a future in which volunteers are increasingly involved in maintaining trails, and users are involved in developing and prioritizing maintenance plans and strategies for the coordinated and effective use of volunteers including grazers, outfitters, trail clubs and adopt-a-trail groups.