

San Juan Plan Revision Desired Future Narrative – Pagosa 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 Pagosa Springs on June 30, 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 2 meeting in Pagosa. 4) Participants at the August 2 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.

San Juan Plan Revision Desired Future Narrative – Pagosa District Study Group (8-2-05) Narrative Revised to Incorporate Poster Exercise Additions

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands:

We desire a future with continued opportunities for all uses within resource capacities and the critical need to protect ecological health.

We consider ecological health to be the cornerstone of all multiple uses, but we don't want to see it used to push a preservation agenda that excludes uses and threatens the livelihood of ranchers and others that depend on the use of public land. We do, however recognize the need to protect riparian areas from overgrazing.

The interrelationships between ecological health including maintenance of bio-diversity, economy, custom and heritage need to be considered. We don't want to let a one dimensional tourism economy squeeze out traditional uses. We wish to keep the agricultural uses of public lands, and need utilization standards that don't undermine the composition of the area. We would like to see more opportunities for those who want to continue the agricultural lifestyle.

We wish to keep grazing and timbering active to keep wildfire risk low. We also see grazing as an agricultural use that his part of or history and economy, and would like the costs of grazing permits to be self-sufficient. We support the timber harvests that are happening now because they are for forest restoration purposes including harvest and other techniques such as mulching. The forests are looking more natural again because they are being thinned to reduce wildfire hazard. We wish to continue this trend of thinning for forest health and restoration supported by funding.

We desire more local input into mining and energy development. Commercial development of forest resources should be undertaken with minimal adverse impacts on the forest and communities.

We also value the diversity of recreational opportunities we enjoy now and desire a future with even more camping opportunities including dispersed/primitive camping and developed sites, to meet the needs of families and people of all abilities and ages. We also wish continued opportunities for hiking equestrian and motorized uses including better maintained trails. We would like to manage the land to maintain its current character so our families and grandkids can experience that conditions and uses that we enjoy. We do however recognize that use is growing, which requires increased management to protect forest health.

Diverse Landscapes:

We support future management designed to maintain and enhance the habitat, wildlife and bio-diversity.

Recreation:

We desire a future with a continuing variety of recreational uses available, managed so as to maintain the integrity of the landscape, habitat and vegetation. We support monitoring of recreational levels to stay ahead of problems so that developed improvements are made when they are needed, but not before. We wish to have a plan which can be implemented when necessary. We would like to see recreation development clustered along major corridors and existing developed sites. We would like to reduce the impacts of dispersed camping by promoting a leave no trace ethic, keeping dispersed camping out of sensitive areas and, as necessary, providing more developed camp sites.

We desire a future with improved management of motorized use, including no further expansion, an end to motorized use off of legal roads and trails, which should be adequately marked and enforced to keep motorized use out of non-motorized areas. We would like to see a cooperative effort with a partnership between the USFS and local citizen working groups to maintain recreational trails. ATV erosion, downed timbers etc. are becoming a significant problem.

We would like to see more loops provided for mountain biking and other trial users such as hikers and equestrian users. An ethic needs to be promoted among mountain bikers to stay on trails to prevent erosion and damage to vegetation, and to stay out of Wilderness areas. This ethic needs to be backed by enforcement. We

desire a future in which everyone is educated about the care of the forest and there is no trash along roadways.

We believe that you can't let all recreation uses occur on all lands and that uses should be appropriate to the character of the landscape and the need to provide for a balance of uses such as separating snowmobiles from cross country skiers. We also desire that the areas that are roadless should remain roadless.

We need to retain the large expanse of undeveloped areas. These areas should be monitored to determine if unhealthy conditions exist. There should be no new roads unless needed for forest thinning/restoration based on clear criteria, and these should be closed when work is completed unless they would be of overall benefit to the trail system.

Scenery:

We desire a future that limits the impact of human development on scenic view sheds in a way that is respectful of the health of the land. This will require more careful development, and in some cases more limited development. In addition to protecting scenic quality and forest health, we wish to preserve wildlife corridors including those crossing private in-holdings as well as bio-diversity and ecological health. We realize that this desired future involves the purview of county government and we support and wish to promote agency-county cooperation.

We support the development of scenic overlooks and pullouts both for enhancement of the visitor experience and for public safety. Wildlife viewing should be included with scenic objectives. We also wish to maintain the aspen component for both its scenic and bio-diversity values.

Clean Air and Water

The San Juan has amazing headwaters which need to be protected in quality and quantity as the key to our ecological health. We wish to monitor and address any chemical contaminants from products used by recreationists. We support realistic water and air quality thresholds and want the SJPLC to do everything possible to protect clean air and water quality. This should include trailhead information about protecting mountain streams and adjacent habitat from degradation, and public education about the use of chemicals in or near streams. People need to know the long term impacts of their behaviors as a basis for ethical practices.

Heritage Resources

It is important to continue historic/traditional uses, such as grazing, as part of the community's custom and culture and for their scenic and economic contributions. We would like to see traditional user groups continue to maintain existing infrastructure and routes.

We value the human element of the natural landscape (e.g. historic mining sites), and wish to increase the stewardship of cultural resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The integrity and stability of cultural resources should be protected by avoiding Disney-like reconstructions and by limiting vehicle access to control vandalism.

The presence of cultural resources should also allow for other management activity based the intensity of activity and the importance, extent and sensitivity of the cultural resources in the area. Arborglyphs are an important part of our history and need to be protected. Interested groups should be encouraged to take responsibility for the stewardship of cultural resources.

Citizen Stewardship

We believe it is important for all user groups to be active stewards and create accountability to prevent a few bad apples from damaging the reputation of the entire group. At the same time, it will be important to insure that the decision making process is balanced in consideration all users, not just those that advocate the loudest, or we risk overlooking considerations such as wildlife and water quality.

As communities and the number of users grow, stewardship and volunteerism will need to grow. Education of those involved in stewardship should be a priority. We need to develop programs and projects that people can rally around such as Chimney Rock which has many volunteers. People need to know more about the land and how to take care of it. We need to harness the local energies of hundreds of Gray Wolves, and members of the San Juan Outdoors Club. Cattle grazers should be permitted to help with improvements and get rid of weeds using proper methods. We believe that the level of citizen involvement will be a reflection of citizen influence in management.

We see the need to create a forum for collaboration among counties, subdivisions, land owners, DOW, Chamber of Commerce, livestock permittees, fire departments etc. to take a landscape wide approach at setting common directions and solving issues such as wildlife migration corridors, fuels reduction projects, road maintenance, fences and gates, etc.

Increased population in the area will result in increased users and impacts on public lands. Public/private partnerships such as adopt a trail, and adopt a highway need to be used. The costs of impacts should be carried by users. The agencies should work with counties to implement land use plans that set density levels and restrictions that limit and direct growth. We would like to see a directive for the agencies and the County to work collaboratively, setting goals and direction together.

Funding:

We acknowledge the agency challenge of managing a large area with increasing users and declining resource management dollars. Users of the forests should work to get more money for the agency to manage the resources and recreation opportunities.

Supporting Materials: Desired Future Narrative

Integrated Desired Future Flip Chart Notes Pagosa SG Meeting 6/30/05

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands (and Ecological Health)

- Ecological Health needs to be specifically stated (even though federally mandated), it sustains all the uses and unique features.
- Providing opportunities for all uses and everyone's need is good, but it needs to be done within the resource capacity to protect the ecological health.
- Ecological health is the cornerstone for all multiple uses to occur, but don't want to see it used to push a preservation agenda that excludes uses because that threatens economic livelihood of ranchers and other permittees. Ecological health, economy, custom and heritage all need to be considered.
- Keep agricultural uses of public lands; it will change the composition of area if lost. Don't let a tourist economy squeeze out traditional uses
- The viability of private ranches is tied to their use of public lands. Need to be careful with range utilization standards; if utilization standards are decreased it impacts the economics and viability of ranchers.
- Would like to see more opportunities for those that want to continue an agricultural lifestyle. Are more grazing permits available?

camping, more of it -- mix of dispersed/primitive and perhaps some more developed sites

camping for families - good that families can do things like this together

camping for all ages and abilities

keep informal uses like hiking, biking, dispersed camping

some more campgrounds in suitable spots to reduce erosion and damage to the land are OK -- but don't develop just to develop

Do more management of recreation in general

maintained trails -- better

things have not changed that much in 40 years since I moved here, I want to keep it that way and so do my family and grandkids

probably can't keep it like it is now but want to (as much as we can, keep it like it is now)

manage the land to maintain its current character

happy with range of uses in place now, keep that

manage for change in areas of forest health, reduce human impacts as forests get used more and more

- need to keep grazing and timbering active to keep wildfire risk low
- local should have input into mining/energy development not just from Washington and management of other SJ resources
- Commercial development of forest resources should be undertaken with minimal adverse impact on forest and to communities

Diverse Landscapes

- Management should be designed to maintain and enhance diversity
- Combine diverse landscapes with the recreation category
- Can't let all uses (e.g. recreation) occur on all lands (e.g. snowmobiles might have to be separate from x country skiers)

•

keep wildlife diversity and bio- diversity - that is still here

Keep integrity of the habitat

People will come, don't make it like State Parks where you limit access by fees, can't really limit people, but can manage spread out the hunting seasons -- keep them more evenly distributed "herd the numbers of people"

Recreation

- Would like to promote people enjoying the forest without motorization. Don't want to encourage people to bring their motorized vehicles to the forest.
- Development needs to be ahead of the problem. Monitor recreation use levels to know when developing amenities, hardening sites, etc. is needed; but hold off as much as possible.
- Cluster recreation developments along major corridors and existing developed sites.
- Crack down on those violating rules and regulations (increase enforcement of rules).

Rate of motorized uses on the lands is concerning – don't give them any more access, don't expand what they have, they have too much now

I see lots and lot of illegal tracks on the land, it would be nice NOT to see any in 15 years manage motorized better

trails and roads are adequately marked – esp. for keeping motorized out of non-motorized areas less illegal use of the trails and roads

everyone better educated about the forest

no trash on roads

rule changed that you can go anywhere w/in 300 feet of the road – this creates havoc and damages vegetation

More of leave no trace ethic

institute policies to limit dispersed campsites being created anyway in concerning areas – possibly put developed sites in to reduce damage to vegetation

camping won't have so much impact on the landscape

maintain integrity of the landscape, habitat and vegetation

sacrifice areas are created for ATVs

leave some areas open for ATVs but leave rest closed

variety of recreational uses available but limits to impacts on land

no mountain bikes are allowed in the wilderness

more loops trails for mountain bikers built

more promotion of healthy mountain biking for Archuleta County in general (meaning stay on trails, no vegetation damage, etc.)

more education for mtn. bikers on how to deal with cows and hikers

timber harvests are happening but for forest restoration purposes - no clear cut but harvesting is still happening

forest not overgrown-- they are natural again, thinned, less wildfire threat

USFS is funded to do the above (thinning, forest health restoration)

- Avoid developing recreational resources ahead of actual need
- Large Expanses
- Maintain road less areas as road less

Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country

- Retain large expanses of undeveloped areas.
- The undeveloped areas should be monitored and measured to know if unhealthy conditions are setting in that should be managed.

control road system so non-wilderness if left like it is
no new roads unless for forest thinning/restoration but then close them
ditto, ditto

Scenery

- Provide opportunities for scenic overlooks and keep development impacts out of those view sheds.
- Create pull-offs for viewing scenery—enhancement and safety concern.

no human impact or little human impact

not a lot of houses

development is done better -- more respectful of the land - realize this is county's purview

development does not damage forests

in private holding, wildlife corridors are preserved

keep cultural and historical properties/asses -- limit car access to them to reduce vandalism -- don't make reconstructed, Disneyland-like replications

increase stewardship of cultural resources

value the human element of the natural landscape (e.g. old mining sites, etc.)

maintain Aspen stands for scenic and bio diversity values

- Maintain aspen component for all colors and diversity
- Maintain wildlife viewing opportunities

Clean Air and Water

- The San Juan has amazing headwaters; they need to be protected to keep our ecological health.

preserve our current air and water quality -- keep the same or even, improve

teach people about putting chemicals in the streams -- this practices has stopped in 15 years

manage impacts to water quality

more signage at trail heads about fact mountain streams are being degraded

people know the long term impacts of their behaviors

- Support realistic thresholds for chemicals/pollutants in water
- SJPL should do everything it can to ensure clean air and water
- FS not position to encourage tourism

Heritage Resources

- Important to continue historic/traditional uses; they are part of the communities custom and culture, add to the scenery and have economic importance.
- Have user groups maintain historic infrastructure and maintain existing routes rather than developing new facilities and routes, e.g., turning historic building into recreation huts and maintaining and interpreting historic stock driveways.
- Protect arborglyhs—important and neat history.

limit access to reduce vandalism

leave the way they are for future generations

no reconstructions -- prevent the damage to these assets don't have to reconstruct them

maintain historic uses such as grazing

keep cultural and historical properties/asses -- limit car access to them to reduce vandalism -- don't

make reconstructed, Disneyland-like replications

increase stewardship of cultural resources

value the human element of the natural landscape (e.g. old mining sites, etc.)

- Encourage interested groups in stewardship of heritage resources
- Heritage resources should be managed, and allow other management activities, based on context and intensity of those resources (e.g. isolated finds should not preclude other important management)

Citizen Stewardship (governmental collaboration emphasis)

- Increased population in the area will result in increased users and impacts on public lands. Agency should work with counties to implement land use plans that set density levels and restrictions that limit and direct the growth.
- Would like to see a directive for the agencies and county to work collaboratively; setting goals and direction together.
- Use citizen stewardship but make sure that the process or decision is balanced and taking into consideration all users (sometimes, those who advocate the loudest get their use and others are left out, e.g., wildlife, water resources, etc.)
- Need to create a forum for collaboration among counties, sub divisions, land owners, DOW, Chamber of Commerce, permittees, fire Dept., etc. to take a landscape wide approach at setting a direction and solving issues like—wildlife migration corridors, fuels reduction projects, road maintenance, fencing, etc.
- Important of all user groups to be active stewards because a few bad apples in any user group always stand out and damage reputation and accountability of others.

as we grow, we will have to have volunteerism and stewardship grow too

good idea

People know more and more about the land and how to take care of it

more volunteerism used – locals -- example: cattle grazers are permitted to get rid of weeds in

proper ways

harness locals' energies -- not harnesses enough - we have hundreds in Gray Wolves and San Juan

Outdoors Club -- need to engage them more so

- Citizen involvement will reflect citizen's influence in management
- education should continue to be a FS priority with groups involved in stewardship activities

Funding

- Important to acknowledge the agency challenge of managing a large area with increasing users and declining resource management dollars.
- Perhaps users of forests should lobby to get more money for the agency to manage the resources and recreation opportunities.

Desired Future Narrative Pagosa Study Group Draft 1 Based on Flip Chart Notes, Pagosa, June 30, 2005

NOTE:

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

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands:

We desire a future with **continued opportunities for all uses within resource capacities** and the critical need to **protect ecological health**.

We consider **ecological health** to be the **cornerstone of all multiple uses**, but we **don't** want to see it used to **push a preservation agenda** that **excludes uses** and **threaten the livelihood of ranchers and others** that **depend on** the use of **public land**.

The **interrelationships between ecological health, economy, custom and heritage** need to be **considered**. We **don't** want to let a **one dimensional tourism economy squeeze out traditional uses**. We wish to **keep the agricultural uses of public lands**, and need utilization standards that don't undermine the composition of the area. We would like to see more opportunities for those who want to continue the agricultural lifestyle.

We wish to keep **grazing and timbering active to keep wildfire risk low**. We **support the timber harvests that are happening now because they are for forest restoration purposes**. The forests are looking more natural again because they are being **thinned to reduce wildfire hazard**. We wish to **continue this trend** of thinning for forest health and restoration **supported by funding**.

We desire **more local input into mining and energy development**. **Commercial development** of forest resources should be undertaken with **minimal adverse impacts on the forest and communities**.

We also value the **diversity of recreational opportunities** we enjoy now and desire a future with even more camping opportunities including **dispersed/primitive camping and developed sites**, to meet the **needs of families and people of all abilities and ages**. We also wish **continued opportunities for hiking and better maintained trails**. We would like to **manage the land to maintain its current character** so our families and grandkids can experience that conditions and uses that we enjoy. We do however **recognize that use is growing**, which **requires increased management** to protect forest health.

Diverse Landscapes:

We support future management designed to **maintain and enhance the habitat, wildlife and bio-diversity**.

Recreation:

We desire a future with **continuing variety of recreational uses** available, managed so as to **maintain the integrity of the landscape, habitat and vegetation**. We support **monitoring of recreational levels to stay ahead of problems** so that developed **improvements** are made **when they are needed, but not before**. We would like to see **recreation development clustered along major corridors and existing developed sites**. We would like to **reduce the impacts of dispersed camping** by promoting a **leave no trace ethic**, keeping dispersed camping **out of sensitive areas** and, **as necessary, providing more developed camp sites**.

We desire a future with **improved management of motorized use**, including **no further expansion**, an **end to motorized use off of legal roads and trails**, which should be **adequately marked and enforced** to keep motorized use out of non-motorized areas. We would like to see **more loops provided for mountain biking**. An ethic needs to be promoted among mountain bikers to **stay on trails to prevent erosion and damage to vegetation**, and to stay out of Wilderness areas. This ethic needs to be backed by enforcement. We desire a future in which everyone is **educated** about the **care of the forest** and there is **no trash along roadways**.

We believe that you **can't let all recreation uses occur on all lands** and that **uses** should be **appropriate to the character of the landscape** and the need to provide for a **balance of uses** such as **separating snowmobiles for cross country skiers**. We also desire that the areas that are **roadless should remain roadless**.

Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country:

We need to **retain the large expanse of undeveloped areas**. These areas should be **monitored** to determine if **unhealthy conditions** exist. There should be **no new roads unless needed for forest thinning/restoration** and these should be **closed when work is completed**.

Scenery:

We desire a future that **limits the impact of human development on scenic view sheds** in a way that is **respectful of the health of the land**. This will require more **careful development**, and in some cases more **limited development**. In addition to protecting **scenic quality** and **forest health**, we wish to preserve **wildlife corridors including** those crossing **private in-holdings**. We realize that this desired future involves the purview of county government and we support **agency-county cooperation**.

We support the development of **scenic overlooks and pullouts** both for enhancement of the **visitor experience** and for **public safety**. **Wildlife viewing** should be included with scenic objectives. We also wish to maintain the aspen component for both its scenic and **bio-diversity** values.

Clean Air and Water:

The San Juan has amazing **headwaters** which need to be **protected** as the **key to our ecological health**. We support **realistic water and air quality thresholds** and want the SJPLC to do **everything possible to protect** clean air and water quality. This should include **trailhead information** about **protecting mountain streams** from degradation, and **public education** about the use of chemicals in or near streams. **People need to know the long term impacts** of their **behaviors** as a basis for ethical practices.

Heritage Resources:

It is important to **continue historic/traditional uses, such as grazing**, as part of the community's custom and **culture** and for their **scenic and economic contributions**. We would like to see **traditional user groups** continue to **maintain existing infrastructure and routes**.

We value the **human element of the natural landscape (e.g. historic mining sites)**, and wish to increase the stewardship of cultural resources for the **enjoyment of future generations**. The **integrity** and stability of cultural resources should be protected by **avoiding Disney-like reconstructions** and by limiting vehicle access to control vandalism.

The presence of cultural resources should also **allow for other management activity based the intensity** of activity and the importance, extent and **sensitivity** of the cultural resources in the area. **Arborglyphs** are an important part of our history and need to be protected. Interested groups should be encouraged to take responsibility for the **stewardship of cultural resources**.

Citizen Stewardship:

We believe it is important for all **user groups** to be **active stewards** and create **accountability to prevent a few bad apples from damaging the reputation** of the entire group. At the same time, it will be important to insure that the **decision making process is balanced in consideration all users, not just** those that advocate the **loudest**, or we risk overlooking considerations such as **wildlife and water quality**.

As communities and the number of users grow, stewardship and volunteerism will need to **grow**. **Education of those involved in stewardship** should be a **priority**. People need to **know more about the land and how to take care of it**. We need to **harness the local energies** of hundreds of **Gray Wolves**, and members of the **San Juan Outdoors Club**. **Cattle grazers** should be permitted to help get rid of **weeds** using proper methods. We believe that the level of **citizen involvement** will be a **reflection of citizen influence** in management.

We see the need to create a **forum for collaboration among counties, subdivisions, land owners, DOW, Chamber of Commerce, livestock permittees, fire departments etc.** to take a **landscape wide approach** at setting common directions and solving issues such as **wildlife migration corridors, fuels reduction projects, road maintenance, fences and gates, etc.**

Increased population in the area will result in **increased users** and **impacts** on public lands. The **agencies** should **work with counties** to implement **land use plans** that **set density levels** and restrictions that **limit and direct growth**. We would like to see a directive for the agencies and the county to work collaboratively, setting goals and direction together.

Funding:

We acknowledge the agency challenge of managing a large area with increasing users and declining resource management dollars. Users of the forests should work to get more money for the agency to manage the resources and recreation opportunities.

**Desired Future Pagosa District Study Group Posters
August 2, 2005 Study Group Stick on Comments**

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands:

1. Continued opportunities for all users within resource capacities/ecological health
2. Ecological health a cornerstone to multiple use but not to push an agenda to exclude uses or threaten livelihoods of ranchers/others
3. Consider interrelationships ecological health, economy, and heritage
4. Avoid one dimensional tourism economy
5. Keep agricultural uses on public lands
6. Keep grazing and timbering to keep wildfire risk low
7. Continue forest restoration harvests and support with funding.

Working Lands Poster 2

8. More local input on mining and energy development.
9. Commercial development – minimal impact on forest and communities
10. Maintain and enhance wildlife, habitat, bio-diversity
11. Diversity of recreational opportunities – dispersed and developed camping
12. Recreational needs of families, all abilities and ages
13. Manage lands to maintain current character for grandkids
14. Recognize growing use will require increased management

Recreation:

1. Continued variety of recreation while maintaining landscape habitat integrity
2. Monitor recreation levels to stay ahead of problems
3. Improvements when needed but not before
4. Recreation improvements along major corridors existing development
5. Reduce dispersed camping impacts – no trace ethic, avoid sensitive areas, developed camping as needed

6. Improved management of motorized use – no further expansion
7. End motor use off of legal roads and trails – signage and enforcement

Recreation- Poster 2

8. Continued opportunities for hiking – better maintained trails
9. More mountain biking loops
10. Stay on trails avoid damage and erosion
11. Educate everyone about care of forest, not trash along roadways
12. All uses can't occur on all lands – uses appropriate to character of land
13. Roadless areas should remain roadless
14. Separate snowmobiles from cross county skiers

Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country, Scenery:

1. Retain large expanse of undeveloped areas
2. Monitor for unhealthy conditions – temporary roads only for thinning and restoration
3. Limit impact of human development on scenic view sheds – respect health of land
4. More careful and limited development to protect scenic quality, bio-diversity
5. Preserve wildlife corridors, including private in-holdings
6. Agency/county cooperation
7. Scenic overlooks, pullouts including wildlife viewing for visitor experience, and safety

Clean Air and Water, Heritage Resources

1. Protect headwaters as key to ecological health
2. Realistic water/air quality thresholds – do everything possible to protect
3. People educated about impact of behaviors - trailhead info. on protecting streams
4. Continue historic uses e.g. grazing as cultural, economic, scenic contributors
5. Traditional user groups maintain existing infrastructure, routes, arborglyphs
6. Human element of natural landscape (mining sites) protected for future generations
7. Maintain historic integrity, no Disney-like reconstructions
8. Allow other management activity based on site sensitivity, encourage stewardship

Citizen Stewardship, Funding

1. Use groups as active stewards, accountability to protect reputation from bad apples
2. Decision making balances all uses (wildlife water quality), not just loudest advocates
3. Volunteerism grows with users, educating stewards is priority – more knowledge of land health and care
4. Harness local energy - Gray Wolves, San Juan Outdoors, grazers for weed control

5. Forum for collaboration, counties, subdivisions, property owners, DOW, Chamber, Fire Departments, grazers – citizen influence = citizen involvement
6. Landscape wide approach wildlife, fuels, roads, fences/gates etc.
7. More population/users/impacts will require community/agency land use cooperation to limit density, direct growth
8. Large area, increasing use, declining agency budgets – citizen advocate more funds

Large Expanses of Undeveloped Country, Scenery: Susan

1. Retain large expanse of undeveloped areas
2. Monitor of unhealthy conditions – temporary roads only for thinning and restoration
 - a. Narrative states: “No new roads” except. Not sure we should limit parameters of exceptions.
 - b. Undeveloped – forest thinning roads ... should usually be closed unless they could benefit the overall trail system.
3. Limit impact of human development on scenic view sheds – respect health of land
4. More careful and limited development to protect scenic quality, bio-diversity
 - a. Maintaining bio-diversity and ecological health of landscapes should have a very high priority in overall forest management
5. Preserve wildlife corridors, including private inholdings
6. Agency/county cooperation
 - a. Someone needs to be more active in promoting interaction, not just “supportive”
7. Scenic overlooks, pullouts including wildlife viewing for visitor experience and safety

Recreation: James Dietrich

#3. Improvements when needed but not before.

- “Note to have a plan & be prepared to implement when necessary.”

#8. Continued opportunities for hiking- better maintained trails.

- “A cooperative effort needs to be undertaken with a partnership between the USFS and local citizen working groups to maintain recreational trails. ATV erosion, downed timbers etc. are becoming a significant problem.”
- “Equestrian use is traditional and important in recreation.”

#9. More Mountain Biking loops.

- “ More loop trails and maintain current loops for trail users- equestrian, bikes, and hikers.”

Comments from Clean Air & Water: Gabe

Only had 3 comments:

From #1: Protect Headwaters as key to ecological health.

- Forest management also should include activities to increase water quantity as well.
- A recent study indicated wide-spread pollution in forest streams from chemical contaminants from products used by forest recreationists. This needs to be monitored to determine the extent of the problem.

From #3: People educated about impact of behaviors- trailhead info on protecting streams.

- Trailhead info should include protecting habitat adjacent to streams and the watershed.

Desired Future Exercise Pagosa SG Posters 8/2/2005

Poster 2, **Community Stewardship**

Jill Seyfarth facilitator

Sentence #

Comment

3-Volunteerism... “Need to develop programs and projects that people can rally around, like Chimney Rock—lots of volunteers”

4-Harness... “Grazers can also help with the improvements”

7-More... “Strongly agree with this”

8-Large... “Public/private partnerships like adopt a trail, adopt a highway, etc.”
“Funding-resources that are extracted should pay full freight of costs. No business should be subsidized by the taxpayer—impacts must also be figured into costs (superfunds, etc.)”

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands- Susan

1. Continued opportunities for all users within resource capacities/ecological health
2. Ecological health a cornerstone to multiple use but not to push and agenda to exclude uses or threaten livelihoods of ranchers/others.
 - a. Protect riparian areas from over-grazing. I have encountered several areas in the southern San Juan NF where the ecological health of portions of riparian habitat have been significantly damaged by overgrazing.

3. Consider interrelationships ecological health, economy and heritage.
 - a. “Healthy forests,” to me, means ecological healthy, including the maintenance of biodiversity. I think this should be the first priority in forest management.
4. Avoid one dimensional tourist economy
5. Keep agricultural uses on public lands.
 - a. Grazing uses [permits] should be self-supporting – no increased cost to taxpayers.
6. Keep grazing and timbering to keep wildfire risk low.
 - a. Grazing not just wildfire risks. History? Community economy.
 - b. Grazing for agricultural uses as well as for lessening wildfire risk.
7. Continue forest restoration harvests and support with funding.
 - a. Forest restoration including harvest and other techniques such as mulching.
8. More local input on mining and energy development.
9. Commercial development – minimal impact on forest and communities.
10. Maintain and enhance wildlife, habitat, bio-diversity.
11. Diversity of recreational opportunities – dispersed and developed camping.
 - a. Continued opportunities for many trail users – equestrian, hikers, some motorized. Trails need to be well maintained for these users.
12. Recreational needs of families, all abilities and ages.
13. Manage lands to maintain current character for grandkids.
14. Recognize growing use will require increased management.

Desired Future Narrative – Pagosa Study Group DRAFT 2

Narrative Revised to Incorporate Poster Exercise Additions at 8-2-05 Meeting

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

Diversity of Uses/Working Lands:

We desire a future with continued opportunities for all uses within resource capacities and the critical need to protect ecological health.

We consider ecological health to be the cornerstone of all multiple uses, but we don't want to see it used to push a preservation agenda that excludes uses and threatens the livelihood of ranchers and others that depend on the use of public land. **We do, however recognize the need to protect riparian areas from overgrazing.**

The interrelationships between ecological health **including maintenance of bio-diversity**, economy, custom and heritage need to be considered. We don't want to let a one dimensional tourism economy squeeze out traditional uses. We wish to keep the agricultural uses of public lands, and need utilization standards that don't undermine the composition of the area. We would like to see more opportunities for those who want to continue the agricultural lifestyle.

We wish to keep grazing and timbering active to keep wildfire risk low. **We also see grazing as an agricultural use that his part of or history and economy, and would like the costs of grazing permits to be self-sufficient.** We support the timber harvests that are happening now because they are for forest restoration purposes **including harvest and other techniques such as mulching.** The forests are looking more

natural again because they are being thinned to reduce wildfire hazard. We wish to continue this trend of thinning for forest health and restoration supported by funding.

We desire more local input into mining and energy development. Commercial development of forest resources should be undertaken with minimal adverse impacts on the forest and communities.

We also value the diversity of recreational opportunities we enjoy now and desire a future with even more camping opportunities including dispersed/primitive camping and developed sites, to meet the needs of families and people of all abilities and ages. We also wish continued opportunities for hiking [equestrian and motorized uses including](#) better maintained trails. We would like to manage the land to maintain its current character so our families and grandkids can experience that conditions and uses that we enjoy. We do however recognize that use is growing, which requires increased management to protect forest health.

Diverse Landscapes:

We support future management designed to maintain and enhance the habitat, wildlife and bio-diversity.

Recreation:

We desire a future with a continuing variety of recreational uses available, managed so as to maintain the integrity of the landscape, habitat and vegetation. We support monitoring of recreational levels to stay ahead of problems so that developed improvements are made when they are needed, but not before. [We wish to have a plan which can be implemented when necessary.](#) We would like to see recreation development clustered along major corridors and existing developed sites. We would like to reduce the impacts of dispersed camping by promoting a leave no trace ethic, keeping dispersed camping out of sensitive areas and, as necessary, providing more developed camp sites.

We desire a future with improved management of motorized use, including no further expansion, an end to motorized use off of legal roads and trails, which should be adequately marked and enforced to keep motorized use out of non-motorized areas. [We would like to see a cooperative effort with a partnership between the USFS and local citizen working groups to maintain recreational trails. ATV erosion, downed timbers etc. are becoming a significant problem.](#)

We would like to see more loops provided for mountain biking [and other trail users such as hikers and equestrian users.](#) An ethic needs to be promoted among mountain bikers to stay on trails to prevent erosion and damage to vegetation, and to stay out of Wilderness areas. This ethic needs to be backed by enforcement. We desire a future in which everyone is educated about the care of the forest and there is no trash along roadways.

We believe that you can't let all recreation uses occur on all lands and that uses should be appropriate to the character of the landscape and the need to provide for

a balance of uses such as separating snowmobiles from cross country skiers. We also desire that the areas that are roadless should remain roadless.

We need to retain the large expanse of undeveloped areas. These areas should be monitored to determine if unhealthy conditions exist. There should be no new roads unless needed for forest thinning/restoration [based on clear criteria](#), and these should be closed when work is completed [unless they would be of overall benefit to the trail system](#).

Scenery:

We desire a future that limits the impact of human development on scenic view sheds in a way that is respectful of the health of the land. This will require more careful development, and in some cases more limited development. In addition to protecting scenic quality and forest health, we wish to preserve wildlife corridors including those crossing private in-holdings [as well as bio-diversity and ecological health](#). We realize that this desired future involves the purview of county government and we support [and wish to promote](#) agency-county cooperation.

We support the development of scenic overlooks and pullouts both for enhancement of the visitor experience and for public safety. Wildlife viewing should be included with scenic objectives. We also wish to maintain the aspen component for both its scenic and bio-diversity values.

Clean Air and Water

The San Juan has amazing headwaters which need to be protected [in quality and quantity](#) as the key to our ecological health. [We wish to monitor and address any chemical contaminants from products used by recreationists](#). We support realistic water and air quality thresholds and want the SJPLC to do everything possible to protect clean air and water quality. This should include trailhead information about protecting mountain streams [and adjacent habitat](#) from degradation, and public education about the use of chemicals in or near streams. People need to know the long term impacts of their behaviors as a basis for ethical practices.

Heritage Resources

It is important to continue historic/traditional uses, such as grazing, as part of the community's custom and culture and for their scenic and economic contributions. We would like to see traditional user groups continue to maintain existing infrastructure and routes.

We value the human element of the natural landscape (e.g. historic mining sites), and wish to increase the stewardship of cultural resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The integrity and stability of cultural resources should be protected by avoiding Disney-like reconstructions and by limiting vehicle access to control vandalism.

The presence of cultural resources should also allow for other management activity based the intensity of activity and the importance, extent and sensitivity of the cultural resources in the area. Arborglyphs are an important part of our history and

need to be protected. Interested groups should be encouraged to take responsibility for the stewardship of cultural resources.

Citizen Stewardship

We believe it is important for all user groups to be active stewards and create accountability to prevent a few bad apples from damaging the reputation of the entire group. At the same time, it will be important to insure that the decision making process is balanced in consideration all users, not just those that advocate the loudest, or we risk overlooking considerations such as wildlife and water quality.

As communities and the number of users grow, stewardship and volunteerism will need to grow. Education of those involved in stewardship should be a priority. [We need to develop programs and projects that people can rally around such as Chimney Rock which has many volunteers.](#) People need to know more about the land and how to take care of it. We need to harness the local energies of hundreds of Gray Wolves, and members of the San Juan Outdoors Club. Cattle grazers should be permitted to help [with improvements and](#) get rid of weeds using proper methods. We believe that the level of citizen involvement will be a reflection of citizen influence in management.

We see the need to create a forum for collaboration among counties, subdivisions, land owners, DOW, Chamber of Commerce, livestock permittees, fire departments etc. to take a landscape wide approach at setting common directions and solving issues such as wildlife migration corridors, fuels reduction projects, road maintenance, fences and gates, etc.

Increased population in the area will result in increased users and impacts on public lands. [Public/private partnerships such as adopt a trail, and adopt a highway need to be used. The costs of impacts should be carried by users.](#) The agencies should work with counties to implement land use plans that set density levels and restrictions that limit and direct growth. We would like to see a directive for the agencies and the County to work collaboratively, setting goals and direction together.

Funding:

We acknowledge the agency challenge of managing a large area with increasing users and declining resource management dollars. Users of the forests should work to get more money for the agency to manage the resources and recreation opportunities.