

## **Study Group Theme Comments for Hermosa, La Plata, and Wild Oats; Columbine Meeting 3/30/'05**

**Theme Area #:** **A**

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

### **Comment**

Has old mines and active claims, so a 3 is appropriate.

**Theme Area #:** **A and B**

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3, 4

### **Comment**

Connect Bolam pass and Relay Ck. Roads, as they come within 250 feet of each other now

**Theme Area #:** **B**

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 4

### **Comment**

Group concurred with Theme 4.

**Theme Area #:** **C**

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

### **Comment**

Lots of old timber roads & clear cuts; timber sales, including aspen; also grazing and a snowcat operation. Appropriate to keep as a 5.

Theme 5 makes sense for this area because of its accessibility. People drive there all the time to picnic.

**Theme Area #:** D

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

Need to consider fire management & mitigation: controlled burns are in keeping with roadless nature, so would support a 1 theme, as well as 3.

This area should be a Theme 1, not 3, because of its remoteness. Keep the Hermosa trail open for hiking and biking, not motorized.

Motorized travel should not be allowed.

Hermosa: every type of recreation takes place, with the bulk of it focused on main trail systems. Main trail OK as a 3. The largely roadless area on either side of trail should be managed as a 1 to keep it in the state it's in, with grazing still allowed

Consider changing lower Hermosa to a 4, as it will continue to be a high recreation use area, including Stony Gulch.

If wilderness area designated, it reduces effectiveness of hunting in area, leading to possible unintended

Keep it as a 3 since grazing requires some infrastructure, such as development of springs. Recreation opportunities might be hurt if it were made a 1.

Volume of usage could triple by designation of wilderness, which could have a negative impact on natural values

This area is OK as a Theme 3 because there are already enough acres of public land designated as wilderness.

Advantage of Theme 3: it allows some management & programs, hence better chance of obtaining funding.

Bicycles & ATVs have to be somewhere; may as well keep on existing trail. Hermosa has lots of conflicting uses. No longer real safe for horses.

**Theme Area #:** D.1 **Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

increase grazing opportunities

lot of use from horses, hunters, there is quality hunting in there and habitat – should be a 3

should be 3 because it is less accessible generally roadless, you have to work to get in there. There is not a lot of use and grazing permits are allowed throughout

Make the Clear Creek trail non-motorized.

**Theme Area #:** D.1 and D.2 **Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

Leave as a 3 - want to continue with ability to develop springs or build a pond. This area is not well grazed now

**Theme Area #:** D.1 and D.3 **Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

The Hermosa drainage (except for the trail corridor) could be managed as a theme 1 to protect wilderness qualities.

**Theme Area #:** D.2

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

Change lower Hermosa trail to a 5 because of congestion

The Hermosa trail is OK as is, or maybe should be managed as a Theme 4. Users share the trail well. It's busy all the time.

Develop segregated routes for recreation types (see also comment 3)

congestion on Hermosa trail. Consider restricting loop to non-motorized activity.

**Theme Area #:** D.3

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

There is a big difference between the east and west sides of the Hermosa drainage. The east side should be managed as a 4. Trail corridors should be managed as a 4

Create recreational improvements for loop horse trail up Stony Creek and down Jones Creek. Would minimize

**Theme Area #:** E

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

Consider changing to a 4 because current use is heavily recreational, & there haven't been any timber sales in 15 years.

Support Theme 4 for recreationists, especially given proximity to town.

Consider a 3 if there will be no future timber sales.

The Theme 5 designation for Junction Creek makes sense because there is lots of activity there.

disperse use by creating more trails, pull motorized use out of la plata, cut deadfalls for motor users make it a 5

expansion of recreation use a good option a 5 is ok here

**Theme Area #:** F

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 3

**Comment**

The concern about riparian degradation expressed in a previous icon exercise is misplaced. These areas in the Wild Oats landscape have improved markedly of late.

The rotational grazing system utilized in the Wild Oats landscape has proven very effective and improved the habitat.

Currently managed as a 3. Has limited access and 2 grazing permits.

Theme 3 is appropriate for this area because it is very inaccessible. Despite comments from a previous icon exercise, I haven't seen ATVs there in years.

Fire mitigation considerations and proximity to town fit with Theme 3.

**Theme Area #:** **G and H**

**Proposed Theme Designation: 5**

**Comment**

topography doesn't allow for all uses mountain climbing and other foot activities are good but the area is not good for horses or motor users

need to acquire easements through private property so that the public lands can be accessed

**Theme Area #:** **Gen**

**Proposed Theme Designation:**

**Comment**

Concerned about oil and gas development in entire landscape

Gen. Small isolated pockets of wilderness can not be managed efficiently. (use education to modify the user behavior achieve the desired result instead)

Gen. Reduce level of motorized use to improve the quality of backcountry hunting. Keep hunting a quality experience.

(General) There needs to be better enforcement of the rules regarding motorized vehicle travel. Too many are going off-road when it is prohibited.

General comment: Natural processes ("Theme 1") need a large area. Concern about chopping up the area too small, thus making it difficult to manage.

The Forest Service has taken too many areas known as "B" on the old map and changed them to a Theme 3 designation. 3 areas are a concern because motorized uses are limited to existing routes. Off-road access should be retained open for snowmobile travel i

General comment: if an area is roadless, steep and wild, even if it was previously managed as a 3, perhaps consider changing to Theme 1. Map location E is an example.

General comment: it's important to support the wild nature of areas; but labeling something as "wilderness" tends to draw more people.

(General) Conflicts between mountain-bikers and ranchers are almost nonexistent now.

**Theme Area #:** H

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

High peaks on the landscape boundary west side should be managed as 1.

West side may be appropriate as a 1 or 3.

**Theme Area #:** H and G

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

This area should be managed as a 4. Don't encourage increased activity on the steep slopes.

**Theme Area #:** H and G

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

East & west sides with their rough terrain should be a 3, rather than 5.

Keep the area as a Theme 5 because it is heavily used during hunting season and also because of the mineral extraction.

Mining rights are being bought up by residential landowners who move in and close off access for recreational users. Consider creating trails or new routes and acquiring easements to go around private tracts and retain public access.

**Theme Area #:** H and K and G

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 4, 5

**Comment**

Support Theme 3 because we need to look ahead 20+ years.

Entire landscape should stay a 4. Great area for jeeping.

La Plata Cyn: 4 for heavily used corridor is appropriate; sides are a 5.

**Theme Area #:** J

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 7

**Comment**

Consider as a 2 because of surrounding state wildlife lands; i.e., similar to rationale for area "I".

The Theme 7 designation is very appropriate because that is exactly what the area is – a mix of private and public lands.



**Theme Area #:** K

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 4

**Comment**

Kennebec pass gets a bit crowded and gets beat up by all the parking

Heavy use dictates that there should be some heavy management activities such as parking along the road corridor areas.

theme 4 seems suitable in this area all of the existing uses seem appropriate

**Theme Area #:** M

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 2

**Comment**

The Theme 2 designation may be too restrictive. Division of Wildlife areas tend to be closed off. An area so close to Durango should have access.

The Theme 2 designation makes sense in order to protect wildlife.

Support themes as presented because of public/private lands interface.

**Theme Area #:** N

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

Find a way to make area roadless without designating as wilderness

Don't want new roads for oil and gas development in this area

A theme 5 designation may lead to proliferation of motorized use.

**Theme Area #:** 0

**Proposed Theme Designation:** 5

**Comment**

Upper part of Hermosa Park Rd. – timber sales, roads, proximity to Durango Mountain Resort make it appropriate as a 5.