

River Protection Workgroup
December 2nd, 2008

A Vision For Protection Strategies-Hermosa:

The Hermosa Ecosystem needs increasing protections as use demands expands over time.

Wild and Scenic Designation insures vast use increases with insufficient protection and much undesirable “baggage”.

Another way? One that utilizes local monitoring and knowledge to provide for the long term sustainability and use of the Hermosa Ecosystem in the San Juan National Forest.

Administrating Agency-San Juan National Forest.

Establish a Local Hermosa Advisory Committee consisting of individuals selected by local user clubs and interested organizations, for staggered terms of 5 years.

This Advisory Committee is to meets with the USFS Supervisor 2 times per year, once in the spring and again in the fall.

Purpose of Advisory Committee-Provide the Forest Supervisor with guidance and public support on status of the Hermosa Ecosystem as affected by public use and natural environmental trends and to recommend those needed changes necessary for ongoing protection of the desired qualities of the Hermosa Ecosystem that will allow continued public use of the Hermosa area.

This committee can meet as often as they choose, but at least once before each formal meeting with the San Juan Forest Supervisor for the purpose of drafting a current analysis of the status of the Hermosa Ecosystem and proposed management changes necessary to maintain desirable conditions and uses.

The committee can utilize local, state and federal agencies for technical assistance in developing their recommendations for the San Juan Forest Supervisor.

If needed, funding could come from USFS, CWCB, GOCO, SWCD and La Plata BOCC.

An oversight committee could consist of USFS, SJCS, SWCD, La Plata BOCC, etc. This group would be responsible to insure participation and performance of the Hermosa Committee.

(Compiled by John Taylor, RPW Steering Committee and Hermosa Creek Workgroup Member)