



# SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

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February 10, 2010

The Honorable John Salazar  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.D. 20515

Dear Congressman Salazar:

San Juan County is supportive of the collaborative community process conducted by the Hermosa Creek Workgroup that has been on-going over the past two years. This has been an open, inclusive process that has brought together local citizens and organizations that are concerned with protecting the special values of the Hermosa Creek Watershed in San Juan and La Plata Counties in southwest Colorado.

The Hermosa Creek Workgroup has worked within the framework developed by the River Protection Workgroup whose goal is "Involving the public in protecting the natural values of selected streams while allowing water development to continue."

As a result of this process, the Hermosa Creek Workgroup determined that ***"The Hermosa Creek Area is exceptional because it is a large intact (unfragmented) natural watershed containing diverse ecosystems, including fish, plants and wildlife, over a road elevation range, and supports a variety of multiple uses, including recreation and grazing, in the vicinity of a large town."***

San Juan County supports the development of Federal Legislation to create a Special Management Area for the Hermosa Creek Watershed, and respectfully requests that your office initiate a legislative process to achieve the goals set forth by the Hermosa Work Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest F. Kuhlman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ernest F. Kuhlman, Chairman  
San Juan County Commissioners