

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #1  
October 4, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY

The River Protection Workgroup for the Piedra River kicked off in Pagosa Springs on October 4, 2011. 28 people were in attendance (those who signed in). Tami Graham, independent meeting facilitator, kicked off the meeting with introductions of participants.

The meeting started with a detailed overview of the River Protection Workgroup project and this new group, the River Protection Workgroup for the Piedra River.

John Taylor, participant and local resident, gave background information on the workgroup process. He explained that this is a regional effort where public workgroups are formed on river and stream segments that were found to be suitable (or in some cases eligible) for the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) status by the USFS in their 2007 Draft Land Management Plan. When the Plan was released, the San Juan Citizens Alliance and the Southwestern Water Conservation District decided to form a collaborative project that would solicit broad input and recommendations from the communities, via forming public workgroups, about the values involved (economic, social and ecological) and level of protection desired for these segments while allowing suitable water development to continue. The segments being worked on include:

- Piedra River (the segment this workgroup will focus on)
- Vallecito Creek/Pine River
- Animas River above Baker's Bridge
- Hermosa Creek
- San Juan River - East and West Forks

Chuck Wanner gave an overview of the history of Stakeholder Process and development of Steering Committee. He listed the following represented groups who make up the Steering Committee:

- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), Linda Bassi and Suzanne Sellers
- Colorado Division of Water Resources, Pete Kasper
- San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA), Wendy McDermott
- San Juan Public Lands Center (USFS/BLM), Mark Stiles
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Chuck Lawler
- Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD), Steve Fearn, John Taylor, Bruce Whitehead
- Staff from the local office of U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, John Whitney
- Staff from the local office of U.S. Senator Mark Udalls' office, Wanda Cason
- Staff from the local office of U.S. Representative Scott Tipton (invited)
- Conservation & Consultant, Ann Oliver
- Wilderness Support Center, Jeff Widen

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/>

\*find meeting agenda, handouts, summaries, key resource documents, maps, a glossary of terms, etc

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #1  
October 4, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY

- Colorado Division of Wildlife, Patt Dorsey
- Five Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chuck Wanner

Steve Fearn, who represents the Southwestern Water Conservation District on the River Protection Workgroup (RPW) steering committee spoke about importance of values and how different values are specific for each stream in the river protection work group process.

Tami Graham presented the goals of the group, explained what consensus looks like and what the workgroup process principles are.

Goal of Group

- 11 or 12 meetings to look at segment of Piedra River, which has been suitable, eligible to be designated by USFS as Wild and Scenic.
- Community discussion to be in to report drafted by meetings 3 or 4. Will look at protection levels
- RPW Report will go to USFS, Senators, elected officials, website and will determine values (what do you care about when you look on map) and level of protection.

Consensus

- Includes steps so that all views are heard and considered
- Recognizes that differences of opinion are natural/expected
- Group makes a good faith effort to reach a decision that everyone can support.
- Consensus does not mean everyone agrees with the decision...but they can support it.

Process Principles

- Everyone has a seat at the table.
- Respectful dialogue.
- Find solutions that meet as many needs as possible.
- Respect opinions even if you do not agree.
- Ask for clarifications, questions if needed.
- Use of accurate facts and information.
- Lots of interaction-consensus, collaboration and possible negotiations.
- Fair open transparent.
- Available tools and data.

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/>

\*find meeting agenda, handouts, summaries, key resource documents, maps, a glossary of terms, etc

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #1  
October 4, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY

Steve Fearn mentioned that it took 22 meetings on Hermosa Creek to reach consensus. He continued that the group is not committed to a certain number of meetings. This process could take 8 to 22 or more meetings...

A question was asked from participant: How many people from Pagosa are here? The answer it was determined by a show of hands is about 10.

Ann Oliver, consultant, described the Information Sheet of the Piedra River based on Steering Committee / USFS qualities identified in Wild and Scenic, existing protections and reasonably foreseeable development which includes the following below:

**RPW Process Framework:**

- Phase I
- Introductions
- Agreement on process
- Decision to proceed

**Phase II**

- Discussion of important values to protect
- Field trips, speakers, gathering facts
- Generating opinions, including understanding tools
- Discussion of options

**Phase III**

- Continue discussion of options
- Reach conclusions for the future
- Define action plan
- Review the next step, which is the "Regional Discussion" of 5 basins
- Discuss how the work and findings of the RPW for the Piedra River relate to the Regional Discussion

Tami Graham reminded participants to invite folks who are not here to meetings and let participants know that the emailing list for group is about 4 times the size of this group.

Steve Fearn let everyone know that we can snail mail minutes, information to participants that do not have email. He also reminded folks that Wild & Scenic can only be designated by Congress and must have broad community support

A question was asked by participant: What is the timeline? What is schedule for USFS Plan finalized and W&S?

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/>

\*find meeting agenda, handouts, summaries, key resource documents, maps, a glossary of terms, etc

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #1  
October 4, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY

Kevin, USFS, replied that it is scheduled for December 2012, but this could change.

Steve Fearn stated that it is important to remember that the USFS is not participant in Steering Committee they are observers. The outcome might be that we might identify the Piedra River suitable for Wild & Scenic designation, other segments might want to be removed from designation.

Kevin \_\_\_\_\_ of USFS reminded the group that the USFS and Mark Stiles are very interested in feedback from Stakeholders Groups and will take into consideration groups ideas.

The group took a break at 6:40

The group resumed the meeting at 6:55pm

Tami Graham referred to the map of the Piedra River on the wall. The area of focus is US Hwy 160 and up on the Piedra River. Everything on map in light blue is what USFS determined to be eligible for Wild & Scenic. Some areas are labeled incorrect and will be corrected for the next meeting.

The group then had a discussion around water rights, ditches, reaches, minimum in stream flows on east fork of Piedra and Williams Reservoir.

Tami Graham asked the group if there is anyone we want to invite to next meetings?

The group suggests: Jepson, Snyder, Cuggini, Range permittees, Cundiff, and Mineral County Commissioners.

A participant asked the question about the publicity of meetings and where meetings have been advertised.

Tami stated that there was notice was in Pagosa Sun, 4 Corners media publications and she mentioned that if anyone knows of other outlets please suggest where to advertise. She then asked the group if is there enough interest from group to keep moving forward? All participants agreed that we should have another meeting and move forward with the process.

Mentioned that lots of summer residents that have already left for season  
Tami said that we can get emails and address of folks and mail them information.

The group then determined to meet on the the first Tuesday of each month and to take a field trip to visit the Piedra River.

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/>

\*find meeting agenda, handouts, summaries, key resource documents, maps, a glossary of terms, etc

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #1  
October 4, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY

Nov 1 – Regular meeting, 5:30-8:30, Pagosa Community Center  
Nov 10- Field trip, 12-4, directions forthcoming

Meeting ended at 7:40pm

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/>

\*find meeting agenda, handouts, summaries, key resource documents, maps, a glossary of terms, etc