Vallecito Creek/Pine River Workgroup

Meeting 4 Summary September 29, 2010 Blue Spruce Campground Event Center, Vallecito Lake

NOTE: The Web site for the River Protection Workgroup, including the Vallecito/Pine Workgroup, is http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection.

Facilitator Tami Graham explained that this meeting was the 4th meeting for the Vallecito Creek/Pine River Workgroup. The third meeting was a combined meeting of the Vallecito Creek/Pine River Workgroup and the San Juan Workgroup and took place in Pagosa Springs on August 26, 2010. That meeting involved a panel, which discussed various river protection tools, most specifically Wild & Scenic Designation. The last full meeting of the Vallecito Creek/Pine River Workgroup.

Attending this meeting were Tami Graham (facilitator), Hal Pierce (PRID), Mike Canterbury (PRID), Chris Schultz (FS/BLM), Chuck Wanner, Steve Tearn, Terra Anderson (all members of the RPW Steering Committee).

Expectation of meeting: Tami presented that the goal of this meeting was to continue to orient interested stakeholders in the RPW process, to discuss values on the Vallecito Creek and Pine River and to gain a common understanding of key information.

Discussion around engaging other stakeholders: With such a small turnout of stakeholders, it was recommended by those stakeholders that were present that we not continue the conversation around discussing values on the Vallecito/Pine, as it wouldn't be representative. The stakeholders that were present suggested ideas for how to engage other interested parties, including holding a meeting at the Vallecito Community Center or waiting until spring to re-start the process when more Vallecito residents would be back. Suggestions for additional stakeholders to contact were noted.

Other: A question was raised about what protection Wild & Scenic would provide that Wilderness designation doesn't. It was expressed that the seeming lack of interest in this particular River Protection Workgroup may be due to the perception that there is adequate protection via Wilderness designation on these two segments of the Vallecito and Pine.

Next meeting: No meeting was set. It was agreed that the RPW Steering Committee would discuss next steps at the October 7th, 2010 meeting.