

## **Hermosa Creek Workgroup – Process, Principles, Ground Rules & Definition of Consensus**

---

### **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:**

- Anyone with an interest is a stakeholder... has a seat at the table
- Respectful dialogue
- Solutions that meet the needs of a diversity of interests
- Everyone's opinion counts, even if you do not agree
- Use of accurate facts and information
- Lots of interaction – consensus – collaboration – possible negotiations
- Fair, open, transparent process
- Available tools and data

### **Ground Rules:**

- Respect
- One person talks at a time
- Every person's opinion is important
- Determine truth and facts based on solid data
- Speak up and raise issues for discussion

### **Process Framework:**

- Phase I
  - Introductions
  - Agreement on Process
  - Decision to proceed
  - Information
- Phase II
  - Discussion of important values to protect
  - Generation of options, including understanding tools
  - Discussion of options
- Phase III
  - Continue discussion of options
  - Reach conclusions for the future
  - Define action plan

**Goals for Hermosa Creek**  
**(draft 3 – 6/8//09)**

- Protect the values as defined by the Working Group values statement
- Protect the watershed and Hermosa Creek itself
- Preserve the intact nature of the area (e.g., road-less features)
- Allow water development to continue
- Protect existing outstanding water quality
- Manage for accelerated sedimentation caused by human activity
- Provide for local collaboration and problem solving among stakeholders
- Protect existing uses

**Principles of Hermosa Creek Workgroup Recommendation and Future Actions**  
**(action steps and recommendations built around these principles)**

- 1) Recommendations should be drafted that build upon all the input heard over the course of the last year in the Working Group meetings. The drafting committee should strive to find recommendations that fit with the input, opportunities and concerns given.
- 2) A full range of tools should be considered including an assessment if any new tools are needed.
- 3) The watershed and the Creek itself are the focus of the recommendations. Considering *both* the land and the water should be taken into account when developing solutions.
- 4) Future recommendations should: (combined two principles into one for easier reading/understanding)
  - include a diversity of approaches ranging from actions on the Federal, State and Local levels;
  - build in as much flexibility and local control as is possible; &
  - provide for long term protection of the resources to create a last lasting effect so the watershed can be maintained for future generations.
- 5) Future actions should establish ways the users of Hermosa Creek will *continue to work together* collaboratively resolve conflicts and challenges, and to provide input to the USFS.
- 6) Hermosa Creek is a very special place for a variety of reasons. Future actions need to consider and address the variety of interests, opportunities and concerns raised in this process as well as previous planning efforts for Hermosa Creek.

**Value Statement (consensus)**

**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 broad elevation range, and supports a variety of multiple uses, including recreation and grazing, in the vicinity of a large town.**

## **Scenarios Studied by the Hermosa Creek Workgroup**

- 1) Trails 2000, SJC Alliance, Wilderness Society Proposal (Workgroup agreed by consensus to consider this at the 1/09 meeting) (WSR, Wilderness, NCA, and other recommendations as per comment letter)
- 2) Local Management (John Taylor paper)
- 3) Special Legislation (could apply to almost any of these)
- 4) Tiered Approach (Ed Zink); Federal; State and Local Solutions Depending on the Issue/Recommendation
- 5) Wild and Scenic River designation only
- 6) Wilderness only
- 7) National Conservation Area, National Scenic Area or National Recreation Area (special designation)
- 8) In-Stream Flow (would be an increase of the existing)

## **Interests Expressed by the Hermosa Creek Workgroup**

(***second draft*** and compiled by facilitator)

Note: interests are not needs, proposed solutions or concerns

### **Land**

- 1) To permanently preserve Hermosa Creek and its watershed because it is a special and unique place; permanently protect the land/watershed; protect the water, land, wildlife and fisheries for future generations
- 2) To protect Hermosa Creek and its watershed with flexibility and local control built into the solutions
- 3) Employing management tools that keep the number of users to a sustainable level and the carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded
- 4) Existing uses should continue including grazing, mining, outfitting, recreational uses, etc.; and they should continue in the places where they currently exist
- 5) To retain the road-less portions of the area as they currently exist
- 6) To prevent unwanted development that would threaten the watershed and water quality
- 7) Respect private property rights
- 8) To find ways for user groups and the public land managers to work out solutions and employ stewardship practices for the land and water (local control); reduce human impacts to the land and water

### **Water**

- 1) Need to allow water development to continue; desire for ability to use water from Hermosa Creek for future water needs - basin wide; do not tie up water rights
- 2) Protect Hermosa Creek's hydrograph at current level (*or close to it*) so watershed is preserved in-tact; permanently preserve the natural values of Hermosa Creek and in its watershed for future generations
- 3) Ensure Hermosa Creek is not dammed
- 4) Ensure water quality stays at current level
- 5) Ensure trout fisheries stay strong
- 6) To reduce human impacts to the water (in general)

### **Other**

- 1) Get something done; "we've been talking about this for years"
- 2) To find solutions that work for as many as possible

**Hermosa Creek Working Group  
Questions for Each Scenario  
(working draft)**

---

1. Please describe the scenario and tools that are proposed.
2. What do this scenario and the tools proposed accomplish (brief)?
3. How does this scenario protect important values in Hermosa Creek and its watershed?
4. Address, to the best extent you can, the following issues:
  - a) What part of the creek or watershed does this scenario cover?
  - b) Which values does the scenario address?
  - c) Is public or private land involved?
  - d) Where does the scenario fall in the level of hierarchy (see below)?
  - e) What is the relative level of permanency?
  - f) What is the relative level of local control?
  - g) What is the relative level of flexibility?
  - h) Will this scenario likely reduce or increase sedimentation in the Hermosa Creek area?
  - i) Will this scenario increase the usage of the area?
  - j) Could this scenario reduce conflicts among user groups and/or address conflicts between users?
  - k) Might this scenario retain the value of multiple uses?
  - l) Will this scenario be restrictive of future water development? If so, how?
  - m) If possible, estimate how much water is needed for this scenario.
5. How do the tools in the scenario actually work "on the ground" (i.e., how are they instituted, implemented, administered, managed, etc.)?
6. How does the scenario address various concerns, issues and interests raised by the Working Group?
7. What else would you like the Working Group to know about this scenario...?
8. Other

Presented by Mark Stiles, USFS/BLM at the December 2008 Meeting:  
(left to right is progressively more local control)

- U.S. Constitution
- Treaty
- Statute (e.g., National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, etc.)
- Regulation (e.g., the Roadless Rule)
- Agency policy (USFS/BLM)
- USFS/BLM Resource management plan
- Project plan

Framework that the Drafting Committee will begin to fill in (where agreement exists).

	New Tools to Protect Water	Net Tools to Protect Land	New Tools that Protect Both	Existing Tools that are Adequate to Protect the Values
Federal				
State				
Local				