Value Statement 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.

Issues

- 1. Conflicts among user groups as they pertain to carrying capacity of the land and watershed.
- 2. Sedimentation
- 3. Possible development (roads, water, mining, private land, expansion of Durango Mountain Resort)

<u>These issues may have impacts on:</u>

- . Water quantity/volume and flows for cutthroat trout
- . Water quality
- . Wildlife
- . Solitude and quiet
- . Safety
- . Agricultural uses and sustainability

Potential Tools

Land Management

- 1) San Juan National Forest -- Land Management Plan and other Agency rules, standards, plans, guidelines, etc.
 - Greater dispersing/ment of users
 - Designation of a Research Natural Area
 - Limiting the number of users without eliminating uses
 - Road and trail standards and rehabilitation
 - Gather information about and monitoring of user numbers (use of clubs and interest groups)
 - weed control (mgmt. practices)
 - other rules, standards, policies and guidelines
- 2) Wilderness Area designation
- 3) Other designations such as National Conservation Area or National Recreation Area
- 4) Roadless Area Rules/policies
- 5) Water
- Instream flow rights to protect water
- Wild and Scenic River designation
- DOW regulations regarding fishing
- Inventory of sediment sources
- New potential tool: "negative water right"

6) Other - Water

- A new tool/standard for sediment, to be developed by the group
- 7) Private land acquisition
- 8) Special Legislation

Criteria for Evaluating Potential Tools

- 1. Reliability
- 2. Permanency
- 3. Degree and Extent of Protection
- 4. Local versus Federal Control
- 5. Other
- 6. Other