

River Protection Workgroup for Piedra River  
Meeting #3 December 6, 2011 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs

MEETING SUMMARY DRAFT

What happened in this meeting?

- \* New Handouts include: Updated Info Sheet, Checklist of Sensitive Plant Species and Upper Piedra Land Use Planning Committee Planning Procedure Document.
- \* A schedule was approved for next two meetings.
- \* Review of Updates to Piedra River focus area.
- \* Development of Values Statement.

Meeting began at 5:40 pm

Introductions (approx 15 people)

Meeting Opening – Tami Graham, facilitator

Review of RPW Process Framework, Model, Project – Tami Graham

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

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 drafted into a report. Will look at protection levels and if they are adequate.
- RPW Report will go to USFS, Senators, elected officials, website and will determine values (what do you care about) and any recommendations.

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

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

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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.

Review of Ground Rules / Guidelines for Communication –TG

- One conversation at a time, No side conversations.
- Be a good listener first, then ask questions later, seek to understand.
- Asking clarifying questions, if you don't understand.
- Focus on issues, not people.
- Keep open mind.
- Don't be afraid to share views.

Agreement on Meeting Outcomes and Agenda –TG

- To continue to orient interested stakeholders to the River Protection Workgroup project and the local effort.
- To get feedback on the field trip of the middle and east forks of the Piedra.
- To review updates to initial information sheet and gain a common understanding of key information.
- To begin development of a collective values for the Piedra focus area.
- To discuss the possibility of a river protection tools panel.

Review of Last Month's Meeting Notes – TG

- Nicole needs to learn how to spell Kevin's last name correctly: Kung.

Clarification on Info Sheet –Discrepancy in reach. Ann Oliver to research and update Info Sheet.

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Feedback on Field Trip – TG

- Steve Fearn – Puts things in perspective
- Jimbo Buickeroo-learned a lot.
- Ann Oliver- Stellar day, Thanks John and Jean for organizing. What a special place for many different reasons. That central truth should be a basis for finding agreement around this river.
- Wendy McDermott – Great day, amazing part of country. Really appreciated stories. History and geology is what I respond to.

Tami posed to the group: thoughts on main stem tour in spring or summer?

Yes-Horseback, hike, raft.

John Taylor offered to look for slides for group.

Jimbo suggested we ask outfitters for footage, videos.

Send all media to Tami and she will compile for group.

Leaving tour idea open for spring/summer and see where we are in process.

Overview of River Protection Work Group Process and Purpose –Group

- USFS Draft Plan Process and river segments found as preliminary suitable for Wild & Scenic designation
- Overview of Stakeholder’s process and how to find ways to protect values while allowing water development to exist.
- “Circle back process”-long and tedious, consensus driven process.
- John Taylor – we all have the responsibility to listen and learn.
- Steve Fearn- Something I have learned is that there are lots of overlap in values.

Review of the updates to the Piedra River Info Sheet Revision from last meeting-Ann Oliver and Tami Graham

Question by Darlene Markus about why open space is under Economic Value.

Chuck Wanner answered that undeveloped space, agricultural or other wise, draws people to this area.

Ann asked group for input about the geology section of Info Sheet.

Group mentioned Precambrian sediments and igneous rocks, ice caves, hot springs as notable.

Jim Buickeroo elaborated on change from Healthy to Intact right before “Natural Landscape”: non developed or natural. Issue with the beetle kill and mixed conifer issue might not be healthy but it is natural or intact.

Suggestion made to highlight significance of quality whitewater boating in Values Statement.

Suggestion made to identify acreage of conservation easements and owners.

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Question on clarifying IPP's in stretches.

Chuck Wanner stated they might be non-consumptive.

Ann Oliver stated this is a carry over paragraph from other document and we will take a look at it being specific.

Wendy McDermott suggests listing IPP's of both varieties in a chart for Info Sheet.

Delete duplicate "Pending Applications" section.

Upper Piedra Land Use Plan referenced on page 5.

### **River Protection Tools Panel – TG**

Is there interest in Water 101?

Wendy likes idea of going through tools list and expand, but make sure they are objective information sessions, un-opinionated education.

Jimbo made comment that when we dive into Values Statement it might point the way to what we learn about in regards to protection tools.

Tami- we will revisit Tools later tonight after we talk about Values Statement.

### **Values Statement Development – TG**

- **What do you care about?**
  - Steve Fearn protecting existing water rights
  - Chuck Wanner protecting sufficient water to protect ORV's
  - Jimbo watersheds overall health as it supports good water quality
  - Mell Keep River free flowing
  - Ann care about the people who live there, community, uniqueness, the people who care about the land
  
- **What do you value?**
  - John – I care about the history, ranching and undevelopedness
  - Accessible and wild, wildness
  - Jean - livestock and grazing, agriculture and open space
  - Mel –mix of agricultural and rural and wild combination
  - DOW - Wildlife, don't throw away parts always have option to...
  - Wendy-flora, fauna
  - Jimbo - diversity in plant and animal species, ecologically unique
  - Mel - economic opportunities, commercial outfitting, tourism, recreation, fishing with in a reasonable amount of people out there. Balance and sustainable.
  - Steve - opportunity to redevelop forest product based industry that the history of area was based on.
  - Ann - importance of Piedra drainage and tributaries to maintain Co native cutthroat.

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- Jimbo - I love up high on divide - is open contrasting with many narrow canyons. Areas without trails, development.
  - Wendy - potential for grizzly habitat, mystery and existence value.
  - Jimbo- isolation, big chunk of wild space
  - Steve - real lifestyle, people live and make a living here, the real thing, not man made
  - John - I value things that prevent land development.
  - Ann – Bladderpod is extremely rare plant this is the only area where it exists.
  - Mel - rafting, boating opportunities.
  - Chuck - hunting
  - Jean - hiking trails
  - Steve - current balance uses
  - Mel - sense of solitude
  - John - values lack of notoriety
  - John -Relatively remote
  - John - Geologic history
- **When you think of this area what strikes you as important?**
    - Ann - land use plan and private conservation to protect area
    - Mel - leave character as is - important to leave it alone
    - John - unspoiled place
    - John - important not to exploit it
    - Jimbo - contrast in HOA's, development, subdivisions near town and then all the large tracks of undeveloped land, ranches, open space.
    - Scenery is spectacular
    - Wendy - Rafting is unique: free flowing river through tight wilderness canyon
    - John - recommend USFS to maintain area
    - Jimbo - don't want road improved
    - Darlene - Integration of values

Jimbo asked about numbers of hunters and fishers

DOW Hunting fishing wildlife pre 2008 etc brought \$14 Million to Archuleta County

Jimbo - I just read in an Environmental Assessment recently that there is a general decline in elk population is this true?

DOW yes, cow tags down

**Ideas for next meeting:**

Vision Statement Draft

Steve Fearn suggested we look at current protections a little more in depth.

More on Piedra Special Area

Water 101 –Bruce Whitehead & Corps of Engineers

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Schedule of Meetings - Tami Graham

Jan 17: Regular Meeting

- Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs 5:30-8:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

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