

# Wet Mountain Tribune.com

Published Every Thursday Since 1883  
Updated on Thursday

[Home](#) | [This Week](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Classified Ads](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact](#)

10/21/2010

**'No-Fee' group asks county to oppose S. Colony fees**

## Table of Contents

**Delegation in Pueblo today for veterans' cemetery talk**

**CCHS government class weighs-in on ballot measures 60, 61 and 101**

**'No-Fee' group asks county to oppose S. Colony fees**

**Four Extension Agent hopefuls to be introduced Monday night**

**Civic leaders fearful of impact of ballot issues**

**Legion Post hits milestone with membership of 200**

**Three More Bad Boys**

**Peaks of the Past**

**Subscribe to the  
Tribune**

**CusterGuide**

**Westcliffe  
Weather**

**5 Day  
Forecast**

**Weather  
Radar**

**Winter**



Should the Custer County commissioners support a proposal by the U.S. Forest Service to impose a recreational permit fee for the South Colony Basin in the Sangre de Cristo mountains? According to the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition they should not.

To support their position and urge the local commissioners to adopt a resolution opposing the South Colony fees, No-Fee Coalition president Kitty Benzar and others in the organization headquartered in Durango, met with commissioners Lynn Attebery, Jim Austin and Carole Custer earlier this month.

Benzar told the three that her group feels that imposing a fee in South Colony would have a negative effect.

If fees were implemented at South Colony, said Benzar, that would open the door for additional fees for using public lands across Colorado.

She also said that statistics have proven that fees keep persons from camping and hiking on public lands.

Furthermore, said Benzar, statistics have shown when persons have to pay to use a facility they no longer feel an obligation for upkeep.

Therefore, said Benzar, litter could increase in the South Colony Basin.

Benzar also said the U.S. Forest is using the fees as a way to reduce visitation. "If there is overuse," said Benzar, "there are better ways to deal with it."

Benzar also said that the fees amount to double taxation and are not based on the actual cost of recreational activities.

Following the presentation, the general consensus of the commissioners was to give the U.S. Forest Service an opportunity to tell its side of the story.

Therefore, a public meeting with Paul Crespin of the U.S. Forest Service is tentatively slated for Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. in the county courthouse.

—Nora Drenner

