



Bird's Eye View

by Jennaye Derge

The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act, which has been a key topic of discussion in our region the last couple months, got special attention last Monday. EcoFlight, a non-profit organization that provides flights over areas that are up for ecological protection, offered a few lucky locals a chance for an aerial view of the Hermosa Watershed. Taking off from the Durango-La Plata County airport, participants loaded up into two Cessnas for a 40-mile roundtrip over the Animas Valley and

the proposed protection area, which would designate 38,000 acres as wilderness. The legislation, which was introduced by Sen. Michael Bennet and Rep. Scott Tipton represented months of work and consensus among the Hermosa Creek Workgroup. However, the act underwent revisions in committee that its creators and environmentalists say seriously altered the act's original intent. To learn more or find out how to voice your concerns, go to www.hermosacreek.org.



Looking toward a snow-dusted Engineer Mountain.



A view, looking South down the Animas Valley at Electra Lake.