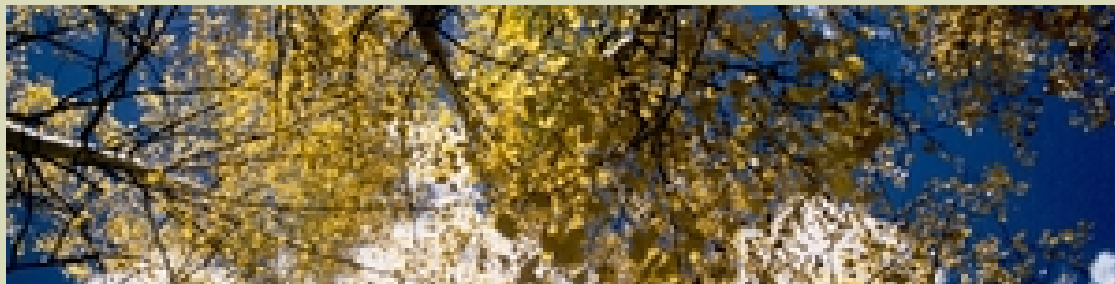




Wild Connections

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES

Protecting and restoring wildlands in the Arkansas and South Platte watersheds...



Wild Connections News

October 2018

Hi {FIRST_NAME|to all our friends},

Wild Connections hopes you are transitioning well into the autumn season. We have a couple great hikes planned for this time of year, as well as all the latest information on the goings-ons around central Colorado public lands.

Upcoming Events...

Fourmile Creek Roadless Area Hike, A BLM Wildlands Outing to Upper Red Canyon Sunday, October 7, 2018

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead times)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a series of trails in a largely roadless area in the Fourmile Creek area southwest of Cripple Creek known as Upper Red Canyon and is presently determining, through its Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan, how these lands will be managed in upcoming years. Learn how you can protect this and other BLM roadless areas by participating in this process.

This moderate all-day hike will cover about six miles with 600 feet elevation change. Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water, footgear suitable for hiking on rough trails, and clothing suitable to the weather condition, including raingear.

This hike is co-sponsored by the Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group, Wild Connections, and the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. For more information or to sign up, contact Wild Connections' board president, Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net.



Five Points Gulch Thru Hike, A BLM Wildlands Outing to McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead times)

Join Wild Connections for our first ever through-hike of Five Points Gulch in BLM's McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area. This outing is located in the heart of the rugged Arkansas River Canyonlands, just about an hour and half from Colorado Springs.

This moderate hike will cover approximately eight miles, with only 80 feet of elevation gain! This through-hike begins near the top of the Five Points Gulch drainage, making the majority of the hike downhill, as we will descend over



1,500 feet.

We will also enjoy great views of BLM's Table Mountain over Echo Canyon across the Arkansas River and discuss how this similarly large rugged natural area can be protected in BLM's Eastern Colorado Resource Management (ECRMP) Draft revision, and how you can voice your support for these and similar wildlands in the region.

Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water, footgear suitable for hiking on rough terrain, and clothing suitable to the weather conditions, including raingear.

This hike is co-sponsored by the Wild Connections, Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group, and the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. For more information or to sign up, contact Wild Connections' Conservation Director, John Sztukowski at 817-939-4239 or john@wildconnections.org.

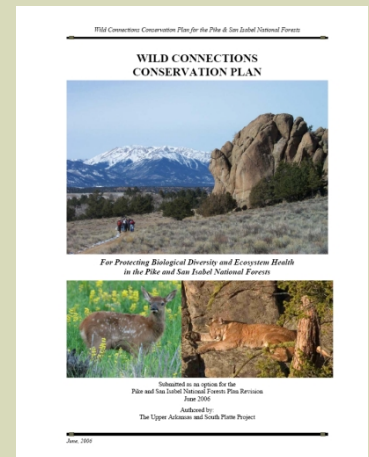
Wild Connections' Colorado Conservation Climate Future Online Webinar Archived and Available on our website (soon).

Thanks for checking out our webinar last month on revising our 2006 [Wild Connections' Conservation Plan \(WCCP\)](#), with consideration on our climate future, presented by Wild Connections' board members' Karl Ford PhD and John Stansfield.

The WCCP guides our recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land managers on conserving wildlife habitat and quiet use recreation in the central Colorado mountains.

Upcoming WCCP revisions will include re-inventorying select USFS roadless areas, updating BLM inventories and decisions, and adding a climate change analysis to identify climate refugia where flora and fauna can persist with a changing climate.

In case you missed it, our archived 30-minute webinar will be available soon on our website at: <http://www.wildconnections.org/events/climatefuturewebinar.html>



Open for Public Comment...

BLM RGFO March 2019 Lease Sales

Public Comment Period: Oct. 1 - Oct. 16, 2018

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) is seeking public comments on two parcels totaling 602 acres of federal oil and gas leases on public lands around Canon City, available for public lease in the upcoming March 2019 competitive oil and gas lease sale. Before beginning an environmental analysis, the BLM wants to hear from the public about concerning issues, with a public scoping period that began Oct. 1 and ends Oct. 16, 2018.

The primary parcel in the RGFO, Parcel ID: 8423, encompasses Canon City's popular Temple Canyon City Park, just southwest of town, which is also adjacent to BLM's Grape Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

For more information on BLM Colorado's March 2019 lease sales, and helpful tips when submitting comments, please visit BLM's e-planning website:

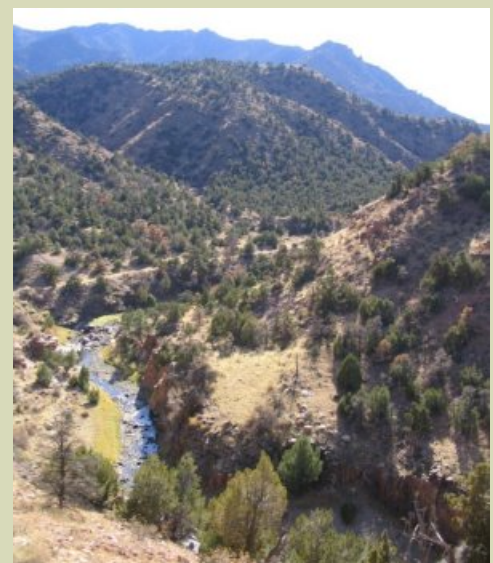
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPagelD=170351>

And BLM's RGFO three-page scoping parcel list, brief info, and map PDF can be found here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front->

[office/projects/nepa/115103/158605/193837/RGFO_Scoping_Parcel_List_&_Map_March2019.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/115103/158605/193837/RGFO_Scoping_Parcel_List_&_Map_March2019.pdf)

If you are interesting in making a public comment on oil and gas lease sales, however need more guidance or info, Rocky Mountain Wild has a great O&G Toolbox for Activists available here: <http://rockymountainwild.org/ogtoolbox>.

Additionally, Rocky Mountain Wild has info on all upcoming Colorado Oil and Gas Lease Sales available at: http://rockymountainwild.org/oil_and_gas/colorado.



USFS Pike-San Isabel National Forest Wet Mountains Project Public Comment Period: Sept. 21 - Oct. 22, 2018

The USFS Pike-San Isabel National Forest also has a scoping public comment period open, for an East-Central Wet Mountains Project in the San Carlos Ranger District. This project is designed to conduct fuels and vegetation treatments and has a public comment period that is open until Oct. 22, 2018.

More info on this project, including maps, scoping documents, and project notes can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30097>

To submit a comment on this project, please see:
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=30097>



Wild Connections 2018-2019 South Park Alpine Restoration Projects, made possible in part by Park County Lands and Water Trust Fund



In the summer of 2018, Wild Connections, working with long-time partners, USFS South Park Ranger District, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), completed two large South Park Alpine restoration projects, in a series of South Park restoration projects that will continue into 2019.

The headwaters of both North Tarryall Creek and Beaver Creek in the USFS South Park Ranger District had been negatively impacted by illegal motorized activity, which heavily damaged the alpine wildlife habitat and connectivity, as well as these riparian areas and watersheds.

Over three full workdays in August 2018, Wild Connections and partners, with 40-50 volunteers each day, completed projects to reclaim about two miles of illegal road via raking, seeding, and mulching at North Tarryall Creek, located west of Como, and another mile at Beaver Creek, just north of Fairplay. This was followed up with a successful two-day project in September to construct a non-motorized trail at Beaver Creek.



Wild Connections and our partners are excited to continue these important South Park Alpine restoration projects into 2019, with additional restoration work at Beaver Creek, as well as Sheep Mountain, located west of Fairplay.

This work was made possible in part by the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund. The LWTF is supported by a 1% sales tax in Park County and is dedicated to defending, protecting and restoring Park County's remaining water resources.

Over the past 20 years, these funds have been leveraged 2:1 to protect over 7,000 acres of wetlands, restore 40 miles of streams, create public access to streams and lakes, and defend water rights in court.

The LWTF is up for renewal on this year's ballot, so when you vote in Park County, please remember the importance of this program. To learn more, please visit www.friendsofparkcountylandandwater.org.

Wild Connections Give! Campaign and Colorado Gives Day

Wild Connections is pleased to announce our participation in the 2018 Give! Campaign and Colorado Gives Day®.

The donations that Wild Connections receives through these campaigns help us involve our communities to do more to protect our precious natural resources in Central Colorado. Our 2018 goal is to raise \$30,000, which is a big part of Wild Connections' annual operating expenses. Please plan to participate in these programs that strengthen Colorado's nonprofits by inspiring and uniting thousands of donors to give where they live.



Give! is a year-end philanthropic initiative created to encourage everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back and get involved with local nonprofits, with a particular emphasis on catalyzing philanthropy from those 36 and younger. In 2017, Give! helped raise over \$1.5 Million for 75 local nonprofits. This year's campaign runs November 1st Through December 31st, 2018.

For more information on this great local philanthropic campaign at <https://indygive.com/>.

Colorado Gives Day® is a statewide movement to increase online giving. This year, Community First Foundation and FirstBank are presenting Colorado Gives Day on December 4, 2018. Donations are accepted at ColoradoGives.org, which features more than 2,300 nonprofits. Colorado Gives Day ® is one the most successful events of its kind in the nation. Since its inception in 2010, the event has raised more than \$182 million for Colorado nonprofits!



For more information on how you can support Wild Connections on Colorado Gives Day, please see: <https://www.coloradogives.org/WildConnections/overview>.

Jim, Misi, John, Kristin, Alison, Claude, Deb, Karl and John
- All of us at Wild Connections

Share with your friends and family

[Forward this E-News to a friend](#)



*Thanks for the photos! Credit from top to bottom:
Jean Smith (header), Nic Callero, EcoFlight,
Wild Connections WCCP Cover, Steve Garufi, COS Gazette,
Wild Connections, Misi Ballard, Indy Give! Logo, Colorado Gives Day Logo*

Contact Us

Website: www.wildconnections.org

Email: info@wildconnections.org

Phone: 719.686.5905

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Wild Connections
2168 Pheasant Pl
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

