

Wild Connections' mission

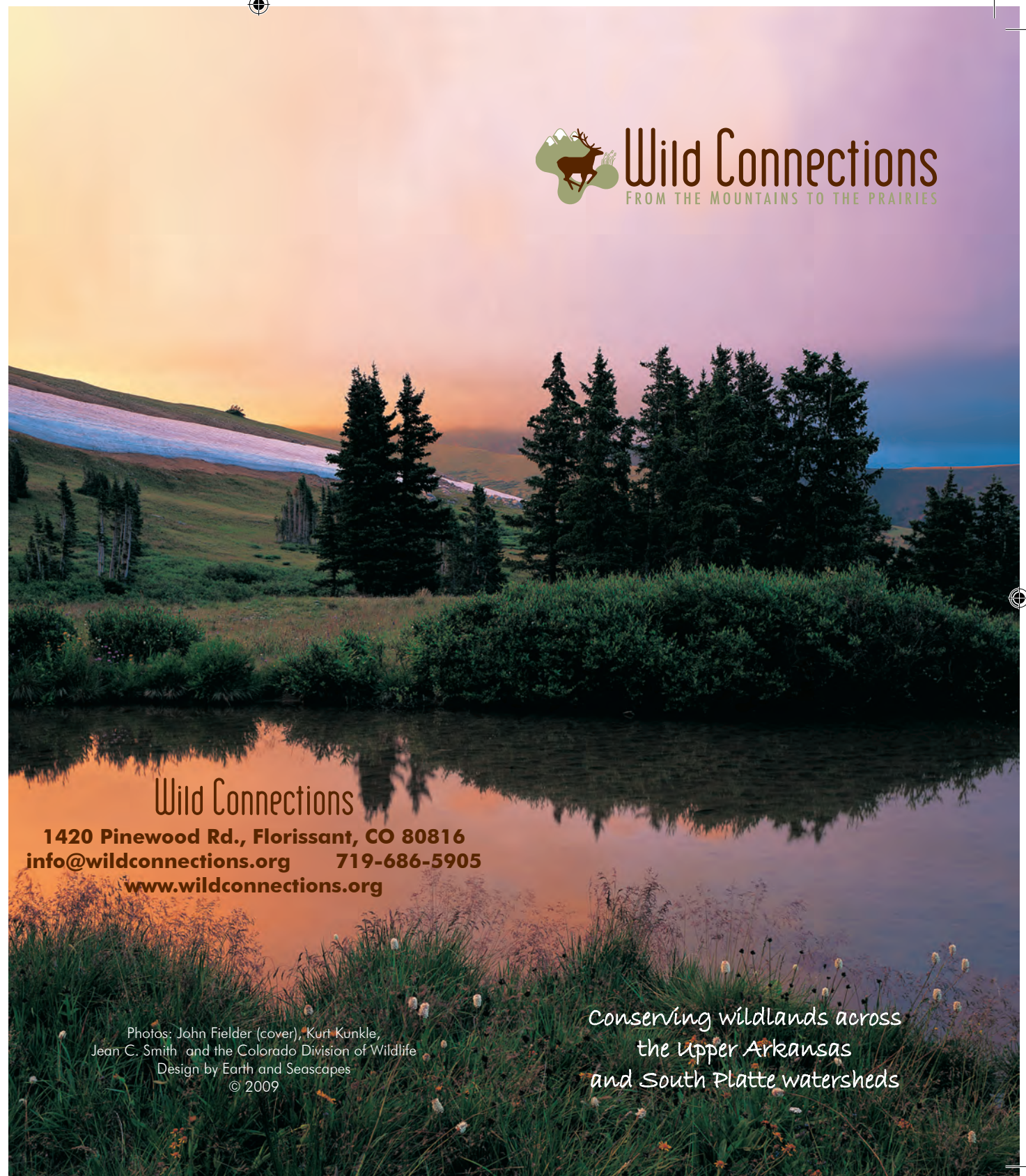
Wild Connections works to identify, protect and restore lands of the Upper Arkansas and South Platte watersheds to ensure the survival of native species and ecological richness. We focus on designing, implementing and defending the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*. This regional ecosystem protection strategy forges a link in an unbroken chain of North American wildlands.



In 1995 a small group of volunteers set out to map roadless areas on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Now Wild Connections is concerned with the conservation potential of all public lands and the connections between public and private lands.

Our vision for the future of the mountain headwaters of the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers is found in the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*. This science based conservation plan was created by citizens using information from the roadless area inventories, biological data and input from regional workshops.

Wild Connections' programs include wildlands conservation, roadless area defense and biodiversity protection. People with diverse perspectives are involved in activities ranging from wilderness hikes to advocacy to hands-on restoration. We invite your phone calls, emails and web site visits.



Wild Connections

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Conserving wildlands across
the Upper Arkansas
and South Platte watersheds

Wildlands Conservation

Wild Connections' approach to wildlands conservation focuses on long-term strategies.

Forest Plan Revision

The Pike-San Isabel National Forest is revising its management plan that guides day-to-day activities.

- Wild Connections and our partners created the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan* to provide a vision of the future wildlands network of core reserves and wildlife linkages, as well as practical management recommendations for the forest lands and adjacent BLM lands.
- Wild Connections facilitates citizen input into the forest planning process and assists stakeholders to advocate for strong protection for the natural qualities, wildlife habitat, and sustainable human use of these public lands.

Wilderness Advocacy

Wild Connections organizes research and advocacy efforts for permanent protection of wild areas.

- Beaver Creek, Grape Creek, McIntyre Hills, Table Mountain, Badger Creek and Browns Canyon are part of the larger Colorado Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal created by citizens from across the state.
- Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, one of our partners, proposes the Wild Ten for future Wilderness and leads backcountry hikes.



Habitat Restoration

Reconnecting large wild areas and restoring damaged lands is a practical application of the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*.

- The *Reclaiming Wildways* program rehabilitates routes officially closed by the Forest Service or BLM. In 2009 Wild Connections launched this multi-year restoration project in the Trout Creek drainage on the southern Rampart Range.
- Trout Creek is home to mountain lions, deer, elk, black bears, coyotes, foxes, squirrels, beavers, trout, raptors and song birds and a diverse mix of forest and riparian habitat. The area includes critical habitat for three threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act: Pawnee montane skipper butterfly, Preble's meadow jumping mouse and Mexican spotted owl.



- Wild Connections leads a coalition of conservation organizations, business interests and the U. S. Forest Service to plan, implement, monitor and fund the program. Volunteers do the hands-on work essential for restoration.

Roadless Area Defense

Roadless areas in central Colorado are wild islands in the midst of a sea of private land development and heavily used agency lands.

Travel Management Planning

Roads and motorized trails fragment habitat and affect wildlife as more and more people travel and recreate in the Pike-San Isabel and on BLM lands.

- Travel management planning defines specific uses of routes on federal public lands.
- We provide GIS analysis, technical comments and organizing for public participation.

USFS and BLM Project Analysis

Wild Connections works with other partners to monitor and comment on agency projects that might adversely affect roadless areas, biodiversity hotspots, or sensitive wildlife habitat and linkages.

Biodiversity Protection

A diverse mix of native species in a landscape-scale wildlands network is needed to protect both the land and those who benefit from it.

- Wild Connections explores aspects of biodiversity with field trips to wildlife habitat and linkages for key species.
- We promote ecologically-based land management to protect current and future biodiversity.

