

Wild Connections E-News

May, 2008

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Dear Michael,

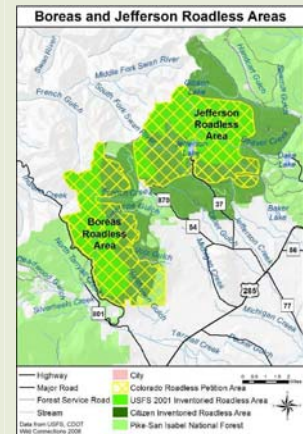
Many exciting developments have transpired over this last month, including the Pike-San Isabel's announcement that they are restarting the forest plan revision process! This issue is full of exciting articles, hikes and event announcements. Enjoy!

Roadless Areas of the Pike-San Isabel

A Wild Connections Event in 7 Communities

Attend one of Wild Connections' Community Meetings. Wild Connections is sponsoring a "Roadless Roadshow" in 7 communities in early June. This free public presentation will discuss the ecological values of Roadless areas, give details and facts pertaining to the current management of these areas such as fire management flexibility, and provide trails and hiking information so you can go explore Roadless areas in your own backyard. Please attend one of these shows!

- **Evergreen - Wednesday, June 4**
- **Pueblo - Thursday, June 5**
- **Salida - Monday, June 9**
- **Westcliffe - Tuesday, June 10**
- **Leadville - Wednesday, June 11**
- **Colorado Springs - Thursday, June 12**
- **Denver - TBA**



2008 Roadless Inventory

Why is this timely and important? The US Forest Service is working right now on developing a Colorado-specific rule. The draft Colorado Roadless Rule is slated to be published in June. While we don't know the details of what this new Colorado rule will look like, we are certain that it will weaken current protections currently afforded to these undeveloped lands. Wild Connections, and the broader conservation community, have made it a priority to analyze the impacts of the proposed rule, and we will need your voice to help ensure that the human and ecological services that Colorado's Roadless lands provide are not compromised.

[Click here for the full details...](#)

Pike-San Isabel Restarts the Forest Plan Revision Ensuring Sensible Land Management Practices for the next 15 years

The Pike-San Isabel National Forest, responsible for managing 2.2 million acres of our local forest lands, announced it will restart their forest plan revision. After the first round of public meetings in early 2007, a court decision put the process on hold. Now they are ready to restart their plan revision. It is anticipated that the Pike-San Isabel will hold the next round of public meetings in late summer. The Forest Plan is the overall vision document which will guide management decisions for the next 15 years. Stay tuned for more details.



Forest Service public meeting in Westcliffe, 2007. Why do you value your public lands?

Landscapes is in the Mail

How does *Landscapes* differ from our *E-News*?

Landscapes, Wild Connections semi-annual newsletter, is in the mail. Landscapes is full of in-depth articles describing the current work of Wild Connections, changes and opportunities for you to get involved. Landscapes is only a periodic publication, so we created this *E-News* tool to deliver brief information to you in a timely and cost effective manner. As we do not have accurate mailing addresses for some of you,

[Click here to read the current Landscapes...](#)

Wild Connections Seeks Executive Director

Do you know of a qualified candidate? Maybe you?

Wild Connections is growing in order to meet the challenges and demands of effectively protecting our 2.5 million acres of public lands in our backyard! Through generous donations from individuals, organizations and foundations, we are working to increase our ability to help you learn about and become active in our public lands legacy. [Click here for the full job description...](#)

What Happened With?

The Colorado Roadless Rulemaking first round of public comment closed on February 25th. The Forest Service is now writing a draft Colorado Roadless Rule, to be released in June. Attend one of our Community Presentations described above, and see our archive for additional information. Stay tuned as Colorado citizens will again need to speak up for preserving our backcountry lands.

Colorado Wilderness Conference was a resounding success. Held in Grand Junction on April 4-6th, over 80 Wilderness enthusiasts attended to discuss how we can further protect our Colorado lands. Keynote speakers included Senator Ken Salazar and Congresswoman Diana DeGette, as well as staff from Congressman John Salazar's office. Protecting low-elevation public lands is becoming the focus for additional Wilderness bills, and that vision is embodied by Rep. DeGette's Colorado Wilderness Act which seeks to protect 1.65 million acres of critical low-elevation habitat. To learn more about the Colorado Wilderness Act, [please click here...](#)

For more background information, please [visit our issue archives](#).

Upcoming Hikes & Events

Come Join Us

Sunday, May 18

Grape Creek Proposed Wilderness day hike

Fourth in a series of hikes to Wild Ten areas included in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2007. Rising through an inviting valley between Grape Creek and Curley Peak is the little-visited West Bear Trail -

[Click for hike details...](#)



Lupines in West Bear Gulch of Grape Creek.

Saturday, May 31

Pikes Peak Ring the Peak Trail day hike

Join sponsors Wild Connections, Pikes Peak Sierra Club, CCWC, and Friends of the Peak for a moderate 6-mile hike with elevation gain of 600 feet on the Ring the Peak Trail at the edge of the proposed Pikes Peak West Wilderness, one of the Wild Ten areas in Colorado. Learn about the Ring the Peak Trail, which will eventually circle Pikes Peak - [Click for hike details...](#)

First 2 weeks in June

Roadless Areas of the Pike-San Isabel Wild Connections Slideshow - [Click for details...](#)

Saturday, June 14

Basic Map-Reading Skills day hike to Farnum Peak Proposed Wilderness

First in a summer-long series of outings offering basic wilderness skills instruction in the Wild Ten areas. After learning basics of reading and navigating with topographic maps - [Click for hike details...](#)

Saturday, June 21

Packing with Llamas day hike in Front Range Roadless Area.

Have you always wanted to hike with a pack llama? This is your chance! Learn about llamas and using pack stock on the trail. Pack llamas have generously been donated by Touch the Earth Llamas - [Click for hike details...](#)



"Moonshadow"

Saturday, June 28 through Sunday June 29

Marmot Peak Beginner Backpack (Overnight trip)

This is the second in a series of summer-long outings offering basic wilderness skills instruction in the Wild Ten Areas. The hike will include basic backpacking skills such as site selection and minimum impact camping. Participants must have or rent basic backpacking gear - [Click for hike details...](#)

Saturday, June 28

Scraggy Peaks Roadless Area day hike

Scraggy Peaks is an important low elevation roadless area in the Wet Mountains west of Beulah. Sponsored by Wild Connections, Mountain Park Environmental Center and the Sangre de Cristo Group of the Sierra Club - [Click for hike details...](#)

Our website has full trip details, pictures and additional outings. [Please visit our website](#) for full information, including any trip changes.

In Closing:

Thank you for your passion for Colorado's public lands! If you have comments or questions about our new *E-News* or the topics above, please email Michael Rogers, *Executive Director* at: Michael@WildConnections.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Rogers

Executive Director
Wild Connections

UASPP, d.b.a. Wild Connections, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our mission is to identify, protect and restore lands of the Upper Arkansas and South Platte watersheds to ensure the survival of native species and ecological richness.