

Wild Connections E-News

July, 2008

In This Issue

[Draft Colorado Roadless Rule Released](#)

[Public Hearings Scheduled](#)

[Wild Connections Goes to DC](#)

[New Executive Director](#)

[Roadless Areas Tour Report](#)

[What Happened With?](#)

[Upcoming Hikes & Events](#)

Quick Links

[Get Involved](#)

[Support Our Work](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[About Wild Connections](#)

[About CCWC](#)

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Dear Wild Connections Supporter,

Many important developments have transpired over the last few weeks, and Wild Connections again needs your involvement and support to help protect our public lands heritage. Please read on to learn how you can be part of preserving our beloved, backyard public lands.

Draft Colorado Roadless Rule “Open” for Public Comment Rule will undermine current protections

The proposed rule for managing Colorado's valued public Roadless lands was released late last week. This formally opens the public comment period, and the proposed rule also will formally open these last, undeveloped lands to potential road building!

Many of you voiced your support for Roadless lands protection to the Forest Service earlier this year. We are at a critical stage where ***we need everyone to speak up*** who values wildlife, habitat protection, and opportunities to go into undeveloped lands to experience solitude and traditional recreation.



Mt. Elbert Roadless Area. Help us ensure its future!

Wild Connections, along with leading conservation, recreation and hunting/angling groups are analyzing the proposed rule. We will provide our full analysis so that you, the public who loves our public lands, can ***help us ensure*** that Colorado's backcountry heritage and Wildlands are not sacrificed in the last few months of this Administration. Stay tuned for details on the rule, suggested talking points, and where to submit your comments...

For more background on how we got to this current rule, check out our [issue archives](#) and www.roadless.net.

Public Hearings Scheduled on Draft Roadless Rule Speak up to keep our last few undeveloped lands roadless

Mark your Calendars! There will be public hearings on this proposed rule. Your voice is critical to defend these areas. Wild Connections will be arranging carpools from Colorado Springs and Salida, and we'll host a pre-meeting to provide additional details and talking points for the meeting.

Pueblo Public Hearing on Roadless Areas

Monday, August 18th
Pueblo, Colorado (CSU-Pueblo campus)
Time TBD

Denver Public Hearing on Roadless Areas

Thursday, August 21st

Denver, Colorado (Marriot Denver West in Golden)

Time TBD

More details on the meetings and suggested talking points are on the way. Please alert your conservation membership and your hiking, hunting, fishing, equestrian, and mountain biking friends and neighbors. [Check our website](#) for details and [sign up](#) for this monthly E-News!

Delegation of Colorado's Conservation Leadership in DC Wild Connections makes Roadless "connection"

Wild Connections, along with key leadership from conservation, recreation, hunting and angling groups as well as outdoor industry representatives will be in Washington, DC this week to ensure our wild, backcountry Roadless lands receive the protection they critically need and deserve.



The first public hearing on the Colorado's Roadless Rule takes place in D.C. on Tuesday, July 29th. Wild Connections will be there defending these critical Roadless lands for future use of all our local citizens, tourists, wildlife and conservation groups. Wild Connections will also be attending and submitting verbal arguments during a two-day citizen advisory panel meeting. This citizen panel is tasked with representing the public and advising the Washington Office of the US Forest Service on the current development of Colorado's Roadless management rule.

Wild Connections wants to thank you, or wonderful donors and supporters, as well as the Pew Environmental Group. Without your support, this critical trip to "connect" the Washington leadership with the desires of Coloradoans would not be possible.

Wild Connections Introduces our new Executive Director Meet Ellen Clark

Wild Connections is growing in order to meet the challenges and demands of effectively protecting our 2.7 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. There is more work to be done, and Wild Connections is looking forward. We welcome Ellen Clark, and announce the new role Michael Rogers will be taking with our organization.

Ellen Clark joins Wild Connections as our new *Executive Director*. Ellen brings a diverse professional background in business and non-profit management, public relations, fund-raising, printing and finance. She has been active in local sustainability work and study groups, and serves on the Green Cities Coalition of the Pikes Peak Region Steering Committee. Ellen holds a degree in communication and professional writing from the University of Colorado. Ellen lives in Colorado Springs and can be reached at Ellen@WildConnections.org or 719-375-8338.



*Ellen Clark,
Executive Director*

Michael Rogers continues with Wild Connections as our *Director of Policy, Programs and Outreach*. Michael joined Wild Connections to do roadless area inventories in 2003 after working in Seattle as the government liaison and disaster planning specialist for the American Red Cross. He facilitated the writing of the Wild Connections Conservation Plan, and became the Interim Executive Director in 2006. Michael has since utilized his knowledge of public lands policy and his skills as a community and government liaison to further the goals of Wild Connections. He lives in his hometown of Colorado Springs, and can be contacted at Michael@WildConnections.org or 719-328-9234.



*Michael Rogers,
Director of Policy,
Programs and
Outreach*

Roadless Areas of the Pike-San Isabel Wild Connections Reports on Successful Events

Wild Connections hosted a "Roadless Roadshow" in 6 communities around our forest in early June. This free public presentation discussed the ecological values of Roadless areas, provided facts pertaining to the current management of these areas such as fire management flexibility, and provided trails and hiking information so you can go explore Roadless areas in your own backyard.



*Hiking in Roadless
backcountry, "ah the
solitude!"*

Our thanks to all those who attended! If you missed the show, or if your conservation group would like a presentation, we are available!

Contact Michael Rogers at Michael@WildConnections.org.

What Happened With?

The llama hike? - I'll let the picture do the talking. Thanks to Touch the Earth Ranch in Black Forest for generously donating the llamas and their guide services. Wild Connections looks forward to sponsoring more fun, innovative and educational hikes. If you have an idea for a hike, please contact us.



*Hiking with llamas in Front
Range Roadless Area.*

Publication of Pike-San Isabel Motorized Use Maps - The Pike-San Isabel staff are working hard to complete their third motorized travel map. With the South Platte Ranger District and Cimarron Grasslands maps completed, the San Carlos District map is almost ready! The publication of motor vehicle use maps is a mile-stone for land-protection. These free maps will, for the first time, clearly define the official motorized road and trail system. For more background, please see our [March E-News](#).

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

Upcoming Hikes & Events

Come Join Us!

Wild Connections is co-sponsoring numerous outings throughout summer and fall 2008. Explore the beauty and solitude of central Colorado's Roadless wildlands with us! Maximum group size for most hikes is 15, so sign up early with trip leaders.

August, 2008

Boreal Toad Inventory Hike

Did you know toads live at high-elevations in our forests? Well, they used to live abundantly here, now they are endangered here in Colorado. Come learn about these fascinating creatures by joining this easy-to-moderate level hike while explore one of the few known areas which they currently live. We will be lead by a Colorado Division of Wildlife volunteer who is conducting a field inventory of Boreal toads.



Endangered Boreal Toad

Date and Location TBA - [Check our website for updates](#).

Lynx Habitat Exploratory Hike

Date and Location TBA - [Check our website for updates](#).



Mom went to look for a safe wild-way passage

Saturday, August 16

Basic Map and Compass Skills day hike to Weston Peak Proposed Wilderness.

Fourth in a summer-long series of outings offering basic wilderness skills instruction in the Wild Ten areas. Even in the era of GPS navigation, learning to find your way with topographic map and compass is fun--and can even save your life. [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 at Michael@WildConnections.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Rogers

Director of Policy, Programs & Outreach
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.