

# Wild Connections E-News

September, 2008

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## Dear Wild Connections Supporter,

Colorado has a treasure of 4.4 million acres of quiet, undeveloped national forests. However, the US Forest Service is seeking to open these last serene backcountry lands to human manipulation and industrial development ***unless Coloradoans speak out loud*** against the newly proposed "Colorado 'Road-the' Roadless Area Rule.

The proposed "Colorado Rule" in no way reflects, nor respects, what Coloradoans have repeatedly asked for over the last decade - strong protections for our last undeveloped lands.

Please see the alert below for details on how you can help preserve our public land heritage - for people, for wildlife, for our economy, for our future.

## Author Richard Louv Event

### "The Last Child in the Woods"

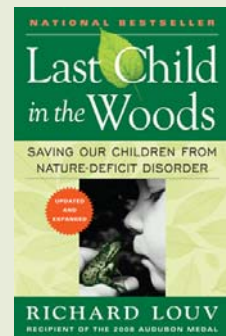
Friday, October 3rd, Colorado Springs

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Richard Louv, award winning author of "The Last Child in the Woods," and recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal. Louv captured the nation's attention with his belief that today's youth suffer from what he terms "nature deficit disorder."

Many agencies, organizations and individuals have also developed initiatives to foster getting children outside. The realization that children are no longer experiencing the benefits of outdoor activity is recognized as being detrimental to their physical and mental growth and development, and as a primary determinant of their longevity and quality of life.

Many groups along the Front Range will be sponsoring events around Louv's visit and will have tables at the presentation on Friday evening. Look for the Wild Connections table there.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [www.catamountinstitute.org...](http://www.catamountinstitute.org...)



Join us for "No Child Left Inside" events.

## Take Action Now!!

**Tell the Forest Service to protect Colorado's Roadless Areas**

We ***need your help*** to ensure that Colorado's last, natural undeveloped

public lands maintain the protection that the popular 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule afforded. With the publication of the proposed Colorado-specific Roadless Rule there is a 90 day Public Comment period, **ending on October 23, 2008.**

It is critical to act now and voice your concern over the protections that will be lost if this the new rule goes into effect.

When submitting comments feel free to use the sample letter below, but remember that your personal experiences and values are the most important information you can provide the Forest Service. We urge you to take the time to add your personal comments or reflections about specific roadless areas, and the activities you typically enjoy in them — it will make your comments far more effective.

Email comments to: [COCComments@fsroadless.org](mailto:COCComments@fsroadless.org),  
Submit online at: <http://www.regulations.gov>

If you prefer, you can mail them to:  
Roadless Area Conservation—Colorado  
P.O. Box 162909  
Sacramento, CA 95816-2909

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Dear US Forest Service,

As a Coloradan, I ask the Forest Service to fully protect all of Colorado's roadless areas according to the 2001 roadless rule. The weaker protections specific to the roadless areas in Colorado must be rejected. Protecting these last unspoiled natural areas is a responsible, common sense request to preserve our quality of life now, and for future generations.

The draft Rule would allow unlimited logging to "improve" wildlife habitat, even though roadless areas are valuable precisely because they provide a refuge from human activities like logging.

Some roadless areas could have road construction and logging in large areas supposedly for fuel and fire hazard reduction, even in areas that are far away from homes where the projects would not truly protect lives and property.

New electrical transmission lines and water pipelines could be constructed in roadless areas, along with roads to access construction sites.

Roads, well pads and pipelines would be built for oil and gas leases issues after the date of the 2001 Rule but before a Colorado Roadless Rule becomes effective.

Sincerely,  
(NAME)  
(ADDRESS)



## What Happened With?

### Forest Service Roadless Open House

Conservationists and Wild Connections staff attended the Pike-San Isabel (Pueblo) and Denver open houses.



*Citizens Speaking up for our natural heritage - Pueblo*

Thank you for all of you who attended this meeting.

Your **comments matter**, please take a moment to submit comments to the Forest Service to protect our undeveloped, backcountry lands for future enjoyment.

To take action, go to <http://www.wildconnections.org/takeaction.html> for a suggested letter to Governor Ritter.

## Upcoming Hikes & Events

### Come Join Us!

#### Basic GPS Navigation Skills Day Hike

Saturday, September 27 7:30 am-5:30 pm  
Thirty-nine-mile Mountain Proposed Wilderness

Got a GPS unit for Christmas and still not sure how to use it? Learn the basics of GPS navigation and the wilderness future of Thirty-nine-mile and other nearby Wild Ten areas on this hike. Aspen groves should be prime for photography, too. The moderately-strenuous six-mile hike, on and off trail, will gain a maximum of 1,000 feet in elevation. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome.



*Um, what button do I push?*

For more information go to [www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html](http://www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html)

#### Family Hike - Last Child in the Woods Week

Saturday, October 11 - afternoon  
Indian Creek Roadless Area

Wild Connections and other conservation groups are sponsoring hikes and outdoor activities after Richard Louv's Colorado Springs public talk in Colorado Springs on October 6. We've designed this hike for families and there will be activities for toddlers and children accompanied by their parents. Get your kids out in the woods and enjoy the fall colors.

For more information go to [www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html](http://www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html)

#### Salt Creek Wilderness Quality Survey Hike

Sunday, October 19 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

Our partner organizations recently protected from timbering a large

portion of the Salt Creek proposed wilderness, adjacent to Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Learn why the areas wild values are worth preserving on this moderate 5-mile hike with 500-foot elevation gain. Also find out about other the Wild Ten wilderness proposal areas. Well-behaved, leashed dogs allowed.

For more information go to [www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html](http://www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html)

### **Rampart Range Exploratory Mapping Hike**

Sunday, November 9 8:30 am--5 pm

Join Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group on an exploratory hike of the Rampart East Roadless Area, west of Palmer Lake, aimed at mapping the southern boundary of the area. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the basics of GPS navigation as it applies to mapping and recording natural features of an area with potential as a wilderness area. This will be a strenuous six-mile hike, partially off trail, with a maximum of 1,500 feet in elevation.



*Granitic boulders in Rampart Range Roadless Area.*

For more information go to [www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html](http://www.wildconnections.org/wildernesshikes.html)

### **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](mailto: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*