



E-News

April, 2009

In This Issue

["Reclaiming Wildways"](#)

[New CO Wilderness](#)

[Support Wild Connections](#)

[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,

With excitement we have two enormous announcements to share with you in this E-News! First, Wild Connections is launching a **new opportunity for volunteers** to get out in the field and do hands-on restoration work in May! Second, we have **new Wilderness** in Colorado! Happy Spring, and we look forward to an exciting summer.

"Reclaiming Wildways" A New Wild Connections Opportunity Volunteer to restore critical habitat

Wild Connections **needs volunteers** to help reclaim critical habitat for two threatened or endangered species in a riparian area in the Trout Creek and Eagle Creek drainages on the Rampart Range. Pawnee montane skipper butterflies live only in limited areas along this part of the South Platte River watershed and Preble's meadow jumping mice live in relatively few riparian areas along the Front Range.



Trout Creek Riparian Area. Photo by Michael Rogers.

Volunteers will hike into the work area up to 2 miles, with steep slopes in some areas. Teams will install permanent barriers, rehabilitate the closed ATV route surface and broadcast native grass seed, fertilizer and mulch to revegetate sensitive riparian areas and to restore stream banks. The physical work is moderate - the Forest Service is doing much of the "heavy lifting." Volunteer teams will be led by trained crew leaders, and tools and lunch are provided. **Work dates are:**

- **Sat May 9th**
- **Sat May 16th**
- **Sat May 30th**

This is a **new collaboration** between Wild Connections, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the US Forest Service South Platte Ranger District - Pike-San Isabel National Forest.

[Go to www.wilconnections.org](http://www.wilconnections.org) for more details or to volunteer!

E-News Continues on the next page

Colorado Gets 2 New Wilderness Areas

Thank you for your involvement

The Rocky Mountain National Park and Dominguez Canyons wilderness proposals, part of the Omnibus Public Lands bill, was passed by both houses of Congress and the President signed the legislation on March 30.



Now some **two million acres** of wilderness, protected rivers and trails, as well as legal permanence to the National Landscape Conservation System, are in place across the nation.

In Colorado most of Rocky Mountain National Park is now officially Wilderness, and the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area includes a large Wilderness area.

These represent years - even decades - of dedicated support from elected officials, local activists and citizens across the state. Achieving wilderness protection for these invaluable gems of Colorado is an incredible and lasting victory!

Wild Connections Needs Your Support

Help "Reclaiming Wildways" Succeed

We need to raise **an additional \$10,000** to cover other equipment and supplies and underwrite Wild Connections staff costs.

Your tax deductible donation will be well utilized:

- \$20 buys a pound of native grass seed
- \$50 will supply a critical hand tool
- \$75 will feed a whole crew of volunteers for a day
- \$335 will buy enough seed, straw mulch and fertilizer to revegetate a half acre of habitat

[Go to www.wilconnections.org](http://www.wilconnections.org) to donate or volunteer.

Upcoming Hikes & Events

Come Join Us!

Sunday, April 26 7:30 am to 5:30 pm
Browns Canyon Proposed Wilderness Walk

Experience the changing sights and sounds of a wildland spring with Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Learn why Browns Canyon, introduced (but not yet approved) for wilderness designation in the past two Congresses, is deserving of the protection. Our six-mile, moderate hike, gaining a maximum of 800 feet, will be mostly on trail.

[Go to www.wilconnections.org](http://www.wilconnections.org) for more information and to register.

E-News Continues on the next page

Saturday, May 2 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Beaver Creek Proposed Wilderness Spring Hike

On its way downward from the summit of Pikes Peak to the Arkansas River, Beaver Creek snakes through spectacular granite-walled canyons. Spring is a great time to visit. Come explore this wild land gem on a moderately strenuous seven mile hike with elevation gain of 1,000 feet, sponsored by Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. We will experience solitude only a few miles from the urban roar and learn about the wilderness future of this and other nearby natural areas.

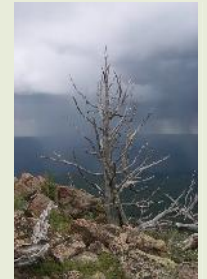


Solitude in Beaver Creek Photo by Anthony Noble.

Go to www.wilconnections.org for more information and to register.

Saturday, June 20 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Green Mountain Wilderness Quality Survey Hike

The second in a series of exploratory hikes to wilderness candidates beyond the Wild Ten Green Mountain roadless area is a wild and rugged companion to the nearby Lost Creek Wilderness. Come help determine if the areas wild values are worth preserving on this strenuous 7-mile, mostly off-trail hike with 1400-foot elevation gain, sponsored by Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition.



Snag in Green Mountain. Photo by Eric Dec.

Go to www.wilconnections.org for more information and to register.

Saturday, June 27 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Scraggy Peaks proposed Wilderness

Scraggy Peaks is an important low elevation roadless area in the Wet Mountains west of Beulah. The hike along the South Creek trail will start in the higher mixed conifer forest and end at Pueblo Mountain Park - begin at 9200', climb to 9600' over a mile and then down to 7000' - about 5.5 miles. This back country journey is cosponsored by Pueblo Mountain Park Environmental Center, Sangre de Cristo Sierra Club and Wild Connections.

Go to www.wilconnections.org for more information and to register.

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