



E-News February 2010

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Restoration Workday



The gravel pit is eroding into Trout
Creek

Dear friend,

**Come Celebrate the first day of spring
Reclaiming Wildways Restoration Day
Saturday March 20th 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Adults and teens (16 or older)**

Help reclaim the gravel pit along the edge of Trout Creek – a gaping wound in the beautiful streamside area along the creek. The gravel pit is sending tons of gravel right into the creek and supporting a huge expanse of Canada thistle, an invasive non-native weed. Rehabbing this area will reduce water pollution, reduce the thistle, and stabilize the banks of Trout Creek in this critical occupied habitat for the threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

The Forest Service will pull gravel back out of the creek and prepare the whole area for restoration. Volunteers will rake, se with native grasses and install erosion control matting. Willow wands will be gathered on site and planted along the edge of th creek. This early spring event will avoid any disturbance to the resident Preble's because they are still hibernating.

Bagels and hot drinks will be served when you check in. Following a general orientation, crew leaders will help each tea with their assigned sections. Lunch is provided, but please brin your own water. March weather is unpredictable, so dress for s or rain, wear work gloves and heavy shoes.

The project is located south of Deckers, off of Highway 67 abo an hour's drive from Colorado Springs or Denver. We will finish no later than 3:00 pm. This is a physically easy project, with no hiking involved and generally non-strenuous restoration activity

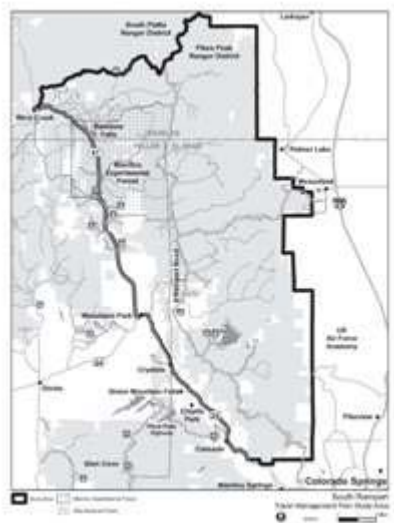


Early last year before the weeds came up



Canada thistle in May; by July this will be knee-high

South Rampart



South Rampart Travel planning map

Pre-registration is required. Our partners at Rocky Mountain Field Institute are coordinating this work day. Please call the RMFI office at (719) 471-7736 for more information or to register. Once you have registered, detailed instructions and directions to the staging area will be sent to you.

Can't come for the gravel pit day? There will be other workdays in late May and June. Go to <http://www.wildconnections.org/volunteersubscribe.html> and sign up to receive email notification of the next work days.

This project is supported by generous donations from Vail Mountain Resorts and the National Forest Foundation, and in partnership with the South Platte Ranger District of the Forest Service.

South Rampart Travel meeting

The Forest Service is holding the last of three public workshops for the South Rampart Travel Management Plan. Draft alternatives will be presented and discussed. You can affect the routes that will be open to hiking, mountain biking, horse-back riding, automobiles and off-highway vehicles.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Workshop from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM (presentation at 5:30)
Leon Young Service Center (Colorado Springs Utilities)
Pikes Peak Room (2nd floor)
1521 Hancock Expressway
Colorado Springs, Colorado

You can also submit comments at Comment@SouthRampart.Net or review management objectives at http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/projects/pp_ramp/rrobjectives.pdf

Colorado Wilderness Moves Along

Citizen advocates and Congressional sponsors team up to bring our wildest lands into the fold of the National Wilderness System.

The Colorado Wilderness Act of 2009 would protect 850,000 acres in 34 areas across the state. It includes our most stunning canyonlands in western Colorado, havens for wildlife, backcountry quiet recreation and archeological and historical sites.

The legislation includes Beaver Creek, Grape Creek, McIntyre Hills, Table Mountain, Badger Creek and Browns Canyon, all located along the Arkansas Canyon between Canon City. Explore **McIntyre Hills** with us on Saturday February 27. Located along the Arkansas River west of Royal Gorge, this moderate hike will get you away from the busy highway 50 in a few hundred yards and into the rocky canyons typical of this part of the world. [Click here](#) for more details and registration.

Sponsored by Rep. DeGette, the legislation is awaiting a March

Colorado Wilderness



McIntyre Hills is included in Rep. DeGette's Colorado Wilderness Act.

Come on a hike on Saturday February 27. [Click here](#) for details.

hearing in the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. [Click here](#) for maps and detailed descriptions.

The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act would protect more than 60,000 acres of pristine lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan counties by adding to the existing Lizard Head and Mt. Sneffels Wildernesses, creating the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area and withdrawing acres in Naturita Canyon from eligibility for mineral leasing. This legislation is sponsored by Rep. Salazar, Sen. Udall and Sen. Bennett. [Click here](#) to see current maps of areas in the legislation and to read the legislation.

Getting ready for legislation

The America the Beautiful Wilderness proposal is guided by the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Centered on Pikes Peak, areas are still being described in detail and vetted before seeking Congressional sponsors. You can help by contacting John Stansfield at jorcstan@iuno.com or going to the CCWC web site <http://www.cwcwilderness.org/>

The Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign, also legislation in the making, would protect 400,000 acres in 14 new stand alone Wilderness Areas and 26 additions to existing Wilderness Areas, primarily in Pitkin, Eagle, Gunnison and Summit Counties. Some of these, such as Hoosier Ridge and Ten Mile, abut areas in the San Isabel National Forest that the Wild Connections Conservation Proposal also recommends for strong protection. You can see the Hidden Gems proposal at <http://www.whiteriverwild.org/>

As the west continues to grow in population, housing density, need for water and energy, protecting these wild lands is one of the best legacies we can leave for future generations.

Sincerely

Jean

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