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January 2010

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Dear Friend,

Yes, it is still winter, but spring is not far away. We're ready to do more restoration in Trout Creek. We hope you're ready too.

Reclaiming Wildways in Trout and Eagle Creeks - 2010

Reclaiming Wildways, Wild Connection's habitat restoration program, was launched in 2009 in the Trout Creek drainage on the southern Rampart Range.

In 2010, we will restore more than 2.25 miles of trail in Eagle Creek, rehabilitate the connector trail along Trout Creek and restore the gravel pit at the north end by re-contouring, seeding and planting willows along the creek. Details and dates for volunteer workdays will be ready in mid-February. There are many tasks ranging from raking and seeding to helping with registration and supplies. [Sign up](#) for the e-mail notification list, and we will get in touch with you.



The project area has an abundance of wildlife, including deer, elk, bears, fox, various song birds and raptors and many small mammals. It is designated critical habitat for three federal endangered species: the Pawnee montane skipper, Preble's meadow jumping mouse and Mexican spotted owl. In late August we will do an exploratory survey for Pawnee montane skippers and conduct some monitoring trips.

[Click here](#) to download the 2009 monitoring report found on our web page (second article down.)

South Rampart Travel Management Planning

Jim Lockhart reports:

The Pikes Peak Ranger District of Pike National Forest is developing a South Rampart Travel Management Plan proposal to manage motorized and nonmotorized recreation within the Rampart Range portion of Pikes Peak Ranger District. Two rounds of public meetings have been held to identify issues and concerns related to the proposed project and develop project alternatives. We are concerned that motorized recreationists will take advantage of this planning process to advocate greatly expanded motorized use and have been encouraging Wild Connections members and members of the community to attend the public meetings to speak out in favor of sustainable "quiet" use plan alternatives and keeping the current limits on motorized travel.

The second round of public meetings was held October 14 and 15, to communicate results of the previous round of public meetings, held in June 2009, and to present three sets of "concepts" regarding possible travel management. [A summary of public comments received, and a description of the three options, is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/projects/pp_ramp/pub_comments_oct_mtg.pdf](#).

Wild Connections in the search box, and then click "donate."
- [Click here](#) to download a donation form from our web site.

McIntyre Hills hike

Saturday February 27 8:00 am to 5 pm

Join members of the Pikes Peak Group, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition for a moderate hike in the McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area., a low-elevation area along the Arkansas River west of Royal Gorge that is filled with rocky canyons and teeming with wildlife. Learn how areas such as this serve as connecting links for wildlife. This five mile moderate hike along a dry canyon will involve elevation gain of approximately 600 feet. Bring lunch, water, boots suitable for off-trail hiking, and clothing suitable for the weather conditions. Snow is possible this time of the year. For details or to sign up, call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045 or e-mail jlock@datawest.net.



Watch for the February E-News for Reclaiming Wildways workday dates.

Sincerely,

Jean Smith

Acting Associate Director

jean@wildconnections.org

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.

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