April 2021

Dear Colleague,

A new month and a new season are upon us. As we transition into Spring, we have plenty of regional news and events to share with you! Here are the headlines for this edition of our Wild News, read on for more info:

- 4/10 Grape Creek (near) Wilderness Hike
- CPW "Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind" Handbook: Comment Period Closes 4/18
- National Park Week (4/17-24)
- Surface Transportation Board Denies Expedited Approval of Tenn Pass RR Line
- WC in the Media
  - Colorado Trail Virtual Event Recording Available on YouTube
  - Discussing Colorado proposed Wilderness on the Hiking Bob Podcast
- Join the Ranks of WC Monthly Donors!

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**April 10 Grape Creek (near) Wilderness Hike**

Join us Saturday, April 10 from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM (trailhead to trailhead times) at Sunset City Gulch, a little-visited, scenic canyon on the western end of Grape Creek, a proposed Wilderness awaiting Congressional action.

More info is available at: [www.wildconnections.org/events.html](http://www.wildconnections.org/events.html)

To register for the hike, contact John Stansfield at 303-660-5849 or jorcstan@juno.com.

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**CPW "Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind" Draft Handbook Available for Public Comment: Closes April 18**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)'s Planning Trails Taskforce is drafting guidance on planning trails with wildlife in mind. This draft handbook is available for public review, with a public comment period that is open until April 18.

Review the draft document and submit your comments to CPW at: [https://rockymountaininnovationlab.com/about/planningtawdraft/](https://rockymountaininnovationlab.com/about/planningtawdraft/)
National Park Week: April 17-24

National Park Week begins April 17 and provides opportunities to explore amazing places, discover history and culture, and help out!

Parks across the country will host a variety of special programs, events, and digital experiences. There are also special theme days during the week (like April 22 Earth Day!) to highlight the different ways everyone can enjoy national parks.

Find your Park or National Monument (Browns Canyon & Florissant Fossil Beds in our region), see each days’ theme, find in-person and virtual events, and stay caught up at: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/national-park-week.htm?mod=article_inline

Surface Transportation Board Denies Expedited Approval of Tenn Pass RR Line

The Federal Surface Transportation Board has denied Colorado Midland & Pacific's request for expedited approval of their plan to restore railroad service from Gypsum to Cañon City, including over the mountainous Tennessee Pass.

Wild Connections was one of many conservation groups and leaders in the community to submit comments expressing concern of the requested exemption, citing impacts to local residents, recreation users, and area wildlife. We also referenced the history of accidents and derailments on this line, which was one of the reasons that this line ceased activity in 1997.

Read more at: https://coloradosun.com/2021/03/25/surface-transportation-board-kills-colorado-midland-pacific-tennessee-pass/

Wild Connections in the Media!

A recording of our 3/9 Colorado Trail Indoor Outing is available on YouTube!

More info at: http://www.wildconnections.org/events.html

Watch the fantastic one-hour video at: https://youtu.be/Xd37uBekSI8

Wild Connections discusses the CWA on 3/10 Hiking with Bob Podcast

WC board members Jim & John provide an excellent review of the Colorado Wilderness Act, which passed the House under the Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act!

Join the Ranks of Wild Connections Monthly Donors!

Your donations to Wild Connections help protect roadless areas, Wilderness, wetlands, streams and best places for a lot of plants and animals!

Did you know you can schedule a regular donation for any amount of $5 or more?

You set the schedule for monthly (or quarterly, etc.) and amount. Our partner at Colorado Gives then charges your credit card. What could be easier?

Donate on our secure page at [https://www.coloradogives.org/wildconnections/overview](https://www.coloradogives.org/wildconnections/overview)

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**Jim, John, Alison, Claude, Misi, Kristin and John**

Wild Connections Board and staff

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