Dear Colleague,

April can bring snow or spring flowers, or both at the same time! Whatever the weather, here are the headlines for this month’s news, with all the details below.

- **Upcoming Events**
  - 4/16 Wildcat Canyon hike
  - 4/18-20 Wild Connections presentation at *CPW Partners in the Outdoors* Conference
  - 4/22 Earth Day

- **Public Lands News**
  - Zephyr Minerals temporarily withdrawing its application to mine gold near Grape Creek

- You can use your credit card to support Wild Connections

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**Wildcat Canyon Hike**

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

*Registration required*

Join Wild Connections for a hike into a remote section of the South Platte River known as Wildcat Canyon. This area upstream of Cheesman Reservoir largely escaped damage in the Hayman Fire, but is now threatened by illegal motorized use. This hike, to a ridge overlooking the canyon, will cover about 5 miles, with an elevation change of about 600 feet, and is rated moderately strenuous because of the distance and elevation change.

Maximum 10 participants. Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water and snacks, clothing suitable for the weather condition, including rain gear, and good footwear suitable for hiking on gravel.

For more information or to register, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net. Please contact Jim no later than Friday afternoon, April 15.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will be practicing coronavirus precautions, including wearing masks in traveling to the trailhead and maintaining social distance during the hike. We suggest that people use caution in carpooling with others who are not members of their household.
Wild Connections is excited to present a joint session with Rocky Mountain Wild on Protecting Climate Resilient Lands at this year's conference. Alison Gallensky and John Sztukowski will share results of our joint work on climate change.

CPW has more info, including registration, schedule and speakers [here](#).

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**Earth Day 2022**

**Friday April 22 around the world**

Earth Day is celebrated in more than 190 countries by individuals, families, groups and government agencies.

EarthDay.org is calling everyone to Invest in Our Planet. They have a fine history of Earth Day and other features.

The list of organized events in Colorado is much too long to list here. An on-line search can find some for your locality. Or just take a walk around your neighborhood. You’ll find reasons to appreciate the bounty of our Earth and hopefully be inspired to invest in our planet.

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**Zephyr gold mine stalled but not ended**

Zephyr Minerals Ltd., the company seeking a permit to mine for gold near Canon City and the Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area, announced that it intends to withdraw its permit application. The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety recently notified Zephyr that its application still included some 35 items that required additional information and clarification, including groundwater monitoring data, which Zephyr would not be able to collect and submit within the period required for approval of the application.

Zephyr said that it intends to withdraw the application to provide additional time for data collection. It intends to submit an updated application for a mining permit late in 2023.

*The threat to Grape Creek and the wild areas surrounding it is therefore not ended.* In order to permanently protect Grape Creek from activities such as these, it is vital that Congress pass the Colorado Wilderness Act, which would give wilderness designation to Grape Creek and many other wild areas in Colorado. For information on how you can help secure passage of this legislation and protect these wild areas, see our [Get Involved](#) web page.
Donate Now through Wild Connections' new credit card option

Click here to make your donation NOW

Contributions from individuals like you are Wild Connections’ most reliable and sustainable source of funds for programs, advocacy and general expenses. We are pleased that we can directly accept your donation through our new credit card processing system.

When you donate you become a member of our community with the satisfaction of knowing you are part of a like-minded group of people. You'll receive:

- Wild News monthly and Landscapes newsletter in the spring and winter by email. Change your subscription at any time.
- Invitations to special events and restoration project work days
- Notices of online webinars and special presentations.
- Updates on current issues and action alerts
- Easy management of your email subscriptions and notices.

We hope to hear from you. Your support is the life blood of wildlands work.

From Jim, John, Alison, Claude, Kristin, Jean and John
Wild Connections Board and staff

Our Contact Information
*{{Organization Name}}*
*{{Organization Address}}*
*{{Organization Phone}}*
*{{Organization Website}}*
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We recognize our area as the ancestral lands of the Ute, Cheyenne, Jicarilla Apache, Arapaho and other indigenous peoples.