



Wild Connections

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES

Protecting and restoring wildlands in the Arkansas and South Platte watersheds...



Wild Connections News

June 2018

Hi {FIRST_NAME}|to all our friends},

We are gearing up for a busy and fun summer on our Colorado public lands, and we invite you to get outside with Wild Connections.

Wild Connections has some great volunteer and hiking opportunities for you just around the corner, as well as later this summer.

Upcoming Volunteer Projects and Outings...

Rock Creek Restoration Project

Saturday, June 2, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

South Park near Lost Creek Wilderness



Your helping hands are needed to protect the wildlands and wildlife of Rock Creek!

Wild Connections and conservation partner, Colorado Trout Unlimited, are pleased to provide volunteer support to the USFS South Park Ranger District in taking a long-awaited giant step toward completion of the Rock Creek Trailhead and Stream Restoration.

The project will expand a busy trailhead for both Colorado Trail and Ben Tyler Trail, repair a heavily-deteriorated edge of the Lost Creek Wilderness, and make way for the reintroduction of threatened greenback cutthroat trout in Rock Creek.

The multi-day project involves a variety of tasks and levels of difficulty: lots of seeding, raking, willow planting, rock rolling, and slash stashing to close decommissioned roads and user-created trails and campsites; and building stretches of buck and rail wooden fence around the trailhead and camping circle.

To register or for more info, contact John Stansfield, WC project director, at 303-660-5849; jorcstan@juno.com.

Wild Connections will also be hosting workday projects July 7-8 (see below) and project partner Trout Unlimited will be organizing additional volunteer days in June and July. Wild Connections will announce those days when scheduled.

USFS South Park Fence Removal Stewardship Project

Saturday, June 9, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fairplay, CO (Meeting location)

Join Wild Connections and South Park USFS Ranger District to remove old barbwire fencing on National Forest land, which creates obstruction for migrating wildlife.

This community stewardship project will improve wildlife habitat for our neighboring herds of elk, deer, moose, and pronghorn.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Fairplay area and work until about

Wild Connections will provide ice cream, beer, sodas, water, and nibbles for our post-project celebration!

Please bring personal lunch, snacks, and water for the work day.

"Barbwire defensible" clothing is required (heavy jeans/canvas pants, close-toed boots, thick long sleeves, and thick leather gloves), in addition to the standard list of personal outdoor gear (warm layers appropriate for the weather, hat, rain gear, sunscreen, eye protection or sunglasses, water, bug spray). An up-to-date Tetanus shot is preferable as well for this project.

This is a family-friendly project (for engaged kids 12+). For more info and/or to register, please contact Wild Connections' Misi Ballard at misi.ballard@gmail.com.



Sangre de Cristo Camping and Stewardship Adventure,

A Colorado Chapter Sierra Club Outing

Friday, June 15, 2018 - Sunday, June 17, 2018

Westcliffe, CO

The Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter, is leading a full weekend outing to the east side of the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Wilderness, with some exciting opportunities for everyone to explore these beautiful and wild USFS public lands.

There will also be great opportunities to learn more about the upcoming Huerfano County oil and gas lease sales in the area, which are administered by the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office.

This outing will also have special guests!

For more information or to register, please visit:

<https://sierra.secure.force.com/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z000002AoXzQAK>

Green Mountain, a USFS Monitoring Hike

Saturday, June 23, 2018

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (trailhead to trailhead time)



Green Mountain, in the Rampart Range about 10 miles northwest of Deckers, was the site of a road closure and restoration of an illegal motorized mud-bogging area conducted by Wild Connections and affiliated groups in the summer of 2011.

Come see how the unroaded area is re-vegetating, being reclaimed by nature!

This will be a moderate six-mile off-trail hike with about 700 feet elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, raingear, clothing suitable for weather conditions, and footgear suitable for off-trail hiking. A permit from Colorado Outdoors will be provided.



off-trail hiking. A carpool from Colorado Springs will be arranged.

This trip is sponsored by Wild Connections, Pikes Peak Group Sierra Club, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jim Lockhart at jlock@datawest.net or 719-385-0045.

Rock Creek Restoration Project continued

Saturday-Sunday, July 7-8, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

South Park near Lost Creek Wilderness

As we continue this ambitious USFS Rock Creek Restoration Project into the summer, we continue to need your volunteer support to protect area wildlife and their habitat. Wild Connections and conservation partner, Colorado Trout Unlimited, are pleased to provide continued volunteer support to the USFS South Park Ranger District in taking a long-awaited giant step toward completion of the Rock Creek Trailhead and Stream Restoration.



Join us for one day of these weekend days or register for both and camp with us for the weekend as we work to improve this heavily impacted area along the Lost Creek Wilderness.

The multi-day project involves a variety of tasks and levels of difficulty: lots of seeding, raking, willow planting, rock rolling, and slash stashing to close decommissioned roads and user-created trails and campsites; and building stretches of buck and rail wooden fence around the trailhead and camping circle.

To register or for more info, contact John Stansfield, WC project director, at 303-660-5849; jorcstan@juno.com.

USFS South Park Alpine Restoration Projects

Part 1: August 18-19, 2018

Part 2: September 08, 2018

Join us for a weekend or one-day event in spectacular high country at three sites within 10 miles northwest and southwest of Fairplay.



Seeking lots of volunteers for these project dates! Bring your friends!



The headwaters of North Tarryall Creek, Sheep Creek and Beaver Creek have been impacted by illegal motorized activity and social trail development, which has damaged the alpine habitat and sent sediment into the watershed. After equipment preps the sites, volunteers will seed and mulch the area.

We'll be camping in a beautiful location with views across a meadow toward the continental divide.

These are the first and second projects in a series extending through 2019. Wild Connections is pleased to be working with long-time partners, USFS South Park Ranger District, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI) and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV).



Registration is Open!

To register, or for more info, please go to WRV's page here:

[South Park Alpine Restoration Project Pt 1](#)

[South Park Alpine Restoration Project Pt 2](#)

Lend Your Voice...

GMUG National Forest Plan Revision Scoping Comment Deadline Ends June 2nd!



Scoping began April 3rd for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) plan revision. Due to public support, USFS has extended the public comment period an additional 30 days, **extending this comment deadline to June 2nd, 2018.**

The GMUG forests, located in western Colorado, border Wild Connections' region along the Collegiate Peaks and Swatch Range of the Upper Arkansas River Valley.

For more information and public comment talking points, see this great blog post by Rocky Mountain Wild's, and Wild Connections' board member, Alison Gallensky:

<http://rockymountainwild.org/gmugscoping>

Additional information from the USFS can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd500301>

Jim, Misi, John, Kristin, Alison, Claude, Deb, Karl and John
- All of us at Wild Connections

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*Thanks for the photos! Credit from top to bottom:
John Sztukowski (header), John Stansfield, Misi Ballard, Jim Lockhart,
John Stansfield, Misi Ballard, Dan Novakoski via fs.usda.gov/main/gmug/home*

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