



Wild Connections

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES

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



Wild Connections News

February 2018

Hi {FIRST_NAME}|to all our friends},

Wild Connections has a lot of exciting news for you as we already turn the calendar to February 2018.

Bountiful Support from Awesome Folks

IndyGive Awards on February 1, 2018, at El Pomar's Penrose House Garden Pavilion, brought the 75 Pikes Peak region non-profits together to celebrate the bounty from the November-December 2017 year end campaign.

Wild Connections' board member Kristin Skoog (pictured right), president Jim Lockhart, and founder Jean Smith received Wild Connections' check for \$9,785.

In addition \$8,370 was donated online during the December 5th **Colorado Gives Day**, and another \$2,094 came in the **mail**.

You 147 people, and especially you 47 new donors, are indeed awesome. Your gifts go a long way to saving wild nature in central Colorado – our deepest thanks.



Patagonia Denver awarded Wild Connections a grant for \$10,000 for Packer Gulch and Rock Creek restoration projects.

Working with the Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, local landowners and workday volunteers are making a difference for deer, elk, moose, greenback cutthroat trout, and keeping Farnum Peak roadless area and Lost Creek Wilderness wild and quiet.

Our thanks to Patagonia for their many years of support for habitat restoration.



Wolcott Family Foundation is sending \$4,850 to continue their multi-year contribution toward our work on the BLM Resource Management Planning, Pike-San Isabel National Forest travel management planning, and a full program of backcountry and wilderness hikes.

We are grateful that this Colorado family, with Board members here and across North America, values good management and citizen stewardship of Colorado's public lands.



Join us for an Upcoming Hike or Hangout...

Brown-capped Rosy Finches: Sirens of the Mountain Tops

Friday, February 9, 2018, 6:00 PM

Fairplay Town Hall, 901 9th St



Wild Connections and the South Park Ranger District invite you to hear Dr. Luke George, Science Director at the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, discuss the current status of Brown-capped Rosy Finches and ways you can help with ongoing research into mysterious, seriously declining numbers.

These Rosy Finches nest only in the high alpine tundra of Colorado, and a small area in Wyoming, where they spend most of the year, dropping to lower elevations in South Park and elsewhere to feed when the snow flies.

Dr. George will talk about banding projects currently underway and the need for feeder watchers to help track banded birds.

RSVPs required as space is limited. Contact Misi Ballard for reservations at misi.ballard@gmail.com or 303.884.7640.

Sunset City Gulch Day Hike, Grape Creek Proposed Wilderness

Saturday, February 10, 2018

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead time)

Sunset City Gulch, a scenic, wooded valley, traverses the west end of the Grape Creek Proposed Wilderness.



This moderately strenuous, on-and-off trail hike covers six miles while gaining 600 feet elevation.

A loop-hiking route is possible. Learn about the future of the proposed Wilderness and nearby BLM Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. Expect shallow amounts of snow underfoot. Bring sturdy, water resistant boots, clothes appropriate for the weather forecast, water, lunch, and usual dayhike essentials.

This trip is sponsored by Pikes Peak Group Sierra Club, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Maximum 15 participants. A Colorado Springs carpool will depart at 7:45 AM.

For more trip and carpool information and **required registration**, contact John Stansfield, [303-660-5849](tel:303-660-5849) or email jorcstan@juno.com by 5:00 PM, Friday, February 9.

Wild Connections Karma (Happy) Hour

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Bristol Brewing Company

1604 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO



On Tuesday, February 13, Bristol Brewing Company in Colorado Springs will be benefiting Wild Connections through its weekly Karma Hour

event. Every Tuesday night between 6 and 8 p.m., Bristol donates a dollar from every pint sold to a chosen nonprofit. This is one of their ways of giving back to the community.

On February 13th, Wild Connections is the chosen nonprofit, so this money will go toward helping us to preserve wild areas in the region and the region-wide connecting links that keep the ecosystem intact.

This is also an opportunity to meet and speak with representatives from Wild Connections, and to learn more about Wild Connections, what we do, and what our plans are for 2018 and beyond.

Bristol Brewing is an independent brewery and pub located in the former Ivywild School, a vibrant community market place and gathering spot in Colorado Springs, just south of the downtown and is accessible from the Tejon Street exit to I-25. It has created a whole stable of innovative and sustainably produced beers. The pub offers a full menu of meals and appetizers.

For more information about this Karma Hour event and location, please visit Bristol Brewing at <http://www.bristolbrewing.com/events/tuesday-night-karma-hour-50/>

Wildcat Canyon Roadless Area Hike

Sunday, February 18, 2018

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead time)



Join Wild Connections for a mid-winter hike into the remote section of the South Platte River known as Wildcat Canyon.

This moderate hike of 6-7 miles will follow portions of a closed Forest Service road, a single-track trail, and will also include off-trail hiking, possible bush-whacking and scrambling over rock.

Depending upon snow levels on the day of the hike, the route may lead us down to the river with the return climb back.

This route will take us to a spectacular viewpoint above the canyon for views of Wildcat's towering rock formations. Warm sturdy hiking boots highly recommended.

Reservations are required. Contact Misi Ballard at misi.ballard@gmail.com or 303.884.7640.

Take Action...

Protect the Integrity of the Wilderness Act

Please ask your representative to vote **NO** on House Bill 1349 to protect the Wilderness Act and its 50+ years policy supporting primitive forms of recreation in Wilderness.

This bill may come to a House vote soon!

This bill would weaken the 1964 Wilderness Act by opening up designated Wilderness Areas to non-motorized bicycle use and other mechanized wheeled vehicles (Note, all wheelchairs for disabled and non-transport equipment for maintenance are already permitted in Wilderness).



Suggested Talking Points

In your call or e-mail:

1. I am calling to ask Mr. Lamborn or Mr. Tipton to oppose H.R. 1349 that would allow use of mechanized vehicles in designated Wilderness.
2. American wilderness and the Wilderness Act of 1964 carry on the important traditions of wildland and wildlife protection combined with a primitive recreational experience unavailable on other public lands.
3. Wildernesses offer crucial ecological and economic benefits for Colorado and the nation. H.R. 1349 would permanently degrade the Wilderness Preservation System.
4. 85% of public lands in Colorado are available for mountain biking. Opening up wilderness areas to bikes is not necessary and would only cause tremendous ecological harm and significant management challenges.

Contacts

Rep Lamborn:

- D.C. Phone: [202-225-4422](tel:202-225-4422)
- Colorado Springs: [719-520-0055](tel:719-520-0055)
- <https://lamborn.house.gov/contact/>

Rep Tipton:

- D.C. Phone: [202-225-4761](tel:202-225-4761)
- Pueblo Phone: [719-542-1073](tel:719-542-1073)
- <https://tipton.house.gov/>

Introducing...

The Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act

The conservation community is excited to let you know that the Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act legislation was introduced in both the US House and Senate in late January, coinciding with the opening of the Outdoor Retailer + Snow Show in Colorado.

Senator Michael Bennett joins Representative Jared Polis to create the first ever Senate companion legislation for the Continental Divide. The new version of the bill includes some exciting updates and additions:

- **Permanently protects 96,000 acres of wilderness, critical wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and historical areas** in Summit and Eagle Counties within the White River National Forest.
- **Adds 3 new Wilderness areas (20,000 acres)** in the Tenmile Range, the Williams Fork Mountains, and Hoosier Ridge Wilderness area, which is **adjacent to Wild Connections' Hoosier Ridge Core Reserve, an important wildlife connectivity area.**
- **Designates our nation's first National Historical Landscape** to protect 30,000 acres of public lands around Camp Hale, home of the WWII-era training camp of the storied 10th Mountain Division.
- **Adds areas to the existing Eagle's Nest, Holy Cross, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas (20,000 acres).**
- **Creates a unique Recreation Management Area** to protect mountain biking, hiking, and hunting access and ensure conservation for key parts of the Tenmile Mountain Range.
- **Establishes two Wildlife Conservation Areas totaling nearly 12,000 acres** to protect critical wildlife linkages near Loveland Pass and in the Williams Fork Mountains.

Please show your support for the Continental Divide legislation by contacting Sen. Bennett and Rep. Polis at your earliest opportunity.

Contacts

Sen Bennett:

- D.C. Phone: [202-224-5852](tel:202-224-5852)
- <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Rep Polis:

- D.C. Phone: [202-225-2161](tel:202-225-2161)
- Boulder Phone: [303-484-9596](tel:303-484-9596)
- <http://polis.house.gov/>

Hat tip to Conservation Colorado's Scott Braden, Wilderness & Public Lands Advocate, for the above information.

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

Share with your friends and family

[Forward this E-News to a friend](#)



Thanks for the photos! Credit from top to bottom:

Jean Smith, Wild Connections, John Stansfield, Chris Fischer (allaboutbirds.org), John Stansfield, Bristol Brewing Co, Misi Ballard, John Stansfield

Website: www.wildconnections.org

Email: info@wildconnections.org

Phone: 719.686.5905

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Wild Connections
2168 Pheasant Pl
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

