



# Wild Connections

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES

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



## Wild Connections News

November 2018

Hi {FIRST\_NAME}|to all our friends},

The beginning of November always brings an exciting sense of anticipation and hope for the future to all of us here at Wild Connections.

On November 1, 2018, we launched our annual year-end giving appeal that will help determine the breadth and scope of our future work to protect wildlife and wildlands on our public lands in the Arkansas and South Platte River watersheds.

This sense of hope that we have for the future is based upon our years of experience working with public lands supporters just like you, to protect critical habitat so wildlife can thrive, to restore miles of badly damaged illegal tracks to their natural state, and to engage people of all ages in our mission to protect our priceless natural heritage for future generations.

Our hopeful vision for the future includes YOU working with us to continue to protect, restore and help guide the management of our public lands.

But this important work takes more than sweat and toil to be successful.

Through our year-end giving appeal, you have the opportunity to ensure that our shared hope for the future is realized. You can make a donation today that will help Wild Connections meet the future challenges of protecting our public lands, water, air and wildlife. We hope you will support Wild Connections at this time so we can continue working long into the future to protect our wildlife and our wild lands, together.



Here is how you can give today.

The Give! Campaign features Wild Connections and other Pikes Peak region non-profits.

[You can make a contribution here anytime from November. 1 to December. 31, 2018.](#)



Your gifts will be matched by \$3,100 from individuals on Wild Connections' Board of Directors.

Colorado Gives Day is the state-wide day of giving on Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

[You can pre-schedule your gift for that date anytime beginning November 1, 2018.](#)



For more information on how you can support Wild Connections on Colorado Gives Day, please see: <https://www.coloradogives.org/WildConnections/overview>.



Wild Connections will receive a proportionate share of the \$1,000,000 incentive fund provided by Community First Foundation and FirstBank. What a great start!

If you prefer, you can always mail a check to 2168 Pheasant Pl. Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

## Upcoming Events...

### Eat. Drink. Give!

Thursday, November 8, 2018

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

#### Energy Resource Center

114 W Rio Grande St,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Join Wild Connections at the Energy Resource Center's warehouse for a night of celebration, community, and giving. The 2018 [Indy Give!](#) campaign will kick-off with a party in a big way. Meet Wild Connections and many of your other favorite Non-profits from the 2018 Give! Campaign all under one roof with music, food, beer, wine, and fun. Come by for a chance to learn about and support our community and for a chance to win some fun prizes!

While the event is free, guests are asked to give a donation of at least \$25 to one of the groups at the event. There will be a giving donation set up at the event and giving experts there to help you with your Give! donation. Please consider your donation to help support Wild Connections!

There will be music by [Tenderfoot Bluegrass Band!](#) More info is located [here](#).

### Grape Creek Day Hike,

A BLM Wildlands Outing to Ecology Park

Saturday, November 17, 2018

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead times)



Ecology Park is located just southwest of Canon City and south of Royal Gorge, and is jointly managed by the BLM and the City of Canon City. This scenic and recreational area offers hiking trails and access to Grape Creek and Temple Canyon. This hike, following-up our May 2018 outing, is approximately 5 miles with 500 feet elevation gain and will explore the western end of the area.

Parts of this area are threatened by proposed BLM oil and gas leasing, as well as mining, which we will discuss on this outing. We also will learn about the BLM's current Resource Management Plan revision, and how it could affect the area and local wildlife.

This hike is sponsored by Wild Connections, Pikes Peak Group Sierra Club, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Bring lunch, snacks, water, clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions. An optional carpool from Colorado Springs will be arranged.

Maximum 15 participants.

For more information or to register for the hike, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or [jlock@datawest.net](mailto:jlock@datawest.net).

## Colorado BLM News...

### New BLM Colorado State Director

BLM announced last month that Jamie Connell will be the new BLM Colorado State Director. Connell has a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and began her career at BLM as a petroleum engineer in Miles City, MT, and was previously state director of the bureau's Montana-Dakotas office.

Connell most recently served as the BLM state director for Oregon-Washington. Connell, who will be responsible for overseeing management of 8.3 million acres of federal lands in Colorado, will become the first permanent BLM state director since Ruth Welch was transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation last year as part of a major staff shakeup that also included removing the state directors in Alaska and New Mexico.

More info can be found [here](#).

## BLM Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (ECRMP) Revision Delays Continue.

The ECRMP is still a priority plan for the BLM, however delays have continued throughout 2018. The ECRMP Draft plan is expected soon, in late 2018 or early 2019, with a 90-day public comment period.

Wild Connections is keeping up with the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) on this plan revision, as it has major implications on the future of our local wildlife and wildlands.

We will send out an action alert and applicable info to our members when this draft plan is released to the public.

In the meantime, see <http://www.wildconnections.org/events.html> for events and wildlands hikes that Wild Connections is hosting on or about our BLM public lands.



## Governor Announces Economic Impact Data for Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry

On Friday, Governor Hickenlooper announced new economic data from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), which showed significant growth in Colorado's outdoor recreation economy.

In 2017, outdoor recreation contributed \$62 billion to Colorado's economy and \$35 billion to the state's Gross Domestic Product - which is more than 10 percent. The impact of the outdoor recreation industry in Colorado has almost doubled since CPW's previous analysis in 2013.

See the full executive order [here](#) and CPW's economic impact data [here](#).

## Celebrate the Climate Change Initiative Launch! You made it happen by donating \$5,000 to begin this work!

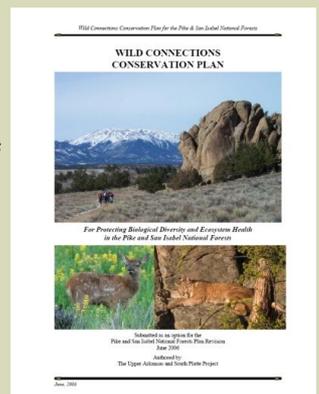
People like you sent almost \$5,000 and we topped it off with a portion of our Maki Foundation grant. We are grateful for the support of so many of you who are helping Wild Connections identify and protect wild areas and linkages that will be most resilient to climate change.

This begins a multi-year effort that will include, among other things, incorporating BLM *Lands With Wilderness Characteristics* and using geophysical, species and community viability data, as well as field work, to identify climate refugia and high quality connectivity. These will be incorporated in a revision of the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*.

Read more about our WCCP and Climate Update [here](#).

And view our Climate Future Webinar, recorded Sept 2018, [here](#).

For those of you considering a donation to the climate change planning, you can make your gift at any time on our website at: <http://wildconnections.org/makeagift.html>



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:  
EcoFlight (header), Indy Give! Logo, Colorado Gives Day Logo,  
Wild Connections Conservation Plan Photo, and Wild Connections

Contact Us

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