



E-News June 7, 2019

Hello Jean,

Summer is here, and it is time to get out and enjoy our local public lands. Wild Connections invites you to join one of our informative hikes, or become a citizen scientist during a climate-focused overnight backpack, or just chill out at film screening. See below for details on all these activities. See our events page at wildconnections.org for information on all our current programs.

Hike Schedule

- o **June 14** Cooper Mountain Ridge-top Hike, a BLM wildlands outing
- o **June 18-19** Refrigerator Gulch Climate Education Backpack
- o **June 21** Wildcat Canyon Hike, Beautiful but Threatened
- o **June 29** Grape Creek Day Hike: Temple Canyon to Ecology Park

South Park Alpine Restoration Projects – Register Now!

- o **July 20 & 21** Road removal in high alpine tundra at Sheep Creek
- o **August 16-18** Trail reroute and boardwalk construction at Beaver Creek wetlands

Films for a Green Planet, Cañon City

- o **June 27** *Last Call at the Oasis*, a documentary about water resources

Upcoming Hikes and Events

Cooper Mountain Ridgetop Hike,

A BLM Wildlands Outing

Friday, June 14, 2019

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead Time)



Just west of Phantom Canyon stretches a long plateau of forests, meadows, and wilderness-quality lands known as Cooper Mountain. This moderately strenuous hike of six miles and 1,000 feet elevation gain will follow a ridge top trail dating to early ranching and mining days and explore little-visited Millsap Creek.

Learn about BLM Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan currently awaiting its final draft. This trip is sponsored by Wild Connections, Pikes Peak Group Sierra Club, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Maximum 15 participants.

A Colorado Springs carpool will meet at 7:30 AM. For more trip information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@juno.com by 5:00 PM, Thursday, June 13. Signup Provisions: Because this event is posted on multiple media, participants must contact the leader by phone or e-mail to register. Please notify the leader promptly if you must cancel after registering.

Refrigerator Gulch Climate Education Backpack

A Pike National Forest Lost Creek Wilderness Outing

Tuesday, June 18 - Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Meeting 9:00 AM at Wigwam Trailhead



Join Wild Connections for our first ever climate backpack in Refrigerator Gulch in the Lost Creek Wilderness. This outing is located in the high elevation of Pike National Forest, southwest of Deckers, just over an hour from southwest Denver or Colorado Springs. **The Forest Service projects an average 8.5° F annual increase for this area by 2080. This seemingly modest change has the potential to change drastically the face of Colorado's snow pack, forests and wildlife from what we see today.**

This moderately strenuous overnight backpack hike will cover approximately 15 miles, with 2000 feet of elevation gain. This hike begins at the Wigwam Creek trailhead and ascends Wigwam Creek and a tributary drainage, then descends 1000 feet to Refrigerator Gulch where we will camp for the night. Day 2 we will return the way we came. Prior backpacking experience is required. Please no heavy packs over 30 lbs. (not counting water), as we will move at a moderate pace. We will also enjoy great views of Wigwam Park and Peak and of the amazing jumbled topography of the Lost Creek Wilderness.

Wildcat Canyon Hike

Beautiful But Threatened

Friday, June 21

9 am to 4 pm, Trailhead to Trailhead



Join Wild Connections for an exploratory hike into a remote section of the S. Platte River known as Wildcat Canyon. This stretch of the S. Platte, upstream from Cheeseman Reservoir to the S. Platte's confluence with Tarryall Creek, is a lush oasis, deep within the Hayman burn area but untouched by the fire. It is home to herds of deer, elk and the occasional mountain lion. Wildcat Canyon is being severely threatened by illegal motorized activity. Roads closed after the Hayman fire are being ridden down to the river from both east and west sides, and vehicles are crossing the Platte, causing negative impacts to both wildlife and water.

The first segment of the hike is a moderate three miles, one way, down to the river's edge. We will follow a closed Forest Service road, deeply rutted in spots, dropping 1200 feet to the S. Platte River. The return trip will be more strenuous as we climb back up to the trailhead. We will spend time exploring the river's edge, and learning about travel management on the Pike National Forest and how you can help protect this beautiful pocket of wildness.

The hike will be a minimum of 6 miles round-trip, with a 1200 ft. elevation loss/gain, with the possibility of adding another 3+ miles for those who want to hike to the confluence with the Tarryall Creek. Participants should bring lunch, water and snacks, the 10 essentials including rain gear and good footwear. A Denver carpool will meet at 7:30 AM. From other areas, a rendezvous point can be arranged. Drivers will be needed and riders should plan on reimbursement to your driver. The drive and hike will take the whole day. To register and obtain the information, contact Claude Neumann, 720-524-1645 or e-mail claudeneumann@earthlink.net by Thursday June 20 5:00 PM. Maximum 15 participants.

Grape Creek Day Hike: Temple Canyon to Ecology Park,

A BLM Wildlands Outing

Saturday, June 29, 2019

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM (Trailhead to Trailhead Time)



This hike will explore Grape Creek from Temple Canyon, a Cañon City park, to Ecology Park, a recreation area near Cañon City and south of Royal Gorge, which is jointly managed between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fremont County. We will cover about five miles. This hike will be moderately strenuous, because most of the route is off-trail along a stream bottom, with numerous stream crossings and some easy climbing over obstacles.

We will learn about the BLM's Resource Management Plan, and discuss how the plan could affect the area. We will also explain how these areas are threatened by oil and gas development and proposed mining.

This hike is sponsored by Pikes Peak Group Sierra Club, Wild Connections, and Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Bring lunch, water, clothing suitable for the weather conditions, and footwear suitable for hiking with repeated stream crossings (with no time to change in and out of wet footwear). For more information, and to register for the hike, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or email jlock@datawest.net

South Park Alpine Restoration Projects - Register Now!



Wild Connections is excited to team back up on South Park Alpine with longtime partners USFS South Park Ranger District, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV).

July 20 & 21, South Park Alpine Restoration Project at Sheep Creek

We will work for two days in a gorgeous alpine setting. The project will mirror our North Tarryall project from last year, including some raking, seeding, mulching and small vegetation transplanting to encourage regrowth of the badly degraded hillside. We'll be camping remotely so come prepared for any kind of South Park weather. Bring your tents and sleeping bags and camp chairs, and all the food and fun will be provided free of charge!

For more information and to register, go to WRV's page: [here](#).

August 16-18, South Park Alpine Restoration Project at Beaver Creek

Join us as we return to Beaver Creek, just north of Fairplay, on the south side of Mount Silverheels, in one of our favorite rustic creekside campsites. We will be building a 500' boardwalk across the extensive beaver ponds that have flooded out a single-track trail. This boardwalk will provide an important connection between existing area trails. The boardwalk will feature Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) adaptations, and will provide a great chance for everyone to experience the quiet and beauty of this alpine valley.

For more info and to register, go to WRV's page: [here](#).

Films For a Green Planet Film Series: March - July, 2019
Last Thursday of the Month - Show Time: 7:00 PM
Cañon City, CO: United Presbyterian Church, 701 Macon Ave



This month: Thursday, June 27: Last Call at the Oasis

Last Call at the Oasis is a powerful documentary that shatters myths behind our most precious resource, exposes defects in the current system, shows communities already struggling with its ill effects and highlights individuals championing revolutionary solutions. The film posits that we can manage the water problem if we act now.

These films are free and open to the public!

See our events page at wildconnections.org for the complete list of films and descriptions for this film series.

Jim, Misi, John, Kristin, Alison, Claude, Deb, Karl and John

- All of us at Wild Connections

Find us on social media:



Thanks for the photos! Credit from top to bottom:
John Stansfield, USFS, Curt Nirz, John Stukowski, Misi Ballard, Films for a Green Planet.

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