

Dear «First Name»,

You would have to be Rip Van Winkle not to know. Not to know of the many challenges to nature’s health. Challenges to clean water supplies, to clear and breathable air, to the wonders of our public lands and the plant and animal families they nourish.

Unlike Washington Irving’s age-old sleepyhead, Wild Connections is awake and at work meeting today’s challenges. Since 1995, our volunteers have researched over 150 roadless areas in Pike and San Isabel National Forest. That data gave birth to the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*, a comprehensive, science-based blueprint for managing our national forests and their natural diversity. More recently, the organization extended its research onto Bureau of Land Management lands. As a result, the agency more than doubled the protected acreage known as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. Many of you have joined us in providing important comments on public land management decisions. For these actions, you have our thanks. Throughout the past decade, Wild Connections sponsored major wildlands restoration projects aimed at strengthening connectivity among wild areas. Those links on the land are crucial to the future of intact ecosystems in central Colorado.

Our work continues. An updated *Wild Connections Conservation Plan* will identify and deal with impacts of human population growth, increasing demands on public lands, and climate change. We are promoting protection of natural areas in federal government planning efforts such as the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan and Pike/San Isabel National Forest Travel Management Plan. Both plans will control how public lands are managed for decades to come.



The mission remains as vital as it has always been. Wild Connections stands as the one conservation group that focuses on protecting public lands in the South Platte and Arkansas River watersheds on a landscape-wide basis. A unique combination of efforts drives our work: advocacy, collaboration with land agencies and kindred organizations and individuals like you, and on-the-ground restoration. With your help, Wild Connections will remain an ongoing force for wildlands and wildlife preservation. We invite you to join in this endeavor.

If Rip Van Winkle awoke two decades hence in a forest in central Colorado, we hope he would find nature not spoiled, but better for the love and ongoing work of all of us.

Please consider a generous donation to help save wild places in Central Colorado.

With thanks from Wild Connections’ Board and staff,

Jim Lockhart, President

*Print and mail
or use the on-line options*

YES, I want to help

\$10
 \$35
 \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 \$ other _____ *Any amount is gratefully received*

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