

MISSION

Wild Connections works to identify, protect and restore lands of the Upper Arkansas and South Platte headwaters to ensure the survival of intact roadless areas, native species and ecological richness.



In 1995 a small group of volunteers set out to map roadless areas in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Now Wild Connections is concerned with the conservation potential of all public lands and the connections between public and private lands.

Our vision for the future is found in the *Wild Connections Conservation Plan*. This science-based conservation plan was created by citizens using information from our roadless area inventories, biological data and input from local workshops. It is a regional ecosystem strategy that forges a link in an unbroken chain of North American wildlands.

Wild Connections brings together people and organizations with diverse perspectives in activities ranging from wilderness hikes to advocacy to hands-on restoration. We invite your phone calls, emails and web site visits.



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Photos: John Fielder (cover), Wild Connections,
John Stansfield, Jean C. Smith and the
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Conserving wildlands across
the Upper Arkansas
and South Platte watersheds
for more than 20 years

WHAT WE DO

Wild Connections focuses on long-term strategies to create a wildlands network of core reserves and connecting wildways that protect remaining roadless areas, wildlife habitat and native biodiversity.

WILDLANDS CONSERVATION

The Pike-San Isabel National Forest and the Royal Gorge BLM are stewards of more than 2,780,000 acres in the upper reaches of the Arkansas and South Platte basins. In addition, Colorado state lands and county and city open spaces spread across the region.

Roadless Area Inventories

For two decades volunteer mappers have documented the boundaries of more than 120 roadless areas on the National Forest and BLM lands.

- Relying on our research, the Pike- San Isabel added 107,400 acres to its roadless inventory in the Colorado Roadless Rule.
- Mappers also documented “Wilderness Characteristics” on about 250,000 acres of BLM lands.
- Wild Connections aids citizen advocacy for strong protection of the natural qualities, wildlife habitat, and sustainable human use of these public lands.



Wilderness Advocacy

Wild Connections organizes research and advocacy for permanent protection of wild areas.

- We work with regional and local conservation groups to build effective campaigns for Wilderness and National Conservation Areas, Parks and Monuments.



- Browns Canyon National Monument was designated after years of citizen advocacy.
- Regular field trips to backcountry areas inspire citizen support for protection.

Habitat Restoration

Volunteers heal damaged lands with hands-on restoration projects.

- In Trout and Eagle Creeks the closed trail corridors and a gravel pit were ripped, seeded and erosion structures installed.
- At Green Mountain impacts on wildlife were reduced by ripping and seeding a closed road and restoring a wet meadow.
- At Geneva Basin and Badger Flats illegal camp sites and off-road tracks were obliterated and secure barriers installed.



ROADLESS AREA DEFENSE

Roadless areas in central Colorado are wild islands in the midst of a sea of private land development and heavily used agency lands.

Travel Management Planning

Roads and motorized trails on public lands fragment habitat and affect wildlife.

- We provide GIS analysis and technical comments.
- Organizing for public participation aids agency travel planning.

USFS and BLM Project Analysis

- Wild Connections and partners monitor and comment on agency projects that might adversely affect roadless areas, biodiversity hotspots, or sensitive wildlife habitat and linkages.

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

A diverse mix of native species helps protect the land.

- Wild Connections explores biodiversity with field trips to wildlife habitat and monitoring key species, including the Pawnee montane skipper butterfly.
- We promote ecologically-based land management to protect current and future biodiversity.

