



December 3, 2024

Dear Colleague,

Today is Giving Tuesday! Learn more about this day of global generosity, other Giving opportunities and everything else going on in our region below.

Celebrate Giving Tuesday with the Wild Connections Community



Every peak, every creature, every wild moment matters. Today, your support helps protect them all!

On this global day of generosity, we're filled with gratitude for our community of supporters who have helped Wild Connections protect central Colorado's precious wildlands for nearly 30 years.

Giving Tuesday represents more than just a day of donations – it's a powerful reminder of how collective action can create lasting positive change for our environment.

As we reflect on our successes, we're thankful for: • Our dedicated volunteers who helped restore wild and roadless areas • The thriving wildlife in our protected habitats • The return of native plants at our restoration sites • Our passionate community of conservation supporters

We're grateful for every supporter who helps us protect, and restore our central Colorado wildlands. Your Giving Tuesday gift will help ensure the survival of native species and preserve ecological richness for future generations.

3 ways to send your donation:



[Every gift from now until December 10th counts for Colorado Gives Day.](#)



[Give! helps nonprofits that benefit people, animals and places in the Pikes Peak Region. Now through Dec 31](#)



Or send your contribution directly to Wild Connections from our [Donate page](#).

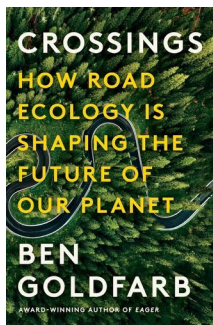
Your Giving Tuesday donation supports critical initiatives: • Vital habitat restoration projects • Essential climate refugia research • Educational programs that connect people with nature • Hands-on conservation work that makes a real difference

Comment by Dec 4 on a Proposed FS Logging Project near Denver



The Forest Service has a public comment period ending tomorrow for their proposed 261,096 acre [Lower North-South Vegetative Management Project](#), located in the South Platte and Pikes Peak Ranger Districts.

This project does not include any specific protections for old-growth trees, which are more resistant to fire, drought and climate change. The project also does not address the impact of logging on wildlife, specifically endangered species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl and Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse. For more info, see this thoughtful article from our friends at Environment Colorado: [Proposed logging near Denver threatens older trees, species](#).



Book Discussion: "Crossings: How Road Ecology is Shaping the Future of Our Planet" Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Evergreen, CO

Join our friends at Wild Aware for a book discussion with Ben Goldfarb on his new book, "Crossings", which details the history of roads in National Forests, their impact on wildlife and the value of decommissioning them. Find more info at wildaware.org/our-events/a-discussion-with-ben-goldfarb.



*Mixed forests along the trail at Mueller State Park,
by CPW.*

Mueller State Park Hike Saturday, Dec 21, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Mueller State Park is a 5000-acre state park south of Divide, Colorado. Together with the adjoining Dome Rock State Wildlife Area, it protects a large swath of land on the west side of Pikes Peak, including headwaters of Fourmile Creek, and for more than 30 years has served as a valuable wildlife corridor and year-round range for many species, including bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. It offers diverse habitat, from meadows to forest to rocky outcrops.

On this hike we will learn about the history of the area and how it serves as a valuable wildlife core area and corridor. It will be a moderate 5 mile hike with about 600 feet of elevation gain. Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water, clothing suitable for the weather conditions, including rain gear, and footwear suitable for hiking on trail. A Colorado Springs carpool/caravan will be available. For more information and to register, contact Jim Lockhart at [719-385-0045](tel:719-385-0045) or jlock@datawest.net.

The Forest Service finalizes the Pike National Forest Target Shooting plan



On Nov 20, the Pike-San Isabel National Forests released their final environmental assessment and draft decision for their Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest project. The decision identified 6 locations for shooting ranges on the forest. We are currently in a 45-day objection period window. Find more info on this project at fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1216470.



Photo by Wayne D. Lewis.

CPW Commission unanimously adopts East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan

On Nov 15, after months of research and public hearings, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted the East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan.

Find more info at cpw.state.co.us/news/11152024/cpw-commission-unanimously-adopts-east-slope-mountain-lion-management-plan



Recognizing Animal Agency in Environmental Conservation

In case you missed it, check out this webinar recording from Dialectical Systems on "Recognizing Animal Agency in Environmental Conservation," featuring our friend Dr. Marc Bekoff.

Find background information on the event [here](#), with the recording available [here](#).

From all of us,
John, India, Jim, Alison, Claude and Kristin
Wild Connections Leadership Team

Our Contact Information

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Donate

We recognize our area as the ancestral lands of the Ute, Cheyenne, Jicarilla Apache, Arapaho and other indigenous peoples.