



May 2023

Dear Colleague,

We have a lot of exciting news and events to share with you for this month:

- May 13 Wildcat Canyon Hike
- May 14-20 RMW's Colorado Endangered Species Week
- May 20 Colorado Public Lands Day
- May 27 Badger Creek BLM Wild Area Hike
- BLM Proposed Rule for Conservation
 - Meetings just Announced: May 25 in Denver
 - Comments due June 20
- June 10-30 USFS Kenosha Creek Riparian Volunteer Opportunities
- Our Climate Change Virtual Event Recording is Available
- Colorado's Wolf Reintroduction Plan is Finalized
- 2023 Restoration Projects - Make Your Donation to Wild Connections Today!

Read on for more info!

Wildcat Canyon Hike, Monitoring Outing Saturday, May 13, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM



*Wild Connections 2017 Wildcat Canyon Hike.
Photo Curt Nimz*

Join us for a fairly casual 5 mile round trip hike to the scenic viewpoint overlooking this impressive South Platte River canyon.

This section of the river was identified as eligible for Scenic River designation and is managed for similar protections under the South Platte Protection Plan.

Last fall, the Forest Service, with funding secured by Wild Connections, removed 5,000 feet of cable, 250 posts and signs to clean up the riparian area, improving the aquatic habitat and water quality.

[Go Here for More Details](#)

and to Register

Colorado Endangered Species Week May 14 - 20, 2023



Colorado Endangered Species Week

May 14-20, 2023

Wild Connections is happy to be a sponsor for Rocky Mountain Wild's 2023 Colorado Endangered Species Week.

For each day of the week, RMW will be hosting exciting online events & activities!

See all of this year's CESW events & activities, including RMW's online auction, at rockymountainwild.org/cesw.

Colorado Public Lands Day is May 20

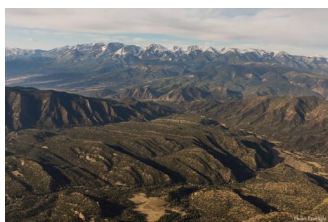


This year's Colorado Public Lands Day holiday falls on Saturday, May 20.

Colorado was the first state to establish a state holiday for our public lands (2016), which provides an opportunity to celebrate and get involved with our public lands.

For more info and to find a CPLD event near you, see copubliclandsday.com

Badger Creek Hike, a BLM Wildlands Outing Saturday, May 27, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



*The Sangres over Badger Creek
South with Tributaries. 2017.
Photo EcoFlight.*

Badger Creek, along the Arkansas River, is an area with interesting geological features and diverse biology, representing a complete ecosystem, with approximately 3,000 feet of elevation differential, comprising several complete life zones. It has been identified by Wild Connections and the BLM as "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" warranting protection.

This moderate hike of about 5 miles with elevation change of approximately 1,000 feet will explore a portion of this area west of the Sand Gulch road looking for signs of human and vehicular impacts.

[Go Here for More Details](#)
and to Register

BLM Proposed Rule for Conservation: 75-day public comment period ends June 20, with Denver & Virtual Public Meetings



*The Arkansas River in Bighorn
Sheep Canyon,
predominantly comprised of BLM
managed wilderness quality
public lands. Photo EcoFlight.*

In late March, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced [a proposed rule](#) that would "improve the resilience of public lands in the face of a changing climate, conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes."

The BLM has a multiple use mission, however conservation has never been really been viewed as a use of the land. BLM's proposed Public Lands Rule could finally give conservation equal footing to grazing, water rights, oil, gas, and mining on BLM public lands.

Please make a public comment to support and welcome these proposed regulations to strengthen stewardship for public water, open space and recreation on BLM managed public lands in this era of climate change. The BLM will consider all feedback on this, and make changes and adjustments.

[Go Here for More Info](#)
and to Comment

Find more information, and a place to comment, at actnowforpubliclands.org.

The BLM also just released a [press release](#) with their meeting dates for the proposed Public Lands Rule, including **May 25 in Denver** and two **virtual meetings on May 15 and June 5**.

USFS Kenosha Creek Riparian Volunteer Opportunities June 10 - 30, 2023

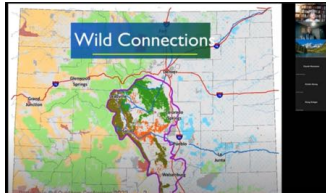


USFS South Platte Ranger District's Kenosha Creek.

Wild Connections is assisting the Forest Service South Platte Ranger District with riparian repair along the banks of Kenosha Creek, east of Kenosha Pass along the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. We need volunteers to help in small groups on one or more days. The project involves working for the Forest Service Restoration Team doing shovel work along the banks of the creek. Wild Connections and the Forest Service would provide tools and waders.

Please help us in our core mission of preservation and protection of vital wildlife habitat and native species by this restoration. For more information, contact Wild Connections coordinator Claude Neumann at (720) 524-1645 or claudeneumann@earthlink.net.

Our Climate Change Virtual Event is available on our YouTube channel!



Find a recording of our recent Climate Change virtual event on [Wild Connections YouTube Channel](#).

This event featured Rocky Mountain Biological Lab's "The Experiment"; Dr Karl Ford "Colorado Mountain Ecosystems in Crisis, A Field Report from the Colorado Trail"; and Alison Gallensky's update on Wild Connections Climate Change Resiliency Project.

Colorado's Wolf Reintroduction Plan is Finalized



Gray Wolf. Photo CPW

Yesterday, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approved [a final plan](#) to reintroduce gray wolves in Colorado, following up on a ballot initiative that was approved by Colorado voters in 2020.

The final plan did make some changes based on public input from the draft plan earlier in the year, including eliminating wolves as a game species and raising the cap on compensation for livestock.

CPW plans to reintroduce gray wolves to Colorado by the Dec 31, 2023 deadline.

CPR has more info in a recent article [here](#).

Make Your Donation to Wild Connections Today!



N Farnum will only be secure when the road is ripped and re-vegetated. Photo USFS

[Your donations are needed](#) to benefit wildlife, wildlands, and biodiversity this summer.

Wild Connections is relying on you to bring in \$15,000 for these projects:

>>>**Restore North Farnum (FR233)**, an illegal route near Tarryall reservoir was closed in 2022. Fund heavy equipment to rip up the illegal roads and reseed in the closed area, an important corridor for wildlife in South Park.



Beaver Dam Analogs will be built in Monument Creek. Photo KEI

Pike-San Isabel Restorations

- >>>Help build Beaver Dam Analogs in Monument Creek in the Fountain Creek watershed with the Keystone project
- >>>Install a new closure at Salt Creek, near the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness
- >>>Restore riparian areas near Kenosha Pass
- >>>Support long-term projects to protect Wildcat Canyon and the S Platte watershed.

[Donate Now](#)

With gratitude from all of us,
Jean, Alison, John, Claude, John, Jim, Kristin and Doug
Wild Connections Board and staff

Our Contact Information

- *{{Organization Name}}*
- *{{Organization Address}}*
- *{{Organization Phone}}*
- *{{Organization Website}}*



[Donate](#)

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