



Calypso Orchid near Divide Curt Nimz

March 1, 2024

Dear *{{Informal Name}}*,

Anticipating the coming of spring with action, events and updates:

- > Take Action for Mountain Lions and Outside 285 Recreation
- > Events
 - Ecosystems as Models for Restoring our Economies: presentation by John Giordanego*
March 14th at 6:00 pm in Manitou Springs
 - Ecology Park Hike, a BLM Wild Lands Outing*
March 23rd 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - The Colorado Trail in Crisis: webinar with Karl Ford*
March 28th 7 - 8 pm
- > Help Wild Connections find a Co-Executive Director

Read on ...

Take Action Now for Mountain Lions and Outside 285 Recreation

***Engage with Colorado Parks and Wildlife
on the East Slope Mountain Lion Plan
Public and Virtual Meetings***



Mountain Lion at Red Rocks. Photo CPW

**Virtual: Wednesday, March 6
6:00-7:30pm MT
[Register here](#)**

**In person: Thursday, March 7
6:00-7:30 pm
Hillside Community Center,
925 S. Institute St., Colorado Springs**

CPW is beginning the planning process for the East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan. Before the draft plan is written, CPW wants to share important information about mountain lion management on the East Slope and hear from the public. These are the final public meetings for this phase of planning.

**Fill out the Outside 285
Recreation Survey**

Outside 285 is a collaboration of agencies, wildlife advocates and recreation user groups working together to develop shared solutions for public lands planning in the US 285 corridor southwest of Denver.

The focus of the multi-stakeholder collaborative, which includes Wild



Elk, deer, pronghorn, mountain lions, bobcats and a host of other animals and wildlife habitats are affected by trails. Photo CPW

Connections, is to conserve wildlife habitat while improving trail-based, non-motorized recreation experiences.

These public lands are seeing increasing visitation and there is a pressing need to plan for future use and habitat protection.

You can help build Outside 285's understanding of the habits and preferences of visitors to the Outside 285 region. Respond to their [Recreation and Conservation Survey](#) to give your input.

EVENTS

Ecosystems as Models for Restoring our Economies with John Giordanego
March 14th
6:00 pm Free
Manitou Springs Memorial Hall
606 Manitou Ave



Giordanego's Ecosystems as Models for Restoring Our Economies was a finalist in the 2023 Colorado Book Awards.

Discover how the symbiotic relationship between our environment and economic development can lead to a more sustainable future with national speaker and Colorado author, John Giordanego. With his wealth of experience in conservation, restoration ecology, and small-business ownership, Giordanego will share insights on aligning environmental values with economic goals and bridging the gap between the inherent value of our environment and economic development.

Free, but space is limited. [Express your interest in attending](#) at this FaceBook page.

This event is a collaborative effort with sponsors including the Manitou Pollinators, the City of Manitou Springs Parks and Recreation Department, Wild Connections, Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control & Greenway District, Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book, Beth Chorprenning, and the Butterfly Pavilion.

Ecology Park Hike
A BLM Wild Lands Outing
Saturday, March 23
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Registration required

Ecology Park is jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Canon City. This moderate hike of 5 miles and 700 feet elevation change will explore the western part of the area.

You will learn about proposed mining in the area and new



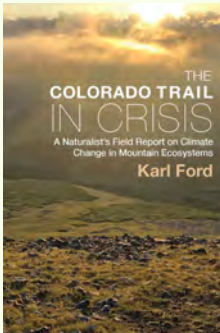
Ecology Park, near Canon City and south of Royal Gorge, is a diverse area of forest, canyons, and hiking and mountain biking trails. Photo Jim Lockhart

BLM resource management plan, which could affect it and nearby Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Registration required. For more information or to register, contact Jim Lockhart at [719-385-0045](tel:719-385-0045) or jlock@datawest.net by Thursday evening, March 21st.

Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, and clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions. Carpooling or a car caravan from Colorado Springs to the trailhead will be arranged.

**The Colorado Trail in Crisis
webinar with Karl Ford
March 28th 7 - 8 pm**



Register for Colorado Trail

Join environmental scientist Karl Ford in a presentation about his hikes on the Colorado Trail. He first hiked the Trail in 2008. He re-hiked the Trail in 2021 and was dismayed to see 100 miles of dead and dying forest.

That trip prompted Karl to write this book about the journey and recent scientific research done in Colorado on climate change and its effects on our forests, wildlife, and watersheds.

The presentation will also include information about Wild Connection's work, inspired by Karl's research, to identify places to protect to preserve biodiversity as the climate changes.

**Help Wild Connections find applicants
for the Co-Executive Director/Fundraiser position**

Do you know of a good fit? Please share this email with them.

Or apply yourself!

Applications will be received until Friday, March 8th

We continue to build our list of applicants for this position of Co-Executive Director/Fundraiser. We're still looking for a few more who have **substantial fundraising experience**. Their primary focus will be managing and expanding our fundraising activities. They will also oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization working with our other Co-Executive Director, John Sztukowski, who focuses on conservation.

This is a full-time remote/hybrid position for someone who lives or will relocate to Wild Connections region (Front Range and Central Colorado). It will require travel and flexibility for some evening and weekend meetings or events.



The Co-ED/Fundraiser and Co-ED/Conservation Director will work together with our team of staff, volunteers and partners.

Here is the [job description](#) and the online [application form](#).

Applications will be received until Friday, March 8th

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

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}



Donate

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