



Curt Nimz reported that hedgehog cactus are in full bloom in Red Rock Canyon!

June 2023

Dear Colleague,

The summer is right around the corner and we have a lot of exciting public lands news and opportunities to share with you:

- June 10 Wildcat Canyon Stewardship Hike - Rescheduled
- BLM Proposed Rule for Conservation
 - June 13: Join us and RMW for a virtual workshop to learn more!
 - Public Comments due June 20
- Upcoming Restoration Project Volunteer Opportunities
 - June 16-17, 23-24 USFS Kenosha Creek Riparian Area
 - June 24 CMC Trail Stewardship at Grayback Peak
 - July 22 Green Mountain Thistle Removal Restoration Project
 - Support Wild Connections 2023 Restoration Projects with your Donation Today
- Local BLM Planning Projects Available for Comment
 - BLM Three Peaks Travel Management Plan - Comments due June 30
 - Penrose Commons Recreation Management - comments due July 7
 - Royal Gorge Field Office Campsite Maintenance Plan
 - Final Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan to be released in June!
- Our June 2023 Landscapes is available

Read on for more info!

Wildcat Canyon Stewardship Hike - Rescheduled Saturday, June 10, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Wild Connections 2017 Wildcat Canyon Hike.
Photo Curt Nimz.

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

As part of our ongoing stewardship of this wild canyon, we will be watching for signs of illegal motorized use. Registration is required.

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

BLM Proposed Rule for Conservation Virtual Workshop: June 13 at 7:00 PM



In 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."

Wild Connections and Rocky Mountain Wild will be hosting a virtual workshop to learn more about this rule and how you

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

can engage in this once-in-a-generation opportunity to support conservation on public lands.

Go Here for More Details
and to Register

The BLM public comment period for this rule ends on June 20. They will be hosting a virtual meeting on June 5. Find more information & a place to comment at actnowforpubliclands.org.

Upcoming Restoration Project Volunteer Opportunities



USFS South Platte Ranger District's Kenosha Creek.

June 16-17, 23-24: USFS Kenosha Creek Riparian Area

Wild Connections is assisting the Forest Service South Platte Ranger District with riparian repair along the banks of Kenosha Creek. The project involves shovel work and relocating slash from tree fall to build treatments along the stream, with the goal of wetlands restoration - tools provided. For more info, contact Wild Connections coordinator Claude Neumann at 720-524-1645 or claudeneumann@earthlink.net



Photo from CMC webpage.

June 24: CMC Trail Stewardship at Grayback Peak

Help our friends at the Colorado Mountain Club realign the Grayback Peak Trail, near Emerald Valley off of Old Stage Road. They will be working on some of the many segments that are too steep and eroded. CMC has more info [here](#).



Invasive Musk Thistle.

July 22: Green Mountain Thistle Removal Project

We will be revisiting our 2011 restoration project site in the Green Mountain roadless area, just east of Lost Creek Wilderness, to remove invasive musk thistles. The work will take most of the day and participants will traverse several miles in the Green Mountain backcountry. For more info, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net



You can help Wild Connections bring in the \$15,000 needed for summer 2023 programs!



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

Your donations are needed to support new protections for public lands in central Colorado.

- Remove illegal routes and restore degraded areas in Wildcat Canyon and the North Farnum roadless area
- Help restore beaver habitat in the Fountain Creek watershed through site surveys and volunteer workdays in upper Monument Creek
- Install a new closure at Salt Creek, near the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness



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



Castle Gardens proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern - a BLM area along the Arkansas River. Photo Wild Connections

- Restore riparian areas near Kenosha Pass
- Help Wild Connections and the conservation community get **greater protections for areas with wilderness qualities along the Arkansas Canyon**
- **Enhance citizen engagement** in public land policy
- **Make a long-term difference** through the **Keep It Wild** campaign

The *New Protections for Public Lands* campaign is off to a good start with \$2,200 already in hand.

{{Informal Name}}, you can help make these activities go forward with strength. Please make a [donation](#) today.

Donate Now

Local BLM Planning Projects Available for Comment

BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) has a few planning processes that have an open public comment period:

- [Three Peak's Travel Management Plan](#) - comments due June 30
 - This plan is in pre-scoping for 20,400 acres northeast of Salida, that include BLM lands with wilderness characteristics inventoried at Badger Creek North and Waugh Mountain. The RGFO has completed inventory of routes and are seeking additional routes and uses that are occurring on BLM managed public lands within the plan boundaries.
- [Penrose Commons Recreation Area Management Plan](#) - comments due July 7
 - This plan is in response to resource concerns due to increased camping and trail use, including an increase of illegal routes, in this motorized vehicle area, located just north of Penrose.
- [Royal Gorge Field Office Campsite Maintenance Plan](#)
 - The RGFO is looking at a new fee structure for the Bank, Sand Gulch, and Turtle Rock campgrounds to address maintenance costs associated with a rapidly increasing use of facilities.
- [Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan Revision](#)
 - The final Environmental Impact statement for BLM's ECRMP revision should be released later this month. This will be accompanied by a 30-day public protest period and 60-day governor's review period. This plan began in 2015 and will determine how more than 600,000 acres of BLM managed public land and resources will be managed for the foreseeable future.

Our June 2023 Landscapes is Available!



Our [June 2023 Landscapes](#) newsletter is here! It features a rundown on many new protection opportunities for public lands in our region. Find out more about:

- Give Conservation Equal Footing in Public Lands Management
- Toxic Crude Through Colorado
- Beavers Benefit Healthy Streams and Wetlands
- Beavers in Trout Creek and Beaver Creek Habitat Projects
- Integrating Climate Change Refugia into 30x30
- Your Participation in New Protections for Public Lands

Download the full edition at wildconnections.org

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

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Donate

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