



August 5, 2026

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the August edition of Wild News! This month is packed with opportunities to get involved—from joining us for our **August 21–22 volunteer restoration project in South Park** to speaking up in support of America's Wilderness Areas.

You'll also find a recap of our successful Chubb Park volunteer fence removal project, the incredible impact our volunteers made and the announcement of Phase II in early October, where we'll remove the remaining obsolete fencing to further improve wildlife habitat and connectivity.

Read on for all the details!

North Catamount Creek Hike Saturday, August 15 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



This trip to the north side of Pikes Peak will explore an area affected by a Colorado Springs Utilities' forest thinning project and visit some "beaver dam substitutes" built to improve willow habitat and encourage beaver to return to the area.

The hike will cover about six miles with elevation change of approximately 800 feet. Participants should bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water, and clothing suitable for the weather conditions including rain gear.

Sorry, no dogs allowed. A carpool or caravan from Colorado Springs will be arranged.

For details or to sign up, contact Jim Lockhart at [719-385-0045](tel:719-385-0045) or jlock@datawest.net.

Wild Connections 2024 North Catamount Creek Hike. Photo
Jim Lockhart.

Zoom Seminar Series: Preparing our National Parks for the Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

Thursday, August 20 at 1:00 PM



Zoom Seminar Series 8/20 at 1pm

Please note this seminar will not be presented at the Florissant Fossil Beds, you must register using the link below or by clicking on the flyer.

Join us on 8/20 at 1pm for a Zoom seminar with Kyle Nardi!

Preparing our National Parks for the Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

NSF NCAR scientist Kyle Nardi discusses how extreme weather will impact our national parks and nearby communities, focusing on the destructive November 2006 floods in Glacier National Park, Montana. He will also discuss how his research informs hazard preparedness for public lands and communities.

All views expressed during this presentation are that of the presenter and do not represent those of the National Parks Service, the Florissant Fossil Beds, or the Friends.

Registration link available below or by clicking on this flyer.

Join our colleagues at Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds for a free webinar!

National Science Foundation National Center for Atmospheric Research scientist Kyle Nardi discusses how extreme weather will impact our national parks and nearby communities, focusing on the destructive November 2006 floods in Glacier National Park, Montana.

He will also discuss how his research informs hazard preparedness for public lands and communities.

For more information and to register, go to:
us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RBhPxZaYRf6zGhuIKWYU_Q

REGISTER HERE!

South Park Round Hill Volunteer Restoration Project

Friday, August 21 - Saturday, August 22



Rocky Mountain Elk herd crossing the Round Hill unauthorized routes. Photo John Sztukowski.

Wild Connections is excited to partner once again with the Forest Service South Park Ranger District, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, and Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative on a restoration project!

On this project we are teaming up to restore illegal routes above Sheep Creek in South Park, just southwest of Fairplay, CO. The area provides prime habitat for Rocky Mountain Elk.

Volunteers will seed, mulch and install erosion control structures and fabric on the approximately two miles of unauthorized routes on our Forest Service public lands.

No experience necessary! Join us for one or both days.

For more information, contact John Sztukowski at (817) 939-4239 or john@wildconnections.org.

Or register now at wrv.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/wildconnections.

REGISTER HERE!

Just Announced - Save the Date! Chubb Park Fence Removal Volunteer Project Phase II Saturday, October 3 - Sunday, October 4



**Fence Removal Project
October 3 - 4
VOLUNTEERS WANTED**



**Wild Connections, CO State Land Board & Local Ranchers
No Experience Necessary | Colorado Springs carpool available**

LEARN MORE  wildconnections.org/events

 **817-939-4239**  **Chubb Park State Trust Land**

Building on the success of our July volunteer project, Wild Connections is excited to return to Chubb Park for a second phase of fence removal to eliminate the remaining obsolete fencing from this important wildlife habitat.

Join us the first weekend of October for a rewarding weekend of conservation as we work together to improve habitat connectivity for elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and countless other wildlife species that move through the area.

In partnership with the Colorado State Land Board, local ranchers, and dedicated volunteers, we'll remove approximately 2.25 miles of old barbed-wire fence that no longer serves a purpose. Clearing these barriers will help wildlife travel more safely while restoring the open character of this remarkable public landscape.

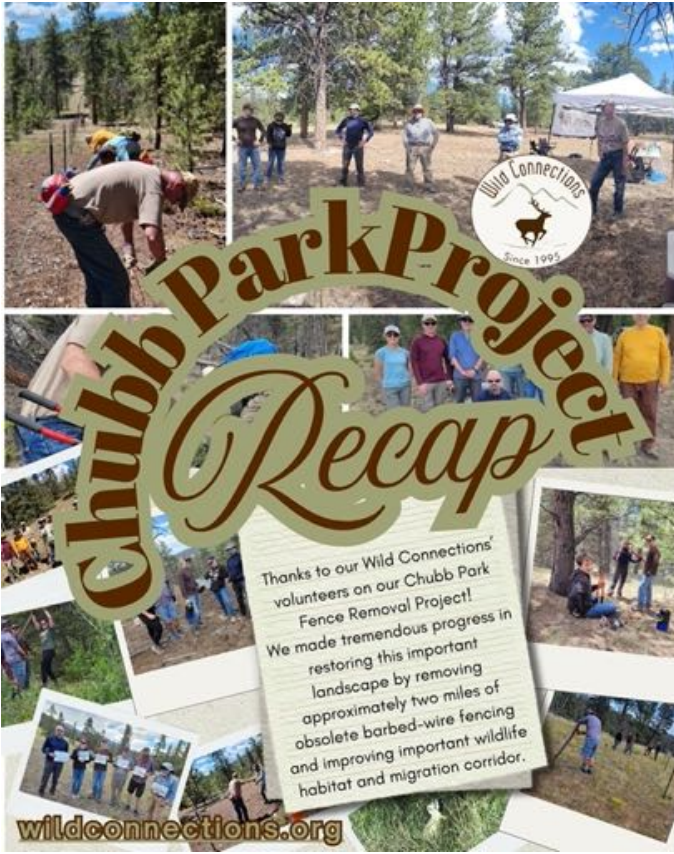
Everyone is welcome, whether you're an experienced volunteer or trying a stewardship project for the first time. We'll provide the tools, gloves, refreshments, and on-site guidance—you just need to bring sturdy clothing, a willingness to lend a hand, and enthusiasm for conserving Colorado's wild places.

Join us for one or both days, and take advantage of reserved camping on Saturday night if you'd like to make a weekend of it.

Every section of fence removed creates a safer, more connected landscape for wildlife. We hope you'll join us this October and be part of another meaningful weekend of conservation in Chubb Park!

For more info and to register, please contact John Sztukowski at john@wildconnections.org or (817) 939-4239.

July 11 - 12 Volunteer Fence Removal Project Recap



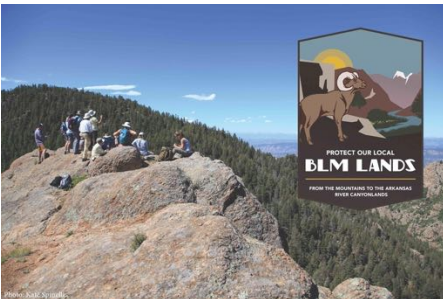
A huge thank you to the incredible volunteers who joined Wild Connections for our very first Fence Removal Project at Chubb Park in July!

Together, we removed approximately two miles of obsolete barbed-wire fencing, helping restore a vital wildlife migration corridor for elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and countless other species that call this landscape home.

The success of this project wouldn't have been possible without our dedicated volunteers and partners, and we're excited to share that we'll be returning this fall to remove the remaining two miles of fencing and complete the restoration effort!

Thank you to everyone who helped make a lasting difference for Colorado's wildlife and public lands.

Public Lands Comment Opportunities



DOI Review of Wilderness Study Areas - Comments due Aug 14:

This is a bundled proposal by the Department of the Interior seeking to reopen and amend BLM's Wilderness Study Area and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics policy, as well as allow recreation climbing, including fixed anchors in these wilderness quality areas. This review is designed to weaken protections for 2.7 million acres of wild public lands in Colorado. It threatens to open our pristine wildlands to permanent human alteration and commercial development, elevating recreation over wilderness protection and risks degrading fragile ecosystems.

[Find more info & and make a personalized comment here.](#)

TAKE ACTION AND MAKE YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT TODAY!



BLM Oil and Gas Regulations Rollback - Comments due Aug 24:

This proposed rule would gut the recent 2024 rule revision and revert the language and fees back to the 1960 rule. This proposal would also significantly reduce public input and slash bonding rates for the companies, which are needed to fund clean-up of the project sites. It would also overlook parcel areas that conflict with other resources and uses like wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and cultural resources. Find more info from [our friends at TWS here](#).

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

Our Contact Information

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

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Donate

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