



September 8, 2026

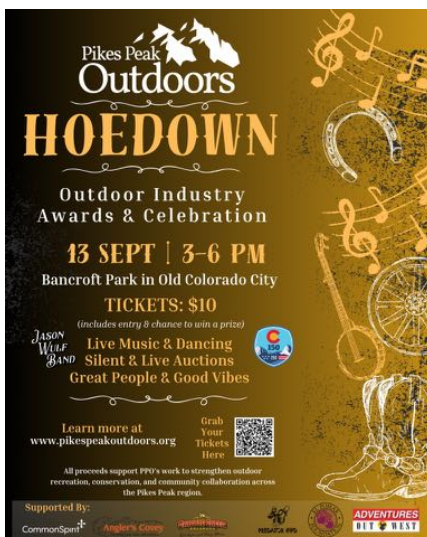
Dear Colleague,

Fall is a great time to get outside and take action for Colorado's public lands! Our biggest upcoming opportunity is our **October 3–4 volunteer fence-removal project**, where we'll head back up to Chubb Park to remove the remaining obsolete fencing to improve wildlife habitat and help wildlife move more safely across the landscape. We hope you'll join us for a rewarding weekend of hands-on conservation, fresh air, and good company!

We also have several other ways to get involved this month, including an upcoming National Public Lands Day hike and tabling at the Pikes Peak Outdoor Hoedown where you can connect with Wild Connections. And if you can't join us in the field, there are **two important public comment opportunities** where your voice can help protect our Forest Service public lands.

Read on for all the details and ways you can take action!

Pikes Peak Outdoors Hoedown Bancroft Park in Old Colorado City Sunday, September 13, 3:00 - 6:00 PM



Wild Connections is excited to table and represent conservation at this year's Pikes Peak Outdoors Hoedown! Join us September 13 at Bancroft Park in Old Colorado City for an afternoon celebrating the people, places, and experiences that make our outdoor community special. Enjoy live music, food trucks, vendors, the Pikes Peak Outdoors Awards, and more.

Pikes Peak Outdoors works to strengthen outdoor recreation and stewardship across the Pikes Peak region.

Come celebrate Colorado Springs outdoor community with live music, awards, food, vendors, and more.

Tickets are just \$10! [Purchase tickets here.](#)

Find more info at peakradar.com/event/pikes-peak-outdoors-hoedown

Browns Canyon National Monument Hike

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

National Public Lands Day



Hiking at Browns Canyon National Monument.

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

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with Wild Connections and Friends of Browns Canyon!

This hike will consist of a four mile loop and approximately 500 feet elevation gain on historic ranch trails and the BCNM Hefley's Saddle Trail in the northeast section of the Monument, beginning from Aspen Ridge.

On this hike, we will monitor for unauthorized motorized use into the monument, you will learn about the history of Browns Canyon, why it ranks as one of the best areas in the region for climate resiliency and why now is more important than ever to stand up for our public lands.

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of National Public Lands Day, our nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands!

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 in northern Chaffee County 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 the remaining old barbed-wire fence that no longer serves a purpose, approximately 2.25 miles in montane meadows. 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.

Ways to Take Action: Public Comment Opportunities



Defend the Forest Service Roadless and Conservation Rule!

Comment by Sep 21. The proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule threatens protections for nearly **59 million acres of undeveloped national forest lands** across the country. These roadless forests provide critical habitat, clean water, recreation opportunities, and some of the wildest remaining landscapes on our national forests. Rescinding this rule would also make it easier to open up these public lands to logging and other industrial development.

Colorado has its own **Colorado Roadless Rule**, adopted in 2012, which would not be directly affected by this proposed rescission. However, eliminating the national rule would remove important protections elsewhere and could set the stage for future efforts to weaken Colorado's roadless protections.

Find more info, talking points and ways to take action at roadless.org.

Or submit your own unique comment directly [here](#).



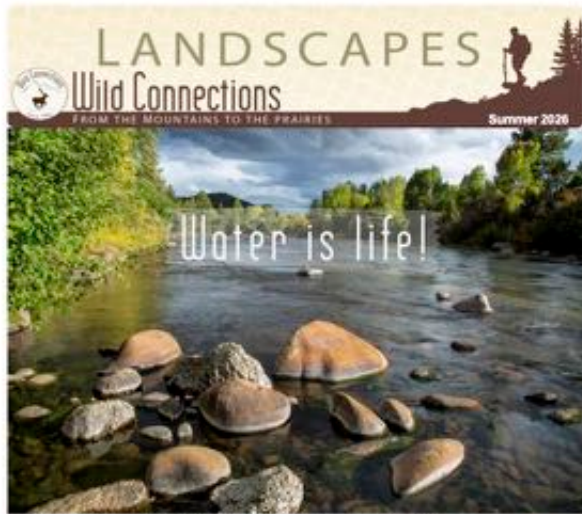
Defend the Forest Service Travel Management Rule!

Comment by Sep 23. The Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule established a consistent framework for managing roads and motorized trails on national forests, helping protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and forest ecosystems from the impacts of unmanaged recreation. The proposed changes could weaken these protections and make it easier to build new roads and expand motorized access on our national forests.

Find more info, talking points and ways to take action [here](#).

You can submit your own unique comment [here](#).

Our Summer 2026 *LANDSCAPES* is available



Arkansas River flowing through Browns Canyon National Monument. Photo: Bobi Webb, Bureau of Land Management (CC BY 2.0)

Working towards Outstanding Waters Designations in the Arkansas River Basin by John Schickore

Last spring, Wild Connections helped form a coalition led by American Whitewater and Mountain Studies Institute to pursue Outstanding Waters (OW) designations in the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins. Wild Connections helped identify potential candidate streams within our region and we are currently conducting water-quality monitoring on several rivers and creeks, testing for 12 key water quality parameters, including pH, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and metals.

Established under the Clean Water Act of 1970 and administered by the state, Outstanding Waters designation is the highest level of water quality protection available in Colorado. It is reserved for streams, rivers, and other water bodies that possess exceptional water quality and significant ecological or recreational value. The designation prohibits new or increased pollution that would degrade existing water quality, while allowing current land uses and activities to continue indefinitely, provided they do not negatively affect water quality. An additional benefit is the protection of clean drinking water for local communities and downstream users.

The goal of the designation is simple: preserving Colorado's highest-quality waters for future generations. To qualify, a stream must meet rigorous water-quality standards supported by extensive scientific data collection. Under requirements established by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, each candidate stream must be sampled during every season for two consecutive years, resulting in eight total sampling events. The designation process also includes community outreach, public hearings, and review by the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), making roughly a three-year effort from start to finish.

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Our Summer 2026 issue of *LANDSCAPES* highlights something that connects us all: **clean, healthy, flowing waterways**. From the Arkansas River Basin to the headwaters and wildlands of central Colorado, protecting our rivers and streams is essential to the wildlife, communities, and landscapes that depend on them.

In this issue, you'll find:

- President's Message: Protecting Waterways as Wild Connections
- Working Towards Outstanding Waters Designations in the Arkansas River Basin
- You Have Made These 30 Years a Success - Let's Keep the Momentum Going
- Drought!
- Creating an Outstanding Waters Story Map for Wild Connections
- Protect Our Public Lands: What Happens in Browns Canyon Matter to All Americans

[Download Your Copy Here](#)

From all of us,
John, Jim, Alison, Claude and Kristin
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.