

November 4, 2026

Dear Colleague,

It's a new month and new era, and we're excited to announce several upcoming Wild Connections events for the remainder of 2026! Whether you'd like to hit the trail, connect with us over coffee, or join us virtually, we hope you'll find an opportunity to get involved and connect with Wild Connections and our community.

Read on for all the details!

Aiken Canyon Preserve Hike
Saturday, November 14 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Aiken Canyon Preserve by The Nature Conservancy.

For more information and to register, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net.

Aiken Canyon Preserve is a 1621-acre state natural area about 12 miles south of Colorado Springs which is managed by the Nature Conservancy under a long-term lease.

It is a mixture foothills, shrubland and woodland habitats. It is named after Charles Aiken, a 19th-century ornithologist who first surveyed the region in the 1870s, identifying more than 75 bird species, and it continues to be an area particularly rich in wildlife and bird life. We will learn about the history of the area and how it serves as a valuable wildlife corridor.

This hike will be a moderate 5-1/2 mile hike with about 500 feet of elevation gain. Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water, clothing suitable for the weather conditions, including rain gear, and footwear suitable for hiking on a rough trail. Participants may carpool or caravan from Colorado Springs (carpool meeting time 9:30 a.m.) or meet at the trailhead, at participants' option.

Upcoming Save the Dates:



December 5: Wild Connections Coffee Chats in Colorado Springs & Denver

Join Wild Connections staff and board members for an informal coffee chat! Catch up on what we've been working on, hear about our plans for the future, and enjoy conversations about the local wildlife and wildlands we all cherish. Your thoughts and input are important to us, and we'd love to see you!

We're still finalizing locations, but please save the date and time for the gathering nearest you:

- 10:00 AM in Colorado Springs
- 1:00 PM in Denver



December 10: Rocky Mountain Wild's Wild & Scenic Film Festival

We are excited to once again sponsor the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Denver, hosted by our friends at Rocky Mountain Wild. This year's lineup brings together four stories about wildlife, conservation, climate and the people working to protect the places that we love. From pikas and bats to cougars and decades of environmental advocacy, each film offers a different window into what it means to care for the natural world.

You can find more info and purchase tickets here.

Can't make the show? No worries! You can also purchase virtual tickets to watch the show online anytime from December 10 to December 17.



December 17 (6 PM): Wild Connections 2026 Year in Review Virtual Event

Wild Connections had a busy and productive year in 2026, and we're excited to share some of our biggest accomplishments with you!

Join us for a one-hour virtual gathering on Thursday, December 17, at 6:00 PM as we look back at the year's highlights and share what's ahead.

More details and a registration link are coming soon. We hope you can join us!

Chubb Park Fence Removal Volunteer Project Recap



Four Miles of Fencing Removed for Wildlife! A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped Wild Connections complete our Chubb Park Fence Removal Project!

Over two weekends in July and October, volunteers took down approximately 4 miles of obsolete barbed-wire fencing at Chubb Park State Trust Land, improving habitat connectivity and helping elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and other wildlife move more freely through this important habitat and migration corridor.

And the results are already visible! We spotted pronghorn moving through the area the day after a fence line was removed.

Our partners are celebrating the results, too. The ranching lessee is very pleased with the project, and the local wildlife biologist is thrilled and impressed by the removal of four miles of fencing.

This project is a great example of what we can accomplish through collaboration, community involvement, and a shared commitment to conservation. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to bring this project across the finish line! Together, we're making a lasting difference for Colorado's wildlife and the wild places we all cherish.

Lower North-South Vegetation Management Decision
Forest Service Public Meeting in Conifer
Friday, November 20, 10:00 AM



Last month, the Forest Service Pike-San Isabel announced an in-person public meeting to share your input on projects under the Lower North-South Vegetation Management Decision in the South Platte Ranger District.

This was one of the largest proposed logging projects on public lands in Colorado at 116,000 acres! When this was plan was announced in 2024, we voiced concerns for old growth trees, wildlife habitat, clean water and endangered species.

Specific treatments are planned to occur over the next one to two years on approximately 10,866 acres. We will learn more at the public meeting.

Give! Pikes Peak is Back - Love Your Local Nonprofits



Wild Connections is participating in Give! Pikes Peak again this year, now through December 31 — and we'd be grateful for your support during this year-end campaign.

Give! is a community-wide effort that supports local nonprofits across the Pikes Peak Region. When you give through Give!, you can also receive rewards from local businesses. Rewards appear as vouchers in your donation receipt, and the more you give, the more rewards you may receive. Giving early gives you more time to enjoy them.

This year, your gift to Wild Connections can go even further. A few generous donors are matching donations dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of $1,000 — so give early before the match is gone!

Your support helps us continue stepping up to meet the challenges our wild places face through restoration, volunteer conservation efforts, and ongoing work to protect central Colorado's public lands.

Give today and help us continue meeting the challenges our wild places face. Find Wild Connections in the Big Ideas section or follow the link below to Give! today!

MAKE YOUR DONATION HERE!

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

Our Contact Information
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