



October 1, 2026

Dear Colleague,

Fall is here, and there are plenty of ways to get outside and take action! Join Wild Connections this weekend for our final volunteer project of the year at Chubb Park, or lace up your hiking boots for an upcoming adventure on the public lands we work to protect.

Can't make it out? You can still make your voice heard. Take action to support the Forest Service Roadless Rule by submitting a public comment before the October 6 deadline. Every voice matters when it comes to protecting Colorado's wild forests and the places we all cherish.

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.

Wildcat Canyon Monitoring Hike Saturday, October 31, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Illegal motorized use across the South Platte River at Wildcat Canyon on a WC 2020 monitoring outing by John Sztukowski

For more info and to register, please contact Claude Neumann at [720-231-3039](tel:720-231-3039) or claudeneumann@earthlink.net.

Join Wild Connections for a monitoring hike into Wildcat Canyon, a remote and scenic stretch of the South Platte River upstream of Cheeseman Reservoir. This remarkable area largely escaped the impacts of the 2002 Hayman Fire and is managed by the South Platte Enhancement Board to protect its wild and scenic river values. Today, however, the canyon faces ongoing threats from illegal motorized use.

The South Platte River is recognized by the U.S. Forest Service for its Outstandingly Remarkable Values, including its historic and cultural resources, fisheries, geology, recreation opportunities, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat.

This monitoring hike will cover approximately 7 miles with about 1,200 feet of elevation gain and loss. Due to the distance and elevation change, the hike is rated strenuous.

Participants will have the opportunity to experience a unique and ecologically important landscape while helping Wild Connections monitor and document conditions in the canyon.

Forest Service Roadless & Conservation Rule Comment Deadline Extended to October 6!



Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001

- Hailed as one of America's most successful conservation measures, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (the Rule) protected drinking water, wildlife habitat, and world-class recreation opportunities across 58.5 million acres of national forests.
- The Rule protects undeveloped, road-free places on our national forest by placing these areas off limits to logging and road construction, with limited exceptions.
- The Rule originally protected pristine roadless lands in 38 states:
- In Alaska, the Rule protects 9.3 million acres of roadless lands in the Tongass and 5.4 million in the Chugach National Forests.
- A fundamental strength of the Rule is its flexibility for some new road connections between communities, personal-use tree cutting, management of wildfire risks, hard rock mining projects, off-road vehicle use, construction of utility lines and hydropower development.
- National forests serve as the source of drinking water for more than 60 million Americans. Roadless Areas on our national forests contain all or portions of 354 municipal watersheds.
- The USFS has over 370,000 miles of roads. This massive road system is fragmenting wildlife habitat and created a multi-billion dollar backlog of uncompleted road work. These unmaintained roads are bleeding sediment runoff into streams degrading clean water.

Social and Ecological Value of Roadless Areas

Protected roadless areas are vital because they:

- Serve as important sources of drinking water for millions of Americans
- Generate a significant portion of the outdoor recreation industry's \$750 billion in annual revenue and 6.5 million in jobs across the country
- Provide habitat for more than 3,600 threatened or endangered plants and animals, including grizzly bear and Canada lynx
- Protect our most unspoiled national forest lands and world-class outdoor recreational opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, climbers, birders, horseback riders, backpackers, hunters, anglers, backcountry skiers, and more
- Save untold millions of taxpayer dollars a year by reducing federal subsidies for logging roads, especially in the Tongass National Forest where road construction costs are roughly \$160,000/mile, with peak costs at \$500,000/mile because of the nature of the terrain and materials available

We received a two week extension for this public comment period and the national coalition that we are a part of is aiming for 1 million comments!

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 rockymountainwild.org/protect-forests.

MAKE YOUR ROADLESS COMMENT 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.