



August 2022

Dear Colleague,

Hope your summer is going well and you are enjoying the outdoors! As we look to August and beyond, Wild Connections and our partners have plenty of opportunities to connect to the wild.

Here is our upcoming lineup:

- Aug 6: Educational Tent at Blodgett Peak Open Space BioBlitz
- Aug 7: Green Mountain Musk Thistle Removal Work Day
- Aug 14: ERWC's Homestake Community Science Day
- Aug 18/19: Upcoming RMW webinars on Belonging & Climate Change
- Aug 21: N. Tarryall Creek Monitoring Hike with Optional Aug 20 Camping
- Aug 22-Sep 2 (weekdays): USFS Pawnee Mountain Skipper Butterfly Surveys
- The Colorado Wilderness Act Passed the House!
- BLM CO Big Game RMP: Upcoming Aug Meetings with Comments due 9/2
- Help Keep Our Wildlands Wild!

Read on for more info!

Blodgett Peak Open Space BioBlitz **Saturday, August 6, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

The City of Colorado Springs Parks Department - Trails, Open Space & Parks (TOPS) are bringing back their COS BioBlitz event and Wild Connections is happy to participate once again. A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.

This event will promote citizen science and collect data to showcase current biodiversity at the Blodgett Open Space. Look for Wild Connections tent and table! More details to come soon from [COS TOPS](#).

Green Mountain Musk Thistle Removal Work Day **Sunday, August 7**



We will be revisiting our 2011 restoration project site in the Green Mountain Roadless Area, just east of Lost Creek Wilderness, to remove more invasive musk thistles.

The work will take most of the day and participants will traverse several miles in the Green Mountain backcountry. Bring work clothes, heavy work gloves (thistles are sharp), and footwear suitable for walking on an abandoned roadway.

Go here for more details
and to register

Homestake Community Science Day

Sunday, August 14, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Our friends at Eagle River Watershed Council and partners are hosting a Community Science Day at Homestake Valley. Homestake Creek Valley is an incredible area of biodiversity, home to rare and important fen wetlands. However this area is proposed for dam sites, which includes a proposed reduction of the Holy Cross Wilderness area. For more info and to register, go [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars from our Partners:

Belonging in the Outdoors Roundtable

Thursday, August 18, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Rescheduled from Rocky Mountain Wild's Endangered Species Week. For more information and to register go to: <https://rockymountainwild.org/belonging>

Climate Change & Colorado's Forest

Friday, August 19 at Noon

A collaboration between RMW and partners. They will discuss the importance of mature and old growth forests in addressing Climate Change, talk about threats to these forests in Colorado, provide a different perspective, and let people know what they can do to help. For more info and to register, go [here](#).

North Tarryall Creek Monitoring Hike

Sunday, August 21 with Optional Camping on Saturday, August 20



2018 North Tarryall Creek Monitoring Work Day. Photo
Misi Ballard.

Join us as we revisit our 2018 restoration project site at the headwaters of the North Tarryall Creek in South Park, just west of Boreas Pass Road. We will monitor for revegetation of the project site and illegal motorized use.

There will be optional camping the night before at the Selkirk Campground, home of our 2016 restoration project site and just below where our N. Tarryall Creek monitoring hike will begin.

Go here for more details
and to register

USFS Pawnee Montane Skipper Butterfly Surveys

August 22 - September 2 (weekdays)

The South Platte Ranger District is gearing up for another year of population monitoring in the Pike National Forest for the federally

listed [Pawnee montane skipper butterfly](#)! They need fit volunteers who will be excited to spend a day or more hiking through the ponderosa pine forests and the Hayman Fire footprint in the mountains southwest of Denver, around Trumbull and Deckers, CO.

For more info, contact mikele.painter@usda.gov. Tell her Wild Connections sent you!



*Pawnee Montane Skipper.
Photo USFS.*

The Colorado Wilderness Act passed the House!

On July 14, the US House passed the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (PAW+) as part of the defense bill! This once again includes the Colorado Wilderness Act that would establish over 660,000 acres of wilderness protections on Colorado public lands! More info [here](#).

This will now go to the Senate for consideration. Senators [Bennet](#) and [Hickenlooper](#) need to hear from you to support this bill!

BLM Colorado Big Game Resource Management Plan August In-Person and Virtual Meetings Public Comments due September 2.

On July 19, the BLM began scoping on their Colorado Big Game Resource Management Plan Amendment.

The BLM will hold three in-person meetings: Aug 8 in Colorado Springs, Aug 11 in Grand Junction, and Aug 12 in Montrose. There will also be virtual meetings on Aug 3 and 4. Public comments are due Sept 2.

The BLM has more info [here](#).

Your donation today helps keep our wildlands wild!

Give to General Support

WC will use your gift to cover general program and back-office expenses. Habitat restoration projects, wildlands educational hikes, and wilderness advocacy need this support. Go [here](#) to donate.



Donate to General Support

Become a Keep It Wild Partner

The [Keep It Wild Partnership](#) uses your extra-ordinary gift to grow WC's staff to meet the ever-growing challenges for public lands in central Colorado.



Donate to Keep It Wild Partners



We're almost half way toward our goal of \$60,000!

From Jim, John, Alison, Claude, Kristin, Jean and John
Wild Connections Board and staff

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.