Dear Colleague,

Hope you are enjoying your summer, and getting some of the afternoon and evening rain showers that we are starting to see in parts of Colorado. Here is your regional public lands news and opportunities for the next few weeks.

- **Bureau of Land Management Updates**
  - BLM's Proposed Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan
  - Aug 13 Fourmile BLM Roadless Area Hike
  - BLM Proposed Rule to reform the federal oil & gas leasing program

- **US Forest Service Volunteer Opportunities**
  - Aug 21 - Sep 1: USFS South Platte Skipper Survey
  - Wild Connections N Farnum Stewardship Day coming this Sep!

- **New Protections Funding Effort - Thank You!**

Read on for more info!

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**Bureau of Land Management Updates**

**Eastern CO Resource Management Plan Revision**

BLM's proposed ECRMP was released July 7, with a 30-day public protest period and 60-day governor's review period.

The plan proposes to conserve nearly 300,000 acres of BLM managed public lands via lands with wilderness characteristics, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Backcountry Conservation Areas, as well as 60 BLM river miles for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The proposed plan however does fall short on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from public lands and improving air quality for communities impacted by oil and gas.

Find more information at [wildconnections.org/conservation/public-lands-management](http://wildconnections.org/conservation/public-lands-management)

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**August 14: Fourmile BLM Roadless Area Hike**

The Fourmile Creek area southwest of Cripple Creek has it all: grassy meadows, forest, and spectacular views from the top of Booger Red Hill. This moderate all-day, mostly off-trail hike to the top of Booger Red Hill, will cover about six miles with 800 feet elevation change.

For more info, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net
BLM Proposed Rule to Reform Oil & Gas Program
The Department of the Interior and the BLM recently released a proposed rule to reform the federal oil and gas leasing program.

There is a 60-day public comment period that ends Sep 22. There will be two virtual meetings, and three in-person meetings, including Aug 29 in Denver.

US Forest Service Volunteer Opportunities

Aug 21 - Sep 1 (weekdays) South Platte Skipper Survey
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 volunteers fit enough to hike off-trail in steep country for a whole day, located in the Upper S Platte River watershed from Cheesman Reservoir area to the North Fork River.

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

Wild Connections N Farnum Stewardship Day
Wild Connections is excited to partner once again with the USFS' South Park Ranger District. We will be continuing a project that we began last year, to reclaim the recently decommissioned USFS route 233 at the southern end of USFS' North Farnum Roadless Area, just south of the Tarryall Reservoir, along Packer Gulch.

Last year, we secured post and cable for the closed route. Now we are working with the South Park Ranger District to rip up the former route and are planning a seeding project to help restore this section of the roadless area back to nature.

More info coming soon for this volunteer stewardship day!

New Protections funding effort -- Thank you!

The summer funding effort ended July 31 with $9,120 raised:
> $3,800 will go to the N Farnum habitat restoration project and summer hikes
> $5,300 is for the $60K fund that will pay the initial salary and expenses of a new staff person in 2024.
N Farnum Roadless Area will only be secure when the road is ripped and re-vegetated in September.  
Photo USFS

Looking ahead to giving options, WC is part of the 2023 Pikes Peak region GIVE! campaign.

And you can always send a donation directly to WC at our Donate web page.

Yes, we are stronger together!

With gratitude from all of us,
Jim, John, Alison, Claude, Kristin, Doug, John and Jean
Wild Connections Board and staff

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.