



Green Mountain elk wallows Photo John Stansfield

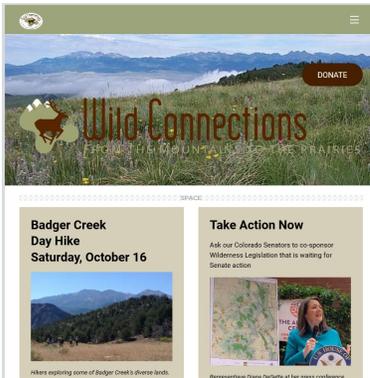
October 2021

Dear Colleague,

Here are the headlines for this month's Wild News. Read on below for more info:

- Check out our New Website!
- 10/16 Badger Creek Hike
- Wilderness Bill Update
- 11/4 RMW (virtual) Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- Public Lands News Round-Up
- Celebrate Talented Wild Connections members!

We've got a new web page!



We have overhauled our website, making it more user friendly and with a fresh new look.

Take a look at the many features, including upcoming events, details on the Colorado Wilderness Act and gold mining in Grape Creek proposed Wilderness, and summaries of habitat restoration projects.

Go to www.wildconnections.org to check it out!

Badger Creek Dayhike, a BLM Wild Lands Outing Saturday, October 16 (10 AM - 3 PM)



Badger Creek, along the Arkansas River, has been identified for its "lands with wilderness characteristics" and is currently proposed for Wilderness designation. This is a moderate 5 mile with elevation change of approximately 1000 feet of elevation change.

To register, contact Jim Lockhart at phone 719-385-0045 or email jlock@datawest.net.

More info is available at www.wildconnections.org/events

Wilderness Update!

In late September, the US House passed our [Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act](#) as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022!

This is the fourth time that the House has approved PAW+, which includes the [Colorado Wilderness Act](#), in the past two years!

It's time for the US Senate to get the message! Let our Colorado Senators know that they should champion this bill.

For further reading, see this [great op-ed](#) by Colorado Wildlands Project's Scott Braden on why Colorado can and should do more to protect our wildlands.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival by Rocky Mountain Wild Virtual Event, November 4, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00 PM



Wild Connection is proud again to sponsor Rocky Mountain Wild's Wild & Scenic Film Festival, upcoming on November 4!

The virtual film festival will feature award-winning environmental films that have been selected for their great visual stories and inspirational qualities that motivate us to continue the cause to keep the Rocky Mountains Wild.

Rocky Mountain Wild has more info at: <https://rockymountainwild.org/wsff>

And you can purchase your tickets now at: <https://qudio.com/event/rocky-mountain-wild>

Public Lands News Round-Up

[President Biden Restores Protections for 3 National Monuments](#) - On October 7, President Biden signed three proclamations restoring protections for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments!

[Senator Hickenlooper targets no-bid auctioning of drilling rights on public lands](#) - On October 7, Senator Hickenlooper introduced new legislation that would end BLM's noncompetitive lease sales.

[New Colorado Big Game Report](#) - On September 29, Governor Polis proclaimed Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity Day and released Opportunities to Improve Sensitive Habitat and Movement Route Connectivity for Colorado's Big Games Species.

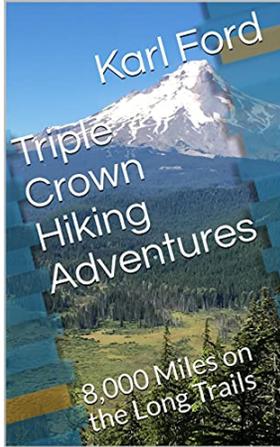
[Federal Judge Overturns Oil, Gas Lease Sales in Colorado](#) - on September 28, a federal judge overturned the BLM's decision 58,000 Acres of Public Lands in western Colorado for oil and gas extraction.

[Comment on the USFS GMUG Draft Forest Plan](#) - Comment by November 13 for this USFS plan that manages our neighboring forests to the west: the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre

and Gunnison (GMUG).

Celebrate Talented Wild Connections members

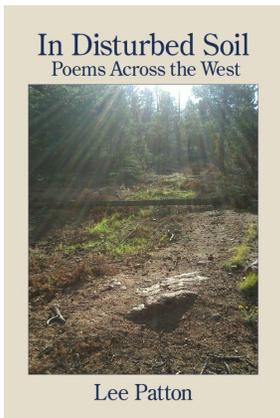
Wild Connections has authors and photographers who give of their time and talents. See www.wildconnections.org/events for more info on these talented people.



Karl Ford: Wild Connections Board member and one of our climate change specialists.

Experience with Speed (aka Karl) the steep ups and downs, the majestic scenery, the bears, moose and wolves, the wildflowers, the rain, snow and cold, the heat and the dry, the wind, the thirst and the hunger, wildfires, injuries, along with the peace, the solitude and the ecstasy. Speed will donate \$1 to Wild Connections for each copy sold.

[Triple Crown Hiking Adventures: 8,000 Miles on the Long Trails](#), stories from the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Continental Divide Trail, is available for \$4.99 on Amazon.



Lee Patton: Former Board member, long-time mapper and restoration project worker.

Lee's poems draw on his years of hiking and scrambling among the wild and not so wild places of the west. "Patton's sound-charged imagery dazzles as much as his metaphors startle. We hike trails, crags and canyons lit with 'sunflash, windlash/Drizzle so cold it sizzles'..." Patricia Holloway's review.

[In Disturbed Soil: Poems Across the West](#) is available for \$16.00 at Kelsay Books.



Curt Nimz: Long time member, hiker and our go-to-expert on wild flowers and stunning scenic views of wild areas.

These painted ladies on a musk thistle were taken in Wildcat Canyon. Painted ladies are common here, and unfortunately so are invasive musk thistles.

Photos like this help Wild Connections plan workdays to keep thistle at bay. Curt generously provides his photos for Wild Connections' publications.

Jim, John, Alison, Claude, Karl, Misi, Kristin and John

Wild Connections Board and staff

Photos: Wild Connections banner: Jean Smith with Green Mountain photo by John Stansfield, Wild Connections new website: Jean Smith, Wild Connections Badger Creek hike: John Sztukowski, Wild & Scenic Film Festival poster: Rocky Mountain Wild with artwork by Steph Littlebird, Triple Crown Hiking Adventures: Karl Ford, In Disturbed Soil: Lee Patton, Musk-thistle painted ladies: Curt Nimz.

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