

# LANDSCAPES

## Wild Connections

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES

DECEMBER 2021

### PROTECT THE CANYONS



Break time during a volunteer hike. McHills-Lookout Mountain with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the background.

Photo: John Sztukowski

### Cat's Eyes

by Jim Lockhart

For me, the best part of volunteering for Wild Connections has been getting to visit places I might otherwise never have been. At the top of my list would be the Arkansas River Canyons, the area along US 50 from Royal Gorge west to Salida. This area includes two designated Wilderness Study Areas and other areas equally worthy of protection. It is particularly noted for its wildlife, including the greatest concentration of mountain lions in Colorado. If you've hiked there more than a few times, you may not have seen a mountain lion, but a mountain lion has surely seen you.

Some twenty years ago, I was hiking alone up a side canyon in the McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area, which lies on the south side of the Arkansas River west of Royal Gorge. There are no designated trails, so that hiking there means either walking up rocky gulches or climbing up steep scrub-covered hillsides. When I came



Five Points Gulch, McIntyre Hills, 2008.

Photo: Jim Lockhart

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**Mission:** Wild Connections, a science-based conservation organization, works to identify, protect and restore lands of the Upper Arkansas and South Platte watersheds to ensure the survival of native species and ecological richness.

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## **President's Message**

*Colorado Canyons*

from Jim Lockhart

This issue of Landscapes focuses on the inter-mountain canyons within Wild Connections' area of interest, and two areas in particular: the Arkansas Canyons, slated for wilderness protection under the Colorado Wilderness Act, and Wildcat Canyon, a relatively lightly-impacted area within the Hayman Burn that since 2002 has been the target of controversial, and illegal, motorized use.

Canyons in Colorado have been migration corridors not only for wildlife, but also for human beings. Indeed, of all the major canyons along the Front Range running from high mountaintops to plains, only one, within the Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area, is unroaded. This proximity to human habitation and human uses makes these areas particularly vulnerable, and this issue highlights some of the threats that they face. Even the most-impacted canyon, cut by the Arkansas River between Royal Gorge and Salida, occupied by both a highway and a railroad line and one of the most-rafted rivers in the world, remains worthy of protection. These sheltered, low-elevation areas are particularly important for wildlife: as migration routes, as winter refuges, as breeding areas.

As always, it is our pleasure at Wild Connections to be able to share some of the wonders of Colorado with you. We hope that these pages will inspire you to work harder to protect some truly unique and irreplaceable parts of our state.

#### **COVID-19 Note:**

We continue to make every effort to carry on our activities safely in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have resumed some outings and restoration work and hope to expand these activities in 2022. We will continue to work with cooperating agencies and cosponsoring organizations to keep our outings and events safe, and to comply with their directives and restrictions. ☺



**Bighorn Sheep, McIntyre Hills, October 2010.**

Photo: Jim Lockhart

# BLM Eastern Colorado Plan Update

by John Sztukowski

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office is moving forward on their Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (ECRMP) revision, which began in 2015, and will determine how approximately 670,000 acres of BLM managed public land will be managed in Colorado for the foreseeable future.

Many of the intact BLM lands in this region make up the canyon country in the Arkansas River watershed and provide crucial connectivity and habitat for our local wildlife. Areas very deserving of conservation and wildlife protections are Badger Creek and Echo Canyon/Table Mountain in Bighorn Sheep Canyon between Salida and Cañon City, and Upper Red Canyon and Cooper Mountain in the Gold Belt region northeast of Cañon City.

For much of the past year, Wild Connections, in coordination with the local conservation and sporting communities, put together a Conservation Alternative for BLM's ECRMP revision. We submitted it to the local BLM field office in August 2021. The tenets of our alternative provide protections for this area's most deserving BLM wild areas and wildlife. And this is feasible for the BLM to implement, as the entirety of our conservation alternative is taken from BLM's range of alternatives from the earlier drafts of their plan.

Former lifetime employee of the BLM and USFS and Fremont County resident, Paul Tanner, wrote an excellent op-ed in the *Ark Valley Voice* supporting our conservation alternative, stating that "It is a sensible alternative, in line with the public's stated goals for this plan and taken specifically from BLM's fully evaluated range of alternatives for the ECRMP. Additionally, it is largely in line with the comments that Fremont County has made to BLM regarding the ECRMP, supporting a balance of conservation and recreation for our locally managed BLM public lands. Our local wildlife, scenic views, and recreational opportunities bring folks to this area from near and far, which helps bolster our local economy and tourism industry, and it would make a lot of sense for BLM to embrace management that supports this." Find the full op-ed at <https://arkvalleyvoice.com/guest-opinion-blm-moving-ahead-on-eastern-colorado-resource-management-plan/>.

We share Paul's sentiments in hopes that BLM embraces our conservation alternative for the ECRMP. The final stage of this plan should be out to the public in the spring of 2022 and will be accompanied by a public comment period and governor's review period. Wild Connections will be engaged throughout this process, working with our partners, the public, and our local agencies to ensure the best possible management outcomes for our local public lands and wildlife. ☺



BLM's Echo Canyon, Table Mountain in Bighorn Sheep Canyon along the Arkansas River.

Photo: EcoFlight

# Wild Connections' Climate Refugia and Connectivity Modeling Under Expert Review

by Alison Gallensky

Wild Connections, with the support of our community, has been working for several years to identify important places in our region to protect in the face of a changing climate. We have used geospatial analysis to identify a network of connected climate refugia that we predict can protect biodiversity in our region. Our model is currently being reviewed by nationally recognized experts in climate-informed conservation planning and geospatial modeling.

Wild Connections was initially formed to identify wilderness quality public lands in Central Colorado, first on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and later on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. We then went on to advocate for protecting these lands and working to restore areas that were and are damaged by overuse. Why do we do this? Wild Connections' underlying goal is to ensure that biodiversity, a healthy natural variety of animal and plant species, thrives in our region now and in the future.

Two significant threats to biodiversity are human development and climate change. Scientific research suggests that we can protect biodiversity against the impacts of climate change if we protect the right places from human development. Biodiversity is expected to be resilient to a changing climate in areas with certain characteristics including:

- places where physical aspects of the landscape include a diversity of mountains, valleys, canyons, and wetlands
- large, intact landscapes
- places where animals, plants, and ecosystems are thriving today.

Areas with these characteristics are called climate refugia because they can serve as refuges where biodiversity will thrive even if surrounding lands become less hospitable.

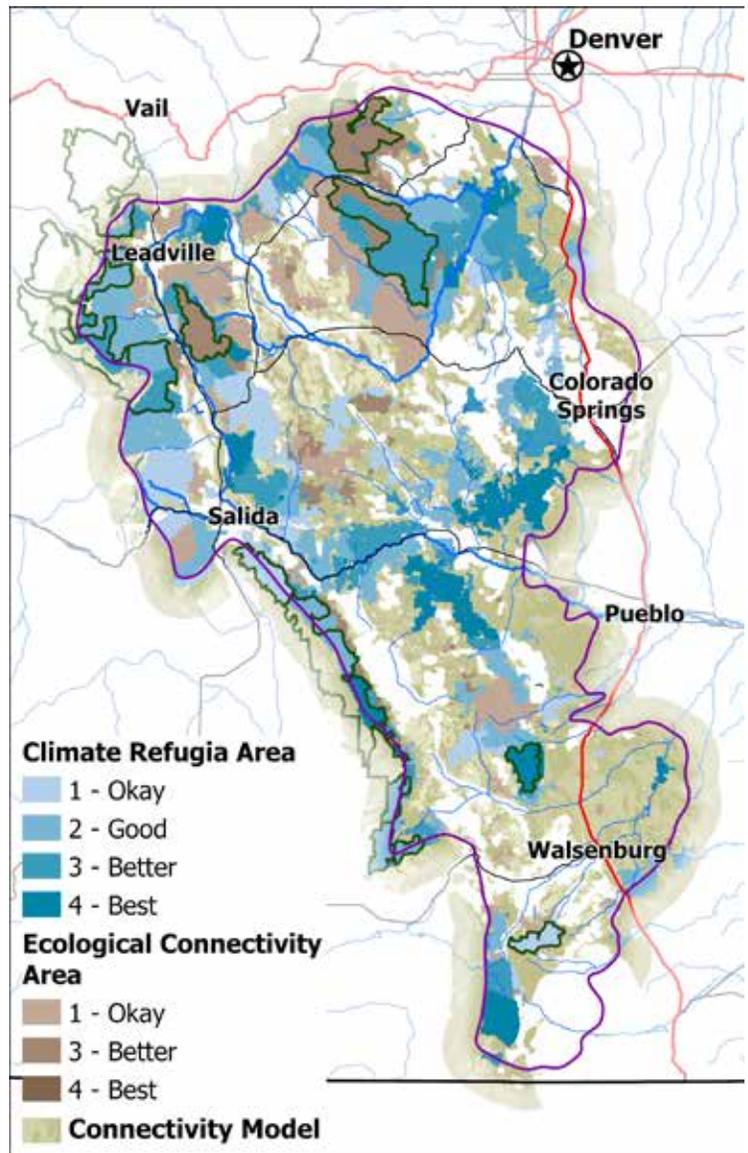
For biodiversity to persist, it is also essential that there are ways for animals and plants to move between refugia for seasonal migration, dispersal, and to shift as climate change causes habitats to move. The importance of protecting connected wild lands is the source of Wild Connections' name.

Wild Connections has combined regional and nationwide models of climate resilience and connectivity with local knowledge of intact landscapes and current biodiversity to identify a network of connected climate refugia. You can learn more about our approach in the June 2019 Landscapes pages 4 and 5: <https://tinyurl.com/WCLandscapesJune2019> and look at our preliminary model results on this interactive map: <https://tinyurl.com/wccclimate2021>.

We are excited to share our approach with outside experts. A highly qualified team from Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Conservation Biology Institute, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and NatureServe has agreed to review our model and provide feedback. Incorporating their advice into our model will make it more robust and authoritative. We will then share our final product with land management agencies, communities, and the general public, secure that we have followed a rigorous up-to-date scientific approach.

We could not have made it this far in this important project without your support. We look forward to sharing our results and to working with you to ensure that nature thrives in Central Colorado for generations to come. ☺

4 - [WildConnections.org](http://WildConnections.org)



**This map shows a network of connected climate refugia on public and private conservation areas as identified by geospatial modeling. The model will be refined based on expert review that is happening now.**

Map: Alison Gallensky

# Death of Our Mountain Landscapes

by Karl Ford

Climate scientists tell us the West has suffered two decades of megadrought. Coincident with and partly because of drought, bark beetles alone have killed over 59 million forest acres in the West, an area almost as large as the entire state of Wyoming. Because bark beetles thrive with warming temperatures, they will continue to kill forests. In addition, in the last two years in the U.S., over 16 million acres burned in wildfires, the vast majority in the West. Scientists see no climate relief in sight.

In the last fifteen years, I have hiked the Colorado Trail twice, as well as the Pacific Crest Trail and the Continental Divide Trail. My 6,500 miles on these trails have led me through many miles of burned and dead forests and brought into focus the crisis in our western ecosystems.

From my footsteps on these trails, I can personally attest to the vast number of dead trees and fuels that still fill our forests. In our megadrought conditions, these dead fuels, as well as living trees, will burn with high severity, perhaps even jumping the tundra as happened with East Troublesome Fire in Colorado. A recent study says Rocky Mountain forests are burning more frequently than any time in the past 2,000 years due to climate change. Just last year, Colorado suffered three megafires unprecedented in recorded state history. Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington have been even more decimated.

Wildfire is a natural process of the forest and small fires are healthy, reducing fuel loads and small tree density, boosting the health of larger, reproducing trees, and opening wildlife habitat. With over 70 years of fire suppression, our forests are overcrowded and full of fuels. Large area, high severity megafires are becoming more frequent with unnatural tree density, more human disturbance and ignitions, and a warming, drying climate. Scientists say these high severity fires may never reforest.

The coming years will see more drought, beetle-kill, wildfire, smoke, dead forests, longer fire seasons, and more evacuations, lost structures and fatalities. We will see new ecosystems emerge with a suite of species not typical of the historic “natural” ecosystems. Species that can are slowly marching northward in latitude. Our wildlife and forests need space to move and adjust to the changing climate.

The Rocky Mountains are a great water fountain in the sky, whose snowpack feeds rivers serving millions of people and agriculture. The snowpack is decreasing and melts faster, leaving our forests and our outdoor economy literally high and dry.

Who is to blame for this national threat? It's easy to blame the oil and coal industries since they aggressively lobby for candidates, subsidies and protections, but it's really everyone who uses fossil fuels – all of us. In 1970, the Earth Day Pogo comic strip once said, “We have met the enemy and he is us!” We desperately need a new national paradigm that replaces fossil fuels with renewable energy. Americans must make major cuts to our extravagant personal carbon footprint, which far exceeds that of the rest of the developed world.



**Dead spruce forest along the Colorado Trail.**

Photo: Karl Ford

Most importantly for the long run, there is urgent need to tax carbon aggressively and substantially and quickly reduce our society's carbon emissions. Not just for our forests, but for our entire way of life. If we had a carbon tax, it would not only immediately reduce greenhouse gases and the effects of climate change, but help fund the transition to renewable energy, and boost funding for managing our forests and mitigating fire. States like Colorado have taken modest steps forward with goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Much more is needed, faster. Make your voice heard with your vote.

Land managers need to be more proactive in forest health. We need much more prescribed fire and mitigation or forest fuels reduction, especially in the lower elevation wildland-urban interface, or WUI. Budgets are slim and managers are risk averse especially for prescribed fire in the WUI, but the longer we put it off, the worse the fires will be. Because weather dictates fire extent and severity, we should let fires burn in wilderness and roadless areas and prioritize defending towns and structures.

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Photo: EcoFlight

**Table Mountain and McIntyre Hills proposed wildernesses in Bighorn Sheep Canyon along the Arkansas River.**  
Photo: EcoFlight

## Now is the Time to Pass Colorado Wilderness

By John Sztukowski

In late September, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (PAW+) passed in the US House as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022. This deserving act combines eight nationwide public lands bills, including the Colorado Wilderness Act (CWA), Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy Act (CORE).

We appreciate Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper championing the CORE Act, which would protect 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado, including 73,000 acres of new wilderness areas. However, this is just one bill in a much needed greater public lands package that would designate approximately 1.3 million acres of wilderness and over 1,000 river miles into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The CWA, which has been proposed by Representative DeGette in every Congress since 1999, would not only protect an additional 600,000 acres of deserving public land in Colorado, it would predominantly protect our lower elevation lands and canyon country. These are mostly BLM managed public lands, which are underrepresented as Wilderness in Colorado and throughout the US West. In fact, only 5% of BLM Colorado's 8.3 million acres have been permanently protected, and not a single BLM acre has been protected in Colorado since 2009. For our region, the statewide CWA bill would permanently protect Browns Canyon, Badger Creek, Table Mountain, McIntyre Hills, Grape Creek, and Beaver Creek, all in the Arkansas River watershed.

Over the last few years, we have seen these proposed Wilderness areas threatened and chipped away by extractive industries in our region. Nearly 700 acres were removed from the Table Mountain proposed Wilderness, after BLM approved a quarry expansion in 2020 in the proposed Wilderness, which they also identified as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. And we have recently seen exploratory gold mining approved in the Grape Creek proposed Wilderness, an ongoing threat that we continue to fight.

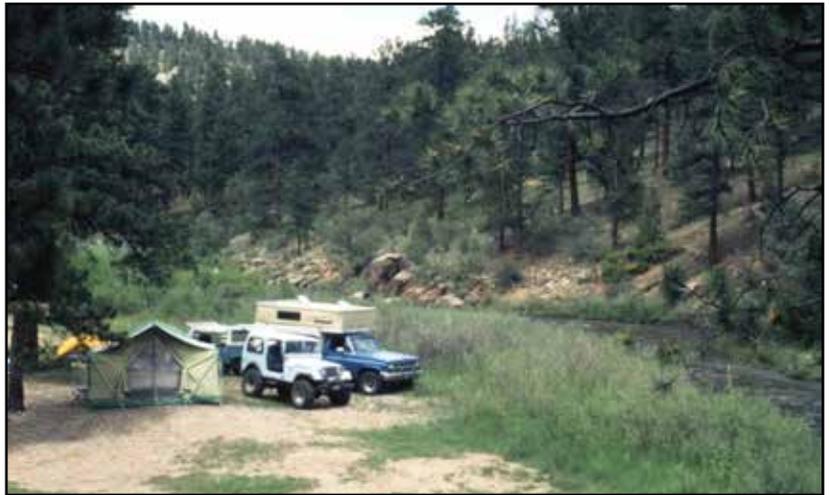
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# Wildcat Canyon: 1,200 Feet Down to the South Platte River

By Jean Smith

"This has been a huge problem for as long as I can remember," the ranger said. Years ago the Forest Service had driven us on the rough Corral Creek track from the Matukat Road down to the South Platte River. He pointed to the many tents and campers on the river bank, the trash and lack of latrines, the people and vehicles at play in the river, the continual erosion on the steep routes into the river.

Just upstream of Cheesman Reservoir, that route and others on both the east and west side were closed after the 2002 Hayman Fire. The intensity of the fire charred trees and shrubs across most of the fire footprint, but the deep Wildcat Canyon was for the most part unburned. Post-fire massive erosion destroyed the jeep routes and transported gravel and silt into the river, affecting water quality in this link in Denver's water supply. The Forest Service declared the now impassable routes closed to vehicle traffic.



Camping on the South Platte river banks, 1997.

Photo: Jean Smith

Twenty years later, there is still a problem! In spite of route closures, gates, rock berms and signs, illegal motorized travel down to the river continues. Jeeps, ATVs, and motorcycles invade the banks and the river itself every weekend. Forest Service officers issue citations to no avail. Meanwhile a motorized group is mounting a concerted effort to establish a motorized route to the river at Corral Creek. We contend that motorized users can travel elsewhere on the Pike-San Isabel's 1,800 miles of roads or 600 miles of motorized trails.

## ***A look into the canyon***

Down in Wildcat Canyon there are pine trees, aspen and improved water quality as shrubs and forbs are stabilizing the burned slopes above. The upland forest may never be the same, but drainages have remnant and seedling pine trees, many aspen and healthy ground cover.

The canyon and uplands are summer and winter range for bighorn sheep, black bear, mountain lion, deer and elk. Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys, great blue herons and Canada geese forage in the river, along with wild trout and possibly river otter. Bats and numerous song birds ply the airways. Snakes, lizards, mice, voles and jack rabbits hide in the brush. Insects pollinate the wildflowers in uncounted numbers.



ATV riders re-group after crossing the river.

Photo: John Stansfield

Wildcat is also a place for solitude and quiet recreation. It's a big hike, but worth every step. Fly-fishing is superb in this section of the South Platte, and the towering Precambrian cliffs are awe-inspiring.

## ***Strategies for protection***

Wild Connections is working toward a permanent solution for Wildcat. We support the Forest Service's decommissioning of Corral Creek 540 on the west and sections of Hackett and Longwater Gulches routes near the canyon bottom on the east side. The final decision on the Pike-San Isabel Travel Management Plan is expected from the Forest Service in April 2022.

In 2022 we will work with the Forest Service and other stakeholders to develop a multi-year

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## Now is the Time to Pass Colorado Wilderness

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The time to pass Colorado Wilderness is now and as part of the greater PAW+ bill. This is the down payment that we need for President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative to tackle the climate crisis at home and abroad, which includes the 30x30 plan to protect 30% of US lands and waters by 2030.

Coloradans support Wilderness! Colorado College's *State of the Rockies 2021 Conservation in the West Poll* ([https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2021/CO2021\\_SotR\\_StateFactSheets.pdf](https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2021/CO2021_SotR_StateFactSheets.pdf)) shows that 81% of Coloradans support a national goal of protecting 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030. Additionally, the poll found that an even more overwhelming number of Coloradans (90%) support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and tribal protected areas.

Let our Colorado Senators know that you support the PAW+ bill and that they should too! Take action at: <https://www.coloradowildernessact.org/take-action/> ☞

## Wildcat Canyon: 1,200 Feet Down to the South Platte River

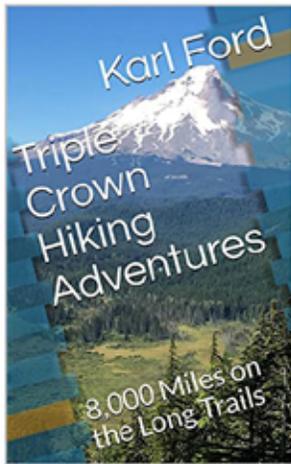
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habitat restoration project. Planning and an Environmental Impact Statement will set the stage for work on the ground. The Metal Removal Project in partnership with the South Park Ranger District and funded by the South Park Land and Water Trust Fund will remove the dangerous posts and cables buried in the stream bank, as well as the outdated signs from before the Hayman Fire. Longer range, we anticipate ripping old routes, recontouring and revegetating the slopes.

Citizens, media representatives and decision makers will join us on wildlands trips to generate support for protecting this canyon for now and for the future. We are forming a coalition for supporters of conservation and quiet recreation at Wildcat Canyon. Together we can work toward solving that ranger's problem. ☞



**Hikers in Wildcat Canyon.**  
Photo: Curt Nimz



**Karl Ford:** Wild Connections Board member

Experience with Speed (aka Karl) the literal 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 is one of a very select group who has completed the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Continental Divide Trail. These are his stories of hiking, natural history and conservation of our wildlands. Available at Amazon as an eBook for \$4.99, of which Speed will donate \$1 for each copy sold to Wild Connections.

## Death of Our Mountain Landscapes

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Aldo Leopold famously said in *A Sand County Almanac*, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” Climate change is both morally wrong and the Big Truth; it’s just a matter of how serious it will get before our society truly confronts the threat. I fear our political environment is too reactionary – it won’t respond until we are in irreversible crisis. The anti-vaccination and anti-masking movements during the pandemic are examples of how right-wing politics ignores science.

I fear for the future of our western forests. I hope the forests and trails will be there for my grandchildren and that they can find beauty, peace and renewal like I did. And that we acted in time to save most of our forests and wildlife.

Karl Ford is a Board Member. He is the author of the new book, *Colorado in Crisis, A Field Report from the Colorado Trail*. Contact him at: [earthford@aol.com](mailto:earthford@aol.com) ☎

*Wild Connections is on social media*



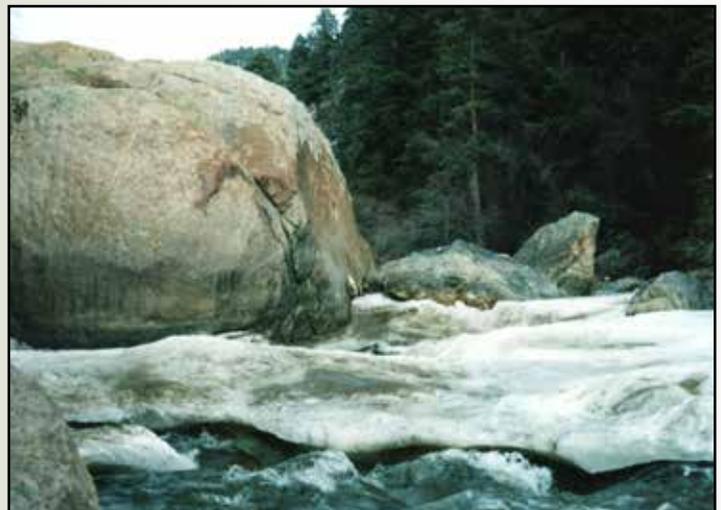
## (Notes for an) Ode to the South Platte River

by Lee Patton

Abused, unglamorous,  
not even navigable, it seeps northeast without mystique,  
not exactly the Seine through Paris, not sacred. like the  
Ganges,  
not storied, like the Rhine, not lordly, like the Hudson, not  
deadly, like the Amazon, not useful, like the Ohio,  
not epic, like the Mississippi, not bloodied, like the Sava,  
not studied, like the Tennessee,  
not confined, like the Los Angeles, to concrete conduit. It  
survives  
its passage through Denver still free-banked.

Maybe not worthy of an ode,  
but this brown trickle’s our artery, how our spit, how our  
snowmelt glide two thousand miles to the Gulf.

At least the Platte’s conceived pure, in three peaks’  
glaciers, ice-bred, sprung into tundra,  
slid over cataracts in stone canyons then plunged in  
infancy sink-or-swim  
among meadows red-mad with loco weed, where side  
pools slake the thirst of elk.



**The South Platte has “slid over cataracts in stone canyons,” around boulders and under winter’s ice for eons.**

Photo: Art Smith

This excerpt from Ode to South Platte was taken from Lee Patton’s, *In Disturbed Soil, Poems Across the West*. Available for \$16.00 at Kelsay Books <https://kelsaybooks.com/search?q=in+disturbed+soil> ☎

# Update on the Threatened Pawnee Montane Skipper Butterfly

by Claude Neumann

The end of August marks a life event for this threatened species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The “skipper,” a sub-species of the common skipper, takes flight primarily in late August to early September. It is observed only in parts of a 23 mile length of the South Platte River and its north fork in the Pike National forest. Their flight is rather erratic as they feed on the nectar of the liatris flower. Skippers lay their eggs on the blue grama grasses common to their habitat.

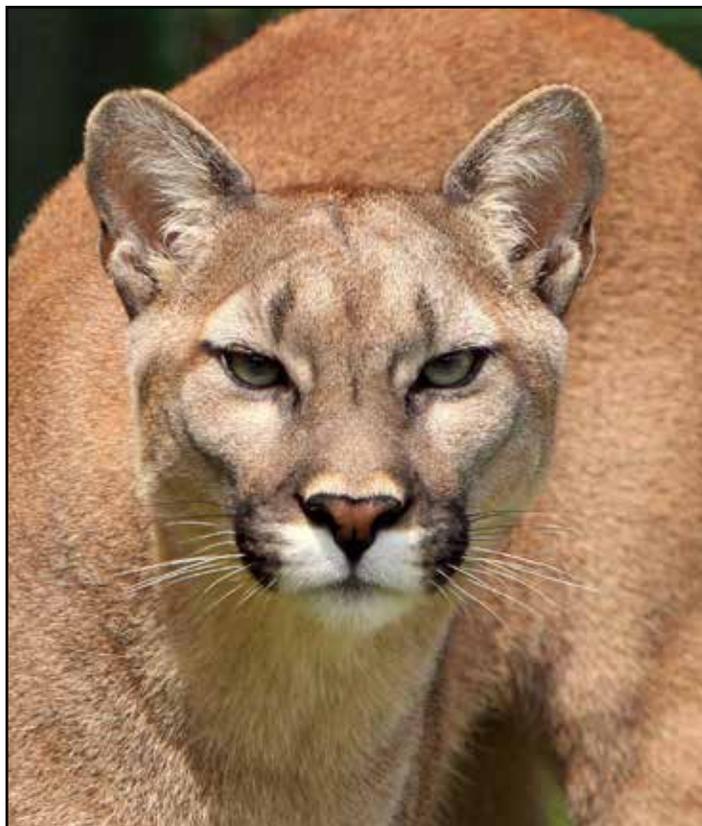
This August, Wild Connections continued its decade long involvement in a large field survey of the skipper by the South Platte ranger district and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. John Sovell of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program has done leading research on the skipper. Sovell and biologist Mikele Painter of the South Platte ranger district led the field effort, using many volunteers. The project just north of Deckers has spanned two decades. It focuses on specific areas in skipper habitat that have undergone treatments and thinning to restore them to a more “natural” condition existing before fire suppression. Wild Connections Conservation Director John Sztukowski and I set out for one day of the 8 day effort with about 10 other volunteers. As “spotters,” with binoculars and counters in hand and 3 abreast, we “dragged” a designated area about 10 meters wide for a set distance of 400 meters, called a transect. There were nine transects to be observed. Sovell oversaw our group and demonstrated a keen eye for the skipper as we hiked several transects counting skippers as well as liatris plants, also identifying the skipper gender. We were encouraged by the number of skippers and liatris observed.

Critical to the skipper’s survival is the specific habitat required, as they are dependent on the right forest conditions such as tree density, overstory, and abundance of the liatris flower and blue grama grass. Data gathered strongly suggests that treatment and thinning has a positive effect on the skipper habitat. As a result, specific recommendations for restoration of the habitat are part of the recovery plan, which hopefully will enhance species survival. Yet it is clear that the skippers, like many species, face significant obstacles to their survival. Particularly critical factors include climate change causing drought and intense fires, possible future reconsideration of the Two Forks reservoir project, and increasing public recreation.



**Pawnee Montane Skipper  
on the Liatris flower.**  
Photo: FWS

Processing of the field data and the full report will be complete in spring of 2022 by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program of the Warner College of Natural Resources of Colorado State University. ☺



**Mountain Lion.**  
Photo: Karen Arnold

## Cat’s Eyes

*continued from the front page*

to a place where the canyon forked, I decided to climb to the top of a low, brushy knob separating the two forks in order to take in the view. It was a very steep, huff-and-puff climb, and when I neared the top of the knob, I stopped for a breather. Looking down at myself, I thought “You’re getting fat,” and slapped my stomach a few times – SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! I started climbing again, and in a minute or two, came to an open clearing at the top of the knob.

The same moment that I came into the clearing from one side, a mountain lion came into it from the other, no more than thirty or forty feet away. His eyes fell as open as mine must have. I am sure he had no idea that there was a human nearby, that the slapping noise I made must not have sounded human, and that it was curiosity that made him come to see what the noise was. He looked as astonished as a cat can look.

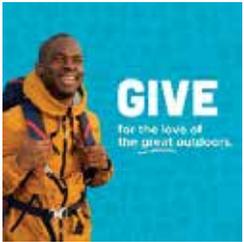
I had only a single second to stare at him; then all I could see was his tail disappearing back into the brush. I stood amazed for a few more seconds, then walked slowly and carefully to the spot where he had disappeared. There was no sign or sound of him.

I made my way down the hillside and continued up the canyon. I never got another glimpse of the lion and have no idea where he went. But I am sure that for the whole rest of the day, he knew where I was. ☺



Have you thought about acting to protect Colorado’s wild canyons based on information in Landscapes? Effects of climate change are becoming more apparent, and your rapid response can make a difference right here in Central Colorado. Your participation will help create a landscape where the last wild places are preserved for the benefit of healthy ecosystems, wildlife, and future generations. It’s easy to act today!

Wild Connections is deeply grateful to all our supporters for their gifts, active participation, and collaboration. ☺

Your Vision	Your Impact	Your Action Today	Links
	Stay current and informed on wildlands protection in Central Colorado.	Visit Wild Connections’ new secure website, updated for PCs, pads, and phones.	<a href="http://wildconnections.org">wildconnections.org</a> 
	Unlock \$2500 in matching funds at the Give! Campaign and get rewarded by sponsors in the Pikes Peak region.	Make a gift to Wild Connections today through the Give! Campaign. The campaign is open until December 31, 2021.	<a href="http://indygive.com/WILD">indygive.com/WILD</a> 
	Unlock \$8000 in matching funds from the South Platte Enhancement Board for restoration work in Wildcat Canyon.	Your donation through Give! or Colorado Gives will build the coffers for this major project and promote conservation of your public lands.	<a href="http://wildconnections.org/conservation/habitat-restoration/">wildconnections.org/conservation/habitat-restoration/</a> 
	Be a part of Colorado’s biggest day of philanthropy. Increase Wild Connections’ share of the \$1.6 M Incentive Fund.	Schedule your gift today for Colorado Gives Day on December 7. Show your financial support year-round at Colorado Gives or make a recurring donation through this site.	<a href="http://coloradogives.org/WildConnections">coloradogives.org/WildConnections</a> 
	The Colorado Wilderness Act will create 7 new wilderness areas near the Arkansas River Canyon.	Contact your senators and representatives to voice your support for protecting 660,000 acres of wilderness across Colorado.	<a href="http://wildconnections.org/get-involved/">wildconnections.org/get-involved/</a> 
	Find out the latest conservation news or reduce the impact of printing and mailing.	Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter, <i>Wild News</i> . Or change your paper Landscapes subscription to the digital edition.	<a href="http://wildconnections.org/get-involved/">wildconnections.org/get-involved/</a> 



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## Save a Tree - Get Landscapes Online

**Wild Connections is keeping our impact on the environment as low as possible.**

**Landscapes is printed on 30% recycled Forest Stewardship Council certified paper.**



**Readers who get the print Landscapes are encouraged to change to the online version at [www.wildconnections.org/get-involved](http://www.wildconnections.org/get-involved).**

*Together we can save trees, printing, postage and delivery expenses.*

*Photo Sustainable forest courtesy FSC*