

RPG Outings

Events are in or from Colorado Springs. A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs. Added charge where noted.

October 7, Saturday all day hike 0045 or jlock@datawest.net by Oct. 18.

Pikes Peak West Proposed Wilderness

Mark your calendar for a moderate hike in the scenic season to the wild west side of Pikes Peak. With an elevation gain of 1,000 feet in six miles, the trip will explore the area's high country primitive attributes, with participants learning details of the wilderness proposal. For more information on the hike, which is co-sponsored by Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, and to register, contact John Stansfield at 303-660-5849 or at jorcestan@juno.com by 4 pm October 6.

October 20-22, Fri-Sun Late afternoon - Evening

Piñon Canyon Car-Camping/Hiking Weekend

Join the Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group for a weekend car-camping/hiking trip to Picketwire Canyon, the heart of the proposed expansion area for the Army's Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site to explore the area and discover the irreplaceable archaeological and paleontological treasures that could be affected by the expansion, including the longest set of dinosaur tracks in North America! Participants will leave Colorado Springs late Friday afternoon; drive to Withers Canyon trailhead (~ 3 hours), set up camp (in dark, bring lights). Saturday, we will cook breakfast at the campsite; hike to the Dinosaur Tracks midmorning. Distance is 10.6 miles RT over a mostly easy trail, about 500 feet elev. loss/gain. Bring lunch on hike. Bring wading shoes (best tracks are on far side of river). Return mid-afternoon, cook supper; if time permits, explore pictographs near trailhead. Sunday, we will visit other portions of proposed expansion area; meet with interested ranchers to learn about how the expansion could impact them. If possible, we will do another dayhike in Picketwire Canyon area. We will drive home late Sunday afternoon; arrive back in Colorado Springs Sunday evening. For further details or to sign up, contact Jim Lockhart, 719-385-

October 28, Saturday 9 am - 3 pm
Water Sentinels Training

The Pikes Peak Group, in conjunction with the Sangre de Cristo Sierra Club Group, will host training for the newly-formed Fountain Creek Water Sentinels Program. The program is designed to train ordinary citizens to take water samples from Fountain Creek and analyze them for critical pollutants. In the process, participants will reconnect with the Fountain, learn first-hand about some of its problems, and contribute in a tangible way to the resolution of those problems. No prior experience is necessary to join the Water Sentinels, just a willingness to help Fountain Creek. For details or to sign up, call Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045.

November 4, Saturday 9 am - 1 pm
Fountain Creek Hike

This easy 4-mile round-trip hike will be along Fountain Creek in Fountain Creek Regional Park and Nature Center. Learn about the problems Fountain Creek faces, how they affect wildlife and downstream residents, and what can be done about them. Bring a lunch, good walking shoes, raingear, and clothing to suit the weather conditions. Elevation gain is less than 50 feet and we will walk at a leisurely pace. For details and to sign up, call Jim Lockhart 385-0045.

November 5, Sunday 8 am - 5:30 pm
Wilderness Protection Hikes

In recent years, Sierra Club volunteers discovered areas of motorized trespass and logging in the Grape Creek and McIntyre Hills proposed wildernesses. The BLM responded rapidly and effectively with closures. We will revisit these scenic areas in three moderate hikes, totaling six miles and 500 feet of elevation gain, to check the status of the vehicle closures and the wildlands behind them. Sierra Club and co-sponsor Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition need you — and your 4-wheel drive vehicle, if available — to expedite this survey. Come learn about the areas and the basics of wilderness protection. Leashed dogs are permitted. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield 303-660-5849 or jorcestan@juno.com by 4 pm November 4.

Roadless Report

The Colorado Roadless Area Review Task Force submitted their recommendations to Governor Owens in September. While not perfect, the findings make a strong case for widespread protection of 4.1 million acres of Colorado national forests as the governor prepares his November recommendations for the Bush administration. Thanks to all

who participated with letters and testimony in the task force process over the past year.

Feds Listening in CS

The Bush Administration held one of a nationwide series of Cooperative Conservation listening sessions at UCCS on Friday, September 15. About 75 people spoke, including Jim Lockhart and John Stansfield from

SIERRA SINGLES GROUP SPONSORED HAPPENINGS

ALL Pikes Peak Group members, regardless of marital status, are welcome at the following events. Events are in, or leave from, Colorado Springs and all area codes are 719 unless otherwise noted.

A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs of offering you these activities.

October 14, Saturday 8 am - 4 pm
Mount Blodgett Outing

From Colorado Springs, hike to the top of Mount Blodgett before the snow comes, and learn about one of Colorado Springs' premier Open Spaces on the Front Range! This will be a strenuous hike with an elev gain/loss of about 5000 feet; expect a RT distance of some 8 or 9 miles. We'll follow a foot trail up the nearby canyon to a ridge and continue up on the back side of the peak (no rock climbing). The peak offers extraordinary views of the Front Range, from Monument Hill to Fountain. Bring good hiking shoes and socks, water, a trail lunch, and a hat. Binoculars and other accessories are optional. For more information and registration, call John Palan by October 13, at 559-2335, or email to platojp@msn.com.

"We are trying to keep unchanged by man areas that have so grown through the eternity of the past, and, although we stand in awe at our own presumption, we dare to plan that they may persist through the eternity yet ahead."

— Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act

WILDERNESS NEWS BRIEFS

Browns Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Bills Update. Browns Canyon legislation was well received at a July 27 House subcommittee hearing. More legislative action is hoped for in September or early October. Despite strong editorial support from communities, counties, citizens, and many newspapers, including Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News, the Rocky Mountain National Park bill seems temporarily stalled due to economic impact and forest management concerns of Sen. Allard and Rep. Musgrave. The Congressional session is ending soon.

Pikes Peak Group of Sierra Club, before a panel of federal administrators, particularly Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture in charge of the US Forest Service and Julie Jacobson of the Interior Department. For program basics, see cooperativeconservation.gov. Let John Stansfield know if you want more information about the process from the Sierra Club perspective.