



**SIERRA
CLUB**

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TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

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Big Union Proposed Addition to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Area

by John Stansfield, Pikes Peak Group Wilderness Chair

MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings are usually held at the Colorado Division of Wildlife, 4255 Sinton Road in Colorado Springs, approximately one block south of Garden of the Gods Road on the east side of I-25. Use the rear entrance to the building.

Tuesday, April 10: Toxic!

Paul Bell, PhD, one of the foremost authorities in the area of environmental psychology, will give a presentation on the decision making processes that are involved in toxic wastes and how to measure people's values in terms of clean air and water.

Thursday, May 10: Film and Auction

No General Meeting in May, but our General Meeting program is being replaced by a silent auction and award-winning environmental documentary film: *A Land Out of Time* on Thursday, May 10.

DETAILS: Look Right... ♦

No General Meeting in June ♦

Conservation and ExCom Meetings

Tues, April 17 6:30 pm
Tues, May 15 6:30 pm
Tues, June 19 6:30 pm

These are our monthly "business" meetings, held at Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., Colorado Springs. All members are welcome. The Conservation and ExCom meetings take place sequentially at the Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., Colorado Springs. All members are welcome to our monthly "business meeting."

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The Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (CCWC), co-sponsored by the Pikes Peak Sierra Club and the Upper Arkansas--South Platte Project, is promoting ten pristine roadless areas, known as the Wild Ten, for congressional wilderness designation. Watch the **Timberlines Calendar** this summer for details on hikes in the proposed Buffalo Peaks Wilderness additions.

Like a giant, asymmetrical horseshoe, Big Union Proposed Wilderness wraps around the northwest, north, and northeast sides of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Area in central Colorado, 20 miles southwest of Fairplay. Taking its name from an Arkansas River tributary Big Union Creek, the 18,000 acre area also includes the headwaters of the South Fork of the South Platte and a portion of its major tributary Rough and Tumbling Creek.

A great variety of natural communities flourish

within Big Union's elevation range of 9,600 to 12 600 feet. Lower elevation forests of ponderosa and lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and aspen give way to dense spruce and fir mixed with mountain meadows ringed by bristlecone and limber pines. Riparian communities parallel numerous streams, small and large. Above the tree limit, an expanse of flowered tundra stretches up to South Peak, the area's high point. Elk, deer, marmot, pika, and coyote prosper in the diverse habitats, linked to the Weston Peak Proposed Wilderness in the Mosquito Range.

Big Union's varied topography offers both gentle and challenging terrain for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, as well as ample stream reaches for fishing. Recreational access is possible in numerous locations from Weston Pass Road, for both on-and-off-trail experiences.

May 10 Auction/Film: Join the Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group on **Thursday, May 10, at 6 pm** at **All Souls Unitarian Church**, 730 N. Tejon Street, for the Colorado Springs screening of the new feature film, **A Land out of Time**. The film examines the gas drilling blitz on some of the last, best wild lands in the Rocky Mountains. This film has been an Official Selection at 7 film festivals & was named Best Environmental Film at the Taos MountainFilm Festival. Some of our most unspoiled lands are being sacrificed to oil and gas development — av-

erage Westerners are paying the price. Meet the people — ranchers, hunters and outfitters on the land for generations — who are not taking it lying down.

"The film is nearly as much about the people who fight for these wild places as it is about the landscape itself. They...represent the new battle lines in defense of wild places." — David Frey, NWN

Suggested donation is \$5. Schedule: 6pm: silent auction, 7 pm: film. All proceeds benefit the Pikes Peak Group of the Sierra Club.

Of Hummingbirds and Earth Day Festivals

Second Annual Pikes Peak Earth Day Celebration at Palmer High School
April 21, 2007

You are invited to the 2nd Annual Pikes Peak Earth Day Celebration on **Saturday, April 21, 10 AM to 3 PM**, at Palmer High School, 301 N. Nevada Avenue. Admission is free and includes activities for all ages: live entertainment, earth-friendly exhibits, games, crafts, a science fair and more. Do your part to help raise earth awareness by staffing the Sierra Club table for a couple of hours - encourage others to enjoy, explore, and protect the planet. To volunteer, contact Jane Ard-Smith at 520-5381 or email Jane at jane.ard-smith@lexisnexus.com.

14th Annual Hummingbird Festival
May 12, 2007
10am-4pm

Starsmore Discovery Center
2120 South Cheyenne Canon Road

Join the Pikes Peak Group for the 14th Annual Hummingbird Festival on Saturday, May 12th. The event features live entertainment, face painting, children's activities, bus tours of Cheyenne Canon, climbing wall, nature walks, and more! Interested in staffing the PPG table at the event? Please contact Amy Hasenbein, 229-6895, or amy.hasenbein@gmail.com.