



**SIERRA
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

NOV/DEC 2005

VOL 4 - ISSUE 6

ELECTION ISSUE—SEE BACK COVER FOR BALLOT

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. **However, the November General Meeting will be held at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 North Tejon St.** For directions, call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045.

**Tuesday, November 8 7 pm
John Fielder Slide Show**

Come join award-winning Colorado photographer and environmentalist John Fielder for a slide show and talk about his latest book. See article on page 2 in this newsletter.

December: No General Meeting. See you in February!

(Meetings Continued on page 2)

Driving west on any PPG-area highway after dark, you can trace our human footprint by the lights from the summit of Pikes Peak to the ranches in South Park. Roadless areas west of Pikes Peak are like islands in a sea of humanity, in spite of grand vistas and forested slopes.

This past summer, we invited people to be inspired by those wild islands and to work toward their protection. Together, we:

- Hiked at Beaver Creek, Weston Peak, Thirtynine Mile, Salt Creek and Browns Canyon, all Wild Ten proposed Wildernesses. Mentors helped us identify birds or wildflowers, write in journals, sketch or photograph the views or enjoy the fall aspen.
- Helped turn out wilderness friends for Rep. Hefley's public meeting on the Browns Canyon proposed legislation. Twenty of the 21 speakers spoke eloquently in favor of the new Wilderness.
- Mapped roadless boundaries at Square Top, Burning Bear, Farnum and Chipeta proposed Wildernesses
- Presented *Wild for Good* and special guests Dottie Fox and Connie Harvey from Aspen –

a great story about how ordinary citizens protected some of Colorado's great Wildernesses

- Explored collaboration with the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and Comanche Grasslands in their management plan revisions and future conservation projects.
- Touched nearly 2,000 people in some way, including hikers, outfitters, rafters, ranchers, mountain bikers, backcountry horsemen, business people, Congressional staff, and county officials.

We hope people were inspired and will follow in the footsteps of other Wilderness heroes. In 1875 John Muir said, "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity..." It's still true 130 year later.

The Keep Central Colorado Wild project was funded by Sierra Club's Wildlands Campaign to help Pikes Peak Group, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, Upper Arkansas and South Platte Project, Friends of Browns Canyon and Colorado Environmental Coalition in working together on wilderness.

Browns Canyon Wilderness Proposal Needs Letters of Support

Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO) introduced his long-awaited legislative proposal for a Browns Canyon Wilderness Area in late August. Since 2004, Hefley and his staff have expressed interest in legislation that would add Browns Canyon, a rugged mountain terrain east of the Arkansas River near Salida, to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Recognizing the natural value of this area, a citizens' group, the Friends of Browns Canyon Wilderness (www.browncanyonwilderness.org), has been working for several years to see it preserved. [see *Outings*; Nov 5]

Building a public record of support for Browns Canyon is very important at this stage of the legislative process. Please take a moment to send a note to Cong. Hefley soon. Tell him how you feel about protecting Browns Canyon. Your letter can make a significant difference! **Send letters to: The Honorable Joel Hefley 104 S. Cascade Ave., Suite 105, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719-520-0055** Please also CC: Michael Kunkel, Friends of Browns Canyon Wilderness 417 W. 2nd St, Salida, CO 81201 or email: mkunk@amigo.net

For more information please contact Lisa Smith at lisa@cecenviro.org or (303) 405-6707, see the September-October *Timberlines*, or visit Cong. Hefley's website press release: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/co05_hefley/pr050805.html

New Member Meeting!

Are you a new member - or just feel like one? Want to learn what the Pikes Peak Group is all about? Then, join us for a New Member Meeting and Dinner on **Sunday Nov. 13, 5-7pm, 41 Polo Drive** (in the Broadmoor area). You'll have an opportunity to learn more about the club, meet the various committee chairs, and socialize with your fellow Sierrans. Space is limited and we need to prepare enough food, so please **RSVP to Jane Ard-Smith, 520-5381, or by email: jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com by Friday, November 11th**