



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

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YOUR VOTE Might Prevent Environmental Despoilment for Decades

by Heather Preston, TIMBERLINES Editor

MEETINGS

General Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 9 7-9pm

John Fielder Slide Show, in the Great Hall of All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 N. Tejon Street, COS

This special showing of slides from internationally renowned photographer John Fielder's newest book takes the place of our November General Meeting. See the announcement on p.2 for details.

No December General Meeting. See you in February!

Conservation and ExCom

Meetings 6:30pm

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Tuesday Dec. 21

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., COS
All members are invited to participate in our monthly "business meeting."

Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:

Thursday, Nov. 4 6:30-10pm

December date TBD

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., COS
Take action to promote and protect wildlands in our region. The work of CCWC involves exploring and researching wild candidate areas and developing Wilderness legislation for possible Congressional action. The special November meeting will be an intensive review of wilderness area data. For more information, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@bewellnet.com

Timberlines Deadline: Dec 15!

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On Tuesday, Nov. 2nd, you have the chance to nudge our "swing" state into greater environmental responsibility, locally and even (potentially) nationally. It all depends on you, your family and friends who care about the environment getting out to vote.

It's hard to avoid the pundit consensus that the Presidential race outcome will likely determine the philosophical and ideological orientation of the majority in the Supreme Court for decades into our future. Our local group can't even tell you which political candidates are endorsed by the Sierra Club (due to funding restrictions) — so you must do your own research: there is a wealth of detailed material on the environmental records of both major-party

Presidential candidates at www.sierraclub.org/voter_education/sharingpriorities2004.pdf and Congressional and Senatorial candidate endorsements at www.sierraclub.org/endorsements/ and there is even a "vote watch" feature so that you can track any congressperson's voting record. But your proportionally biggest voting effect will be the effect within our own state: you must make your assessments and vote on issues such as 1A and 37, or how can you expect non-Sierrans to care enough to do so? I know you're saturated with political appeals, my only appeal is: please take action, and

★VOTE!★

Pikes Peak West Proposed Wilderness Area Profile

by Lorraine Streckfus, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition

The Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (CCWC), co-sponsored by Pikes Peak Sierra Club, is promoting ten pristine roadless areas, known as the Wild Ten, for congressional wilderness designation. Pikes Peak West Roadless Area is one.

Location: The Pikes Peak West (PPW) Proposed Wilderness Area is 10 miles southwest of Woodland Park and 15 miles east of Colorado Springs. It lies in Teller County spanning the high west side of Pikes Peak, west and south of Pikes Peak highway and cog railroad. The hulking mass of Raspberry Mountain looms over the northern boundary, with Sheep Mountain as the southern highpoint. Though adjacent to them, PPW does not encompass any of the City of Colorado Springs North or South Slope Watershed lands.

Wilderness Qualities: PPW is remote and has challenging recreational terrain accessible primarily from the Pikes Peak Highway, The Crags trailhead, and Horsethief Park, providing wilderness experience within a few miles of a major metropolitan area. Visitors find solitude because of the limited number of trails and extreme topography. Views from the area are expansive. Looking west and southwest from the alpine highlands of PPW, Mueller State Park and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument form the midground view, with the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, Thirtynine Mile Mountain Proposed Wilderness and Lost Creek

Wilderness farther west. Views into PPW from outside are equally dramatic as the solitary Pikes Peak uplift dominates the landscape. PPW protects natural vegetation on slopes above major reservoirs and sources for Colorado Springs' domestic water supply and provides wildlife connections to greater Pikes Peak, Mueller State Park, Dome Rock State Wildlife Area, and Beaver Creek.

Natural Features: Elevation in PPW ranges between 8,400 ft. to 13,700 ft. It is dominated in its upper region by alpine tundra and the long ridge leading to the summit of Pikes Peak, outside the area just to the east. Other landmarks in the area include The Crags, Sentinel Point, Sachett Mountain, and Windy Point. It is drained by numerous streams including the headwaters of Catamount Creek, Fourmile Creek, Putney Gulch, and the West Fork of Beaver Creek. Wildlife in the area includes bighorn sheep and their lambing and winter concentration areas, elk including calving areas, greenback cutthroat trout, and Peregrine falcon. Vegetation in Pikes Peak West features alpine tundra, aspen, Bristlecone and Limber pine, spruce-fir, Douglas fir, Lodgepole pine, Gambel oak shrubland, montane grasslands, and riparian areas.

For more information about this area or any of the Wild Ten, visit the CCWC website:
www.cccwcwilderness.org.