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# TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

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## Bush Administration Attacks Roadless Area Conservation Rule

### MEETINGS

**General Meetings** are held at the CO Division of Wildlife, 4255 Sinton Road, Colorado Springs 80907. DoW is on Sinton Rd approximately 1 block south of Garden of the Gods Road. Use rear entrance to building. Directions: call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045

**Tuesday Sept. 21 7-9 pm**  
Rick Upton Slide show on the brand new Cheyenne Mountain State Park set to open to the public this fall.

**Tuesday, Oct. 12 7-9pm**  
Dan Cleveland Slide show: Trails and Open Spaces in the Colorado Springs Area

Mark your calendars for the **Tuesday Nov. 9 (see page 3 for details) General Meeting:** our annual John Fielder slide show! John's program will feature his new book *The Mountain Ranges of Colorado* to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

**Conservation and ExCom Meetings 6:30pm**

**Tuesday, Sept. 14**

**Tuesday Oct. 19**

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

**Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:**

**Thursday, Sept. 16 7-9 pm**

**Oct: date TBD**

Beidleman Environmental Center  
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Under a Forest Service rules change proposed by the Bush Administration, 58.5 million acres of our pristine national forests, including 4.4 million acres in Colorado, will be opened to commercial logging and road-building. The Roadless Rule, a landmark conservation initiative enacted in 2001, currently protects 58.5 million acres of roadless areas in our national forests from most logging and road-building. The rule was developed over three years of public hearings and scientific analyses. To date more than 2.5 million Americans have commented on the original rule, with 95 percent supporting the strongest wild forest protections. In Colorado, 36,000 individuals commented on the Roadless Rule, and, again, more than 90% were favorable.

Yet the Bush Administration has proposed changes to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule that would completely undermine protections for our last wild forests. This proposal establishes a convoluted process to "conserve" roadless areas which actually removes all protected areas under the Roadless Rule unless a state governor petitions the US Department of Agriculture within 18 months to keep individual parcels protected. Even then, a state's petition would be subject to a Forest Service veto. In many cases, individual states may be pressured to accom-

modate timber, oil and gas interests rather than protect popular backcountry areas.

Colorado's roadless areas provide clean water for our communities, undisturbed wildlife habitat, and unparalleled recreation opportunities. Preserving these areas is critical to our quality of life. You can make a difference. Send the Forest Service your comment on the Roadless Rule changes. Written comments on the proposed rule may be sent by the following methods.

By mail to: Content Analysis Team  
ATTN: Roadless State Petitions  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 221090  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122

By fax to: (801) 517-1014

By e-mail to: [statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us)

**Comments must be received in writing by September 14, 2004.**

For more details on the proposed amendment to the Roadless Rule, please visit the Forest Service website: [roadless.fs.fed.us](http://roadless.fs.fed.us). For more on how you can help, visit [www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sw-co/](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sw-co/)

## Weston Peak Proposed Wilderness Area Profile

by Lorraine Streckfus, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition

The Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (CCWC), co-sponsored by Pikes Peak Group of Sierra Club, is promoting ten pristine roadless areas, known as the Wild Ten, for congressional wilderness designation. Weston Peak Roadless Area is one of the Wild Ten. A CCWC outing to the area took place in late August.

**Size and Location:** The Weston Peak Proposed Wilderness Area (WPPW) is in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest 20 miles southwest of Fairplay and 15 miles southeast of Leadville. Its approximately 21,500 acres lie in Park and Lake Counties north of Weston Pass Road, south of Mt. Sherman, and north of Buffalo Peaks Wilderness in the Mosquito Range.

**Wilderness Qualities:** WPPW has challenging alpine terrain with cirques and cliffs, and, except near Weston Pass road, the area is remote. Solitude can be found in the distant views and absence of visitors in the alpine areas. The area provides scenic vistas of South Park, the upper Arkansas Val-

ley, the Collegiate Peaks, and the mountains of the Mosquito and Park Ranges.

**Natural Features:** WPPW encompasses high peaks, ridges, and intervening valleys with upper elevations in the 12,000 ft. to 13,900 ft. range. Part of a series of peaks trending south to north from Weston Peak (13,572'), Ptarmigan Peak (13,739') and Horseshoe Mountain (13,898') define the west-central section of the area. Sheep and Lamb Mountains anchor the northwest corner at 12,518 ft. and 12,438 ft. To the east, the area drops into the forested edge of South Park at 10,000 feet. Bighorn sheep have their winter range in Weston Peak. Elk calve in the area. Weston Peak provides potential lynx habitat. Vegetation includes alpine tundra; aspen; spruce-fir; Lodgepole, Bristlecone, and Limber pine; and riparian wetlands.

For more information about this area or any of the Wild Ten, visit the CCWC website, [www.cccwilderness.org](http://www.cccwilderness.org).