

As another year draws to a close, I've begun my annual examination of the Pikes Peak Group and how we might be more effective in the community. We've had some successes. For example, our members helped elect pro-environment candidates around the state. I think it's safe to say that we can look forward to a more earth-friendly state legislature, governorship, and Congress.

We've also had some disappointments. For me, one of the biggest disappointments has

...Should we continue to have General Meetings?

been the low turnout at General Meetings. In January, the ExCom will be discussing ways to improve the turnout at our General Meetings – all options will be on the table, including moving the meeting date, changing the focus of the programs, and reducing the number of General Meetings we have each month.

Before we make any major changes to the General Meeting date, the ExCom would like to hear from you. Should we continue to have General Meetings? If so, what day of the week and time are best for a General Meeting? What programs are of most interest to you? Please e-mail your input to me ([jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com](mailto:jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com)), or to our Program Chair (who arranges the presenters for our meetings), LeAnna DeAngelo ([LeAnna.DeAngelo@Alumni.Pepperdine.edu](mailto:LeAnna.DeAngelo@Alumni.Pepperdine.edu)), or to any ExCom member.

*(Meetings Continued from page 1)*

**Tuesday, Feb 20** 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday, Mar 20** 6:30 pm

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."

**Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:**

**Thursday, Jan 11** potluck 6 pm, mtg 7-9 pm  
**Thursday, Feb 8** 7-9 pm  
**Thursday, Mar 8** 7-9 pm

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., Colorado Springs  
 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. For more information, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail [jorcstan@juno.com](mailto:jorcstan@juno.com)

**Timberlines Deadline: Saturday, Mar 10. Seriously. The editor is leaving for Spring Break.**

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One of the ways you can help our local group use our limited funds more effectively is by opting to receive the newsletter **electronically**. Simply send an email to [jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com](mailto:jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com) to get started!

**Backyard Wild Connections**

*by Jean C. Smith*

Imagine backpacking in a new Wilderness on the west side of Pikes Peak or on the east side where quiet uses such as hiking, birding, photography, and wildlife watching are the order of the day. Or perhaps you'd like to go on horseback or on foot into the proposed Wildernesses at Puma Hills and Thirtynine Mile Mountain overlooking South Park. Or from Stanley Canyon or Blodgett Peak quiet use areas, you might see Colorado Springs, but you wouldn't meet ATVs or motorcycles on the trails.

*The Wild Connections Conservation Plan (WCCP)*, created out of ten years of citizen's work, is a science-based management scenario for the Pike and San Isabel Forest plan revision. Members of Pikes Peak Group were part of this effort that was coordinated by Upper Arkansas and South Platte Pro-

**Choking on Growth II: Our Misguided Quest for Prosperity**

If you missed Sierra Club's November meeting you may attend an encore presentation on February 6 at Renaissance Academy: Local filmmaker and sustainability advocate Dave Gardner provides a sneak-preview of scenes from a documentary he's producing about sustainability. He'll explain why Colorado's Front Range is the perfect poster-child for the film, and will discuss how public policy and attitudes impact the sustainability of a region's population.

Tuesday Forum: Each Tuesday night, from 6:30-8, Renaissance Academy hosts speakers, presenters, slide shows, and interesting people that share their expertise on a variety of topics, from education to ecology, wildlife to recreation. Please join us at the school!

2760 Fieldstone Road 80919. Tuesday 2/6 6:30-8

For more information contact [dave@growthbusters.com](mailto:dave@growthbusters.com)

Original blurb for Dave's talk: Global warming, fish unsafe to eat, shrinking water supplies, species extinction, dismal air quality even in our national parks. These are just a few of the signs we're living beyond the carrying capacity of spaceship Earth. Local filmmaker Dave Gardner decided recycling and conserving just weren't enough, so he is producing a documentary that examines what he feels is the root cause of our consuming and polluting ways. Politicians promise economic growth and job creation, yet these are difficult to achieve without increasing levels of population and consumption. Is our prosperity strategy unsustainable? Dave promises we'll be the first to get a sneak preview of excerpts from the film – at our November 14 General Meeting. Come hear Dave's theories about economic growth, and participate in an interactive session to help guide distribution and marketing plans for the documentary.

Dave Gardner is a Colorado Springs native who's taken an interest in local sustainability issues since returning to the Pikes Peak region in 1993. His interest led him to found SaveTheSprings ([www.savethesprings.org](http://www.savethesprings.org)), a local grass roots organization promoting sustainability and quality of life in the Pikes Peak region. Dave has been an outspoken critic of local economic and land development policies he feels ignore the carrying capacity of our state. You may have read some of Dave's many editorial pieces published in local papers, heard his guest commentary on KRCC's Western Skies, or read his name in local news coverage of growth issues. Dave welcomes your input: [dave@visions-west.net](mailto:dave@visions-west.net)

ject. Now is your chance to let the Forest Service know how you want the Pike San Isabel managed over the next 15-20 years. They are holding a public collaboration meeting in Colorado Springs on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at La Forest Conference Center, 6245 Shoup Rd.

*Wild Connections* has two main goals: 1) protect biodiversity; and 2) promote sustainable uses of the forest. Some of the key features of the WCCP are:

- ◆ Protect and restore biodiversity;
- ◆ Protect important biological sites.

- ◆ Ensure that the forest provides for the needs of large, far ranging animals.
- ◆ Balance representation of ecosystems in protected areas by including lower elevation types.

Preserve large expanses of roadless land in a network of protected core areas connected by wildlife linkages:

- ◆ Upgrade management of 446,700 acres of the nine designated Wildernesses.

*(Continued on page 4)*