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TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

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The "NAFTA Superhighway" Shifting into High Gear

by Heather Preston, TimberLines Editor

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. For directions, call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045.

No July General Meeting. See you in September.

No August General Meeting. See you in September.

Tuesday, Sept. 12 7 pm
Health researcher and writer LeAnna DeAngelo, PhD, author of *Germes on Our Mind: The Psychology of Contagion* will speak on "Conservation Psychology: How to Avoid Nature Deficit Disorder."

Conservation and ExCom Meetings

Tuesday, July 18 6:30 pm
Tuesday, Aug 15 6:30 pm
Tuesday, Sept 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.

Timberlines Deadline:
September 23

Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., COS

Thursday, Sept 14 7-9pm
Take action to promote and protect wildlands in our region. The work of CCWC involves exploring and re-

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Rather quietly, considering the potential ecological impact, the plan to build a huge (10-to-12 lanes) NAFTA Superhighway from Laredo, TX through Kansas City, MO and north to Duluth, MN then across the border to Canada has been advancing this year. The route is planned to run along what is now Interstate 35, with spurs to other locations such as Winnipeg, and feeder highways from Mexican ports such as Manzanillo (trade partnership agreement signed with Kansas City January 2005) and Lazaro Cardenas (signed March 2005).

The Trans-Texas Corridor's TTC35 Project is to be the first implementation of the projected north-south transcontinental shipping corridor. The TxDOT's 4,000-page environmental impact statement has been completed and final approval and the start of construction is expected by the summer of 2007. Public comment is invited from July 10, 2006 to August 10, 2006. For more information, see the website: www.keeptexasmoving.com/projects/ttc35. Funding for TTC35 will be provided by Cintra Concessions de Infraestructuras de Transporte, S.A. of

Spain. As a consequence, the TTC will be privately operated, leased to the Cintra consortium to be operated as a toll-road. Interestingly, the environmental impacts are only being considered on a segment-by-segment basis, despite the ultimate rapid connectivity envisioned for the entire route.

The expanded road is envisioned as allowing containers from the Far East to enter the United States through the Mexican port of Lazaro Cardenas. The Mexican trucks carrying the goods may be equipped with FAST technology to prevent bottlenecks at the border crossings, and checked electronically by the new "SENTRI" system. The first customs stop will be a Mexican customs office in Kansas City, sponsored by the Kansas City SmartPort business consortium. The facility will be staffed by the Mexican government, but as an incentive, it is being paid for (US \$3 million) by the taxpayers in Kansas City. This will be called the Kansas City Customs Port (see <http://cityclerk.kcmo.org/LiveWeb> and type Customs Port into the search feature).

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Party — A Celebration of the Browns Canyon Wilderness

Come join friends of wild Colorado in celebrating Browns Canyon, potentially the nation's newest designated wilderness. Experience a Browns slideshow. Enjoy finger food and drink. Hear the story of a wilderness designation. Join Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Thursday, August 3 at 6 pm at the Pond House of the Glen Pond Apartments, 1714 Lorraine in Colorado Springs, one mile south on Tejon St. from I-25, just off Cheyenne Blvd. A donation of \$6 is requested to cover food and drink. Space is limited, so please RSVP to John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@juno.com. Have fun, go wild!

Profile: Salt Creek Proposed Wilderness

John Stansfield, Vice Chair

The Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (CCWC), co-sponsored by the Pikes Peak Sierra Club, is promoting ten pristine roadless areas, known as the Wild Ten, for congressional wilderness designation. Salt Creek area is part of the Wild Ten (as a proposed addition to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness). The groups jointly sponsored a dayhike and an overnight backpack to Salt Creek on June 3 and 4.

The 6,900-acre Salt Creek proposed wilderness addition is located southeast and directly adjacent to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Salt Creek ranges from almost 11,000 feet at the border of the Buffalo Creek Wilderness down to about 9,000 feet in the northeast. These lower elevations with open meadows are

particularly important for wildlife. Easy access from US Hwy 285 and gentle mountain terrain provide ample backcountry recreation opportunities.

Aspen woodlands, colorful in the fall, on the west transition to areas of limber and bristlecone pine, Douglas fir, mountain grassland, and ponderosa pine toward the east. This varied vegetation, along with Salt Creek's riparian areas, provide a great diversity of habitat for bear, mountain lion, elk, mule deer, occasional pronghorn or bighorn sheep, and various bird species. With adjacent proposed Research Natural Areas, a State Land Board Stewardship Trust parcel, and a State Wildlife Area, the effective habitat of the area is expanded beyond the wilderness boundary.