



E-News from The Colorado Mountain Club's Conservation Department

July 16, 2008

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Draft 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Released for Public Review

Colorado State Parks has released their Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2008. This plan is a requirement for Colorado to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Fund allocations, which helps to support the State Trails matching grants program. Since 1965, more than 1,100 grants totaling \$58 million have made a significant contribution to maintaining trails and recreation facilities throughout the state. Many of the trails that we, as CMC members, enjoy have been maintained through these funds. Bryan Martin, CMC's Assistant Director of Conservation, was a member of the 2008 SCORP Steering Committee. The 2008 SCORP assesses statewide outdoor recreation issues and outlines a strategic plan to meet the various issues affecting outdoor recreation. The SCORP also evaluates supply and demand for Colorado's outdoor recreation resources, including public lands, open spaces, trails, and other recreation facilities. Take a moment to look at the draft SCORP and learn about how you can provide comments at: <http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/LWCF/SCORPplan/>.



Sign the Citizen's Petition to Protect the Roan Plateau

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has officially announced their intention to put all 55,000 acres of the public lands atop of the Roan Plateau on the auction block at their August 14th oil and gas lease sale. From now until July 30th, citizens have a critical opportunity to submit a formal protest of this decision, respectfully requesting that the BLM pull the Roan Plateau parcels from their upcoming lease sale. As citizens of the United States, we have a stake in the economic and environmental impacts of drilling the Roan Plateau and a desire to maintain the Roan's wildlife habitat, rugged landscape and recreational opportunities. Help with this effort by **signing the petition electronically**.

Conservation Director on Sabbatical to Alaska

The CMC's Conservation Director, Clare Bastable, left in early July for a two month sabbatical. Clare has been the Conservation Director for the Colorado Mountain Club since 2006, after working for 5 years as the Club's West Slope Conservation Coordinator. Clare has worked extensively on protecting the **Roan Plateau**, and in 2005, she was named as the Colorado Wildlife Federation's Conservationist of the Year. On this short sabbatical, Clare is planning to drive from Colorado to Alaska, where she is excited about skiing and enjoying over 20 hours of sunlight! If you have any questions for the Conservation Department, please contact Bryan Martin, Assistant Director of Conservation, at bryanmartin@cmc.org or 303-996-2768 or Anya Byers, Recreation Planning Coordinator, at anyabyers@cmc.org or 303-996-2754.

Campgrounds Still Closed Due to Snow and Bark Beetles

Though the popular 4th of July weekend heralded the start of the summer camping season, 17 campgrounds and picnic areas on the Arapaho and Roosevelt, Medicine Bow and Routt, and White River National Forests remain closed all summer. While 8 of these are the result of heavy snow that has yet to melt at high elevations, the remainder, along with an additional 14 sites that are delayed in opening, are the result of safety hazards posed by trees killed by mountain pine beetles. While the Forest Service has hired contractors to spray some high-valued trees around campgrounds to prevent pine beetles from attacking them, it is too late to save many other trees. These trees are being removed because they can fall at any time. The Forest Service provides information about the status of campgrounds at:

www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/camping/campgroundlist

To read about this and other conservation news from around the state, visit:

<http://www.cmc.org/conservation/press.aspx>

Spotlight on Wilderness

Dominguez-Escalante Wilderness Legislation Up for Consideration

The US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has announced that on Wednesday, July 16, the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests will consider S. 2354, to establish the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area in Colorado. The National Conservation Area (NCA) would be managed for a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The Dominguez Canyons Wilderness, a gorgeous red-walled canyon system which supports a variety of wildlife, serves as a major tributary of the Gunnison River, and offers opportunities for over 30 miles of exploration along winding canyon bottoms, will be located within the NCA. For more information, please visit [Colorado's Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal](#) web site and the [press release from the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#).

Come hiking in the Hidden Gems Proposed Wilderness Areas!

The Colorado Mountain Club and conservation partners are offering fun hikes every week in July and August in the White River National Forest, where we are working to secure wilderness designation for landscapes across the forest, known collectively as the Hidden Gems Proposed Wilderness Areas. Please go to www.whiteriverwild.org for information on our Hidden Gems Campaign, as well as details on each of the hikes being offered. You may also contact Anya at 303-996-2754 or anyabyers@cmc.org for information about the hikes.

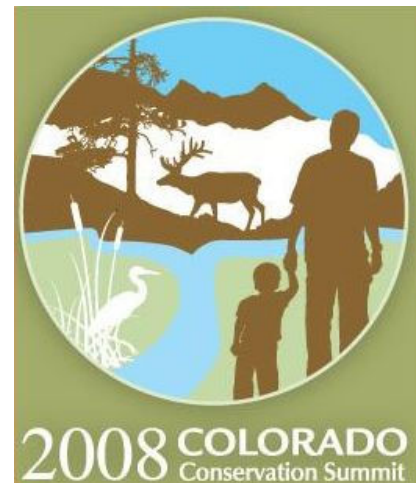


Treasure Mountain, one of the proposed Hidden Gems Wilderness Areas
Photo by Glenn Randall - www.glennrandall.com

Upcoming Events

Save the date for the Colorado Conservation Summit!!!

You are invited to Colorado's ground-breaking Conservation Summit this October 6-8th in Keystone, Colorado. Over 50 organizations from across the state, including the CMC, will participate in a statewide summit geared toward identifying the lasting strategies, partnerships, and policies that will sustain Colorado's natural resources for future generations. Please save this date and plan to attend the conference which will include a keynote address by the Governor and participation of hundreds of citizens, professionals, and academics. Room rates are only reserved until mid-August. For information about the agenda, speakers and registration, please visit www.conservationssummit.org.



Want to Volunteer? Check out VOutdoors

Are you skipping trips to the mountains because you are feeling pinched by rising gas prices? Many volunteer-based organizations around Colorado are suffering from high cancellation rates on trail building and other projects. Help reverse this trend by requesting to carpool to a volunteer project. You can enjoy a weekend in the mountains guilt-free!

You can find and register for projects on VOutdoors, a resource for outdoor volunteer projects and trail leader training opportunities around Colorado!

Do Your Part for Colorado Conservation: Donate Online

Please help The Colorado Mountain Club by providing critical support to protect Colorado's wild places. You can now **securely donate online** with your credit card. Consider our electronic funds transfer (EFT) option and give a little or a lot each month, or just give a one-time gift. Every bit helps. Of course, you will also receive a tax deduction as the CMC is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Call Doug at 303-996-2752 if you need assistance or have any questions.

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