



What can you do? Take Action Now!

Campaigns to designate more Wildernesses across Colorado are unending—it seems there is never enough. Is Wilderness designation of these areas in the best interest of the land, its resources, and the people of Colorado? We believe the answer is a resounding NO! The true gems have already been protected over the past 40+ years and the remaining public lands are better off being actively managed.

Since only the United States Congress can officially designate new Wilderness areas on federal lands, it is important for you to contact your Senators and Congressional Representative to let them know how you feel about more Wildernesses in Colorado. Wilderness is simply not the best way to manage these federal lands!

Senator Wayne Allard (R)	http://allard.senate.gov/
Senator Ken Salazar (D)	http://salazar.senate.gov/
Representative Diana DeGette (D-01)	http://degette.house.gov/
Representative Mark Udall (D-02)	http://markudall.house.gov/hor/co02
Representative John Salazar (D-03)	http://www.house.gov/salazar/
Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-04)	http://musgrave.house.gov/
Representative Doug Lamborn (R-05)	http://lamborn.house.gov/
Representative Tom Tancredo (R-06)	http://tancredo.house.gov/
Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-07)	http://perlmutter.house.gov/

Or call your local Congressional Offices whose numbers are available in your local phone book.

For more information contact the

Colorado Snowmobile Association at

www.coloradosledcity.com



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And Does Colorado Need Anymore?

What (Really) is Wilderness and Does Colorado Need More?
A multitude of coalitions are at work attempting to designate over a hundred more Wilderness areas in Colorado. If all are successful, nearly half of Colorado's federal lands—including over 70% of Forest Service lands and nearly 20% of BLM lands—would become unavailable for many recreational and economic uses. Colorado already boasts over 3.4 million acres of Wilderness areas—slightly over 5% of the state. The numerous coalition proposals would collectively add another 8.4 million acres (an increase of nearly 250%) and result in 18% of Colorado being off-limits to multiple uses and production for a healthy economy.

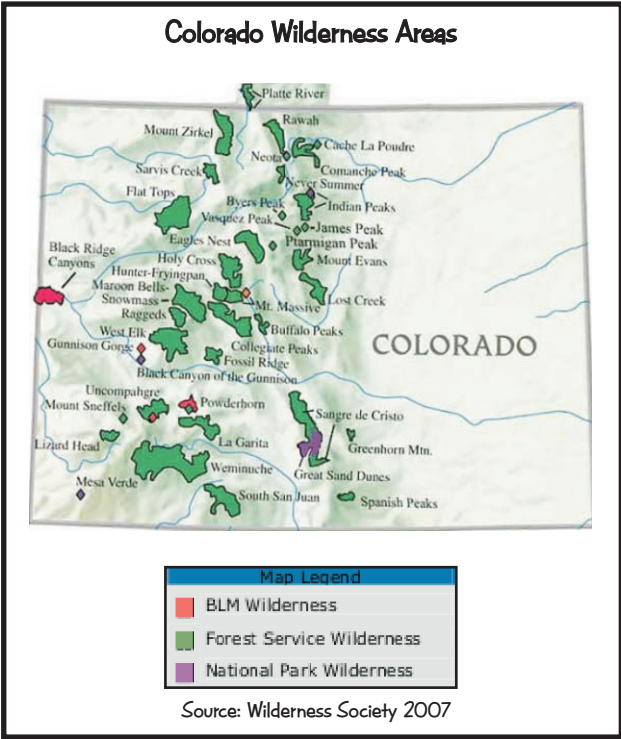
We believe Colorado already has enough Wildernesses to ensure that our state's truly wild and spectacular places are forever protected. More Wilderness would simply be too much and come at too high of a price for Colorado.

- What is Wilderness:**
- As defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act, Wilderness is undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence. The natural forces prevail, without man's interference. Man is a visitor who doesn't remain and his works are substantially unnoticeable. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
 - The Wilderness Act prohibits commercial enterprises, structures, roads, motorized equipment (vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, chainsaws, etc.), and mechanized transportation (bicycles, baby strollers, hand carts, etc.). There is a mechanized-use exception for wheelchairs that are a 'medically prescribed form of transportation also suitable for indoor use.'
 - The main focus of wilderness management is perpetuation of its wilderness character. Wilderness is a place where the natural forces prevail and fire is among those forces.

- What Wilderness is not:**
- Wilderness is not for most types of recreation. While a limited amount of recreation can take place there, only the most primitive kind (backcountry skiing, hiking, equestrian, etc.) is allowed and even that can be heavily regulated to prevent 'over use' of the area by recreationists.
 - Wilderness is not managed for wildlife, stable ecosystems, or rare and endangered species. Nature rolls the dice. Species come and go. Fires may destroy old growth habitat and landslides or siltation from flash floods may ruin aquatic habitat and threaten watersheds. While Wilderness provides habitat for wildlife, it can't be managed to benefit any species.
 - Wilderness designation does not assure things will stay as they are. The land and living things it supports are dynamic, in constant flux.
 - Wilderness designation does not insulate it from outside influences. Exotic plants invade and displace native species. Urban air influences nearby wildernesses. Passing aircraft produce sounds of the modern world.
 - Wilderness does not necessarily confine its natural processes within its borders. Insect and disease outbreaks can escape into surrounding lands. The same is true of fires. Smoke from wilderness fires can blanket entire regions for months, making the air barely breathable and devastating tourism.

- What makes an area suitable for consideration as a new Wilderness area?**
- Is the area 5,000 acres in size or larger or is it a roadless island?
 - Does the area generally appear to be natural and is human presence relatively unnoticeable?
 - Does the area offer the opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreational activities?
 - Does it provide opportunities for solitude?
 - Does the area contain features of ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical significance?

Since the Wilderness Act has been in effect for over 43 years, and 41 areas comprising over 3.4 million acres have already been preserved in Colorado, the true intent of Congress has already been accomplished and the true Wilderness gems are already on the shelf. Therefore the majority of “new” areas being promoted are NOT suitable for Wilderness designation by Congress. This is illustrated by Wilderness Campaign information that touts “Help us bring wilderness down from the peaks to our backyard.” and “Help us bring wilderness home.” True Wilderness, with its emphasis on solitude, is not intended to be someone’s backyard or close to home.



Colorado Wilderness Statistics - 2007

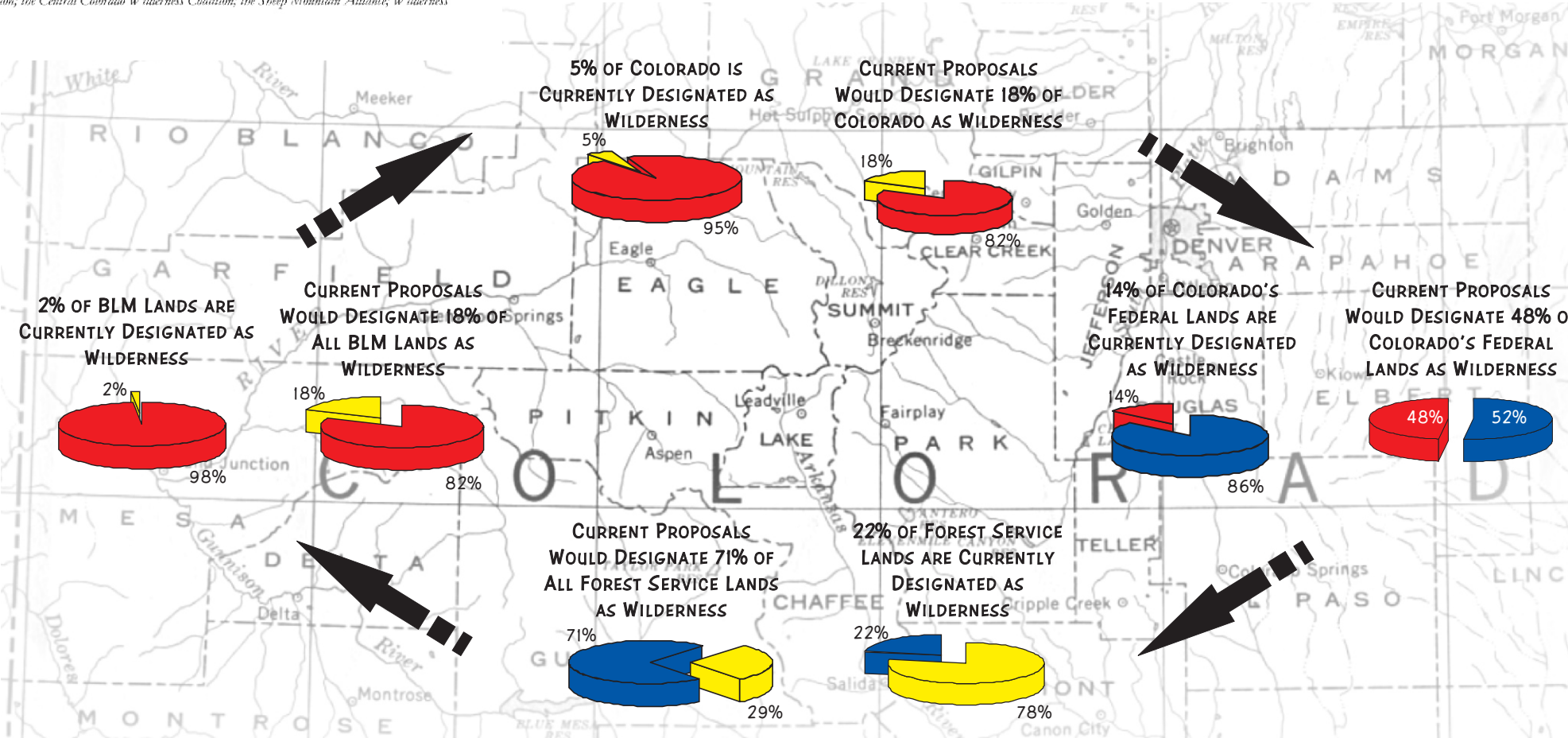
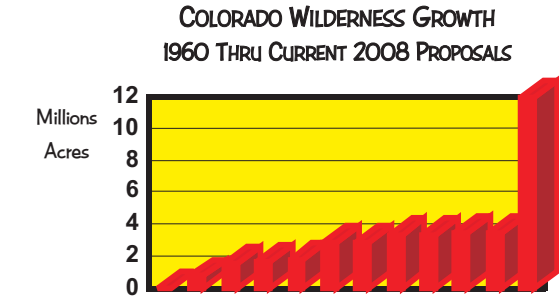
	Total Acres of Land	Current Wilderness Acres	Current Number of Wilderness Areas	Current Percent of Acres	Additional Wilderness Acres Proposed* and (Total)	Proposed * Number of Additional New Areas and (Total)	Proposed* Percent of Total Acres and (% Increase)
State of Colorado	66,621,311	3,431,176	41	5.15%	8,462,445 (11,893,621)	84 (125)	17.85% (+246.63%)
All Federal Lands in Colorado	24,817,058	3,431,176	41	13.83%	8,462,445 (11,893,621)	84 (125)	47.93% (+246.63%)
National Forests	14,417,554	3,191,484	36	21.80%	7,088,077 (10,279,561)	22 (58)	71.30% (+222.09%)
BLM	8,333,175	147,906	4	1.77%	1,374,368 (1,522,274)	62 (66)	18.27% (+929.22%)

** Note: Additional Wilderness Acres Proposed includes new areas being proposed by the Colorado Wilderness Network / Colorado Environmental Coalition, Colorado Mountain Club, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and Western Colorado Congress; the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2007 sponsored by U.S. Representative Diana DeGette (also known as the Colorado Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal); the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign / White River Wilderness Coalition; the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition; the Sheep Mountain Alliance; Wilderness Workshops, and other local and regional organizations across Colorado.*

What are the real choices?

Coalitions promoting more designated Wilderness often portray that we have only two alternatives: Wilderness or unregulated use and development of these lands. This simply is not true since there are a vast number of management alternatives available between these extremes to help sustain these resources for future generations. Scores of laws and regulations are in place to protect federal lands and all management actions affecting these lands must pass high standards of environmental protection and public review.

When federal lands are NOT designated as Wilderness, agencies' hands are left un-tied and allow them access to a full toolbox of management options that Wilderness designation denies them. They can enhance endangered species habitat and actively protect it, as well as actively manage to benefit wildlife. They can prescribe and ignite fires needed for fuel management, thin dense stands of trees, and salvage dead trees. They can actively manage watersheds that supply water to many Colorado communities. They can actively manage for a wide variety of recreational experiences. And they can help promote a diversified and healthy Colorado economy.



The Proposed Wilderness Area Additions

Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition:
101,700 acres in five areas on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; an additional six areas totaling 174,800 acres are also included in the CCCWP mentioned below.

Colorado Wilderness Network:
A) 1,674,368 acres primarily on BLM lands (approx. 300,000 acres on USFS); this is packaged as the Colorado Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal (CCCWP) and is contained in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2007 sponsored by U.S. Representative Diana DeGette.
B) Over 6 million additional acres across Colorado's national forests.

Sheep Mountain Alliance:
16,377 acres for the Mount Sneffels Wilderness Area expansion in the Uncompahgre National Forest.

White River Wilderness Coalition:
670,000 acres; primarily in the White River National Forest with a small amount overlapping onto adjacent BLM lands. This is packaged as the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign. It is important to note that the U.S. Forest Service has recommended just 82,000 acres for additional Wilderness designation because “too much wilderness might take away ‘semi-primitive wilderness,’ the area between pristine forest and towns.”