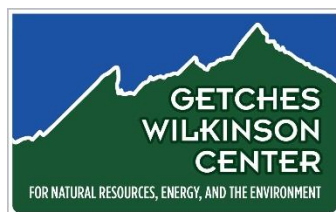




Celebrating the Great Law: The Wilderness Act at 50

A gathering hosted by the Getches-Wilkinson Center & The Wilderness Society
September 4 & 5, 2014
Wolf Law Building, Boulder, CO



Introduction

On September 3, 2014, the National Wilderness Preservation System—established and protected by the Wilderness Act of 1964—celebrates its 50th anniversary. We are gathering on September 4th and 5th to celebrate Wilderness—“ornery old wilderness, scratchy, sweaty, and distant, but sacred every step of the way”—and to commemorate the great law so central to its protection.

This is not an ordinary conference, full of dry presentations or heated policy debates. Instead, this will be a full-throated love song to wild country. We have brought together some of the most inspiring, insightful, and compelling Wilderness luminaries: writers, storytellers, advocates, historians, educators, photographers, and other admirers. The most important invitee of all will be the public—those who make wilderness an important part of their lives, and those who simply take comfort in its existence.

Our goal will be to tell the story of the Wilderness movement over the course of the last 50 years, to rearticulate the ethos of the Wilderness community in light of that history, and to take a short moment to reflect on and appreciate the progress that has been made. On Thursday evening, we begin with a Wilderness talk and slide show by nationally-renowned landscape photographer John Fielder. On Friday, the celebration continues with a series of talks, vignettes, panels, readings, and poems. We’ll hear from some of the early activists who helped to found the Wilderness movement, and from some of the young people who will carry it forward.

In the end, we hope to leave with a fresh appreciation for the Wilderness and the great law enacted to protect it, and a renewed determination to continue to fight to preserve and enhance one of our most precious and sacred assets.



Thursday, September 4th

5:30-6:00 p.m.

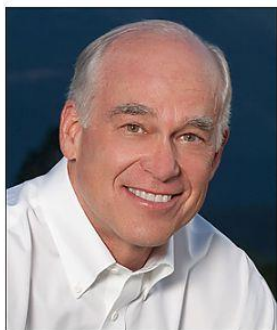
Registration, John Fielder book sales and signing

6:00-6:15 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

6:15-7:30 p.m.

"A Celebration of 50 Years of Colorado Wilderness"



John Fielder

John Fielder has been capturing the beauty of Colorado for 40 years. From majestic sunrises over the Rockies to colorful Colorado wildflowers bordering alpine lakes, his photos portray Colorado in all its glory.



7:30-8:30 p.m.

Wilderness Celebration Reception

Wolf Law Building, Boettcher Hall



Friday, September 5th

9:00-9:05

Welcome



Britt Banks

Britt Banks is Executive Director of the Getches-Wilkinson Center at the University of Colorado Law School. He also currently serves as vice-chair of the Global Council on the Future of Mining and Metals at the World Economic Forum, and as chair of the Independent Expert Review Panel at the International Council on Mining & Metals.

9:05-9:15

Event Introduction



Jamie Williams

President Jamie Williams joined The Wilderness Society in 2012. Jamie leads The Wilderness Society in its mission to inspire Americans to care for our wild places.

9:15-9:30

"The Wilderness Act of 1964: The Right to Experience, the Responsibility to Protect"

Young Voices for Wilderness: Truman Anarella and Ben Kelley



Truman Anarella is a student at South Routt Middle School in Oak Creek, Colorado. A backcountry enthusiast, Truman enjoys camping, hiking and river rafting. Ben Kelley was born and raised in Routt County. He is a student at Soroco High School and is an avid Wilderness user and enthusiast. Like Truman, he enjoys hiking and camping. After taking 1st place in the Regional and State competition, the boys competed nationally with their National History Day documentary on the Wilderness Act.

9:30-9:45

Host for the Day



Charles Wilkinson

A former member of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society, Charles Wilkinson is Distinguished Professor and Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado Law School. Over the years he has authored many books, including *The Eagle Bird*, *Crossing the Next Meridian*, and *Blood Struggle*, on law, history, and land in the American West

9:45-9:50

Poem



Justice Gregory J. Hobbs Jr.

Appointed by Governor Roy Romer to the Colorado Supreme Court on April 18, 1996, Justice Hobbs is a former Adjunct Professor, Environmental Law, Master's Program in Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver. He is a leading authority on Colorado water law and loves the wild country of the Southwest.

9:50-10:20

Morning Keynote



Rick Bass

Rick Bass is a beloved American writer and broadly successful Environmental activist. Rick serves on the board of both the Yaak Valley Forest Council and Round River Conservation Studies, and continues to give readings, write, and teach around the country and world.

10:20-10:25

Reading: Henry David Thoreau, "Walking"

10:25-10:50

Break; refreshment available in Boettcher Hall

10:50-10:55

Reading: Aldo Leopold, "The Living Wilderness"

10:55-11:10



Daniel Cordalis

Daniel Cordalis completed his JD degree at CU-Boulder and now is enrolled as a candidate for a PhD in Environmental Sciences. A member of the Navajo Nation, Daniel is primarily working on water policy and how Indian tribes can ensure their proper allocation of the resource, but also is interested generally in promoting Indian policy and initiatives on the national level.

11:10-11:15

Reading: John Muir, "Wind-Storm in the Forest"

11:15-12:00

Panel: The History of Wilderness Activism

Moderator



Melyssa Watson

Melyssa Watson is the Vice President for Conservation at The Wilderness Society. Melyssa came to The Wilderness Society in 1999 and co-founded the Wilderness Support Center working to build and lead grassroots wilderness campaigns across the country.

Panel



Maggie Fox

Maggie L. Fox is a veteran of numerous political, environmental and national issue campaigns and has over 30 years of experience mobilizing people to work for progressive change. Maggie currently serves as the President and CEO of The Climate Reality Project, formerly known as the Alliance for Climate Protection.



Connie Harvey

Connie Harvey founded the Aspen Wilderness Workshop and has led efforts to protect wilderness areas in Colorado and around the West. She continues to oversee a Pitkin County Colorado cattle ranch, write a monthly environmental column for the Aspen Daily News, and contribute regularly to *Writers on the Range*, a service of *High Country News*.



Doug Scott

Doug Scott has devoted his career to Wilderness, having worked for The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, and the Campaign for America's Wilderness. Doug helped pass many wilderness bills, including the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act (1975) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, 1980), as well as Alpine Lakes Wilderness in his home state of Washington.

12:00-1:00

Lunch: Served in the Wolf Law Cafeteria, 2nd floor-West end

1:00-1:05

Reading: Terry Tempest Williams, "Testimony"

1:05-1:35

Mid-afternoon Keynote



William deBuys

William deBuys is the author of seven books, including the just published *A Great Aridness*, *River of Traps* (a Pulitzer Prize finalist), and *The Walk* (an excerpt from which won a Pushcart Prize). He has long been involved in environmental affairs in the Southwest, including service as founding chairman of the Valles Caldera Trust, which administers the 89,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico

1:35-1:40

Reading: Wallace Stegner, "The Sound of Western Water"

1:40-2:20

Panel: The Future of Wilderness Activism

Moderated by: Britt Banks, The Getches-Wilkinson Center (see "Welcome")

Panel



Michael Casaus

Michael Casaus is the New Mexico Director of The Wilderness Society and has been an environmental advocate, community organizer, and scientific researcher. Michael champions diversity in the conservation movement and has worked successfully with an array of stakeholders in the successful efforts to establish the 242,500-acre Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in 2013 and the 496,330-acre Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in 2014.



Julia Guarino

Julia Guarino came West after college, fell in love with the wilderness, and is never going back. She is a 2013 graduate of University of Colorado Law School and currently serves as a Getches-Wyss Fellow with the Center, and plans to spend her career working for conservation and environmental justice in underprivileged communities.



Soren Jespersen

Soren Jespersen works as a Planning and Policy Associate for The Wilderness Society in Craig, Colorado. Soren has led efforts across the country to inventory wilderness landscapes and to work with local stakeholders across Colorado on conservation efforts. He lives in Steamboat Springs, Colorado with his wife and daughter.

2:20-2:25

Reading: Edward Abbey, "Desert Solitaire"

2:25-2:40



Paul Sutter

Professor Paul Sutter teaches Modern U.S. History and Environmental History at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is the author of *Driven Wild: How the Fight against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement* (2002) and *The Art of Managing Longleaf: A Personal History of the Stoddard Neel Approach* (with Leon Neel and Albert Way, 2010), and he is the editor of *Environmental History and the American South: A Reader* (with Christopher Manganiello, 2009).

2:40-2:45

Poem: Justice Gregory J. Hobbs Jr.

2:45-3:00



Karin Sheldon

Karin Sheldon is one of the nation's leaders in federal public land law and water law and policy. Formerly, Ms. Sheldon was President of The Wilderness Society, President of Western Resource Advocates, and Director of the Environmental Law Center at Vermont Law School.

3:00-3:05

Reading: Billy Frank Jr., "Messages from Frank's Landing"

Closing Keynote



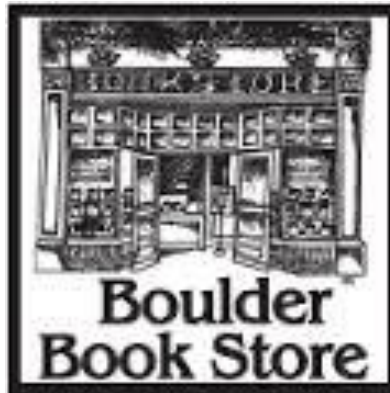
William Kittredge

William Kittredge became a major voice for the wild beauty and sadness of the West with his 1987 collection of essays, *Owning It All*, followed by many books, including his powerful memoir, *Hole in the Sky*, and his most recent effort, *The Nature of Generosity*. Bill grew up on an Oregon ranch and now resides in Montana.

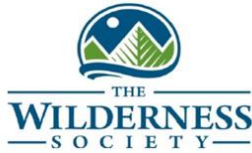
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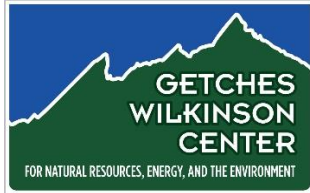
Event Hosts



The Wilderness Society is the leading American conservation organization working to protect our nation's shared wildlands. Since 1935, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect nearly 110 million acres of wilderness in 44 states. TWS has been at the forefront of nearly every major public lands victory. The Wilderness Society's mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. We contribute to better protection, stewardship and restoration of our public lands, preserving our rich natural legacy for current and future generations.



Established in 1892, the University of Colorado Law School is one of the top public law schools in the United States. Colorado Law School's diverse student body is selected from among the statistically best applicants from every corner of the nation representing over 100 undergraduate institutions, and its highly published faculty is dedicated to interacting with students both inside and outside the classroom. The school's state-of-the-art green building is located at the base of the Rocky Mountains in beautiful Boulder, Colorado. With about 500 students and a low student to faculty ratio, Colorado Law School is a thriving academic community where the study of law is embraced to create leaders who recognize the civic responsibilities essential to the legal profession.



The Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment continues the long-standing work of Colorado Law's Natural Resources Law Center. The newly renamed Center endeavors to serve the people of the American West, the nation, and the world through creative, interdisciplinary research, bold, inclusive teaching and innovative problem solving in order to further true sustainability for our use of the lands, waters, and environment. Major programs and initiatives focus on natural resources, water and public lands issues in Colorado and the West; energy and environmental security in the developing world; electricity regulation and energy policy; climate change law and policy; and native communities and environmental justice. The name comes from the contributions of two iconic figures in the law school's environmental law history, David Getches and Charles Wilkinson.