



## **BRON - Boulder Rights Of Nature**

*Establishing legal rights  
for naturally functioning ecosystems and native species  
in Boulder County and beyond*

### **Rights of Nature: What and Why**

- Rights of Nature is the legal recognition that humans are a part of, not apart from, the earth community. This movement embodies the principle that ecosystems and natural communities are not merely property to be owned, but are entities that have an independent *right to exist and flourish*.
- Rights of Nature honors the right of every member of the Earth community to fulfill, to its full potential, its role in the community of life.
- Rights of Nature does not eliminate property ownership, but seeks to eliminate the authority of a property owner to destroy, or cause substantial harm to, natural communities and ecosystems that exist and depend upon that property.
- Rights of Nature is important because:
  - The rate of extinction is increasing, with the speed of a ball rolling down a steep slope. In Boulder County, at-risk species include paper birches and northern harriers. Species extinction and environmental degradation threatens both our physical survival (our supplies of nourishing food, pure water, and clean air) and our spiritual well-being (the beauty of nature).
  - After more than 40 years, it is now clear that our national and state environmental laws have been ineffective in preventing this ecological crisis. We need a paradigm shift. Standing to enforce the rights of Nature must now be recognized in local communities.
  - Lifeless corporations have been declared juristic persons with constitutional rights. Organisms that live, die, and reproduce have a much greater moral claim to judicial standing than lifeless corporations.
- Laws that recognize the Rights of Nature have been adopted by countries and communities around the world, including more than two dozen communities in the U.S. The movement is growing rapidly. (For the latest developments, please see our website: [www.boulderrightsofnature.org](http://www.boulderrightsofnature.org) )