



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

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Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group August 2026



Jennifer Rhamy's July the 4th hike to Crane Lake on the Grand Mesa.

WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 7, "Mommas Don't Let Your Babies Grow up to Be Alpinists"



Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose featuring our WSG Marketing & Membership Chair, Tom Maceyka! Socializing: 4:30pm, Dinner/Potluck: 5pm, Annual Meeting: 6pm, Tom's Presentation: 6:30pm, Evening Conclusion: 7:30pm. Sign-ups will start this summer. Stay tuned!

Tom Maceyka grew up in Colorado. After doing his first 14er at age 12 with his dad, the experience propelled him on a life-time obsession of climbing rock, ice, alpinism, and mountaineering from Alaska to Peru, Nepal, Pakistan and many places in between. He will share serious and humorous times from his nearly 60 years in the pursuit of trying to always get better and emulate his heroes. The friendships that have been built and relied upon, have allowed Tom to continue enjoying the outdoors. The photo is of Tom leading a climb at Eldorado Canyon State Park.

Come join us for a fun-filled evening of trivia and giveaways!

We plan to sell our new CMC WSG t-shirts. If you're interested in pre-ordering one, send an email to WSGofCMC@gmail.com. See below for more info.



Welcome New Trip Leader Mark Main!

Mark has been a member of CMC for over 2 years and has been a participant on numerous hikes. He recently completed his leadership training requirements and is now looking forward to sharing some of his favorite Western Slope hikes with CMC members. Mark and his wife, Linda, live near the Colorado National Monument and can be found hiking there as part of their exercise routine, so don't be surprised to see a few hikes within the park in the future.

Welcome New Trip Leader Mike Murphy!

Mike Murphy is from Iowa and moved to the Western Slope in 2025. Since then, he has been exploring peaks and deserts in Colorado and Utah. He joined the CMC in 2026.



New CMC WSG T-shirts for Purchase!

We will be selling our new CMC WSG t-shirts at the November 7 WSG Annual Dinner. These will be printed locally at Scott's Printing in Montrose and the price is \$25 per shirt. If you would like to pre-order a t-shirt, please email WSGofCMC@gmail.com. The available sizes are S, M, L, XL.

Fall Colors, Carbondale Area, 9/25-27

Join us for a Fall Colors trip, September 25-27, based in Carbondale. See below for the scheduled hiking trips. A choice is to drive home after or do a hike on the 28th. As of mid-July, the [KOA campground](#) on the river, [Bogan Flats CG](#) by Marble and the [Redstone CG](#) have campsite reservations available. There is a nice [Comfort Inn in Carbondale](#) along with other choices. Details are on the [event sign-up page](#). There are only a few spots left. It would be prudent to get lodging/camping now. Trip leaders/planners are Jennifer Rhamy, Doug Hemken and Judy Mayne.





Fall Hiking Trip Organized by the Outings Committee, Moab Area, 10/22-25

Another fall hiking trip is planned for October 22-25, based in Moab. Details of the hikes are yet to be decided. There will be 2 hikes offered each day. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you would like to suggest something. Participants are expected to take part in hikes on Friday and Saturday, with shorter optional hikes offered on Thursday and Sunday. Book your own lodging or campsite now as October is peak season for tourism. There will be no group camp site. Suggestions are on the [sign-up page](#).

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

Who Benefits from Shrinking National Monuments?



1992 was the year I first drove through what was to become the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Discovering this great landscape changed the course of my life. I picked up a copy of Michael Kelsey's *Canyon Hiking Guide to the Colorado Plateau* and began ticking off classics such as Davis Gulch and Coyote Gulch. I went backpacking in Cedar Mesa, climbing in Indian Creek, and floating down the San Juan River in areas that were to become Bears Ears National Monument.

After years of intense debates and boundary changes, here we are again. The ugliest part of this move by the current administration to reduce these two national monuments by 3 million acres is the attempt at cultural erasure. Advocacy for the protection of these sacred landscapes and cultural resources began long before they became national monuments. But it was not until five tribal nations united over the Bears Ears landscape and requested permanent protection from President Obama that a national monument was created. Later, a co-management agreement was reached for Bears Ears where the tribal coalition would be involved in management, advising on the “way of life” on these lands.

The tribal nations were not consulted before the devastating reduction in size occurred last week.

places of worship.” Let’s pay attention to the tribal nations as they once again will lead the way forward.

2022 photo courtesy of the Bears Ears Tribal Coalition. On July 22, 2026, the tribal seals on Bears Ears NM signs were removed by the current administration.



Durango Area CMC Update

We're looking for Durango area volunteers to help plan activities (for which one does not have to be a leader) and we're also looking for trip leaders. Trip leader school is free and online!

Contact our Durango Area Chair, Dan King, at WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more info or to get involved!

Join us for hikes outside of Rico on [8/1](#) & [8/2](#)

Join us for hikes outside of Mancos on [8/15](#) & [8/29](#).

Hikes will be posted soon to Hesperus Peak, Mount Moss and Lavendar Peak so keep an eye on the WSG schedule!

Equipment that the WSG can Loan for CMC Trips

TRIP LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS: We now have these items available for loan for official CMC trips: 1 via ferrata lanyard, 2 climbing helmets (M & L), 2 Rocky Talkies (includes 2 chargers), 25' 7mm static rope (canyoneering). Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com to check them out for a CMC trip.

ALL CMC OUTINGS : [The CMC Trips List & Map](#)

GUESTS must create an account and sign a waiver before signing up for trips and may attend up to 2 trips.

If a trip is FULL, please sign up on the WAITLIST as participants may cancel!

TRIPS: All of our activities are in one place at [Western Slope Group Calendar](#)

Sunday, 7/26. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Crag Crest](#). Moderate. Mike Murphy.

Tuesday, 7/28. [Hiking – Ice Lake Basin TH - Island Lake](#). Challenging. Marsha Pritchard.

Saturday, 8/1. [Summit 2026 – Mt Eolus - Northeast Ridge](#). Challenging. Doug Hemken.

Saturday, 8/1. [Summit 2026 – Windom Peak - West Ridge Approach](#). Challenging. Danika Gilbert.

Sunday, 8/2. [Hiking – West Rico Trails: E/W Falls Creeks](#). Moderate. Anne Keil. Camping locally.

Thursday, 8/13. [Hiking – Red Mountain Pass - Red Mountain 3](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 8/15. [Hiking – Red Mountain Pass - Spirit Gulch Trail](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Saturday, 8/15. [Hiking – West Mancos River Loop](#). Easy. Dan King.

Saturday, 8/22. [Hiking – Washington Gulch #403 \(Crested Butte\)](#). Moderate. Mike Murphy. Camping locally.

Sunday, 8/23. [Hiking – Oh-Be-Joyful Trail \(Crested Butte\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil. Camping locally.

Saturday, 8/29. [Hiking – Centennial Peak](#). Moderate. Dan King.

9/4-7. [Camp – Vega State Park](#). Judy Mayne.

9/5-8. [Backpack – Ice Lake Basin Trailhead](#). Difficult. Boulder Group.

9/8-11. [Adventure Travel – In-State Outing](#). Near Princeton Hot Springs. Fee.

9/25-27. [WSG Fall Colors trip](#). (Carbondale) Book your own camping/hotel. See above.

Friday, 9/25. [Hiking – Storm King Memorial Mountain Trail](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". FULL. Challenging. Jennifer Rhamy.

Saturday, 9/26. [Hiking – American Lake Trail](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". FULL. Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Saturday, 9/26. [Hiking – Avalanche Creek](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Sunday, 9/27. [Hiking – Thomas Lakes](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Sunday, 9/27. [Hiking – Thomas Lakes - Mt. Sopris Trail](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". Challenging. Doug Hemken.

Sunday, 9/27. [Hiking – Cathedral Lake](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". Challenging. Claire McCullough.

Monday, 9/28. [Hiking – Capitol Ditch Trail](#). "WSG: Fall Colors trip". FULL. Moderate. Claire McCullough.

9/29-10/16. [Adventure Travel – Annapurna Basecamp](#). FULL. Fee.

10/22-25. [WSG Fall Canyons trip \(Moab\)](#). See above.

2/3-2/8/2027. [Adventure Travel – Yellowstone National Park](#). Fee.

2/14-2/22/2027. [Adventure Travel – Patagonia - Argentina](#). Fee.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 8/30, 12-2pm. [End of summer picnic at Ridgway Reservoir State Park](#). Join us at the Dallas Creek area at noon for lunch. Optional 10am put-in for a non-CMC kayak or SUP (bring your own).

Saturday, 11/7. SAVE THE DATE! Join us at the 2026 WSG ANNUAL DINNER at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. See above.

[CMC Schools & Classes Course Catalog](#): **For some classes and schools that are offered on the full CMC calendar (typically on the front range or via ZOOM), we can arrange field days on this side of the state, but we need a minimum number of participants between the various CMC groups. Please contact our **WSG Schools Chair, Daniel Glatter**, at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if something interests you.

[Trip Leader Training](#): **We are seeking trip leaders!** The free training consists of self paced online modules and one training hike plus Wilderness First Aid. Contact WSGofCMC@gmail.com or the WSG homepage for additional info.

[ATA and AIARE](#): Schedule for avalanche training, ATA courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

Western Slope Group Council

Chair, State Council Rep: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary, Annual Dinner Organizer: Jill Mattoon (Ouray)

Conservation Chair: Claire McCullough (Grand Junction)

Outings Chair: Doug Hemken (Delta)

Durango Area Chair: Dan King (Durango)

Marketing & Membership Chair: Tom Maceyka (Ridgway)

Schools Director: Daniel Glatter (Grand Junction)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). The currently scheduled WSG Council meetings are 9/10 & 11/16. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



Colorado Mountain Club
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Golden, CO 80401

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