



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

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Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group June 2026



WSG members giving Doug Hemken some kudos for leading a trip up Parriot Mesa in Utah. Photo taken by Charlie Winger.

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CMC 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards

Congratulations to two Western Slope Group Council members who were presented with awards at the CMC Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in Golden on May 8!!!

Anne Keil



Anne, our WSG Council Chair, was presented with the ["Blaurock 'Silver Piton' Volunteer of the Year Award"](#). This is a statewide award given to one CMC member each year. Former CMC President, Sherry Richardson, presented the reward to Anne: "When she arrived on the Western Slope in 2019, Anne stepped in with energy, vision, and determination—reviving outings, recruiting and mentoring new leaders, and rebuilding a sense of community across the region. Under her guidance, the group has grown from roughly 70 to more than 160 members, with the number of active trip leaders more than doubling."

Claire McCullough



Claire, our WSG Conservation Chair, was presented with the "Western Slope Conservation Connection" award. Claire has done an amazing job with her Conservation Corner articles in this newsletter. She keeps the group informed of local/state/federal issues that affect conservation and she has initiated several call-to-action efforts to engage CMC members. Claire has been involved with various conservation issues. She was an appointed member of the Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council – part of a 15-member council providing the BLM with recommendations on public land management issues. She participated in the field study of resource values of several BLM Wilderness Study Areas in the Grand Junction and Craig districts, providing citizen input to the BLM. She worked with a local rancher and an environmental group to reach an agreement that led to the legislative designation of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area.

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. There is a [KOA campground](#) on the river which may be full, but other campgrounds are in the area. As of mid-May, [Bogan Flats CG](#) by Marble and the [Redstone CG](#) had campsite reservations available. There is a nice [Comfort Inn in Carbondale](#) along with other choices. More details will be coming, but it would be prudent to [sign up for the multi-day event here](#) and to get lodging/camping now. Trip leaders/planners are Jennifer Rhamy, Doug Hemken and Judy Mayne.



Fall Hiking Trip Sponsored 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 options 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

Threats to Public Lands



The last few weeks have led to increasingly serious threats to public lands. Steve Pearce, aka "Sell-off Steve" has been confirmed by lawmakers to lead the BLM. Colorado alone has 8.3 million acres of BLM managed lands. To counter congressional backdoor attempts to sell off public lands, several senators including Michael Bennet have introduced the Public Lands Integrity Act.

Recently, the Public Lands Rule was repealed by the administration despite overwhelming public support. The rule was a powerful tool, placing wildlife habitat, clean water and restoration on equal footing with other "uses" such as extraction.

Photo credit: BLM managed Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area.

Stewardship Opportunities

Trail maintenance is at a 15-year low according to USFS reports. Look for four stewardship trips that will be posted on the CMC calendar. CMC will be working on the Square Top Lakes Trail on Guanella Pass. Trip dates will be July 11, July 25, August 8, and August 22. Also consider [signing an Outdoor Alliance message](#) calling on Congress to fund public lands.



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!

An Intro to Hiking Safety Course will be scheduled in Durango this spring...stay tuned!

[Join us on a hike in Durango area on Sunday, June 28.](#)

WSG Facebook Group

We have a private Facebook group called "CMC Western Slope Group". This group is available to post photos, announce last minute trips, trip reminders or activities. If you're interested, send a request in Facebook to join the group. This Facebook group is for CMC members only.

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.

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

Sunday, 5/31. [Hiking – Rim Trail \(Uncompaghre NF #122\)](#). [Social gathering after hike](#). FULL. Easy. Doug Hemken.

Monday, 6/1. [Via Ferrata – Ouray Via Ferrata - Downstream](#). FULL. Moderate. Brenda Leach.

6/8-12. [Mtn Bike – Galloping Goose Trail](#). FULL. Difficult. Denver Group.

Wednesday, 6/24. [Hiking – Gunnison Gorge NCA - West River Trail](#). Easy. Doug Hemken.

Sunday, 6/28. [Hiking – Engineer Mountain Trailhead - Coal Creek](#). FULL. Moderate. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 7/4. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Crane Lake](#). Social gathering at the Mesa Lakes Lodge afterwards at ~2:30pm. All are welcome whether on hike or not. Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Saturday, 7/4. [Scramble – Mount Sneffels - Southwest Ridge](#). Challenging. Denver Group.

7/11&12. [Hiking - Kings and South Kings Peak](#). Challenging. Denver Group.

July TBD. Lone Cone Peak. Difficult. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com if interested.

Saturday, 7/25. [Scramble-Mt Wilson- El Diente Traverse](#). Challenging. Denver group.

Sunday 8/2. TBD hike near Rico. Anne Keil. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com if interested.

8/10-14. [BPX Trip – Chicago Basin 14ers \(Sunlight, Eolus, North Eolus and Windom\)](#). FULL. Difficult. Backpacking Section.

8/18-21. Silver Jack CG Camping. All first come sites. Judy Mayne. Details upcoming.

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

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

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

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

Saturday, 9/26. [Hiking – American Lake Trail](#). For "WSG: Fall Colors trip" participants only. FULL. Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

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

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, 5/31. [May WSG Social](#) at Shelter Distilling in Montrose at 947 Mayfly Dr. Sign up for [the Rim Trail hike](#) before the social or show up at 2:30 pm.

Wednesday, 6/24. WSG TRIP LEADERS ONLY appreciation gathering in Delta, 12 pm. RSVP and lunch order by 6/17 to WSGNewsEditor@gmail.com or WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Details emailed to leaders on 4/15/26.

Saturday, 11/7. SAVE THE DATE! Join us at the 2026 WSG ANNUAL DINNER at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. Our featured speaker will be our WSG Marketing Chair, Tom Maceyka, with a subject of "Mommas, Don't Let Your Babies Grow up to Be Alpinists". Details to follow.

Interested in volunteering for the Ouray Trail Group? Also, check out their [volunteer activities from May through September](#).

[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 **new WSG Schools Chair, Daniel Glatte**, 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 Glatte (Grand Junction)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). The currently scheduled WSG Council meetings are 7/14, 9/10 & 11/?. 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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