



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group March 2026



The Western Slope Group enjoying a bluebird day snowshoeing up at the Mesa Lakes area. Photo by Charlie Winger. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)



WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Cedar Point Health, Montrose
May 2-3, 2026

2303 S TOWNSEND AVE, MONTROSE, CO 81401

The WFA course teaches students the skills to anticipate risks and hazards, identify medical, traumatic, environmental problems, recognize life-threatening issues, initiate basic care and deliver a cohesive report. The curriculum forces students to think

**LIMITED SPOTS
AVAILABLE**

Register at CMC.ORG:



curriculum forces students to think creatively, adapt to ever changing situations, and learn valuable leadership, decision making, and communication skills to use in the outdoors.



The WFA class is open to both CMC members (\$275) and non-CMC members (\$300). Trip leaders and aspiring trip leaders may qualify for a free scholarship by leading 6 trips in 2 years. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Conservation Corner

by **Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair**

A Briefing on Steve Pearce



Steve Pearce was nominated months ago to lead the BLM as its director. His confirmation hearing is finally about to take place as I write this. Steve Pearce is an oil and gas man, as well as a former New Mexico House member. His opinion is clear – all public lands should be drilled, sold off, or given away. And he believes that balanced management should be set aside (the long-established multiple use standard utilized in public land management plans).

The Wilderness Society recently held a webinar and focused on three main concerns. First, Steve Pearce's affection towards drilling and mining. He has made efforts to open more land to extraction and will continue to do so. He believes in exempting these activities from permitting regulations. Second, Steve Pearce has actively tried to undermine protected public lands by attacking the Antiquities Act and the Roadless Rule.

Third, Steve Pearce has a long history of attempting to sell off and dispose of public lands beginning in 2005. According to the Center for Western Priorities, "Sell Off Steve" has attempted to dispose of public lands seven times over the course of his career. His record speaks for itself. In 2006, Pearce introduced a bill to give local governments rights of way through any public lands ever owned by the United States. In 2008, he introduced a bill to nullify eight wilderness study areas in New Mexico. In 2011, Pearce embraced the extremist 'Constitutional

Sheriff' movement, which argues that the county is the highest law enforcement authority. In 2012, he vowed to reverse the trend of public land ownership. Also in 2012, Pearce proposed selling national public lands as part of a deficit reduction package. And in 2016, he co-sponsored the HEARD Act which would have authorized the Department of Interior and USDA to dispose of federal public lands.

Where are we now? This nomination is only voted on in the Senate, not the House. And the hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is happening on February 25th. If voted favorably, then the nomination goes to the Senate floor and all 100 Senators vote. In Colorado, Senator Bennett and Senator Hickenlooper have already publicly opposed Pearce's nomination.

What can we do? Thank both of our senators for their support. Hickenlooper is a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Urge Hickenlooper to ask hard questions at the hearing. He (his staff) can be reached at 202-224-5941. Or send an email to hickenlooper.senate.gov. The Wilderness Society suggests that the following questions be asked by the committee to Pearce. 1) Do you support the sale of public lands, as proposed by Senator Mike Lee in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act? 2) Which public lands are the ones "we do not even need"? 3) Who should call the shots on our public lands – the American people, or oil and gas companies? 4) Seriously – do you think Theodore Roosevelt was wrong to champion public lands?

Photo credit: Steve Keller, Dreamstime.com.

2025 CMC Risk Management Team Review

The CMC Risk Management team has completed its review of incident reports on record through December 2025. They are sharing a few high-level observations that should be on every trip leader's and participant's radar as the patterns are consistent and preventable. [Click here for the review.](#)



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 in May in Blanding/Cedar Mesa. See below.

Join us on a TBA 6/28 hike in Durango area.



Guidelines for Dogs on WSG Trips

[Click here](#) for the WSG's guidelines on bringing dogs on trips.

2026 Western Slope Group Member Survey Results

Thanks to all who took our survey in January!

Many thanks to our WSG Outings Chair, Doug Hemken, for analyzing the results and creating a report summary. [Click here to read the summary.](#) It has some interesting and informative information about the WSG.

CMC Activity Standards

The CMC has been working on updating Activity Standards for CMC trips. One that has been finalized is the ["CMC Clubwide Rock Scrambling Activity Standard"](#). Others that are in progress include standards for backcountry Nordic skiing, backcountry skiing and splitboarding and snowshoeing. We will provide links to those standards once they have been finalized.

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.

How Do I Find Out About New Trips After They're Posted?

Do you want to be notified about new trips as soon as they're posted? Did you know that the CMC website has a nice feature where you can get notified of new trips right after they're added? [Click here for the steps for setting that up.](#)

Where are the Trips that the WSG may Lead?

TRIP LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS: [Click here for the WSG's list of places where we may lead trips, last updated on 2/22/2026.](#)

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](#)

Friday, 2/27. [Hiking – McInnis Canyons NCA](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Friday, 2/27. [Ice Climb - Ouray Ice Park](#). Doug Hemken.

2/28-3/1. [Climb – Ouray Ice Park](#). Denver Group.

Thursday, 3/5. [Nordic Skiing – Lizard Head Pass - Priest Lake Nordic Area](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Friday 3/6. [Resort Skiing/Snowboarding – Monarch Pass](#). Pikes Peak Group.

Saturday, 3/14. [Basic Snowshoe – Grand Mesa](#). County Line / Skyway Traverse. Easy. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 3/14. [Nordic Skiing – Grand Mesa](#). Moderate. Marsha Pritchard.

Sunday 3/29. [Hiking – Colorado National Monument - Old Gordon Trail](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy. Join us for the post-hike social at Westco, register below.

Wednesday, 4/8. [Hiking – Colorado National Monument - Lower Monument and Wedding Canyon Loop](#). [Moderate](#). Brenda Leach.

Sunday, 4/19. [Hiking – McInnis Canyons NCA](#). Rattlesnake Canyon. Difficult. Daniel Glatter.

4/21-29. [Adventure Travel – Quito and The Galapagos Islands Multi-Sport Adventure](#). Fee.

5/5-13. [Adventure Travel – Quito and The Galapagos Islands Multi-Sport Adventure](#). Fee.

5/7-10. [Blanding/Cedar Mesa UT multiday hiking](#). WAITLIST. Book your own camping/motel. To get on the WAITLIST, email WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Thursday, 5/7. [Hiking – Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears National Monument UT](#). Browns Canyon. For Blanding multiday participants only, all others will be waitlisted. Moderate. Anne Keil.

Thursday, 5/21. [Hiking – Colorado National Monument - Monument Canyon](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

5/22-25. [Camp – Rifle Gap State Park](#). WAITLIST. Judy Mayne.

Saturday, 5/23. [Hiking – Mansfield Ditch-Lower Cherry Creek car shuttle](#). FULL. Moderate. Anne Keil, overflow hike being added by Paul Sheya.

Sunday, 5/24. [Hiking – Three Forks Trail](#). FULL. Moderate. Jay Johnson. Overflow hike planned.

Sunday, 6/28. Hike TBA, Durango area. SAVE THE DATE!

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

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

8/18-21. Silver Jack Campground. No reservations. SAVE THE DATE! Judy Mayne.

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday 3/29. [End of Winter Social at WestCo Grand Junction](#). 1-3pm Judy Mayne. Join Jennifer's hike before it!

May 2&3. [Wilderness First Aid in Montrose \(Cedar Point Health/Wellness Clinic\)](#). \$275 members, \$300 nonmembers, leaders free with scholarship and leading 6 trips in 2 years. See flyer 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 need a minimum number of participants between the various CMC groups. Please contact our **new 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](#): Free online Avalanche Aware seminar. Schedule for avalanche training, ATA courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

Seeking Monthly Newsletter Content

We'd like your help! If you have requests for newsletter content or would like to contribute, let us know! The deadline to submit information, articles or photos is the **24th of each month** for the following month's newsletter. Email the WSG newsletter editor, Brenda Leach, at WSGNewsEditor@gmail.com. Here are our [past newsletters](#).

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 3/17, 5/19, 7/14, 9/? & 11/?. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



Colorado Mountain Club
15605 W 32nd Ave
Golden, CO 80401

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

15605 W 32nd Avenue | Golden, CO 80401 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.