



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group April 2025



Hiking the Old Gordon Trail in the Colorado National Monument, CMC trip led by Victor Ketellapper. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)



Spring Leader Appreciation & Social at Shelter Distillery in Montrose, Sunday, May 18, 2-4pm

Join us at the Shelter Distillery in Montrose to socialize and recognize our WSG trip leaders! All WSG trip leaders' first drink is on the WSG! [Please RSVP so that we can let Shelter Distillery know how many to expect.](#) We've reserved the outside patio that looks over the Uncompahgre River. Some of us will be coming from a hike near Montrose at [Lower Spring Creek](#) so the time is approximate.

Welcome New Trip Leader Jocelyne Morris!



Jocelyne moved to Colorado in 2001 and joined the CMC Denver Group. She has taken Wilderness Trekking School and Wilderness Survival School and also taught WTS with the Denver Group for several years. After retiring in 2022, Jocelyne and her husband moved to Grand Junction in early 2024, and she became a member of the Western Slope Group to continue exploring and hiking areas of Colorado new to her. Along with exploring the outdoors, Jocelyne enjoys volunteering with various charities in the Grand Valley and traveling with her husband.

2025 In State Outing at Snow Mountain Ranch

The 2025 ISO will be held at Snow Mountain Ranch near Fraser, Colorado, on September 1-5. The CMC will be occupying two 8-room lodges that will comfortably accommodate 40. Participant fees cover all meals, entertainment and lodging. [Click here for more info and on how to register.](#) Space is still available. Activities include 4 days of hiking in and around Winter Park, Fraser and the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park, lots to do for the non-hikers, Happy Hour every night, live music, guest speakers and CMC trivial pursuit. Note that only 1 session will be run this year so register early!

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



The Productive Public Lands Act

A couple of weeks ago Representative Jeff Hurd introduced the Productive Public Lands Act, a bill that if passed, would undermine years of thoughtful and well researched federal land management planning in several areas “close to home.” The federal land planning process that has been in place for years is a fair one that includes consideration of concerns submitted by the public and various stakeholders. The target areas in Representative Hurd’s bill include 1.1 million acres of BLM managed by the Grand Junction Field Office (Garfield, Mesa, Montrose and Rio Blanco counties) and 517,000 acres of BLM land managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office (Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin and Routt counties.) The bill would remove recent limitations placed on oil and gas development.

If passed, the bill would rescind the October 2024 Resource Management Plan for the Grand Junction District, and it would undo closures of land to oil and gas on land managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office. Also targeted by this bill are the October 2024 Resource Management Plans for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and for Colorado Big Game Habitat conservation. The bill would reverse positive, conservation-oriented changes in favor of extraction.

The CMC Western Slope Group, along with thousands of other individuals and organizations, submitted comments regarding both the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and Big Game Habitat Conservation Plans. We voiced our preferences for managing habitat in a way that will possibly prevent the Gunnison Sage-Grouse from the demise of extinction and ensure that Colorado’s big game animals will thrive. If this bill passes, it will serve as a devastating setback to these gifts of nature that coexist with us in Colorado.

Photo of Gunnison Sage-Grouse by Joel Sartore.

Stewardship Opportunities

Friends of the Black Canyon and Curecanti is a local non-profit seeking volunteers to support the park through special events, conservation efforts and community outreach. A community networking event is taking place on April 15, 2025, 6:30-7:30 p.m., location TBD. To find out more, please visit www.friendsoftheblackcanyon.org.

The San Juan Mountains Association announced that shifts are now open for Ice Lake Volunteer Ambassadors starting May 20, 2025 and running through September 14, 2025. Training will take place on May 20, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the San Juan National Forest Supervisor's Office at 15 Burnett Ct. in Durango. Visit www.sjma.org for more information.

Photo by Jay Johnson from the North Vista Trail, Black Canyon National Park, during a CMC outing last year.



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!

Join Mike Foster & San Juan Mountains Association for 2 birding trips on May 10 & 24! See below.

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

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.

What Other Outdoor Activities are You Interested In?

We are fortunate to have some very experienced mountaineers and CMC instructors in our midst. Please let us know if you are interested in activities such as peaks, scrambling, rock climbing, ice climbing, via ferrata, more? Would you be interested in a little introduction to any of these activities if they are something new for you? Email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

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

The CMC website has a nice feature where you can get notified of new trips right after they're added or in a daily digest or in a weekly digest. Here's the steps for setting that up.

- 1) Login to your CMC account and click on "My Profile" under your name on the upper right.
- 2) Scroll down the page and click on "Edit Profile".
- 3) Scroll down the page to "Alerts and Notifications Preferences" and select your desired "Update Frequency". You'll also need to choose at least one activity. See the example below.
- 4) Scroll down the page and click on "Save".

Alerts & Notifications Preferences

Update Frequency

Send me an email with new items...

☐ As soon as they are added

☒ In a daily digest

☐ In a weekly digest

Activities

Of these types... (choose at least one to get notifications)

☒ Adventure Travel

☒ Biking

☒ Camping

☒ Canyoneering

☒ Climbing

☒ Conservation

☒ Hiking

☒ Mountaineering

☒ Nordic Skiing

☒ Snowshoeing

☒ Volunteer Leadership

Groups

With these Groups... (leave blank to choose all Groups)

Courses, Clinics & Seminars

Of these types... (choose at least one to get notifications)

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 there are participants that cancel.

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

Saturday, 3/29. [Hiking - Electric Hills](#). Easy. Anne Keil.

Wednesday, 4/9. [Hiking - McInnis Canyons NCA - Rabbit's Ear Trail](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Saturday, 4/12. [Hiking - McInnis Canyons NCA - Pollock Bench](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Saturday, 4/19. [Hiking - Colorado National Monument - Liberty Cap Trail](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

4/23-27. [Hiking - Escalante UT Multi-Day Hiking](#). Waitlisted. Sign up for trips as they are posted or during the camping trip.

Thursday, 4/24. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Escalante Canyon](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Thursday, 4/24. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Golden Cathedral](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Challenging. Daniel Glatter.

Friday, 4/25. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Cosmic Ashtray](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Moderate. Charlie Winger.

Friday, 4/25. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Lower Calf Creek Falls](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Easy to Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

4/25-27. [Backpack - ADV BKP: Dominguez Canyon Wilderness](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 4/26. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Boulder Mail Trail](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Moderate to Challenging. Daniel Glatter.

Saturday, 4/26. [Hiking - Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument - Little Death Hollow](#). THIS TRIP IS FOR ESCALANTE MULTI-DAY CAMPING PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Moderate. Paul Sheya.

5/9-11. [Backpack - Canyonlands - Elephant Canyon Loop to Druid Arch](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 5/10. [Seminar - Bird Hikes Along the Florida River South of Durango](#). Easy. Mike Foster via the San Juan Mountain Association.

Wednesday, 5/14. [Hiking - Black Canyon National Park - North Vista Trail \(to Green Mountain\)](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach

Sunday, 5/18. [Hiking - Lower Spring Creek TH - Simms Mesa](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 5/24. [Seminar - Bird Hikes Along the Florida River South of Durango](#). Easy. Mike Foster via the San Juan Mountain Association.

Saturday, 5/31. [Hiking - West End - Dolores River Trail](#). Easy. Claire McCullough. Join us for a West End Weekend!

Sunday, 6/1. [Hiking - West End - Sewemup WSA and Rock Art](#). Moderate. Claire McCullough. Join us for a West End Weekend!

Saturday, 6/14. [Hiking - Ouray Perimeter Trail](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

10/1 or TBD [Palisade Plunge Hiker Shuttle](#). Difficult. Anne Keil.

10/9-12 SAVE THE DATE! Fall multi-day hiking trip at Capitol Reef NP. Reserve your own lodging/camping as the group site was unavailable. Fruita campground reservations open **April 8 and fill quickly!** If interested in attending or leading trips, email WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Hopefully we don't get rained out this time!

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 5/18, 2-4pm. Spring Social & Leader Appreciation at Shelter Distillery, Montrose. See above.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, 11/1. Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! Dave wrote [Colorado Scrambles](#) and [Colorado Snow Climbs](#). At the Annual Dinner, Dave will entertain us with his "Travels on the Wilder Side" presentation. Stay tuned!

[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 let us know 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 and avalanche training. Leader training online is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

[ATA and AIARE:](#) ATA- Tentative for January 2026 on Grand Mesa. Schedule for avalanche training courses by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

[Wilderness First Aid:](#) May 2026 in Montrose, Course Catalog link has other locations.

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 **25th 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 & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor, Annual Dinner Organizer: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer, State Council Rep: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Jill Mattoon (Ouray)

Conservation Chair: Claire McCullough (Grand Junction)

Durango Area Chair: Dan King (Durango)

Marketing & Membership: Tom Maceyka (Ridgway)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). 2025 WSG Council meetings will be held on 5/19, 7/10, 9/4 and 11/13. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer

to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



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