



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group August 2025



WSG members enjoying Doug Hemken's hike up Crater Peak which at 11,327' is the highest point on the Grand Mesa. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)



WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 1, Dave Cooper's "Travels on the Wilder Side"

Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper!

Dave Cooper has always been drawn to wild places, addicted to the raw beauty of Nature. Climbing and trekking have allowed Dave to visit some of the most spectacular places in various parts of the world.

Join Dave as he shares his experiences from the Andes of South America to the Brooks Range in Alaska, to Nepal, Africa and Europe. Sometimes mountaineering, sometimes rock and ice climbing and sometimes just wandering, Dave has attempted to capture the beauty of these locations in his photography.

Dave is the author of two Colorado guidebooks, ["Colorado Scrambles - Climbs Beyond the Beaten Path"](#), and ["Colorado Snow Climbs - A Guide for All Seasons"](#). For several years, he wrote the "Trail Mix" column for the Denver Post. His photography has been published in books, magazines and newspapers.

4:30pm: Socializing; 5pm: Dinner/potluck; 6pm: Annual meeting; 6:30pm: Dave's presentation; 7:30pm: Evening conclusion.

[Registration is now open here!](#)

Photo: Sunrise from the summit of Castleton Tower.



Charlie Winger sets record!

On July 5, 2025, long-time CMC leader Charlie Winger, age 88, reached the summit of Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa at 19,341 feet. According to records about ascents of the peak, he is the 3rd oldest person in history to have successfully climbed it, and is only 11 months younger than the woman who holds the top age record. Contrary to the photo above, he was not carried up!

Charlie was part of a 9-person team supported by guides and porters. The climbers tackled the Lemosho Route, one of several possible trails up Kilimanjaro. Their ascent took place over a 7 day period, gaining over 11,600 feet in elevation, followed by a massive descent of 14,000 feet to a different trailhead during the final day and a half of the expedition. Charlie is no stranger to big peaks. He successfully climbed Kilimanjaro in 1986. Congrats Charlie!!

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



Stewardship Opportunities

As most of us are enjoying summer hikes and vacations, consider giving back to our beautiful landscapes by participating in a stewardship project. Michael Waters with the **Ouray Trail Group** attended our July council meeting and let us know about the need for help maintaining and restoring hiking trails. These are unique opportunities to work on overnight projects in designated wilderness areas. Motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment are prohibited in wilderness and as a result these projects are supported with the help of pack animals. Overnight projects are scheduled in 8/2-3, 8/23-24, 8/30-31, 9/27-28 in special areas such as Wetterhorn, Little Cimarron and Blaine Basin. If you are interested, please check out <https://ouraytrails.org/volunteers> for more information and to sign up.

Colorado Canyons Association, the Grand Valley BLM Office's official volunteer partner, schedules interesting volunteer opportunities, as well as educational and interpretive events throughout the year. Several of our members enjoy the popular river cleanup events that take place while floating down stretches of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. During a recent cleanup event, an astonishing amount of trash was pulled from a 15-mile stretch of the Gunnison River south of Delta. The types of trash picked up included numerous pallets, a shopping cart, propane tanks, tents, etc. Keeping a watchful eye over the group of volunteers was a majestic bald eagle – another reminder of how important these projects are not only for recreationalists, but also for the wildlife that inhabit the area. Find out about upcoming opportunities by signing up for the volunteer newsletter at: <https://coloradocanyonsassociation.org>.

Above: Trash haul on BLM by Gunnison River Cleanup, below: bald eagles. Photos by Jay Johnson.

Conservation-Related Events



An Evening With Craig Childs – On Friday, July 25, 2025, the Colorado National Monument Association is hosting an evening with nationally-acclaimed environmental author and explorer, Craig Childs. Join Craig Childs for a journey down the Colorado River through storytelling and photography. The event takes place in Fruita at 6:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at <http://coloradocma.org>.

After the Fest – From August 5th through the 14th, Telluride Mountainfilm is presenting “After the Fest.” This is a limited virtual screening of three feature films from the 2025 festival. Films will be available for streaming for \$20 each and the proceeds will support filmmakers and Mountainfilm. The three films are Snow Leopard Sisters, Old Man Lightning, and The Age of Water. For more details about the films and to access them: <https://watch.mountainfilm.org>.

Call to Action – If you are feeling frustrated about the onslaught of attacks against our public lands there is something you can do as a constituent. Join Claire, Colorado Mountain Club Conservation Chair on [August 6th for an informal drop-in event at Enstrom Candies in Montrose, 1436 Encanto Place anytime between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.](#) It can be quick and easy to make your voice heard by signing petitions and letters or writing postcards to our lawmakers about timely issues such as the repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, oil and gas drilling, and deeper staff cuts in federal agencies. Let’s eat candy and write postcards together!

The Future of Our Public Lands - Tracy Stone-Manning, President of The Wilderness Society and former Director of the BLM, will be speaking in Carbondale on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:30 pm in Carbondale. Tracy will provide an analysis of the current state of our public lands and the threats they face from Congress, and how we can play a role in keeping public lands protected and wild. For more information and to RSVP, visit <https://wildernessworkshop.org>



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 us on 8/30, 9/13 & 9/27 for birding on the Florida River with SJMA & Mike Foster and hiking 8/23 W Mancos loop & 9/13 Helmet Peak/Rush Basin with Dan King.

Our Autumn Equinox Social is 9/21 4-6pm at the Mancos Brewery. See you there! (see below to register for all trips/events).

Coming up...Columbine Lake (early Aug), Centennial Peak (mid/late Aug), Madden & Parrot Peaks (early/mid Sept), Tomahawk Basin & Diorite Peak (late Sept/early Oct), Canyonland Needles/Chesler Park or Devil's Kitchen (late Oct/Nov).

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? We are

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, 7/26. [Hiking- Waterfall Creek and Basin \(Ophir\)](#). Moderate. Bud Tasch.

Wednesday, 7/30. [Hiking- Navajo Lake-Kilpacker Loop](#). Challenging. Paul Sheya.

Sunday, 8/10. [Hiking- Paradise Basin \(Ophir\) dog friendly hike](#). Moderate. Bud Tasch.

Friday, 8/22. [Waterdog Lakes \(Monarch Pass\)](#). Easy/Mod. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 8/23. [W Mancos River loop \(Mancos\)](#). Easy. Dan King.

Sunday, 8/24. [Hiking – Red Mountain Pass - Albany Gulch Loop](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

8/28-9/1. [Scramble – Chicago Basin 14ers \(Sunlight, Eolus, North Eolus and Windom\)](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 8/30. [Birding with SJMA](#), Florida river, Durango. Easy. Mike Foster.

Tuesday, 9/9. [Hiking – Lake to Lake Trail](#). Easy/Mod. Anne Keil. Afternoon start and optional exploring around Lake City depending on weather. Join us midweek, 9/9-9/11 in Lake City! Reserve your own lodging/camping. Register separately for each hike. Questions: WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 9/10. [Hiking – Waterdog Lake \(Lake City\)](#). Challenging. Marsha Pritchard.

Thursday, 9/11. [Hiking – Thompson Lake \(Lake City\)](#). Moderate. Marsha Pritchard & Anne Keil.

Saturday, 9/13. [Hiking-Helmet Peak/Rush Basin](#). (Durango) Mod +. Dan King

Saturday, 9/13. [Birding with SJMA](#), Florida river, Durango. Easy. Mike Foster.

Saturday, 9/27. [Birding with SJMA](#), Florida river, Durango. Easy. Mike Foster.

Wednesday, 10/1. [Hiking - Down Palisade Plunge Hiker Shuttle \(fee\)](#). Difficult. Anne Keil.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Wednesday, 8/6. [Call to Action \(see above\)](#) 5:30-7pm at Enstrom, Montrose. Claire McCullough.

Sunday, 9/21. [Autumn Equinox Social](#), 4-6pm at Mancos Brewery, Mancos. Dan King.

10/9-12. [WSG's 6th Annual Fall multi-day hiking event, Torrey/Capitol Reef UT](#). Reserve your own lodging/camping. Register by email: WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Hikes will be posted separately in September and are only open to those on this event roster.

Saturday, 11/1. Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! See above, [register here](#).

Friday/Saturday 11/21 & 22. [Wilderness First Aid](#) in Fruita. \$280 members, \$300 nonmembers. Registration opens 7/25.

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 our **new WSG Schools director Daniel Glatter** know if something interests you (WSGofCMC@gmail.com).

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 for additional info.

ATA and AIARE: Avalanche Terrain Avoidance- Tentative for January 2026 on Grand Mesa. Schedule for avalanche training courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

Wilderness First Aid (WFA): 11/21&22 in Fruita, 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 **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 & 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 9/4 and November TBD. 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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