



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group December 2025



WSG members on Jennifer Rhamy's Halloween day hike up Devil's Canyon in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

2025 WSG Annual Dinner Photos

The WSG held an enjoyable annual dinner on Saturday, 11/1, at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. Almost 70 members and guests attended. It was a wonderful way to reconnect with and meet new friends. Dave Cooper gave an impressive presentation of his many years of climbing mountains, rock, ice and snow around the world. Delicious potluck dishes were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the many who helped on the day of the event. Here are photos from the evening, all taken by Jill Mattoon.







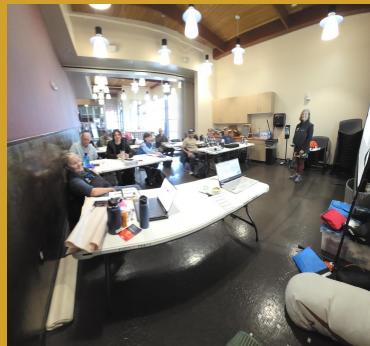
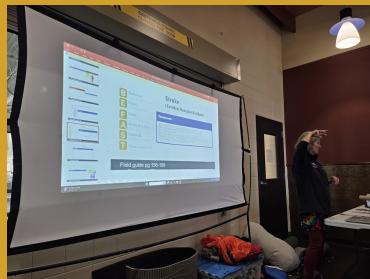


November Fruita Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Class

Submitted by Daniel Glatter: "On November 21 and 22 of 2025, the Western Slope Group (WSG) of the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) held a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) class in Fruita, Colorado. I had the privilege of teaching the class with two very knowledgeable and experienced instructors, Marian Heesaker Clapp, and Jenni Nebgen. Nominally, I was the Lead Instructor, but Marian and Jenni really carried the bulk of the instruction of the class. We had 11 students, some of whom were CMC members and others who were not. The class was 16 hours in length. The students received classroom instruction, as well as practice with wilderness emergency and medicine scenarios. The students appeared to be engaged and interested in the topics that were presented. They asked many good questions. Also, for the non-members taking the class, we gave a short summary of the benefits of WSG CMC membership. Marian, Jenni and I are looking forward to teaching the next WSG CMC WFA class in Montrose in May of 2026!"

Photo credit: Daniel Glatter. The 1st two photos are of the instructors and of the students.







Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



Update on Wild for Good Presentation



Erin Riccio, Advocacy Director for Wilderness Workshop, generously accepted my invitation to come to Grand Junction and make a presentation on the Wild for Good Campaign. On November 20th, we learned about ten landscapes in western Colorado that are worthy of permanent protection. It was also an opportunity to meet and talk with staff from Wilderness Workshop, Colorado Wildlands Project, The Wilderness Society and Western Colorado Alliance. Several of our champion CMC trip leaders, conservation advocates and members attended, as well as members from other organizations. The Director of Colorado Wildlands Project, Soren Jespersen has

spent 20 years on the ground exploring our beautiful western Colorado landscapes and identifying areas that should be protected. He is a wealth of knowledge, leaving all of us inspired to explore new places and work towards their protection. Stay tuned for another presentation in the Montrose area this spring. For more information about the campaign, check out [Wild for Good's website](#).

Photos courtesy of Colorado Wildlands Project. The waterfall photo is from the Roan Plateau region - one of ten areas that make up the Wild for Good campaign.

Christmas Trees for Conservation

San Juan Mountain Association's annual fundraiser is underway. Small ladder fuel trees have been cut in the national forests and are sold to raise money for year-round stewardship and educational projects. Durango members have an opportunity to get involved and donate a few hours of time helping with tree lot sales. For more information and to volunteer, sign up at [San Juan Mountains Association Volunteer Opportunities](#).

A Conversation with Pete McBride

On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, award-winning filmmaker and writer, Pete McBride, will be appearing at the Delta Egyptian Theater to present and discuss a short film exploring the Colorado River - Chasing Water. Tickets can be purchased via the Colorado Canyons Association website.

The Colorado River: Chasing Water
A Conversation with
PETE MCBRIDE
Wednesday, December 3, 2025



Pete McBride is an award-winning photographer, filmmaker, writer, and speaker known for his powerful storytelling at the intersection of adventure and environmental conservation. In 2025 he was awarded The Ansel Adams Award as a lifetime achievement in conservation photography. Raised in Colorado, McBride has spent over two decades documenting remote corners of the globe, from the peaks of the Himalayas to the depths of the Grand Canyon.

A National Geographic Explorer, Adventurer of the Year, and Sony Artisan of Imagery, McBride has worked in more than 75 countries, combining his skills in photojournalism and filmmaking to spotlight pressing environmental issues, particularly those involving water scarcity, public land protection, and climate change.

Doors Open at 6:00 PM, Program at 7:00 PM
EGYPTIAN
AT THE EGYPTIAN THEATER
\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION

Join Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) for a special hour-long presentation as Pete regales us with stories of adventure, mishap, good-fortune and other highlights from his new book, The Colorado River: Chasing Water.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
COLORADO CANYONS ASSOCIATION

BUY TICKETS HERE!



SPONSORED BY:



Public Lands: A Comment Writing Workshop

Join Conservation Colorado and the Western Colorado Alliance to learn more about the new proposed areas for oil and gas development in the Western Slope, the threats to public comment periods and how to be effective at pushing back on the continuous attacks to our public lands. Thursday, December 4, 5:30pm, Copeka Coffee, 1012 N 5th St in Grand Junction.



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.

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

11/26-30. Hiking – Colorado National Monument. Moderate. Bobcats Section.

Sunday, 11/30. Hiking – Ridgway Area Trails (RAT). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Sunday, 11/30. Hiking – (Overflow) Ridgway Area Trails (RAT). Moderate. Jay Johnson.

Sunday, 12/7. Hiking – Kokopelli Loops Trail -- Mack Ridge. Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

Sunday, 12/21. Hiking – McInnis Canyons NCA. D loops. Moderate. Anne Keil.

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 2026, SAVE THE DATE! Blanding/Cedar Mesa UT multiday hiking. Book your own camping/motel. Looking for hike leaders, and for more info or to get on the roster, email WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

9/29-10/16. Adventure Travel – Annapurna Basecamp. Fee.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 1/11/2026. Avalanche Terrain Avoidance- Field Day. Grand Mesa Lodge. Jay Johnson. Online self-paced lecture required before field day. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers. Scholarship for leaders (free with 6 on-

snow trips led in 5 years).

SAVE THE DATE! Wilderness First Aid in Montrose May 2 & 3, 2026.

[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 for additional info.

[ATA and AIARE: Avalanche Terrain Avoidance](#), 1/11/26. Schedule for avalanche training 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, Annual Dinner Organizer: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: 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 1/13/26, 3/17, 5/19 and 7/14. 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

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