



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group February 2025



Judy Mayne's CMC trip to the County Line Nordic area on the Grand Mesa, complete with fresh snow. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)



Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) January 25 Recorded Lecture & February 8 Field Day at the Grand Mesa Lodge

Linda Lawson from the Denver Group will be traveling to the Western Slope to hold the CMC's Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) field day on Saturday, February 8. It will be held at the Grand Mesa Lodge. A required zoom lecture was held on January 25. If you missed that, you can still register for ATA through February 7 and receive a recording of the zoom lecture. The recording must be watched prior to the field day.

ATA is a valuable course that teaches how to recognize and avoid avalanche prone terrain. It is required for leaders who lead trips to snow-covered, non-avalanche terrain (with the exception of downhill skiing resorts). Trip leader renewal for ATA is required every 5 years with the field day as optional on renewal. Contact WSGofCMC@gmail.com to register.

WSG Social Gathering at Base Camp Provisions in Fruita, Sunday, Feb 2, 3-5pm

Join us after Daniel Glatter's hike ([Hiking – Devil's Canyon Trail System — The Colorado Mountain Club](#)) or if you're not hiking!

[Please RSVP so we know how many to expect.](#)



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



Two New National Monuments Have Been Designated



President Biden set a record for conserving more land and waters than any other president (674 million acres.) Just before the end of his term, President Biden created two new national monuments in California covering more than 800,000 acres. The Chuckwalla National Monument includes 624,000 acres south of Joshua Tree National Monument in southeastern California. The area includes several sacred Indigenous sites, as well as 50 species of rare animals and plants. Located at the junction of the Mojave, Sonoran and Colorado deserts, the area possesses astonishing biodiversity. In northern California, the Sáttítla Highlands National Monument covers over 224,000 acres. The area has been damaged by energy and mining extraction, along with poor logging practices. The effort to protect the Sáttítla Highlands National Monument was initiated by the Pit River Tribe. This landscape is the ancestral homeland of the Modoc People and Pit River Tribe.

Left photo: Ladder Canyon Trail in the Mecca Hills Wilderness Area in Chuckwalla National Monument. Photo by Jay Calderon, The Desert Sun. Right photo: View of Mount Shasta from Mount Hoffman, Sáttítla Highlands Nation Monument. Photo by Bob Wick, USFS.

Passage of The EXPLORE Act

During the ending weeks of the 118th Congress, some conservation policies made it to the finish line. Of particular interest is the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experience (EXPLORE) Act which received broad, bipartisan support. The passage of this Act means the accessibility to our public lands will be increased and enhanced, so that millions of people can continue to enjoy outdoor recreation. The legislation promises to improve public land access including for those with disabilities, modernize technology to enhance the visitor experience, streamline the permitting process, restore campgrounds, and protect rock climbing in iconic places.



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 us 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](#)

Tuesday, 1/28. [Nordic Skiing - Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park - South Rim Winter Trail](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Tuesday, 1/28. [Basic Snowshoe - Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park - Oak Flat Trail](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Sunday, 2/2. [Hiking - Devil's Canyon Trail System](#). Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

Friday, 2/14. [Basic Snowshoe - Priest Lake](#). Easy. Anne Keil.

Friday, 2/14. [Nordic Skiing - Priest Lake](#). Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 2/15. [Nordic Skiing - Grand Mesa - Skyway Nordic Trails](#). Easy. Jay Johnson.

2/14-17. [Basic Alpine Climb - Lake City Ice Park](#). Pikes Peak Group.

Sunday, 2/23. [Resort Skiing/Snowboarding – Powderhorn Mountain Ski Resort](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Thursday, 2/27. [Nordic Skiing - Trout Lake](#). Easy - Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Sunday, 3/23. [Hiking - Kokopelli Loops Trail - Horsethief Bench Loop](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

4/23-27. [Hiking - Escalante UT Multi-Day Hiking](#). Waitlisted. Book your own lodging or camping: Escalante Outfitters, Escalante Petrified Forest SP, Circle D etc. Let us know if you want to share lodging or campsites and we'll connect you with others.

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

[Avalanche Terrain Avoidance](#): Recording from January 25 Zoom lecture & Saturday, February 8, half day field day at Grand Mesa Lodge. See above.

Sunday, 2/2. Social gathering after Daniel's hike in Fruita. See above.

Thursday, 1/30. [Backcountry Film Fest](#). Salida. Fee.

[CMC Schools & Classes Webpage](#): **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 see above. Schedule for avalanche training courses by CMC in other locations see [cmc.org](#), Avalanche Education.

[Wilderness First Aid](#): Schedule for [front range locations](#).

[WFA Instructors Wanted](#): Are you WFA or higher (WFR, medical professional, etc.) certified and interested in helping recertify/teach WFA to our members and leaders locally? Teaching also renews your certification and the training is free.

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: 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 3/13, 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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