



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group February 2026



A day of snowshoeing at Ward Lake on the Grand Mesa. Jay Johnson led the CMC trip and took the photo. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

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 on this link to read the summary.](#) It has some interesting and informative information about the WSG.

We are leaving the survey open through Saturday, February 7, so please feel free to [take the WSG Member Survey](#) if you haven't already.



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**



CMC RIMS Data Collection



CMC State Conservation Director, Brian Bergeler, would love to see some of our Western Slope Group members assist in collecting winter data while enjoying Nordic skiing, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing excursions. Visitor use data is important to understand how recreationalists are enjoying public lands and where they are recreating. Here on the Western Slope, Doug Hemken has been collecting data on the Grand Mesa. We are lucky to have Doug as he is a data specialist!

The Colorado Mountain Club's Recreation Impact Monitoring System (CMC RIMS) is designed to allow volunteers and organizations to effectively collect and analyze outdoor recreation impact data. Current partners include the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Winter Wildlands Alliance, and BLM offices nationwide.

To learn more, please consider watching a video about how to use RIMS. You will learn about the best practices for data collection, key features for trail monitoring, and real-world cases showing how the data has been applied. [CMC RIMS Webinar October 30, 2025](#)

The CMC Snow Rangers have started patrolling and will be on the Grand Mesa and Red Mountain Pass. They will be doing data collection work as well. Please say “hi” to them while you are out enjoying the skiing and snowshoeing.

[Wintering Wildlife Conservation Initiative](#) – CMC is promoting responsible winter recreation education and messaging to support the Winter Wildlife Conservation Initiative. Please check out the website for some short video clips, tool kits and messages to learn more about what you can do to minimize or eliminate the negative impact that winter recreation can have on wildlife. This is in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and several conservation and recreation groups.

Snowshoe hare photo credit: Dawn Wilson, Trail Gazette. Elk photo credit: Sierra Club.



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

For All:

- Dogs must be well-behaved and on-leash at all times.
- Dispose of waste properly, either by bagging and depositing in a trash can or by burying. Please do not leave plastic bags by the trail, even temporarily.

For Trip Leaders:

- If you want to allow dogs on your trip, indicate that in your "Leader's notes". If you do *not* want dogs on your trip, add "No dogs please" in your "Leaders notes". The trip leader must verify that the land manager allows dogs.
- If a participant shows up at the meeting place unexpectedly with a dog, the trip leader may decide to not allow the dog to attend the trip. Alternatively, the trip leader may consult with other participants on the trip for a group decision.

For Participants:

- If the trip leader has not indicated a preference either way for dogs on their trip, contact them prior to the trip to see if it's OK to bring your dog.

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?

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".

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 participants may cancel!

TRIP LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS: [Click here for the WSG's list of places where we may lead trips, last updated on 1/21/2026.](#)

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

1/27-29. [Resort Skiing/Snowboarding – Crested Butte Mountain Resort](#). Moderate. Paul Sheya.

Wednesday, 1/28. [Climb – Ouray Ice Park](#). Moderate. Doug Hemken.

Saturday, 1/31. [Nordic Skiing – Monarch Pass](#). Easy. El Pueblo Group.

Wednesday, 2/4. [Nordic Skiing – Divide Road Nordic Area](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

2/6-8. [Climb – Lake City Ice Park](#). Moderate. Pikes Peak Group.

Saturday, 2/7. [Snowshoe – Grand Mesa -Griffith car shuttle \(new location\)](#). Easy. Anne & Jay.

Sunday, 2/15. [Nordic Skiing – Divide Road Nordic Area](#). Easy. Doug Hemken.

Sunday, 2/15. [Basic Snowshoe – Divide Road Nordic Area](#). Easy. 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. [Blanding/Cedar Mesa UT multiday hiking](#). FULL. Book your own camping/motel. To get on the WAITLIST, email WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

5/22-25. [Camp – Rifle Gap State Park](#). Easy. Judy Mayne. Hikes will be posted separately.

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 UT](#). Challenging. Denver Group

8/18-21. Silver Jack Campground. SAVE THE DATE! WSG Camping Club.

9/4-7. Vega State Park. SAVE THE DATE! WSG Camping Club.

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

10/TBD. Moab. SAVE THE DATE! WSG Camping Club.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

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 for additional info.

[ATA and AIARE](#): Free online avalanche education. 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: 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
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Golden, CO 80401

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