



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group January 2024

Happy New Year!



Daniel Glatter's December Mack Ridge hike in the Kokopelli Trails close to Fruita. The Book Cliffs are in the background.
[See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Welcome Trip Leader Mike Foster!

We are thrilled to introduce our new WSG trip leader, Mike Foster!

"I joined CMC in 1974 in Denver as a life member, and began leading trips in 1977. Was an instructor in Basic Mountaineering and Wilderness Trekking schools; served on the Safety Committee & the CMC Foundation; was Chairman of the Denver Group for a year, then was on the State Board of Directors for two terms. Moved to Farmington, NM in 2022 and joined the Western Slope Group. I particularly like leading trips focused on birds and natural history. Look forward to making new friends in the Group."



Upcoming WSG Social Gatherings

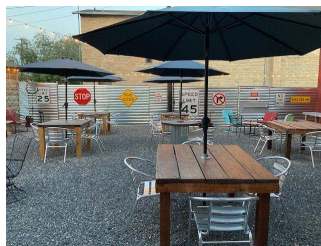
Starting in 2024, the WSG will be organizing social gatherings on even-numbered months. We'll hold them in brewpubs or other similar venues in Grand Junction, Paonia, Montrose, Ridgway or Durango. We will list the dates and venues as they're determined. If you have a venue or town that you'd like to recommend, please let us know at WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Please sign up on the CMC website so that we can let the venues know how many to expect. Stay tuned!



Amelia's Hacienda Restaurante in Montrose, Saturday, February 3, 2-4pm

[Amelia's](#) is a family-owned Mexican eatery, using all hand-picked ingredients and recipes. They're located at 44 S Grand Ave in Montrose. [Please register here](#) so that we can let Amelia's know how many will attend. Join us for [a hike at Buzzard Gulch](#) before the social gathering.

Foam & Folly Brewery in Grand Junction, April TBD, 2-4pm



[Foam & Folly Brewery](#) is located at 330 S. 2nd St. in Grand Junction. "The roots of Foam & Folly brewing were started in 2018 by a husband and wife team as a lifestyle transition out of the corporate world and into a shared environment of creativity and passion. Our vision of a relaxed, whimsical place where good beer and good vibes abound serves as a backdrop to spend time with folks who have a shared passion."



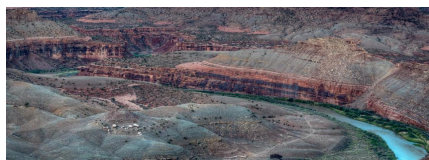
Backcountry Film Festival Sponsored by CMC in Western Slope

The CMC is sponsoring 2 showings of the Backcountry Film Festival in 2 Western Slope locations -- [Montrose on Friday, 1/19](#) and [Salida on Wednesday, 1/31](#). Click on those links to register. The BCFF "manifests the power of humans and their spirit. We screen cinematic stories of outdoor stewardship, grassroots policy and advocacy work, backcountry adventure, and snow cinema by human-powered advocates, athletes, brands, activists, adventures, and outdoor enthusiasts."

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

Wilderness Act Turns Sixty This Year



As we welcome in the new year, 2024 is also the year the Wilderness Act of 1964 turns 60 years old. According to the Act, "a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The ultimate protection, wilderness designation prohibits motorized and mechanized use, oil and gas exploration, and road development. Not only is wildlife habitat protected, but outstanding opportunities for recreation exist in designated wilderness. Colorado is lucky enough to have about 3.7 million acres of federally protected wilderness. Examples of wilderness areas on the Western Slope include the Weminuche Wilderness in the San Juan Mountains, the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness near Delta (pictured), Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness near Grand Junction, and the Mount Zirkle Wilderness near Steamboat Springs.



Additional Wilderness Proposed in Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019

Much of the protected wilderness in Colorado is higher elevation land. Yet, 8.3 million acres of the BLM land make up one-third of federal land in our state. Only 8 percent of the BLM land is permanently protected. Since 1999, Congresswoman Diana DeGette has tirelessly pursued legislative protection of additional lands. The Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019 includes over 600,000 acres of BLM in 36 areas. The House has voted to approve the congresswoman's Act five times, most recently in 2022. Hopefully the Act will soon be passed by the Senate. The Act includes areas such as Cross Canyon in Dolores and Montezuma counties, the Dolores River Canyon and the Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Range (pictured). Two high elevation areas included in the Act are Handies Peak and Redcloud Peak. Let's celebrate this year with hikes in both wilderness and proposed wilderness areas.

Letters Submitted for Proposed Management Plans

Our Conservation Chair, Claire McCullough, wrote the following 2 letters providing feedback to the BLM and Forest Service for their proposed management plans and has submitted them on behalf of the Western Slope Group:

[USFS Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan – Environmental Assessment](#) (close to Ridgway)

[Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement](#) (southern Utah)

Banff Mountain Film Festival Showings in the Western Slope



"The 2023-24 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour brings a curated lineup of the best in mountain and adventure films to theatres around the globe! This year's tour has licensed 37 films from around the world, including films from Canada, USA, Switzerland, France, Sweden and more!"

The Banff Mountain Film Festival will be shown at several venues in the Western Slope this year. Click on the links below and scroll down to purchase tickets.

-- [Grand Junction at Colorado Mesa University and the Avalon Theatre](#). February 14, 15, 16.

-- [Delta at the Delta Egyptian Theatre](#). February 17.

-- [Crested Butte at the Center for the Arts](#). March 10, 11.

Durango Area CMC Members Update

We currently have 2 Durango members getting trained to become leaders! Look for hikes in 2024 including leader Mike Foster's combined Sierra Club & CMC bird watching hikes in Farmington!

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! We will be updating happenings in this newsletter monthly. Contact us 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.

ALL CMC OUTINGS : [The CMC Trips List & Map](#)

Guests must now 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 may cancel.

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

12/29-1/1. [Climb - Lake City Ice Park](#). CMC state.

Thursday, 1/4. [Nordic Skiing - Black Canyon of the Gunnison](#). Easy. Brenda Leach

Sunday, 1/7. [Hiking - Kokopelli Loops Trail](#). Moderate. Dean Cates.

1/12-15. [Climb - Lake City Ice Park](#). Trailblazers.

Monday, 1/15. [Backcountry Nordic Skiing – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#). Moderate. Gore Range Group.

Thursday, 1/25. [Basic Snowshoe - Forest Fence](#). Easy. Anne Keil.

Thursday, 1/25. [Nordic Skiing - Forest Fence](#). Easy. Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 2/3. [Hiking - Buzzard Gulch](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Sunday, 2/11. [Basic Snowshoe - Miller Mesa](#). Easy, Moderate. Anne Keil.

2/8-12, 2024. [Yellowstone](#). Adventure travel, fee.

4/25-28, 2024. [Capitol Reef Tent/Car Camping and Hiking](#). Register for trip/waitlist at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

8/19-23, 2024. [In State Outing, YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park](#). State CMC, fee.

**All members and guests must sign a new liability waiver with the new website

COVID policy for trips: [updated Dec 9, 2022](#)

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Friday 1/19. CMC presents [Backcountry Film Fest](#). Ute Indian Museum, Montrose. Fee.

Saturday, 2/3, 2-4pm. [WSG Social Gathering at Amelia's in Montrose](#).

April TBD, 2-4pm. WSG Social Gathering at Foam & Folly Brewery in Grand Junction.

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. Leader training online is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

AIARE: Available from CMC on the Front Range. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see the schedule.

Wilderness First Aid: Coming in 2024. Schedule for other state locations [here](#).

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 in 2024? More information [here](#). 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: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Jill Mattoon (Ouray)

Conservation Chair: Claire McCullough (Grand Junction)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group](#), [CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). Upcoming WSG Council meetings will be held January 22, March 18 and May 6. 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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