



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

**Canyon to Crest Call
Western Slope Group
June 2024**



CMC WSG members Diane Winger, Anne Keil and Babs Schmerler enjoying an early season hike on Engineer Pass. Photo credit: Charlie Winger. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Sign Up for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 2!



Love long treks but hate carrying a heavy pack? You're not alone.

Join longtime CMC member, Diane Winger, as she reflects back on a variety of multi-day outings which were "supported" hikes. Whether the loads were carried by porters and guides, by mules, or by luggage transport services; or when the loads could be lightened because of the provisions provided at each night's destination, she and her travel companions found ways to travel light.

From the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails in California, to the Milford Track in New Zealand, to a trek in Patagonia, to the South West Coast Path of the United Kingdom, to a trek in the Everest region of Nepal, join Diane and friends for a range of beautiful experiences that didn't require carrying a heavy load.

The event will be held at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on Saturday, November 2, 4:30-7:30pm. Guests are welcome. [Click here to register for the Annual Dinner.](#)



Welcome New Trip Leader Jennifer Rhamy!

Jennifer is a new member of CMC, but has been hiking and leading hikes on the Western Slope for over 10 years. She is looking forward to sharing some of her favorite hikes with CMC members as a new leader. When not hiking, she enjoys spending time with her 2 dogs, tending her garden and occasionally visiting the wineries in Palisade.



Successful WFA Held in Montrose



Wilderness First Aid was held in Montrose at the end of May. We had a great instructor from [Backcountry Pulse](#) as well as CMC leader and volunteer assistant instructor, Daniel Glatter, to help out a group of 12 get certified! The plan is to hold WFA once per year on the western slope.

Upcoming WSG Social Gatherings

The WSG will be organizing several social gatherings throughout the year. We'll hold them in brewpubs or other similar venues in various western slope towns. We'll list the dates and venues as they're determined. If you have a venue or town that you'd like to recommend, 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.



Lakeside Potluck at Ridgway State Park, Sunday, July 14, 5-7pm

Let's meet up and enjoy one of our local state parks! Bring something to share, camp chair, beverage, utensils, plate, napkin. Plan to eat around 5pm. [Click here to register for the state park potluck!](#) Photo credit: Ridgway SP website.

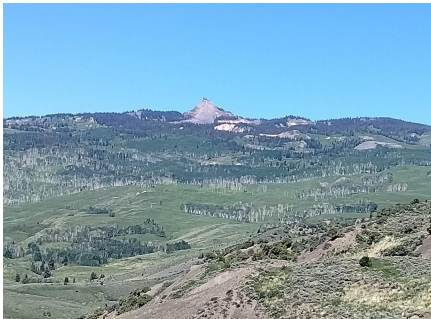
Ouray Brewery on Sunday, August 4, 2-4:30pm



Let's meet at the [Ouray Brewery](#) for some socializing and enjoying the scenery around Ouray. [Please sign up here so that we can let them know how many to expect.](#) We hope to get a table in the outside rooftop dining area. [Join us for a hike on the Bear Creek Trail to the south of Ouray before the social gathering.](#) If this hike fills up, then we hope to schedule another one.

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



The BLM Recently Released a New Management Plan

The BLM recently released a new resource management plan for the Grand River Valley and Grand Junction field offices. This proposed plan is the result of a federal court order to revise plans drafted in 2015 that fell short in addressing both climate change and wildlands. The planning area includes over 1.5 million acres in Garfield, Mesa, Eagle, Pitkin, Montrose, Routt and Rio Blanco counties. The proposed plan takes some important first steps in conserving natural areas and wildlife habitat. For example, the Castle Peak Wilderness Study Area in Eagle County has been statutorily expanded by 7,000 acres and now totals approximately 20,000 acres. Additional protection has been given to 52,000 acres of lands that possess wilderness characteristics. However, the plans leaves over 855,000 acres of land open to oil and gas development. Castle Peak photo credit: Claire McCullough.

The GMUG Forest Plan Has Been Finalized

The Forest Service released its land management plan for the 3.2 million acres of land that make up the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. The plan recommends congressional designation of over 67,000 acres as wilderness. But this is considerably less than the 324,000 acres recommended by citizen groups. The plan also determined that 22 rivers, streams and one lake have outstanding values and are eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Further steps will be taken to determine whether to make a recommendation to Congress for such protection.

The Greater Sage-Grouse



The Greater Sage-Grouse rely on the familiar sage brush landscape of the western United States, including areas north of the Colorado River in our state. In 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that although listing the greater sage-grouse was “warranted” under the Endangered Species Act, it was “precluded by other priorities.” There has been a continuous decline of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and as a result, a decline in populations of approximately 80 percent since 1966. Factors that have led to this decline include roads through sensitive habitats; oil, gas and mineral leasing activities; off-road motorized use; livestock grazing; and development. The BLM initiated a review of its public lands management in several western states to develop a new plan that ideally will stop the decline of the Greater Sage-Grouse populations and its habitat. Plan alternatives were identified by the BLM and a comment period ensued. [The CMC Western Slope Group submitted a comment which can be viewed here.](#) Photo credit: National Park Service.



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 for 2 fall birding hikes in Farmington with Mike Foster! 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 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, 6/29. [Hiking - Castle Rock via Elbert Creek \(Durango\), Dog Friendly](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Monday, 7/1. [Hiking - Crane Lake on Grand Mesa LIT Hike for Jennifer Rhamy](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Thursday, 7/4. [Hiking - West Bench Trail on Grand Mesa LIT Hike for Judy Mayne](#). Moderate. Dean Cates.

Wednesday, 7/10. [Hiking - Deep Creek Dog Friendly Shuttle Hike \(Telluride\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

7/9-14. [Backpack - Colorado Trail - Segments 18 to 21](#). Difficult. John Broadbooks.

Saturday, 7/13. [Hiking - Hampton Lakes & Light Trail Work](#). Moderate. Charlie Winger.

Wednesday, 7/17. [Hiking - Mesa Top \(Grand Mesa\)](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Friday, 7/19. [Hiking - Upper Cascade Falls Ouray and Chief Ouray Mine LIT Hike for Jay Johnson](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

7/19-22. [Backpack - 4-Day: Loop from South Lottis TH to Summerville TH](#). Backpacking Section.

7/22-27. [Backpack - BPX Trip - 4-Day: Raggeds Wilderness Dark Canyon Figure 8 Loop](#). Challenging. Backpacking Section.

Sunday, 8/4. [Hiking - Bear Creek National Recreation Trail \(Ouray\)](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

8/9-12. [Bike - Grand Mesa](#). Challenging. Denver Group.

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

Monday, 8/26. [Mountaineering - Potosi Peak 13,793 Feet, Class 3 Scramble](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 8/31. [Hiking - Fall Birds Along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

9/3-7. [Backpack - BPX 5-Day: Washakie Pass, Lizard Head and Cirque of the Towers Loop](#). Challenging. John Broadbooks.

9/9-11. [Camp - BPX 3-Day: Crystal River Bogan Flats Campground](#). Moderate. Backpacking Section.

9/16-19. [Backpack – BPX 4-Day: Four Pass Loop from West Maroon Trailhead](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 9/21. [Hiking – Devil's Causeway + Rio Blanco County High Point](#). Boulder Group.

9/30-10/3. [Backpack - Conundrum Hot Springs](#). Challenging. CMC State.

(TBD 9/30 or 10/1) Palisade Plunge hike. 17 mile downhill. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more info and to get cleared for the update list. <\$30/pp shuttle fee. Difficult. Anne Keil.

10/10-13. [Camp – WSG 5th Annual Green River Camping / San Rafael Swell Hiking Trip](#). Fee. Waitlist.

Saturday, 10/26. [Hiking - More Fall Birds along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

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

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 7/14. [WSG Lakeside Potluck at Ridgway State Park](#). See above.

Sunday, 8/4. [WSG Social Gathering at Ouray Brewery](#). See above.

Saturday, 11/2. [2024 WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose](#). See above.

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.

Wilderness First Aid: 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? 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 7/8, 9/3 & 11/4. 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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