



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group July 2025



WSG members enjoying Anne Keil's hike on the Dark Canyon Trail, located between Paonia and Crested Butte. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)



WSG Social, Mancos Brewery, Saturday, June 28, 4-6pm

Join the us at the Mancos Brewery!! CMC Durango Area Chair, Dan King, is leading a hike of the [West Mancos River Loop](#) on Saturday, June 28th. A community social will follow at 4pm at the Mancos Brewery just east of Mancos. The group will also be discussing the ongoing exploratory copper mine activity in the La Plata Mountain Range. [Please sign up](#) so that we can let them know how many to expect. The Mancos Brewery is located at 484 Hwy 160 E Frontage Rd. This social gathering is open to the public and CMC members. Join us!

WSG Social, Ouray Brewery, Sunday, July 20, 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.



WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 1, Dave Cooper's "Travels on the Wilder Side"

Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! Socializing: 4:30pm, dinner/potluck: 5pm, annual meeting: 6pm, Dave's presentation: 6:30pm, evening conclusion: 7:30pm. Sign-ups will start this summer. Stay tuned!

Dave Cooper has always been drawn to wild places, addicted to the raw beauty of Nature. Climbing and trekking have allowed Dave to visit some of the most spectacular places in various parts of the world.

Join Dave as he shares his experiences from the Andes of South America to the Brooks Range in Alaska, to Nepal, Africa and Europe. Sometimes mountaineering, sometimes rock and ice climbing and sometimes just wandering, Dave has attempted to capture the beauty of these locations in his photography.

Dave is the author of two Colorado guidebooks, "[Colorado Scrambles - Climbs Beyond the Beaten Path](#)", and "[Colorado Snow Climbs - A Guide for All Seasons](#)". For several years, he wrote the "Trail Mix" column for the Denver Post. His photography has been published in books, magazines and newspapers.

Photo: Rock climbing on the island of Telendos in Greece.

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



Indigenous Perspective on Western Waters

At the recent Telluride Mountainfilm Festival, a group of guest speakers gathered to discuss the issues of water allocation and the Colorado River. The panel included Manuel Heart (Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman), Lorelei Cloud (Vice Chair of the Southern Ute Tribal Council, as well as the first indigenous person to serve on the Colorado Water Conservation Board), Ben Masters and Quannah ChasingHorse (Director/Writer and Narrator, respectively, of a new documentary, The American Southwest.)

The 1922 Colorado River Compact is an agreement that provides operating guidelines and water distribution among seven western states. The current guidelines are set to expire at the end of 2026. The allocations were made over 100 years ago during some of the wettest years on record. And the projected growth in these seven states over the span of a century was expected to be two million people when in fact 40 million people currently live in these states.

The Colorado River is the hardest working river in the world. The average drop of water is used 20 times and some of this water never returns to the Colorado River. Not only is 80 percent of the water used for agricultural purposes, one-third of the alfalfa grown in the lower Colorado River Basin goes to foreign countries. We are in a 25-year drought and 19 percent of the river water is lost due to climate change. The 100-year-old framework for the Colorado River Basin is not working today.

According to Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman Manuel Heart, there are 30 federally recognized tribes in the Colorado River Basin. It was not until 1924 that tribal members were recognized and became citizens of the United States. They have not used their water rights; they have not been compensated for these rights and there is no water delivery system. The continuing struggle facing Colorado River tribal members from benefiting from their vast water rights is referred to as the four “U’s” of tribal water – undeveloped, unquantified, unused and uncompensated.

The tribal leaders at this panel discussion urged all of us to advocate not only what we use, but for what wildlife and plant life need. We also need to recognize what was happening in the Colorado River Basin before the United States became a country. Indigenous knowledge about stewardship of the land is conservation. Water is considered a relative and we must take care of it as if it is our family. This is the moment to try and design a new framework, a new ethic about water use. There is enough water. It just is not used wisely.

Photo credit: National Park Service

Our Lawmakers are Real Estate Agents ... Again



A disastrous amendment to the House version of the budget bill would have sold over 500,000 acres of public land. Fortunately, the amendment failed, but now the proposed public land sell off is back with vengeance in the current version of the budget bill due to a Senate proposal. This effort has been spearheaded by Senator Mike

Lee of Utah. According to the Wilderness Society, the provision in question mandates the sale of between 2 and 3 million acres, but the provision contains very limited exemptions. Millions of acres of federal public land in Colorado could be vulnerable to a sell off if this version of the bill passes. Eligible lands on the Western Slope include the Lunch Loops mountain bike trail system in Grand Junction, Durango's Animas Mountain recreational space, land along Highway 550 between Durango and Silverton, land north of Palisade in the Book Cliffs, and land near the Blue Mesa Reservoir.

[Please sign the Outdoor Alliance petition here.](#)

Photo credit: AllTrails

Call to Action Gathering in Grand Junction, Monday, June 30, 5:30-7pm

[Join Claire at the Mesa County Public Library](#) to ask any questions you may have about signing petitions/letters to lawmakers that cover issues such as the public land sell-off, federal public lands employee staff cuts and more. Bring your phone. Meeting location: Community Room in the Mesa County Public Library Downtown in Grand Junction (443 N. 6th Street).



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 on 6/28 for the West Mancos Loop Trail, 7/11 for the Coal Bank Pass to Cascade Creek hike and 7/12 for the Cascade Creek hike. See below for more info and to sign up.

Here are more hikes that will be posted soon:

Helmet Peak & Rush Basin (July), Columbine Lake (early Aug), Centennial Peak (mid/late Aug), Madden & Parrot Peaks (early/mid Sept), Tomahawk Basin & Diorite Peak (late Sept/early Oct), Canyonland Needles/Chesler Park or Devil's Kitchen (late Oct/Nov).

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](#)

Saturday, 6/21. [Hiking - Silvershield TH - Dinosaur Tracks](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Friday, 6/27. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Crater Peak](#). Moderate. Doug Hemken.

Saturday, 6/28. [Hiking - West Mancos Loop Trail](#). Moderate. Dan King.

Tuesday, 7/1. [Hiking – Stillwell Tunnel - Liberty Bell](#). Moderate. Bud Tasch.

Wednesday, 7/2. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Crane Lake](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy. Enjoy wildflowers in bloom on the GM - [lupine](#), [larkspur](#), [bluebell](#), [prairie smoke](#) and [Indian paintbrush](#)!

Friday, 7/11. [Hiking - Engineer Mountain Trailhead - Cascade Creek](#). Car shuttle. Moderate. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 7/12. [Hiking- Cascade Creek Trailhead](#). Moderate. Marsha Pritchard.

Saturday, 7/19. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Mesa Top](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Friday, 8/22. [Hiking- Waterdog Lakes Trail \(Monarch Pass\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

8/28-9/1. [Scramble – Chicago Basin 14ers \(Sunlight, Eolus, North Eolus and Windom\)](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Wednesday, 10/1 [Hiking - Palisade Plunge Hiker Shuttle \(fee\)](#). Difficult. Anne Keil.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Saturday, 6/28. 4-6pm. Mancos Brewery Social. See above to register.

Monday, 6/30. 5:30-7pm. Call to Action Gathering in Grand Junction. See above.

Sunday, 7/20, 2-4:30pm. Ouray Brewery Social. See above to register.

9/9-11. SAVE THE DATE Lake City event, 2 nights, 2-3 days of hiking. Reserve your own lodging/camping. Hikes will be posted separately to sign up.

10/9-12. [WSG's 6th Annual Fall multi-day hiking event, Torrey/Capitol Reef UT](#). Reserve your own lodging/camping. Register by email: WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Hikes will be posted separately and are only open to those on this event roster.

Saturday, 11/1. Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! See 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 let our **new WSG Schools director Daniel Glatter** know if something interests you (WSGofCMC@gmail.com).

[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- Tentative for January 2026 on Grand Mesa. Schedule for avalanche training courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

[Wilderness First Aid \(WFA\)](#): May 2026 in Montrose, Course Catalog link has other locations.

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 **20th 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, State Council Rep: 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 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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