



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

### Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group June 2025



Hamming it up on Victor Kettlapper's CMC hike to Maverick Bridge on the WSG Escalante multi-day trip. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

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## WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 1, "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: Summit of Quitaraju (19,803') in Peru.

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## Hiking & Backcountry Safety Seminar in Ouray, Saturday, June 14, 6-8pm



Event sponsors include the CMC, Ouray Mountain Sports (OMS) and the Ouray Trail Group (OTG). Tom Maceyka, the WSG Marketing & Membership Chair, will be representing the CMC. The event will be held in the Massard Room at the Ouray Community Center at 320 6th Ave. The details are still being worked out, but this is the current plan:

There will be 4 stations and groups will go from station-to-station in round robin style. The stations will be:

-- "What's in my pack?" for a successful outing

- Trip Planning for success and safety
- Back country navigation- digital devices and maps
- Back country communication- Radios, satellite phones, Inreach devices, phones

No need to register. Just show up!

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## 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!

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## Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

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## A Call to Action to Protect our Public Lands

Our CMC State Conservation Director, Brian Bergeler, is asking us to unite as a club in defense of our public lands. Specifically, he is asking us to contact elected officials and let them know we oppose the sell off of public lands and the staffing cuts to land management agencies. It is easy to take for granted the places we recreate and our connections with nature. These lands are under threat and must be protected.

The public land sell off is a timely issue because of a budget reconciliation bill that recently passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee by a narrow margin. The bill is before the House Rule Committee as I write this and if it passes, it will be voted on by the full House of Representatives. Included in this bill is a provision that will sell off over a half million acres of public lands across the west. The argument made in support of the public land sell off is that it will generate income. But for whom? – the private companies that will profit from mining and drilling on these lands.

This spring, over 300 western local elected officials wrote a letter to the Trump administration urging for a more balanced approach, calling on them to oppose the sale of public lands and to fully fund our land management agencies. The letter was signed by five Grand Junction city council members, three La Plata County Commissioners, two Ouray County Commissioners, the Ridgway mayor and three city council members, as well as several San Juan and San Miguel officials.

As Western Slope residences we understand that public lands sustain our communities and are the very foundation of our outdoor lifestyles. The lands are the homelands of indigenous populations, provide wildlife habitat as well as outdoor recreational opportunities.

If you wish to include your name on a letter, CMC has provided a link to letters authored by Outdoor Alliance and they can be accessed here. [Tell Lawmakers: Don't Sell Off Public Lands to Pay for Tax Cuts Ask Lawmakers to Reverse Staffing Cuts at Land Management Agencies](#)

In addition, we will host Call to Action gatherings over the summer where CMC members and friends can find out more and sign letters and petitions. Stay tuned for these events to be held in Grand Junction, Montrose and Durango.

**BREAKING NEWS:** Late last night, the House Rules Committee accepted an amendment to the House Reconciliation Bill removing the sale of public lands. Americans made their voices heard about their love for public lands; however, the fight is not over yet.

Photo credit: Neon Canyon on the way to Golden Cathedral, Glen Canyon Recreation Area

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## Stewardship Opportunities with the Ouray Trail Group

Do you enjoy hiking the trails around Ouray? If so, then consider helping out the Ouray Trail Group. For more info, [visit their website](#).



## 2025 BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL WORK TRIPS

<b>May 24-25</b>	<b>Baldy/Cutler Complex</b>
<b>June 14-15</b>	<b>Richmond East/Full Moon</b>
<b>June 21-22</b>	<b>Dallas Trail</b>
<b>June 28-29</b>	<b>Courthouse</b>
<b>July 5-6</b>	<b>Richmond Basin</b>
<b>July 12-13</b>	<b>Horsetheif to Cascade Pass</b>
<b>Aug 2-3</b>	<b>Wetterhorn</b>
<b>Aug 23-24</b>	<b>Little Cimarron</b>
<b>Aug 30-31</b>	<b>Cow Creek</b>
<b>Sept 27-28</b>	<b>Blaine Basin</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Dallas/Corbett Creek</b>

**SIGN UP AT**

**OURAYTRAILS.ORG/VOLUNTEERS**



## 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 7/11 for the Coal Bank Pass to Cascade Creek hike. Also, to be posted is a West Mancos Loop Trail hike on 6/28. See below.

Here are more hikes that will be posted in early June:

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

Contact our Durango Area Chair, Dan King, at [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, 5/24. [Seminar - Bird Hikes Along the Florida River South of Durango](#). Easy. Mike Foster via the San Juan Mountain Association.

Saturday, 5/31. [Hiking - West End - Dolores River Trail](#). Easy. Claire McCullough.

Sunday, 6/1. [Hiking - The West End - Sewemup WSA and Rock Art](#). Moderate. Claire McCullough.

Tuesday, 6/3. [Hiking - Stillwell Tunnel - Liberty Bell Mine](#). Doggie Hike. Moderate. Bud Tasch.

6/5-8. [Camp - Canyonlands Needles District](#). Easy. Denver Group.

Saturday, 6/7. [Hiking - Curecanti - Crystal Dam Overlook](#). Doggie Hike. Moderate. Bud Tasch.

Sunday, 6/8. [Leader in Training \(LIT\) Hike - Black Canyon National Park - Deadhorse Trail \(with loop\)](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Thursday, 6/12. [Via Ferrata - Ouray Via Ferrata - Downstream](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 6/14. [Hiking - Ouray Perimeter Trail](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Sunday, 6/15. [Hiking - Dark Canyon Trailhead - \(Paonia\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

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

Saturday, 6/28. Hiking - West Mancos Loop Trail. Dan King. To be posted soon on the [WSG Calendar](#).

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

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

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

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

10/9-12. [Capitol Reef NP - Multiday Hiking Trip](#). Reserve your own lodging/camping. Fruita campground **fills quickly!** Register by email: [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com).

## PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Thursday, 5/29. [Backpacking Section \(BPX\) Educational Series - Introduction to Backpacking](#). Zoom presentation.

Thursday, 6/5. [Backpacking Educational Series-Ecofriendly Lightweight Backpacking](#). Zoom presentation.

Sunday, 7/20. SAVE THE DATE! Social in Ouray TBD.

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 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. Contact WSGofCMC@gmail.com for additional info.

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

**Wilderness First Aid:** May 2026 in Montrose, Course Catalog link has other locations.

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## 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](#).

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## 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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