



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

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



Hiking Pollock Bench trail, Fruita CMC trip by Judy Mayne. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

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## Spring Leader Appreciation & Social at Shelter Distillery in Montrose, Sunday, May 18, 2-4pm

Join us at the Shelter Distillery in Montrose to socialize and recognize our WSG trip leaders! All WSG trip leaders' first drink is on the WSG! [Please RSVP so that we can let Shelter Distillery know how many to expect.](#) We've reserved the outside patio that looks over the Uncompahgre River. Some of us will be coming from a hike near Montrose at [Lower Spring Creek](#) so the time is approximate.

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## Welcome New Trip Leader Claire McCullough!



I grew up in northern Colorado and spent my childhood hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park and skiing at Hidden Valley, a small ski area in the park. A little over 30 years ago, I moved to the Western Slope and have been living in Grand Junction since 1997. I enjoy life on the Colorado Plateau, spending time hiking, cross-country skiing, and tending to my huge garden. After a long hiatus, I am rediscovering rock climbing.

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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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## The Public Land Rule

Recently, the Department of Interior stated that the BLM Public Lands Rule will be rescinded. The rule was announced last June after years of public comment and consideration, and research and planning by the BLM. 92% of the comments received by the BLM supported the Public Lands Rule. The conservation community was excited and hopeful about the Public Lands Rule because it gave the issue of conservation, healthy landscapes and wildlife habitat equal weight with other uses considered by the BLM in implementing its multiple use policy. Historically, before the enactment of the Public Lands Rule, the BLM's multiple use policy favored extractive industries, grazing, motorized use and other activities. This is just one more unfortunate setback for our public lands. The “good news” is that a lawsuit was filed last year by opponents of the Public Lands Rules and in response, several conservations groups filed a motion to intervene. The matter is still pending before a federal court.

Photo: BLM Tres Rios Field Office

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## Stewardship and Educational Opportunities

As we move into pleasant spring weather, Colorado Canyons Association has several interesting opportunities to get involved and learn over the next couple of months. Opportunities include trail work in the Gunnison Gorge NCA, a two night/three-day stewardship trip on the Ruby Horsethief section of the Colorado River, field training, western history, and birding on the Colorado River. (Several of these events include costs to cover expenses.) For more information visit [coloradocanyonsassociation.org](http://coloradocanyonsassociation.org).

### Living with Wolves

Rebecca Burkhalter with Colorado Wild will be giving a presentation about Living with Wolves. The presentation is sponsored by the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and CMC members are invited to attend. The presentation will take place at 4:00 p.m. on April 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Universal Unitarian Church, 536 Ouray Avenue, Grand Junction.

Photo: San Juan Citizens Alliance





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## 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 Dan King for a hike to Sand Canyon/Rock Creek in Canyons of the Ancients **4/26** and Mike Foster & San Juan Mountains Association for 2 birding trips on **5/10 & 24**, & Anne's car shuttle hike Coal Bank Pass to Cascade Creek on **7/11**! See below to sign up.

Contact our Durango Area Chair, Dan King, at [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com) for more info or to get involved!

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## 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.

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## 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?

## 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)

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## 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 4/26. [Hiking- Sand Canyon/Rock Creek \(Cortez\)](#). Moderate. Dan King.

Thursday 5/1. [Hiking- Pollock Bench](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Saturday 5/3. Mtn [Biking- 18 Road North Fruita Desert](#). Easy/Mod. Jay Johnson.

Friday 5/9. [Hiking- Carbondale Historic Cemetery](#). Easy. Roaring Fork Group.

5/9-11. [Backpack - Canyonlands - Elephant Canyon Loop to Druid Arch](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 5/10. [Seminar - Bird Hikes Along the Florida River South of Durango](#). Easy. Mike Foster via the San Juan Mountain Association.

Wednesday, 5/14. [Hiking - Black Canyon National Park - North Vista Trail \(to Green Mountain\)](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach

Saturday, 5/17. Mtn [Biking- Kokopelli Loops](#). Moderate. Jay Johnson.

Sunday, 5/18. [Hiking - Lower Spring Creek TH - Simms Mesa](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

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. Join us for a West End Weekend!

Sunday, 6/1. [Hiking - West End - Sewemup WSA and Rock Art](#). Moderate. Claire McCullough. Join us for a West End Weekend!

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

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

Friday, 7/11. [Hiking-Coal Bank Pass to Cascade Crk shuttle](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

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

10/9-12 SAVE THE DATE! Fall multi-day hiking trip at Capitol Reef NP. Reserve your own lodging/camping as the group site was unavailable. Fruita campground reservations open **April 8 and fill quickly!** If interested in attending or leading trips, email [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com). Hopefully we don't get rained out this time!

## PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Free Hiking/Biking safety courses in various locations. May 3: REI Grand Junction 10:30am, May 13: Montrose Library 6:45pm, May 14: Montrose Recreation Center 6:00pm. Tom Maceyka.

Sunday, 5/18, 2-4pm. Spring Social & Leader Appreciation at Shelter Distillery, Montrose. See above.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, 11/1. Join us for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! Dave wrote [Colorado Scrambles](#) and [Colorado Snow Climbs](#). At the Annual Dinner, Dave will entertain us with his "Travels on the Wilder Side" presentation. Stay tuned!

**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 and avalanche training. Contact [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com) for info about scenarios & process.

**[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](mailto: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 5/19, 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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