



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group November 2025



CMC members heading up the SW ridge of Mount Sneffels, including WSG's Jay Johnson acting as sweep. CMC trip led by and photo by Doug Hemken. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Annual Dinner, Potluck & Meeting

featuring local mountaineer

Dave Cooper

TRAVELS ON THE WILDER SIDE



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 guide books, "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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose

POTLUCK

Bring a dish to share (appetizer, main, side dish, dessert) and serving utensil. BYOBeverage.

ADMISSION

\$10 per person

Guests welcome!

EVENING SCHEDULE

4:30pm: Socializing

5pm: Dinner / Socializing

6pm: Annual Meeting

6:30pm: Dave's presentation

7:30pm: Evening Conclusion

SIGN UP & CONTACT

www.tinyurl.com/wsg2025dinner

WSGofCMC@gmail.com

If you're interested in volunteering at the annual dinner, please let us know at WSGofCMC@gmail.com. We're needing help with table & kitchen set-up (4-4:30pm), check-in (4:30-5:30pm-ish) and tear-down & clean-up (7:30-8pm). Thanks!

At the annual dinner, we will hold our annual meeting where the slate of candidates for the 2026 WSG Council will be voted in. The candidates include Anne Keil (Chair), Brenda Leach (Vice Chair), John Broadbooks (Treasurer), Jill Mattoon (Secretary), Conservation Chair (Claire McCullough), Durango Area Chair (Dan King), Membership & Marketing Chair (Tom Maceyka), Outings Chair (Doug Hemken), Schools Chair (Daniel Glatter) and State Council Representative (Open). We will also vote on an updated WSG Bylaws, mostly to add new Council positions. [Click here to see the changes in our Bylaws, noted in red.](#)

[Registration is now open here!](#) Guests are welcome.

Interested in Joining the Western Slope Group Council?

We're looking to fill a new WSG Council volunteer position -- State Council Representative -- with an additional WSG member. Four WSG members restarted the WSG in June 2020. We meet every other month via Zoom or in-person at a Council member's house. We work together well and we enjoy each other's company. We've been consistently plugging away since 2020 at enhancing the Western Slope Group by adding more trips, activities and members. The State Council Rep will act as the liaison between the Western Slope Group and the [State Council](#). WSG Council members will be elected to office at the November 1 WSG annual dinner. We are also looking for members to join our Outings Committee, helping to plan trips/events for the WSG. Contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you're interested in either.

WFA in Fruita!

We're pleased to announce that the CMC will be offering Wilderness First Aid in Fruita in November! This is open to both CMC and non-CMC members. Tell your friends and family! This is a great skill to have if you enjoy the outdoors as it prepares you for emergencies where help isn't immediately available.

Leaders are required to recert WFA every 2 years and can apply for the free scholarship if they have led 6 trips since their last WFA class.

Our next scheduled WFA will be in Montrose, May 2026.



WILDERNESS FIRST AID

**Fruita Community Center
November 21-22, 2025**

The WFA course teaches students the skills to anticipate risks and hazards, identify medical, traumatic, environmental problems, recognize life-threatening issues, initiate basic care and deliver a cohesive report. The curriculum forces students to think creatively, adapt to ever changing situations, and learn valuable leadership, decision making, and communication skills to use in the outdoors.

**LIMITED SPOTS
AVAILABLE**

Register at CMC.ORG:



Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



Wild for Good Campaign Launched by Wilderness Workshop

Last week, Wilderness Workshop held a gathering in Carbondale to report on ten priority Western Slope landscapes that have been identified as places that outdoor enthusiasts love to explore through hiking, backcountry skiing, floating down rivers and other activities. These areas also serve as connectivity corridors and provide critical wildlife habitat. While our public lands are currently under siege, this is a call to action to rally for the permanent protection of these areas for generations to come. The areas include Dolores River Canyon Country, the Greater Dinosaur area, the Roan Plateau, Colorado River Valley, and the North Fork Valley. The landscapes consist of a mix of unprotected lands, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless areas, and some portions are included in either the CORE Act or the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act.

On November 20th in Grand Junction, a Wilderness Workshop staff member will be making a presentation about the campaign and suggesting fun ways to get involved. The location will most likely be at Gearhead Outfitters. An event will be entered into the CMC website so please check there to verify the location.

Photo: Canyon in the Roan Plateau region courtesy of Scott Braden.

Senator Hickenlooper's Panel Discussion About Public Lands



On October 22, 2025, Senator John Hickenlooper held a virtual panel discussion with Scott Fitzwilliams - former White River National Forest Supervisor, Tracy Coppola – Colorado's Senior Program Manager for National Parks Conservation Association, Jonathan Houck – Gunnison County Commissioner, and Nada Wolff Culver - former BLM Principal Deputy Director.

Statistics were presented about continued funding cuts, hiring freezes and terminations. The budget proposal by the current administration calls for cutting one-third (about \$4 billion) of the funds from public land agencies. 7,500 employees from the Department of Interior have been terminated, 5,000 from the USFS, and 25% of the full-time park service employees. 100 park superintendent positions remain unfilled.

According to Tracy Coppola, \$1 million in fee revenues is being lost every day during the government shutdown. The terminations of senior level staff have resulted in the loss of decades of experience and institutional knowledge. Even before the shutdown, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP was operating with one-third of its staff, Rocky Mountain National Park may not be able to go forward with its planned, controlled burns, and Curecanti NCA has no staff on the ground to inspect boats for invasive species.

Scott Fitzwilliams noted that only one biologist remains at the White River National Forest District. All wildfire support staff have lost their jobs. Potential wildfires are especially troubling for Colorado due to 100 years of fire suppression; houses being built in urban/forest interface area and the impacts of climate change.

Rebecca Gillus, with Conservation Alliance reminded us how rapidly unity was achieved in response to the proposed public lands sell-off. Senator Hickenlooper emphasized that no matter who we are or how we connect with nature, outdoor recreation has no political stripe. We cannot forget how important our voices are when it comes to the love of nature.

Photo: Red Table Mountain courtesy of Ken Jones.

Building Power in Advocacy

Join Conservation Colorado to learn more about advocacy, local government and public lands at The Ordinary Fellow Winery, 202 Peach Avenue, Palisade on October 29th at 5:30 p.m.



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!

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.

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".

The screenshot shows the "Alerts & Notifications Preferences" form. It has a teal header with the title "Alerts & Notifications Preferences" and a minus sign on the right. Below the header, there are three sections: "Update Frequency", "Activities", and "Groups".

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)
A horizontal list of activity tags with an 'x' icon: Adventure Travel, Biking, Camping, Canyoneering, Climbing, Conservation, Hiking, Mountaineering, Nordic Skiing, Snowshoeing, and Volunteer Leadership.

Groups
With these Groups... (leave blank to choose all Groups)
A text input field for selecting 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](#)

Friday, 10/31. [Hiking – McInnis Canyons NCA - Devil’s Canyon Trail System](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Friday, 11/14. [Hiking – Palisade Rim](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Sunday, 11/30. [Hiking – Ridgway Area Trails \(RAT\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Sunday, 11/30. [Hiking – \(Overflow\) Ridgway Area Trails \(RAT\)](#). Moderate. Jay Johnson.

Sunday, 12/21. [Hiking – McInnis Canyons NCA](#). D loops. Moderate. Anne Keil.

4/21-29. [Adventure Travel – Quito and The Galapagos Islands Multi-Sport Adventure](#). Fee.

5/5-13. [Adventure Travel – Quito and The Galapagos Islands Multi-Sport Adventure](#). Fee.

9/29-10/16. [Adventure Travel – Annapurna Basecamp](#). Fee.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 10/26, 3-5pm. [Grand Mesa Nordic Council Kickoff Party - Delta County Kickoff](#). Yarrow Taproom in Austin.

Saturday, 11/1. CMC WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose featuring mountaineer and author Dave Cooper! See above, [register here](#).

Sunday, 11/2, 3-5pm. [Grand Mesa Nordic Council Kickoff Party - Mesa County Kickoff](#). Cruise Control Kitchen + Cellar in Grand Junction.

Friday/Saturday, 11/21 & 22. [Wilderness First Aid](#) in Fruita. \$280 members, \$300 nonmembers. Scholarship for leaders (free with 6 trips led in 2 years). May 2026 in Montrose, Course Catalog link has other locations.

Sunday, 1/11/2026. [Avalanche Terrain Avoidance- Field Day](#). Grand Mesa Lodge. Jay Johnson. Online self-paced lecture required before field day. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers. Scholarship for leaders (free with 6 on-snow trips led in 5 years).

[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 contact our **new WSG Schools Chair Daniel Glatter** at WSGofCMC@gmail.com 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: Avalanche Terrain Avoidance](#), 1/11/26. Schedule for avalanche training courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

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 **24th of each month** for the following month's newsletter.

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 Chair: Tom Maceyka (Ridgway)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). The currently scheduled WSG Council meetings are 11/24, 1/13/26, 3/17, 5/19 and 7/14. 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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Golden, CO 80401

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