



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

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



WSG members head across the ridgeline on the Grand Mesa's Crag Crest trail. CMC trip led by Doug Hemken. Photo by Jill Mattoon. [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](http://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](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com) if you're interested in either.

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## 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](http://CMC.ORG):



## Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



## The History of the 2001 Roadless Rule

The Roadless Rule restricts logging and road construction on 58.5 million acres managed by the Forest Service. Research consistently demonstrates that roadless areas are vital for safeguarding biodiversity, wildlife habitats, and migration corridors. These landscapes often connect designated wilderness areas and national parks, enabling unrestricted wildlife movement across broader landscapes. Furthermore, the rule plays a significant role in preventing soil erosion, reducing water pollution, and enhancing climate resilience.

Initially proposed in 2000, the Roadless Rule received over 1.6 million public comments, with approximately 90 percent expressing support. Its scheduled implementation in March 2001 was postponed by two months under the Bush administration, and legal challenges followed. In 2006, a judicial decision upheld the rule. While the Trump administration exempted the Tongass National Forest from these protections, the Biden administration reinstated them in 2023.

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced its proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule, and initiated a 21-day public comment period—much shorter than the customary 60 days—to solicit feedback. This comment period ended on September 19th. Should the USDA proceed with the rescission, more than 25,000 miles of hiking trails, nearly 9,000 climbing routes, and over 10,000 miles of mountain biking trails could be affected. (Colorado and Idaho have their own roadless rules and should not be impacted by a rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule.)

Photo: Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming - inventoried roadless area. Photo credit: USDA - Forest Service.

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## Road Trip Hosted by Center for Western Priorities

Recently, the Center for Western Priorities, a bipartisan group, organized a road trip beginning in Denver and ending in Grand Junction, making stops in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. At each location, land managers, indigenous community members, environmental organization staff, and outdoor recreation professionals addressed current threats to public lands. Recordings of live podcast sessions from these events are available here. <https://www.keepparkspublic.org/events-1>

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## Mountainfilm on Tour

Mountainfilm on Tour will return to Grand Junction at the Avalon Theater on November 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., generously sponsored annually by the Western Colorado Alliance. Additionally, Montrose will host Mountainfilm on Tour at the Montrose Pavilion on October 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

# Update on the Colorado Hookless Cactus



The Colorado Hookless Cactus, which grows in the Colorado and Gunnison River basins in western Colorado and their tributary canyons, was classified as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979. The species has now been officially removed from the endangered species list. Its recovery has been managed through collaborative efforts of the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, and the Denver Botanical Gardens. Found in high desert, semi-arid regions, this species is recognized for its distinctive pink flowers that bloom in late April and early May.

Photo: Colorado Hookless Cactus. Photo Credit: USFWS.

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## Volunteer Opportunities with the Ouray Trail Group

"The Ouray Trail Group was founded in 1986 for the purpose of stewarding safe and enjoyable hiking in the San Juan Mountains while preserving their beauty and natural resources. In addition to restoring and maintaining historic hiking trails, OTG works cooperatively with others to preserve the fascinating but fragile remnants of the 19th Century Mining Era trails throughout the region." Here are some opportunities to volunteer for the OTG. Send an email to [contactus@ouraytrails.org](mailto:contactus@ouraytrails.org) for information on how to volunteer. [Also, see their website for more info.](#)

**Single Day Trail Work** happens every Monday and Thursday on Ouray/Ridgway local trails from May through September.

**Multi-day Trail Work Trips:**

9/27-28, Blaine Basin Trail.

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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!

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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## 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".

## 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 &amp; 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, 9/27. [Birding Along Florida River \(Durango\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

Sunday, 9/28. [Scramble – Grand Mesa - Leon Peak](#). Challenging. Daniel Glatter.

9/28-10/1. [Hiking – Canyonlands Needles District](#). Moderate. Denver Group.

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

Saturday, 10/4. [Mtn Bike – Kokopelli Loops Trail](#). Challenging. Jay Johnson.

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. The Capitol Reef NP hikes below are only open to those participants on this roster.

Thursday, 10/9. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Golden Throne + Capitol Gorge](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Friday, 10/10. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Upper Muley Twist](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Friday, 10/10. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Burro Wash](#). Challenging. Daniel Glatter.

Saturday, 10/11. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Cohab Canyon](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Saturday, 10/11. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Chimney-Spring Canyon Shuttle](#). Moderate. Paul Sheya.

Sunday, 10/12. [Hiking – Capitol Reef National Park - Chimney Rock Loop](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Sunday, 10/19. [Hiking – Mount Lamborn](#). Challenging. Doug Hemken.

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

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

## PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

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

Friday/Saturday, 11/21 & 22. [Wilderness First Aid](#) in Fruita. \$280 members, \$300 non-members.

SAVE THE DATE! Avalanche Terrain Avoidance field day 1/11/26 at the Grand Mesa Lodge.

[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](mailto: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](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com) for additional info.

[ATA and AIARE](#): Avalanche Terrain Avoidance-see above. Schedule for avalanche training courses & AIARE by CMC in other locations see Course Catalog link above.

[Wilderness First Aid \(WFA\)](#): 11/21&22 in Fruita, 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 **24th 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 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 on 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.

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Colorado Mountain Club  
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