



**COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB**

**WESTERN SLOPE GROUP**

**Canyon to Crest Call  
Western Slope Group  
September 2025**



WSG members enjoying Judy Mayne's July hike on the Grand Mesa's Mesa Top Trail. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

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**WSG Social at Mesa Lakes Lodge, Sunday, 9/14, 2-4pm**



Join us for a social gathering at the Mesa Lakes Lodge on the Grand Mesa! They have great food and a full bar. [Please sign up so that we can tell the lodge how many to expect.](#) The lodge is at 3619 highway 65 next to Jumbo Lake. [Jennifer Rhamy is leading a hike prior to the social so sign up for that too!](#) Hope to see you there!

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## 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!

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.

4:30pm: Socializing; 5pm: Dinner/potluck; 6pm: Annual meeting; 6:30pm: Dave's presentation; 7:30pm: Evening conclusion.

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!

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

Photo: Fitzroy Massif, Patagonia.

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## Interested in Joining the Western Slope Group Council?

We're looking to fill a WSG Council volunteer position -- State Council Representative -- with an additional WSG member. Four WSG members restarted the WSG in June 2020. The current Council members are now Anne Keil (Chair, Outings Chair), Brenda Leach (Vice Chair), John Broadbooks (Treasurer), Jill Mattoon (Secretary), Claire McCullough (Conservation Chair), Dan King (Durango Area Chair) and Tom Maceyka (Marketing & Membership Chair). 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. We now want to expand the WSG Council with a new member. The State Council Rep will act as the liaison between the Western Slope Group and the [State Council](#). 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.





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



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## Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

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## President of the Wilderness Society's Recent Visit to the Western Slope

Earlier this week Tracy Stone-Manning, President of the Wilderness Society and former Director of the BLM, along with Nada Wolff Culver, former Principal Deputy Director of the BLM held a fireside chat in Carbondale to discuss the future of our public lands.

Tracy emphasized the impact made by public outcry over the proposed public lands sell off. Collectively, people from all walks of life have shown they fiercely love public lands. Senator Hickenlooper received 5,000 phone calls and 26,000 emails about the proposed sell off of public lands. This is just the beginning of a movement we are building together. She described our public lands as “America’s best act.”

Tracy perceives the current threats to public lands as unique for several reasons. First, they are relentless. Second, nothing this administration has done is about the future. She believes that Congress is going to need to pass some legislation that is positive about the future. Colorado has two great examples of bipartisan bills – the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act and the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection (GORP) Act. The CORE Act proposes protections for the San Juan Mountains, the Continental and Thompson Divides, and the Curecanti National Recreation Area. The GORP Act is an effort to protect the Gunnison Basin. Details about both acts may be found at <https://coreact.org> and <http://www.gorpact.org>. It is worthwhile letting our lawmakers know that we are in favor of the passage of these bills and thanking them. (Senator Hickenlooper, Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse are sponsoring the CORE Act. Senator Hickenlooper, Senator Bennet and Representative Hurd are sponsoring the GORP Act.)

Finally, aggressive elimination of jobs in the federal agencies amounts to the denigration of the idea of public service. She emphasized the importance of thanking federal agency workers that we may run into while enjoying our time on public lands – such as a park service employee collecting fees at a toll booth.

People make lifetime memories on public lands and are deeply connected to public lands. Most Americans share this common value that these places matter. Convincing someone to believe in a value is the hard part, so the hard part is over.

Photo credit: Badlands National Park.

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## An Evening With Adventure Writer Kevin Fedarko

On October 1, 2025, Kevin Fedarko, author of “A Walk in the Park” will be appearing at the Montrose Pavilion to talk about his misadventures while trekking through the Grand Canyon over 14 months. [Tickets are available here online.](#)

# 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:

8/30-31, Cow Creek.

9/27-28, Blaine Basin Trail.



## 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 9/13 & 9/27 for birding on the Florida River with SJMA & Mike Foster and hiking 9/13 Helmet Peak/Rush Basin with Dan King.

Our Autumn Equinox Social is 9/21, 4-6pm, at the Mancos Brewery. See you there! See below to register for all trips/events.

Coming up...Madden & Parrot Peaks, Tomahawk Basin & Diorite Peak, 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.

## 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](#)

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

Saturday, 8/30. [Birding Along Florida River \(Durango\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

Sunday, 8/31. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Crag Crest](#). Challenging. Doug Hemken.

Monday, 9/1. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - County Line \(Nordic\) Trails](#). Easy. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 9/6. [Hiking – Red Mountain Pass - Albany Gulch Loop](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Sunday, 9/7. [Hiking – Sutton/Neosho Mine](#). Easy. Jill Mattoon.

Tuesday, 9/9. [Hiking – Lake to Lake Trail](#). Easy/Moderate. Anne Keil. Afternoon start and optional exploring around Lake City depending on weather. Join us midweek, 9/9-9/11 in Lake City! Reserve your own lodging/camping. Register separately for each hike. Questions: WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 9/10. [Hiking – Waterdog Lake \(Lake City\)](#). Challenging. Marsha Pritchard.

Thursday, 9/11. [Hiking – Thompson Lake \(Lake City\)](#). Moderate. Marsha Pritchard & Anne Keil.

Saturday, 9/13. [Hiking – Helmet Peak - Rush Basin \(Durango\)](#). Moderate+. Dan King.

Saturday, 9/13. [Birding Along Florida River \(Durango\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

Sunday, 9/14. [Hiking – Grand Mesa - Anderson Reservoir](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Friday, 9/19. [Hiking – Mount Sneffels - Southwest Ridge](#). Challenging. Doug Hemken.

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

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

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 roster. Hikes planned so far: Chimney Rock loop, Cohab/Cassidy Arch shuttle, Chimney/Spring Creek shuttle, and more.

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

## PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 9/21. [Autumn Equinox Social](#), 4-6pm at Mancos Brewery, Mancos. Dan King.

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.

[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 next WSG Council meeting will be held 11/24. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.

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