



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

### Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group April 2024



Enjoying a beautiful day on Mary Pitz's hike to Rabbit's Ear Mesa to the west of Fruita.  
See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!

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## Save the Date for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner,

# Saturday, November 2!



Love long treks but hate carrying a heavy pack? You're not alone.

Join longtime CMC member, Diane Winger, as she reflects back on a variety of multi-day outings which were "supported" hikes. Whether the loads were carried by porters and guides, by mules, or by luggage transport services; or when the loads could be lightened because of the provisions provided at each night's destination, she and her travel companions found ways to travel light.

From the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails in California, to the Milford Track in New Zealand, to a trek in Patagonia, to the South West Coast Path of the United Kingdom, to a trek in the Everest region of Nepal, join Diane and friends for a range of beautiful experiences that didn't require carrying a heavy load.

The photo above is of Diane at 15,000' in Nepal.

The event will be held at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on Saturday, November 2, 4:30-7:30pm. Stay tuned for more information and a link to sign up for the event.



## WSG Founder Bob Beverly - Article in Delta Newspaper

In May 1950, a group of 20 people gathered in Rifle in a room above the fire station for the purpose of starting a CMC group. The idea was conceived a year earlier by Bob Beverly and Harry Harris during an early snowstorm on Castle Peak. In 1951, the CMC board of directors made it official. Bob Beverly was the 1st Chair of the Western Slope Group and served several terms. Bob passed away in 2019.

Did you know that Bob Beverly was also one of the founders of the Powderhorn Mountain Resort on the Grand Mesa? [Check out this recent story about Bob in the Delta County Independent newspaper.](#)

Photo is from the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel newspaper.

## Upcoming WSG Social Gatherings

The WSG will be organizing several social gatherings throughout the year. We'll hold them in brewpubs or other similar venues in Grand Junction, Paonia, Montrose, Ridgway or Durango. We'll list the dates and venues as they're determined. If you have a venue or town that you'd like to recommend, let us know at [WSGofCMC@gmail.com](mailto:WSGofCMC@gmail.com). Please sign up on the CMC website so that we can let the venues know how many to expect. Stay tuned!

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## Edgewater Brewery in Grand Junction, Sunday, April 14, 2-4pm



Kannah Creek's [Edgewater Brewery](#) is "your neighborhood brewpub, where the best burgers, brats, and craft beer in town are always paired with fun." It's located at 905 Struthers Ave in Grand Junction. [Please register here](#) so that we can let Edgewater know how many will attend. [This hike](#) and [an overflow hike](#) have been scheduled in the Grand Junction area prior to the social gathering.

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## Great White Buffalo Bar at the Chipeta Lodge in Ridgway, Sunday, June 23, 3-5pm

[The Great White Buffalo Bar](#) is an open air rooftop bar at the Chipeta Lodge in Ridgway. "Panoramic mountain views await you at our open air rooftop bar with a retractable awning with misters in the summer and heaters and table top fire-pits for the cooler months and chilly evenings." It's located at 304 S Lena St in Ridgway. [Please register here so that we can let the GWBB know how many will attend.](#) A hike will be scheduled in the Ridgway area prior to the social gathering.

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## Conservation Corner

## Statewide Efforts to Protect Big Game



Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recently notified the BLM that elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep populations are in decline because of the impacts of oil and gas activity. CPW developed a set of recommendations for the BLM with a statewide level proposal. BLM lands in Colorado are critically important to support wildlife migrations. High priority habitat types must be conserved for these wildlife populations to thrive. Of the 8.3 million acres of public lands the BLM manages, 48% provide habitat for mule deer and 52% provide habitat for elk.

In January, the BLM Colorado State Office announced a comment period for its statewide Draft Big Game Management Plan Amendment. The plan covers 13 million acres including 8.3 million acres of surface land and 4.7 million acres of mineral estates. The plan takes important steps to protect critical wildlife habitat from oil and gas impacts and it begins to recognize the negative impacts of oil and gas development.

However, the plan still leaves 86% of high priority wildlife habitat open to oil and gas leasing. In addition, it is out of step with the Colorado Climate Change Action Plan. Plan alternatives were identified by the BLM and a comment period ensued. The CMC Western Slope Group submitted [a comment which can be viewed here](#).

Photo credit: Colorado Outdoors Magazine

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## Stewardship Opportunities

On April 9, 2024, Colorado Canyons Association will be hosting its 5th annual volunteer orientation and education event at Edgewater Brewery in Grand Junction from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn more about volunteer opportunities, education programs and field trips organized by CCA throughout the upcoming season. For more details and to RSVP, [click this link](#) or visit <https://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org>.

Photo credit: Uncover Colorado

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## Durango Area CMC Update

Thanks to Dan King for organizing a Spring Equinox social at Ska Brewery in Durango! This gathering included both CMC and Sierra Club members and served to kick off activities and trips on 4/13 & 4/27 in Durango and on 5/4 & 6/1 in Farmington, NM. See the trip info below.

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! We will be updating happenings in this newsletter monthly. Contact us 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.

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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](#)

4/2-4. [Snowshoe Shrine Mountain Inn: Jay's Cabin](#). Roaring Fork Group.

Saturday, 4/13. [Hiking - Bird Hike at Oxbow Park and Preserve \(Durango\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster.

Sunday, 4/14. [Hiking - Echo Canyon Hike - Colorado National Monument](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Sunday, 4/14. [Hiking - Overflow for Echo Canyon Hike- ?Lunch Loops](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Tuesday, 4/16. [Hiking - Colorado National Monument - Serpents Trail](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Saturday, 4/27. [Leader in Training \(LIT\) Hike – CMC Pack Guide Hike #6 \(Shortened-version to Forest Service Bridge below Gudy's Rest\) close to Durango](#). Dan King & Mike Foster.

4/25-28. [Capitol Reef Tent/Car Camping and Hiking](#). This trip is full.

Saturday, 5/4. [Hiking - Spring Birds Along the Animas River in Farmington, NM.](#) Easy. Mike Foster.

Sunday, 5/5. [Hiking - Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Area \(Palisade\).](#) Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

5/12-15. [Camp – BPX 4-Day: Colorado National Monument Saddlehorn Campground.](#) Backpacking Section.

Saturday, 6/1. [Hiking - Early Summer Birds Along the Animas River in Farmington, NM.](#) Easy. Mike Foster.

8/19-23. [In State Outing, YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park.](#) State CMC, fee.

9/3-7. [Backpack – BPX 5-Day: Washakie Pass, Lizard Head and Cirque of the Towers Loop.](#) John Broadbooks.

October TBD, 5th Annual Green River/San Rafael Swell Camping/Cabin/Hiking Trip!

\*\*All members and guests must sign a new liability waiver with the new website

COVID policy for trips: [updated Dec 9, 2022](#)

## PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Sunday, 4/14, 2-4pm. [WSG Social Gathering at the Edgewater Brewery in Grand Junction.](#)

6/1&2 Weekend-TENTATIVE. Wilderness First Aid. Montrose.

Sunday, 6/23, 3-5pm. [WSG Social Gathering at the Great White Buffalo Bar in Ridgway.](#)

Saturday, 11/2. WSG Annual Dinner. SAVE THE DATE!

**[CMC Schools & Classes Webpage:](#)** \*\*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. Leader training online is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

**[Wilderness First Aid:](#)** Tentative June 1&2, Montrose. Schedule for other state locations [here](#).

**[WFA Instructors Wanted:](#)** Are you WFA or higher (WFR, medical professional, etc.) certified and interested in helping recertify/teach WFA to our members and leaders locally in 2024? More information [here](#). Teaching also renews your certification and the training is free.

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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: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Jill Mattoon (Ouray)

Conservation Chair: Claire McCullough (Grand Junction)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). Upcoming WSG Council meetings will be held on May 6. 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  
710 10th Street, Suite 20  
Golden, CO 80401

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