



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

**Canyon to Crest Call
Western Slope Group
December 2024**



CMC members enjoying a hike in Crack and Chute Canyons in the San Rafael Swell, Utah. Photo credit: Daniel Glatter. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

2024 CMC WSG Annual Dinner

The CMC Western Slope Group held a successful annual dinner on Saturday, November 2, at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose! A little over 70 members and non-members attended the event. Everyone brought something delicious to share for the potluck. Anne Keil gave an informative summary of the WSG's activities over the last year. The members present at the annual dinner voted in the following slate of candidates for the next 1-year term: Chair: Anne Keil; Vice Chair: Brenda Leach; Treasurer: John Broadbooks; Secretary: Jill Mattoon; Durango Area Chair: Dan King; Membership & Marketing Chair: Tom Maceyka. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped during the event! And, a special thanks to Diane Winger for her entertaining and informative presentation! She enlightened us with her different methods of cutting down on what she carried in her pack on several of her past trips to the U.K., Nepal, Patagonia, New Zealand and beyond. Below are some photos of the event, taken by Jill Mattoon.





Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



The Colorado Mountain Club is More Than a Hiking Club



The CMC's founders drafted a mission statement decades ago that continues to be relevant today. It provides, in part, a mission to "encourage the preservation of forests, fauna, flora, and natural scenery." This reflects a dedication to proactively protect landscapes based on the intrinsic value of nature.

Stony Brook University ecologist Carl Safina explains: "Wild things create and live in the remaining beautiful places. As wild animals disappear, what is lost is the world's beauty." He urges us to care for the endangered species and other wild things in what remains of wild places not selfishly, but selflessly "for the sake of beauty and all it implies."

The inherent value of nature is finally recognized in the BLM's Public Lands Rule that was recently rolled out by the Biden administration. Conservation is now considered a land use and, in theory, should enjoy the same weight historically given pursuant to the multiple use mandate that recognizes extraction, ranching and recreation.

The CMC founders had the foresight to recognize the physical world as a sacred place. The founders not only saw the value of promoting and advocating for human powered recreation, but also the intrinsic value of selflessly advocating for the protection of wild places and wild things. As humans we don't need bobcats and bald eagles for our survival. Nor do we necessarily need to see to a healthy forest to enjoy a hike. But they need us. The flora and fauna do not serve us, we serve them.

Photo credit of bobcat: Vail Daily. Photo credit of Nyswonger Mesa overlooking Dolores River Canyon: Claire McCullough.



Consider Giving the Gift of Time Over the Holidays

The San Juan Mountains Association holds an annual "Christmas Trees for Conservation Lot" sale at the Durango train parking lot. Trees are cut and sold to the local community to improve forest health and money is raised to sustain conservation education and stewardship programs. SJMA is looking for "light lifters" to chat with customers and sell trees. The organization is also looking for "heavy lifters" to lift trees. Volunteers are needed beginning November 29th and into the month of December. [More information and volunteer registration may be found here.](#) Photo credit: Rachelle Fish, SJMA.



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 us our Durango Area Chair, Dan King, at WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more info or to get involved!

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.

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?

Would you be interested in a little introduction to any of these activities if they are something new for you? Email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com

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.
 - 4) Scroll down the page and click on "Save".
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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](#)

Thursday, 11/28. [Hiking - Colorado National Monument](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Saturday, 12/7. [Nordic Skiing - Grand Mesa - County Line Nordic Trails](#). Easy. Judy Mayne.

Saturday, 12/7. [Hiking - Moab, Utah](#). Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

Sunday, 12/8. [Hiking - Moab, Utah](#). Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

Thursday, 12/12. [Nordic Skiing - Grand Mesa - Skyway Nordic Trails](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Thursday, 12/12. [Basic Snowshoe - Grand Mesa - Skyway Nordic Trails](#). Easy. Anne Keil.

Friday, 12/13. [Hiking - Devil's Canyon Trail System](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

Sunday, 12/15. [Hiking - McInnis Canyons NCA](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Wednesday, 12/25. [Nordic Skiing - Grand Mesa](#). Moderate. Jay Johnson.

4/23-27 2025. [Hiking - Escalante UT Multi-Day Hiking](#). Looking for 1 more leader. Book your own lodging or camping: Escalante Outfitters, Escalante Petrified Forest SP, Circle D etc. Let us know if you want to share lodging or campsites and we'll connect you with others. More details upcoming.

TBD Sept/Oct 2025. [Palisade Plunge Hiker Shuttle](#). Difficult. Anne Keil.

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Saturday, 2/8/2025. SAVE THE DATE! Avalanche Terrain Avoidance field day at Grand Mesa Lodge. Online pre-work required.

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 and avalanche training. Leader training online is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

ATA and AIARE: ATA field day Grand Mesa February 8, 2025 registration coming soon. Schedule for avalanche training courses by CMC in other locations.

Wilderness First Aid: Schedule for [front range locations](#).

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? Teaching also renews your certification and the training is free.

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. Here are our [past newsletters](#).

Western Slope Group Council

Chair & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor, Annual Dinner Organizer: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: 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 1/30, 3/13, 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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