



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group June 2024



"CMC WSG hike to Navajo Knobs in Capitol Reef N.P. with a very chill group of 10." Photo credit & Trip Leader: Jill Mattoon.
[See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Sign Up 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 on a unique granite bridge.

The event will be held at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on Saturday, November 2, 4:30-7:30pm. Guests are welcome. [Click here to register for the Annual Dinner.](#)

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. Please sign up on the CMC website so that we can let the venues know how many to expect. Stay tuned!



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.](#) And, join us for one of these 2 hikes before the gathering -- [Group 1 meets at 10:30am](#) and [Group 2 meets at 11am](#), both to see the dinosaur tracks above Ouray.

Ouray Brewery on TBD Date in August



We'll schedule a social gathering at the [Ouray Brewery](#) sometime in August. A hike or two will be posted prior to the social event. Stay tuned!


Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

The BLM's New Public Lands Rule

For several decades, the BLM has managed lands pursuant to the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management

Act, considering “multiple uses.” The BLM has been regarding part of its mandate. Most BLM lands are open to hard rock mining, and close to 90% of the lands are open to oil and gas leasing. Yet less than 15% of BLM lands are permanently protected. One year ago, the BLM proposed concepts to address the challenges and pressures faced by land managers, including the impacts of climate change that have increased risks to wildlife, ecosystems, and communities. Over 200,000 comments were received, and five public meetings were held before the Public Lands Rule was finalized. Historically, managing lands for conservation has not been at a level on par with energy development, grazing and recreation. The Public Lands Rule addresses this lack of balance. The Rule has three main components including protecting the most important, healthiest landscapes, restoring public lands back to health, and ensuring that decision-making is based on science and data. The Rule also provides for the support of locally driven conservation efforts.











U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management


Public Lands Rule

Protecting, Restoring, Making Informed Management Decisions

The Public Lands Rule establishes a framework to ensure healthy landscapes, abundant wildlife habitat, clean water, and balanced decision-making on our nation’s public lands. It will ensure public lands and the resources they provide are available for future generations.

The Three Main Components of the Public Lands Rule

Protect the most important healthiest landscapes	Restore landscapes back to health	Ensure decision-making is based on science and data
<p>Protect Intact Landscapes </p> <p>Manage landscapes for wildlife habitat and clean water.</p>	<p>Restoration </p> <p>Identify priority landscapes, develop restoration plans, and put people to work restoring America’s public lands.</p>	<p></p> <p>Make management decisions informed by the health of lands and waters using science, including Indigenous Knowledge, and data.</p>
<p>Designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) </p> <p>Use this existing tool to protect and manage important landscapes for natural, cultural, scientific, and other values.</p>	<p>Mitigation </p> <p>Use a landscape-scale approach to develop and implement mitigation strategies. Avoid and minimize adverse impacts to public lands from development, and offset unavoidable impacts.</p>	<p></p> <p>Expand land health assessments beyond the grazing program to all BLM-managed public lands.</p>
<p>Allow Restoration and Mitigation Leases </p> <p>Formalize restoration and mitigation leases as tools to ensure healthy landscapes, where they are compatible with existing permitted uses. Partners like conservation districts, state game and fish agencies and sporting groups can lease public lands to make investments in restoration. Leases can also be used to balance the impacts of development elsewhere.</p>	<p></p> <p>Ensure science drives decision-making, by incorporating assessment, inventory, and monitoring information.</p>	



Learn more at: <https://www.blm.gov/public-lands-rule>



Update on Protect the Dolores Movement

Senator John Hickenlooper recently visited the Western Slope and held two listening sessions, giving local citizens an opportunity to express concerns or support for a national monument. A national monument has been proposed to cover lands in Mesa and Montrose counties that are adjacent to and complementary to lands that are the subject of a bipartisan National Conservation Area (NCA) proposal sponsored by Senator Michael Bennet. The purpose of both proposals is to protect river and riparian areas, historical sites, indigenous cultural sites, wildlife and their habitats, biodiversity, and areas of recreational, geological, and paleontological importance. Scott Braden, director of Colorado Wildlands Project attended the listening sessions in Grand Junction and Naturita. The majority of attendees at the Grand Junction listening session support the idea of a national monument. All but two people spoke out against a national monument at the Naturita session. Most concerns were about the loss of incumbent uses such as mining, cattle ranching, and road access, as well the idea of inviting federal government involvement to the area. Uranium mining was closed years ago and residents in communities such as Naturita and Nucla would like to have the option to develop lithium mining. However, the proposed national monument is avoiding approximately 90% of the mining claims. The proposal also suggests a management style that models after Grand Staircase Escalante and Canyons of the Ancients national monuments where grazing, hunting and motorized use have remained intact, although with some adaptations under new management plans.

Photo credit: John Fielder

San Juan Mountains Association Stewardship Opportunities



Summer is just around the corner and the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) has numerous, interesting stewardship opportunities. One of the goals of SJMA is to create stewardship programs that are of value to federal land partners and make a noticeable difference to the landscape. SJMA has partnered with San Juan National Forest, Rio Grande National Forest, the GMUG National Forest, as well as several BLM field offices. As a result, SJMA has a role in protecting more than half of Colorado's federal public lands. Examples of opportunities include the Trail Ambassador Program at Ice Lakes Trailhead, Blue Lakes Trailhead, Ouray Perimeter Trail and the Chicago Basin region. One 90-minute training is required to participate. SJMA recently

adopted Segment 25.1 of the Colorado Trail – 11 miles between Molas Pass and Rolling Mountain Pass. There is a scheduled scoping mission and two minor trail work sessions. [You can find additional information about stewardship opportunities here.](#)

Photo credit: San Juan Mountains Association



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

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

Friday, 6/7. [Hiking- Perimeter Trail.](#) Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Sunday, 6/9. [Hiking - North Vista Trail, Black Canyon NP.](#) Moderate. Daniel Glatter.

Saturday, 6/15. [Hiking - Baldy Peak \(Ouray\)](#). Moderate. John Broadbooks.

Sunday, 6/23. [Hiking - Ouray's Silvershield Trail to the West Gold Hill Dinosaur Tracksite -- Group #1](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Sunday, 6/23. [Hiking - Ouray's Silvershield Trail to the West Gold Hill Dinosaur Tracksite -- Group #2](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Saturday, 6/29. [Hiking - Castle Rock via Elbert Creek \(Durango\), Dog Friendly](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

Wednesday, 7/10. [Hiking - Deep Creek Dog Friendly Shuttle Hike \(Telluride\)](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

7/9-14. [Backpack - Colorado Trail - Segments 18 to 21](#). John Broadbooks.

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.

9/9-11. [Camp - BPX 3-Day: Crystal River Bogan Flats Campground](#). Backpacking Section.

Late Sept/early Oct TBD weekday Palisade Plunge hike. 17 mile downhill. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more info and to get cleared for the update list. <\$30/pp shuttle fee. Difficult. Anne Keil.

10/10-13. [WSG 5th Annual Green River/San Rafael Swell Camping/Hiking Trip](#). Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com to register. Looking for leaders! Fee split by group site participants. Trailers please make individual site reservations starting June 10.

**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

Saturday & Sunday, 5/25 & 26. [Wilderness First Aid](#). Montrose. Fee.

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

Saturday, 11/2. 2024 WSG Annual Dinner, Montrose. [Register now!](#)

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: 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.

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: 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 7/8, 9/3 & 11/4. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



Colorado Mountain Club
710 10th Street, Suite 20
Golden, CO 80401

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