



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group September 2024



CMC members on Jennifer Rhamy's August Crag Crest Trail hike on the Grand Mesa. Photo credit: Jennifer Rhamy. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB
WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Annual Dinner,
Potluck & Meeting

featuring author and traveler

DIANE WINGER

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.

Ute Indian Museum

17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose

Admission: \$10 per person

Guests welcome!

Bring a dish to share (appetizer, main, side dish, dessert) and serving utensil. BYOBeverages.



Saturday
November 2
2024



EVENING SCHEDULE

- 4:30pm: Socializing
- 5pm: Dinner / potluck
- 6pm: Annual meeting
- 6:30pm: Diane's presentation
- 7:30pm: Evening conclusion

SIGNUP & CONTACT

www.tinyurl.com/wsg2024dinner

WSGofCMC@gmail.com



[CMC members, please login first to register.](#)

If you're interested in volunteering at the annual dinner, please let us know at 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!

Interested in Joining the Western Slope Group Council?

We're looking to fill two WSG Council volunteer positions -- Outings Chair and Vice Chair -- with two additional WSG members. Four WSG members restarted the WSG in June 2020. Three of us are still on the Council -- Anne Keil, Brenda Leach and John Broadbooks. We later added Jill Mattoon and Claire McCullough. We meet every other month, usually in person at a Council member's house. We all 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 two new members. Contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you're interested. Here are descriptions for the [Vice Chair](#) and the [Outings Chair](#).



Welcome New Trip Leader Dan King!

Dan King lives in Durango where he loves to explore the San Juan and La Plata mountains not to mention the high desert. Dan received a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with emphasis in Biology and Anthropology from the University of Nebraska and a Masters of Secondary Teaching (MST) from Doane College. Dan is currently National Operations Manager for PaintCare where he works with a dynamic team that manages and supports the collection, transportation, and recycling of paint and solvents across all the United States. Dan has 20 years of professional experience in the fields of materials management, product stewardship, public health, policy development, and natural resource management. Dan is a new Colorado Mountain Club hike leader and enjoys writing poetry, cycling, camping, and other outdoor activities in his free time. Photo is of Dan in a meadow by Engineer Mountain.

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



The Wilderness Act of 1964

September 3rd marks the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, established when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Act into law. The passage of the Act resulted in 54 wilderness areas in 13 states becoming legally designated wilderness that year. At the center of this piece of legislation is a working definition of wilderness: “wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

The Act has been criticized because of its failure to recognize indigenous history. Indigenous people have inhabited and cared for these lands for ages. University of Illinois Professor Rosalyn LaPier, a member of the Blackfeet Nation notes that the issue is not the concept of wilderness. Indigenous people have historically been stewards of the land, setting aside places because they are sacred, or because a certain plant or animal species thrives in a specific place. In other words, these places were not unmanaged by man. Recently, both the National Park Service and the US Forest Service have recognized indigenous history and consulted with tribes on management issues.

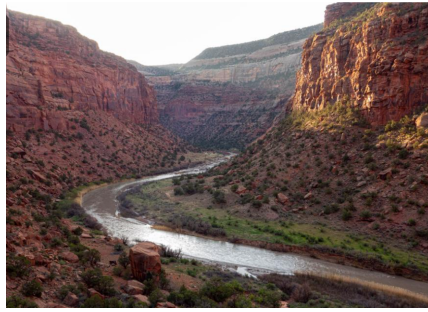
Even without a legislatively created definition, the idea of wilderness brings to mind images of remote and wild landscapes, as well as personal experiences in far flung places. Terry Tempest Williams, writer and environmentalist from Utah, touched on the implication that humans are not merely visitors to nature when she stated: “wilderness reminds us of what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.” Today, there are more than 800 wilderness areas in 44 states. In her book “Red” Ms. Williams advocates for the continued use of the Act as a tool for preservation stating, “[i]n an ideal world ... we may not need to ‘designate’ wilderness, so evolved will be our collective land ethic We will not have to ‘preserve’ or ‘protect’ land because we will have learned what it means to be ‘good stewards,’ to see the larger community as an embrace of all species.”

Photo credit of the Collegiate Peaks, protected as wilderness since 1980 with 167,584 acres - Jason J. Hatfield

Big Game Habitat Update



In February of 2024, the CMC Western Slope group submitted a comment to the BLM regarding a proposed plan for the management of big game habitat on over 8.3 million acres of land in the state of Colorado. We supported a management plan that would protect against habitat loss, protect migration corridors, and limit oil and gas development that negatively impacts big game habitat. The BLM listened to the concerns raised by individuals and citizen groups, as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists about declining populations of these animals. It recently released a plan to protect migration corridors and high priority big game habitat, as well as providing limits to energy development for the benefit of species like elk, mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep. Photo credit: Mark Byzewski via Flickr.



Mesa and Montrose Counties' NCA Proposal for the Dolores River

On July 24, 2024, Mesa and Montrose counties published a proposed National Conservation Area (NCA) to conserve 29,806 acres of public lands in the Dolores River Canyon Country, focusing on the river corridor. In contrast, the national monument proposal is advocating for the protection of almost 400,000 acres. While this is a first step, many citizen groups feel the proposal falls short for many reasons. Craig Grother, Central West Slope Regional Director of Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers stated that the NCA proposal fails to conserve wildlands that are essential wildlife and fish habitats. The Dolores River Boating Advocates called the draft "grossly inadequate" for omitting vast portions of the river canyon landscape. [Mesa County is accepting comments on the counties' proposal here.](#) Photo credit: Colorado Wildlands Project.



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 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 and watch for more difficult trips & activities posted by Dean Cates and Charlie Winger among other experienced leaders!

Website FAQ: "How do I find out about new trips after they're posted?"

The new website has a nice feature where you can get notified of new trips when 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".
-

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](#)

Monday, 8/26. [Mountaineering - Potosi Peak 13,793 Feet, Class 3 Scramble](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Wednesday, 8/28. [Hiking – Upper Cascade Falls and Chief Ouray Mine LIT Hike](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Saturday, 8/31. [Seminar - Fall Birds Along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

Saturday, 8/31. [Hiking - Lake of the Woods \(Grand Mesa\)](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne

Tuesday, 9/3. [Hiking - Powderhorn Lakes in the Powderhorn Wilderness Area](#). Moderate. Charlie Winger.

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

9/3-6. [Backpack – BPX 4-Day: Five Pass Loop Tour of the Horns from Matterhorn Creek TH](#). Challenging. Backpacking Section.

Saturday, 9/7. [Seminar – Migrating Birds Along the Florida River \(Durango Area\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

Sunday, 9/8. [Hiking - N Anvil Summit - Silverton Area](#). Moderate. Charlie Winger.

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

9/10-12. [Hiking – Cataract Lake 13'ers](#). Moderate. Dean Cates.

Wednesday, 9/11. [Hiking – Devil's Canyon Trail System](#). Moderate. Victor Ketellapper.

9/15-18. [Hiking - Fisher's Peak Close to Trinidad](#). Challenging. Charlie Winger.

9/16-19. [Backpack – BPX 4-Day: Four Pass Loop from West Maroon Trailhead](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Sunday, 9/22. [Hiking - Grand Mesa \(Anderson Lake via the Rim Trail\)](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne.

Thursday, 9/26. [Hiking - Thomas Lakes](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Friday, 9/27. [Hiking - Crystal Mill Fall Colors Hike #1](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

9/30-10/3. [Backpack - Conundrum Hot Springs](#). Challenging. Backpacking Section.

10/10-13. [Camp – WSG 5th Annual Green River Camping / San Rafael Swell Hiking Trip](#). Fee. Waitlist.

Saturday, 10/19. [Seminar – Late Migrating Birds at Pastorius Reservoir SWA \(Durango Area\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

Saturday, 10/26. [Seminar - More Fall Birds along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Thursday, 9/5, 6-6:30pm. [WSG CMC Info Night: Hiking Safety Presentation for Current, New & Prospective Members](#). Montrose Library meeting room. Free.

Saturday, 11/2. [2024 WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose](#). See above for more info. Fee.

[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 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? 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, Annual Dinner Organizer: 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 9/18 & 11/4. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



Colorado Mountain Club
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