

Tenderfoot Mountain Site Archaeological Site Tour (Spouses Tour)

Preliminary Description and Requirements

Friday, June 13, 2025, 8:00 AM – Noon

Tenderfoot Mountain, also called “W” Mountain, is located immediately south of Gunnison. The “W” symbol was created in 1929 by students from Western State College, now Western Colorado University (WCU).

The Tenderfoot Archaeological Site, is located on the mountain top. In 1991, WCU archaeology professor Dr, Mark Stiger first explored a 9,500 years BP, Clovis-Period, Paleo-Indian encampment on top of the mountain. Today, the more than 85 separate features on the site have yielded more than 35,000 artifacts. This summer, now-emeritus professor Dr. Stiger will be continuing his digs at his “Mountaineer Site”. He has graciously offered to lead a tour of the site for spouses and other individuals who may not be interested in attending all the technical sessions.

Tour Requirements:

The half-day, round-trip tour is limited to 12 registrants. The tour will leave from the WCU University Center parking lot at 8:00 AM. Transportation will be in a WCU-provided van. **Tour participants should wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, hat, and jacket (the site is at 8,300’, has cool summer mornings, and may be muddy).**



Tenderfoot Mountain, AKA “W” Mountain, Gunnison, Colorado.
The “Mountaineer Archaeological Site” is located near the TV towers on the mountain top.
The “W” symbol was created by students of WCU in 1923.

References:

Tenderfoot Site 5GN-1835
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenderfoot_site_5GN1835

Mountaineer Archaeological Site

<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/mountaineer-archaeological-site>

Tenderfoot Archaeological Site

<https://www.historycolorado.org/location/tenderfoot-archaeological-site>

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(February 24, 2025)