

THE OTHER AMERICA 250 STORY

The Domínguez-Escalante Expedition
and the Making of the West



AUGUST 11,
2026



12:00 PM MT
11:00 AM AZ



Free, Virtual Webinar
Live & Interactive



Eric Carpio

Chief Community Museum
Officer, History Colorado
Board Member, HCLC
Member



Nick Saenz

Assistant VP of Academic
Affairs & Professor of
History at Adams State
University, HCLC Member

As the nation commemorates America 250, many stories receiving attention focus on events east of the Mississippi River. Yet 1776 was also a pivotal year in the American West.

Join HCLC member presenters Eric Carpio and Nick Saenz for a conversation exploring the 250th anniversary of the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition and its relevance to contemporary conservation and public lands stewardship.

This webinar will examine the historical significance of the expedition while highlighting the interconnected Hispanic and Indigenous Knowledge systems that made the journey possible. Participants will learn how the expedition relied on existing Indigenous travel routes, local knowledge, and cultural exchange, challenging narratives that portray the West as an “untouched wilderness.”

The discussion will also connect history to the present, exploring how many of the landscapes encountered during the expedition are now national forests, monuments, wilderness areas, rivers, and public lands that continue to shape conservation efforts across the West.

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