

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting Agenda
7:30pm January 29th, 2007
Home of Carl and Amy Bern

Memorandum of Understanding with White River National Forest

An MOU between the CCS and WRNF is being drafted. This was first mentioned at the last CCS meeting, and the draft is in its very early stages. However, there will be an opportunity for cavers to comment and make suggestions. The goal of the MOU is to promote understanding between the CCS and WRNF and to formalize aspects of our relationship and assist in achieving common goals.

Elephant Mountain Caves/Mines

The CCS recently met with Bill Westbrook, the Forest Service Aspen District Ranger, and Phil Nyland, Wildlife Specialist. The situation with the caves on Elephant Mountain was discussed, as well as the broader relationship between the CCS and the Forest Service. All agreed that protection of the colony of Townsend's Big Eared Bats and the unique geological features of the caves were the top priority. The CCS advocated stabilizing the slumping lower entrance to the complex as soon as possible, and eventually gating all of the entrances. Bill was encouraged to hear that recreational interest in the caves would be low, because that will simplify management. The CCS position statement on the Elephant Mountain caves, discussed at the last meeting and voted upon by representatives by email, was reportedly of great help in clarifying and solidifying our intentions in the eyes of the other stakeholders. The Forest Service now views us as a potential partner for achieving the common goal of protecting the natural resources on Elephant Mountain. We will be invited to the upcoming meeting of stakeholders, which remains to be scheduled. Unfortunately it now sounds like Bill Westbrook will be moving on to another Forest Service district. We will have to reestablish our relationship with his successor.

Groaning

Jim Wilson is taking over the management of the waiver list. We can discuss the plan to resurvey the trade routes in the cave.

Dinosaur National Monument

This potential project to search for, and map, new caves within DNM is still in the planning stages.

Cave of the Clouds

Upon checking her files, Kay Hopkins of the BLM did not have contact information for the landowner immediately available. The CCS is still interested in pursuing better protection and management of this cave and its bat colony.

LaSunder Cave

This will be the first full year of access under the new management plan. Bags of leftover concrete still need to be removed from the entrance by groups visiting the cave. An article in the latest RMC by Carl Bern details the completion of the management plan. Another article by Doug Kent describing the history of the exploration of the cave is in the works.

Other topics

Cavers are welcome to bring up additional topics that are not on the agenda.

Election

Due to term limits, Carl Bern cannot serve as chair of the CCS this year. A new chair must be elected from among the representatives to the CCS.

Current Representatives to CCS

Colorado Grotto	Christa Schneider
	Stuart Marlatt
Front Range Grotto	Carl Bern (CCS Chair)
	Dan Bryce
Northern Colorado Grotto	Frank Leskinen
	Jim Lawton
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Marty Morey
	Dan Sullivan
Timberline Grotto	Ken Newton
	Carey Hunter