

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
7 pm, Monday, May 17, 2010
Home of Dave Lambert, Denver, CO

Meeting Agenda & Minutes

White River National Forest

Burnt Mountain Timber Sale

Planning for the timber sale is still in progress. Dave Lambert will be meeting with Wes Case, WRNF Forester, and the botanist for WRNF in the Lime Creek area this June to discuss plans for mitigating potential impacts to caves as a result of timber harvesting.

***Discussion:** Wes Case has taken a new position with the USFS in Idaho. Dave Lambert will now be meeting with Rick Haskins, Rifle Ranger District, and John Proctor, Forest Botanist, on Monday, June 14 in the Lime Creek area.*

Whopper Mine

In February 2010, the WRNF asked for feedback from the Colorado Cave Survey regarding mine closures in the Crystal River drainage near Marble, CO. The CCS was unaware of any caves in this area that would be impacted by the proposed mine closures but was pleased to hear that bat-friendly gates will be used for adits inhabited by bats.

***Discussion:** No discussion necessary.*

Carbondale and Debeque

The White River National Forest is in the process of preparing an Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement. In March 2010, the WRNF asked for feedback from the CCS regarding any caves that might be affected on FS land between Carbondale and Debeque (south of I-70). The CCS was unaware of any caves in this area.

***Discussion:** No discussion necessary.*

Hidden Gems Wilderness (proposed)

The Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign is seeking designation of major new wilderness additions and expansions of wilderness areas on the White River and Gunnison National Forests and nearby BLM lands. One expansion would include the Holy Cross Wilderness and include portions of Tellurium Park, Lime Creek (excepting along the canyon rims), Little Lime Creek and East Brush Creek. Dave Lambert has spoken with Kay Hopkins, WRNF Cave Program Coordinator, and if the proposal is passed, she does not believe it will cause any conflict or affect current management policies of caves within the area.

More information on the proposal can be found at <http://www.whiteriverwild.org/>.

***Discussion:** Maps of the proposed wilderness areas can be found on the previously mentioned web site.*

Land and Resource Management Plan

Kay Hopkins, WRNF Cave Program Coordinator, has asked the CCS for assistance in coordinating and completing a forest-wide cave inventory. This plan is in accordance with the WRNF 2002 Land and Resource Management Plan, but also identifies the need to complete the significant cave process (Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, 1988). The CCS needs to begin discussions of what caves we might consider “significant” and to what extent we want any or all caves registered for protection.

***Discussion/Action:** Similar to the BLM cave inventory completed several years ago, the WRNF is interested in locations to the nearest ¼ section. To avoid duplicating locations and efforts, Dave Lambert will contact Kay Hopkins to see what cave locations the WRNF already has in their inventory. According to a 2008 BLM report, Colorado has two “significant caves”, the least of any western state. This report may only be detailing caves within the BLM. Dave will also ask what factors are needed in determining if a cave is “significant.”*

White Nose Syndrome

WNS has now been confirmed in northeast Missouri, the first confirmation west of the Mississippi. The CCS had been participating in regular conference calls with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDW) and federal land managing agencies about the WNS response in Colorado. At this time the CDW has not yet decided who will replace Kirk Navo as lead for the WNS conference calls.

***Discussion/Action:** Bob Davies, CDW Wildlife Health Unit, has replaced Kirk Navo as the lead for WNS conference calls. The CCS has also been in communication with WRNF and expressed concern for any closure process that would not allow for an annual review process. We will pass along any new information to the Google Group as soon as we know more.*

Center for Biological Diversity: Petitions Filed to Close Caves Nationwide

In February, the CCS responded to the CBD’s petition to close caves nationwide because of White Nose Syndrome, by filing opposition letters with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Defense, Interior and the CBD.

***Discussion:** The CBD and the Deputy Chief of the National Forest system replied to the CCS opposition letters. Copies of the letters were circulated during the meeting.*

Queens Canyon Cave

Rick Rhinehart spoke with Susan Fletcher and Donald McGilchrist, at The Navigators, and they expressed interest in monitoring the cave as the first step in deciding how to manage their resource, but did not want the news about the cave to circulate widely among the caving community. Mike Frazier has since spoken with the Navigators and when he asked about visits to the cave was directed to their web site:

<http://www.gleneyrie.org/hiking>. The CCS will vote on whether or not to help with the monitoring of Queens Canyon Cave.

***Discussion/Action:** The CCS unanimously voted NOT to pursue monitoring of Queens Canyon Cave.*

White Water Cave

Rick Rhinehart has been in contact with Meegan Flennigan, Larimer County Open Space, regarding Haygood Canyon, an area with lots of limestone that hasn't been looked at for caves. Meegan has asked the CCS to help Rick by submitting a Special Event Request before visiting the area. Rick is planning a trip for September or October.

***Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart is excited about the potential for caves in Haygood Canyon. The upcoming issue of Rocky Mountain Caving will include an article on the history of exploration at Whitewater Cave.*

CavesR4all Website

At the last CCS meeting, Dan Castellari acknowledged that the cavesr4all website did not reflect his current opinions about the organized caving community in Colorado. As promised, the web site was changed to give a more positive impression of the caving community to new cavers and visitors to the web site.

***Discussion:** Dan also plans to have links for all grottos, CCS, and CCRN available on the web site soon.*

CCS Managed Caves

Groaning Cave

The Groaning waiver list continues to be maintained by Jim Wilson (jwkavman@earthlink.net). It is important to make sure that liability waivers get delivered to Jim in a timely manner. You can mail paper copies of waivers to Jim at:

Jim Wilson
2944 Colgate Dr.
Longmont, CO 80503-2203

Discussion: *Dave Lambert hopes to have a visitation report for Groaning Cave prepared sometime this summer. Please send registers to Dave Lambert until a replacement for Larry Fish is found.*

LaSunder Cave

The report for 2009 was submitted to Kimberly Miller, BLM, earlier this year. Kimberly Miller has replaced Kay Hopkins as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM in charge of Cave Programs.

Discussion: *Dave Lambert is leading a trip to LaSunder this June and has invited Kimberly Miller to join him. This is a good opportunity for the CCS to continue building upon relationships with land managing agencies.*

Fly and Marble Caves

Access information is available on the CCS website. The access management team is:

Rick Rhinehart (liability waiver coordinator)
Jason Conner
Jonny Slumpff

nss@rockymountaincaving.com
jason@caving101.com
jonny@answergurus.com

Discussion: *It's been a slow year (6 trips so far) but will probably increase as the summer caving season gets underway.*

Reports from active committees and projects of the CCS

Cave Information System Committee

Goal: Plan a system for creating a comprehensive, centralized repository of cave and karst data for Colorado which will be actively supported and maintained for the foreseeable future. The database would be intended to promote preservation of cave and karst resources and to encourage science, exploration, and recreation.

Planning for the CIS has been going well. Cavers can learn the latest from materials at http://www.coloradocavesurvey.org/CCS_CIS.html. An article on the topic appeared in the Winter 2009 RMC, and grotto programs are planned for later this year.

Committee members:

Carl Bern (Chair)	cbern5@juno.com
Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net
Marty Morey	skiandcave@gmail.com
Steve Reames	spreames@diskdrive.com
Dave Gribble	gribble@vcn.com

Discussion: *Planning continues to progress. The committee is currently waiting on the completion of the IT section of the database. Will have more to report at the CCS fall meeting.*

Clear Creek Canyon Project

Goal: Develop a relationship with JeffCo Open Space regarding cave management and promote exploration and conservation in Clear Creek Canyon.

Project members:

Andrea Croskrey (chair)	quartzite13@hotmail.com
Dan Castellari	cavesr4all@yahoo.com
Dave Lambert	dlambert@ngs.org

Discussion: *Andrea Croskrey has asked that the CCS web site better inform everyone that CJs Cavern is accessible only by research permits through Jefferson County Open Space. Dave Lambert and Stuart Marlatt will work on this. As his Eagle Scout project, David Marlatt attempted to remove graffiti in Fault Cave last April, using various techniques: a soda blaster, scrubbing with wire brushes, and covering the walls with mud. The mudding technique seemed to work the best.*

NSS 2011 Convention Committee

Goal: Coordinate between the NSS convention planning committee and the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The committee will last through the NSS 2011 convention or until determined no longer needed.

Project members:

Carl Bern (chair)	cbern5@juno.com
Skip Withrow	swithrow@alum.mit.edu

***Discussion:** Carl has submitted a list of potential NSS convention cave visits and visitation numbers to the WRNF. Several other caves were discussed for inclusion to this list.*

Topics from the floor

Next meeting

***Discussion:** Next meeting perhaps in September on the Western Slope. An announcement will be made one month prior.*

Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey

Chair Dave Lambert cavelambert@gmail.com
Vice-Chair Carl Bern cbern5@juno.com

Voting Membership of the Colorado Cave Survey

(Please inform the Survey of any changes at your respective grottos.)

Colorado Grotto	Chair: Rick Speaect	rick@perryandterry.com
	Survey Rep: Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net
Front Range Grotto	President: Dave Schmitz	dschmitz007@yahoo.com
	Survey Rep: David Lambert	cavelambert@gmail.com
Northern Colorado Grotto	Chair: Frank Leskinen	fleskinen@wmconnect.com
	Survey Rep: Jim Lawton	quinoa@frii.com
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Chair: Todd Warren	twcaver@yahoo.com
	Survey Rep: Mike Frazier	Frazier22@msn.com
Timberline Grotto	Chair: Clair Jacoby	mariajacoby@aol.com
	Survey Rep: Carey Hunter	mushmc20@netzero.com
Western Slope Grotto	Chair: Tonya LeMoine	cavertonya@gmail.com
	Survey Rep: Dan Castellari	CavesR4All@yahoo.com
Red Canyon Grotto	Chair: Jason Conner	jason@caving101.com
	Survey Rep: Ken Dageforede	kadag10@juno.com

Cave Survey Communication

The Colorado Cave Survey maintains an extensive website at:
www.coloradocavesurvey.org

A Google group is maintained for making announcements and discussing CCS business. An email sent to the group automatically goes out to everyone subscribed. For those interested, this is the best way to keep apprised of what is going on with the CCS. A person can unsubscribe without assistance whenever he or she wishes. To subscribe, please email cbern5@juno.com.