

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
7pm, Tuesday February 3rd
Home of Carl and Amy Bern in Lakewood, CO

Meeting Agenda

Memorandum of Understanding with the White River National Forest

At this meeting we will vote on whether to approve the long-discussed MOU with the WRNF. The MOU will establish a more formal cooperative relationship between the CCS and the WRNF. Specific benefits of the agreement are that it requires the WRNF to designate a caves program coordinator, so we always have a specific point of contact on cave issues. It also officially requires the WRNF to inform the CCS of potential management actions that might affect caves.

In response to caver concerns there have been significant changes to the language in the MOU. It now clearly reflects that information protected by the Cave Resources Protection Act is not subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. Under the MOU the decision of what cave data the CCS hands over to the WRNF still rests with the CCS. No dramatic changes in the amount or kind of data handed over to the WRNF by the CCS are expected to result from the MOU. The MOU does mandate that the CCS inform the WRNF if we become aware of a sensitive cave that truly needs official protection, but this is a common sense practice long followed by the CCS.

The language of the MOU and an article with background material have been made available to the voting membership. The same article can be read in the Autumn 2008 edition of *Rocky Mountain Caving*.

A vote will be taken on approving the MOU at this meeting. If you are a voting member of the CCS and cannot attend the meeting, please designate a proxy.

Action: The MOU was approved unanimously with 11 votes in favor.

Whitewater Cave and Larimer County Parks and Open Lands

Larimer County Parks and Open Lands is pursuing a possible land swap that could include Whitewater Cave.

Discussion: At some point the NCG offered to lead a sinkhole cleanup on the property, but that is now on hold.

Wind Turbine Project in Kiowa County

Titan Renewable Energy is pursuing a wind farm project in Kiowa County and sent a request for information on cave resources that could possibly be impacted to the Colorado Grotto website. The request was forwarded to the CCS and interested cavers. No cave resources were known for the area and Donald Davis and Fred Luiszer found none when they investigated the area in November. Donald communicated these findings to Titan.

Information request from the NSS

Dick Blenz of Indiana maintains a database of cave names, lengths, and county-level locations for the NSS. He sent us a list of 15 Colorado caves for which he does not know the county. Perhaps we can compile that information and send it to him. The list is below, with county information now added for the known caves:

Bear Maze Cave	
Cave of the Cosmic Banana	Garfield County
Come-along Cave	Eagle County
Cow Creek Canyon Cave	
Fairchild Caverns	
Fossil Cave	
Glen Eyrie Cave	El Paso County
Goose Creek Cave	Park County
Hidden Cave	
Ladder Cave	Custer County
Lost Creek Cave	Park County
Lost Indian Cave	
Mount Herman Cave	El Paso County?
Mountain Sheep Caverns	
Twit Twins	Park County

CCS Managed-Access Caves

Groaning Cave

Little to report due to winter access conditions. The waiver list continues to be maintained by Jim Wilson (jwkavman@earthlink.net). You can mail paper copies of waivers to Jim at:

2944 Colgate Dr.
Longmont, CO 80503-2203

LaSunder Cave

No trips so far for 2009. The 2008 report was submitted to the BLM.

Fly and Marble Caves

In early August 2008 it was discovered that vandals had sledge-hammered open a bypass to the gate on Fly Cave. No information has been communicated to the CCS regarding whether the gate was ever fully repaired. In November 2008 it was reported to the CCS that the landowners were unhappy with certain trips to the cave parking vehicles in inappropriate places and remaining in the caves after designated visitation hours.

The apparent track record of negative happenings with Fly and Marble cave is becoming a concern. Additional information on how access management is going is desired from the cavers serving as access contacts.

Rick Rhinehart has updated the waiver list, and 303 waivers are currently on file. Below is a breakdown by year:

2005: 4 waivers
2006: 76 waivers

2007: 163 waivers

2008: 60 waivers

Topics from the floor?

Forest Service Travel Management Plan: Although the comment period has closed, there is a large-scale review being done on roads in National Forests. The CCS needs to look deeper into how this might affect access to caves in Colorado.

Cave Survey Communication

A Google group has been created 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.

Elections

Stuart Marlatt is interested in stepping down from the Vice-Chair job. Dave Lambert is interested in seeking the Vice-Chair job. Carl Bern is willing to remain CCS Chair.

New Officers: Carl Bern and Dave Lambert were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the CCS.

Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey

Chair Carl Bern cbern5@juno.com
Vice-Chair Stuart Marlatt Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net

Active committees and projects of the CCS

Clear Creek Canyon Project

Goal: Develop a relationship with JeffCo Open Space regarding cave management and promote exploration and conservation in Clear Creek Canyon. New caves are being found and mapped. CJ's Crystal Cavern has been remapped. A proposal for photo documentation is going to be submitted to Coleen Gadd, a resource manager for JeffCo. A restoration project is being considered.

Project members:

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

Elephant Mountain Mines/Caves Bat Gate Advisory Committee

The bat gate has been installed. An article describing the project appeared in the Aspen Times, complete with interviews with Forest Service biologist Phil Nyland. Phil also wrote an article for the Autumn 2008 *Rocky Mountain Caving*.

Committee members:

Fred Luiszer (chair) luiszer@spot.colorado.edu

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 upcoming article in RMC, and grotto programs 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

Voting Membership of the Colorado Cave Survey

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

Colorado Grotto	Chair: Rick Speact	rick@perryandterry.com
	Survey Rep: Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net
Front Range Grotto	President: Carl Bern	cbern5@juno.com
	Survey Rep: Dave Lambert	dlambert@ngs.org
Northern Colorado Grotto	Chair: Frank Leskinen	fleskinen@wmconnect.com
	Survey Rep: Jim Lawton	quinoa@verinet.com
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Chair: Todd Warren	twcaver@yahoo.com
	Survey Rep: Marty Morey	skiandcave@gmail.com
Timberline Grotto	Chair: Clair Jacoby	mariajacoby@aol.com
	Survey Rep: Carey Hunter	mushmc20@netzero.com
Western Slope Grotto	Chair: Dan Castellari	CavesR4All@yahoo.com
	Survey Rep: Dan Castellari	CavesR4All@yahoo.com
Red Canyon Grotto	Chair: Anthony Clemeti?	
	Survey Rep: ?	