

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
7pm, Monday June 29th
Home of David Lambert in Denver, CO

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

White Nose Syndrome

White Nose Syndrome (WNS), the disease responsible for as many as 500,000 bat deaths in the eastern U.S. has yet to be found in any Colorado bats. However, most experts believe it is only a matter of time before WNS reaches Colorado. Because so many of Colorado's caves are on public land, Federal land managing agencies will have a large role in the response. At this time, the Forest Service is monitoring for WNS and instructing their personnel and contractors to follow decontamination protocols between caving trips. Forests and Districts are awaiting additional information and directives from the Regional level regarding WNS.

The Forest Service is asking that cavers keep an eye out for suspicious bat deaths, particularly five or more recently dead bats in one location. Bats killed by WNS during summer months may not have the characteristic white fungus on their bodies, but may appear 'beat up' with wing damage or missing fur. Cavers should photograph, but not collect suspicious dead bats. Any such findings should be reported to the land managing agency at the district level, or to the Fish and Wildlife Service if on private land.

In May the Orient Land Trust closed the Orient Mine as a preventative measure for protecting the resident bat population against the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS). This is the first WNS cave closure in Colorado.

Discussion/action: Cyndi Mosch gave an update on current WNS status from the perspective of the Western Bat Working Group and also an overview of decontamination procedures. One of the big concerns scientists have is that, unlike the eastern US, locations of bat hibernacula in the west are generally unknown making WNS monitoring difficult.

A copy of the June 2009 Fish and Wildlife Service WNS decontamination protocols has been sent out to the CCS Google Group. The CCS understands that it has a role to play in the two-way communication between the Colorado caving community and the scientists and land managers as the WNS situation progresses.

Limestone Quarry Near Glenwood Caverns

The inactive Mid-Continent limestone quarry, on property adjacent to Glenwood Caverns, is set to re-open this summer. The quarry was last in operation in the 1980's or 1990's, but permits have been in place for several decades. CalX Minerals LLC plans to start crushing rock on site and limited blasting. Dust, noise, and vibrations from the operation could impact Glenwood Caverns and other possibly undiscovered caves in the vicinity. GC owner Steve Beckley apparently has some concerns about the resumed quarrying.

Discussion/action: Fred Luiszer reported that phreatic cave development on Iron Mtn appears to be limited to the fault-bounded block that contains Glenwood Caverns. Therefore the primary concern is how quarrying operations (particularly blast vibrations)

might impact GC. Steve Beckley is scheduled to meet with someone from CalX and more information should be forthcoming. No action is planned by the CCS at this time.

CCS Closed Cave Page

The CCS website is a logical place to compile a list of closed and restricted access caves. If and when White Nose Syndrome spreads to Colorado, such a page will be a necessary tool for communicating cave closures aimed at protecting bats from the disease. Stuart Marlatt has a draft page assembled at: <http://www.coloradocavesurvey.org/Closed.html>. We can discuss the specifics of this page and start to raise awareness of where to look for closed cave information.

Discussion/action: It was suggested to add language about respecting private property at the top of the page and to split the Williams Canyon caves out from the rest of the list. The page is expected to go live in the near future.

Websites with cave locations

Another website posting Colorado cave locations has cropped up as well as online cave trip reports that have concerned some cavers.

Discussion/action: It was acknowledged that websites with information on Colorado caves (including locations) will continue to crop up and that a more proactive approach is required to address the concerns cavers have with such pages. David Lambert, Jim Lawton, and Fred Luiszer volunteered to come up with guidelines or criteria for such pages that would more clearly describe what kind of content the organized caving community is comfortable with seeing on the web, and what causes concern. Such guidelines should help webmasters strike a balance between sharing information with the interested public, versus guiding inexperienced spelunkers to dangerous or delicate caves.

CCS Managed-Access Caves

Groaning Cave

Groaning is open to visitation and the same lock change procedure that has been in place over the past few years is in place. Locks with new combinations get picked up from Dennis Laird's house every other week and old ones dropped off for cleaning and combo changes. The Groaning 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

Concern has been expressed over how slippery the entrance climb has become.

LaSunder Cave

Marty Morey led a SCMG trip in May. Rick Speact has a trip scheduled for September. A NCG trip is planned for this summer. It is hoped that at least one RCG member can join one of the trips this summer.

Fly and Marble Caves

The landowner seems to be happy with the current visitation situation, but stresses that cavers should stick to trails going to and from the caves and not wander the property. The parking area seems to be clean. The concrete forms for the Fly gate repair need to be removed.

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

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 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

Topics from the floor

Rick Rhinehart described a possible cave near Lyons on open-space land. If the situation warrants it, he might request assistance from the CCS.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Colorado Cave Survey is planned for Saturday September 19th in the afternoon at Glenwood Caverns. Check the CCS website as the date approaches.

Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey

Chair Carl Bern cbern5@juno.com
Vice-Chair David Lambert dlambert@ngs.org

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: David 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 Clementi	ynotgocave@gmail.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.