

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
Saturday, October 3rd, 2009, 1pm
Garfield County SAR Barn, Glenwood Springs, CO

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

White Nose Syndrome

Kirk Navo of the Colorado Division of Wildlife is coordinating the formation of a committee that will organize the state's response to WNS. A conference call with members of that committee is scheduled for Thursday October 1st. A report on that call will be given at the meeting.

Discussion: The CCS Chair and Vice-Chair participated in the conference call. The caving community is ahead of some agencies in understanding of the WNS situation. The CCS indicated that the organized caving community will 'buy into' efforts to monitor and stop the spread of WNS if they are cooperatively developed, science-based, and have hope of working. WNS monitoring and public outreach efforts were discussed. The committee was advised of the upcoming 2011 NSS convention. Conference calls will probably be monthly for the immediate future.

Queen's Canyon Cave

Rick Rhinehart is proposing that the CCS begin a relationship with The Navigators to establish access to Queen's Canyon Cave and possibly others on their Glen Eyrie property outside of Colorado Springs. The scope of the project is yet to be determined.

Discussion/Action: Rick was not present to make the proposal, but it was discussed. Jim Lawton nominated Daniel Laos as a potential point of contact with The Navigators. A goal of advising the Navigators on cave access issues and specifying cave access procedures was outlined. The CCS Chair called Daniel the following Monday and he agreed to contact The Navigators about these issues.

Burnt Mountain Timber Sale

The White River National Forest (WRNF) is planning a timber sale for the Burnt Mountain area, east of Lime Creek, which encompasses a number of alpine caves. Timbering proposed for this area in the 1990's failed to materialize, but the CCS worked with the WRNF then to incorporate cave protection into the logging plans. The CCS is again seeking to work with its WRNF partners to minimize impact on the caves.

Discussion/Action: Phil Nyland, District Biologist for the WRNF, was in attendance. The boundaries of exposures of cave forming rock relative to timber sale boundaries were discussed. The WRNF is interested in protecting caves within the timber sale, and final boundaries have not been set. Public comment on the project will likely be sought in December. Depending upon market conditions, cutting could begin in 2011. The CCS will continue to work with the WRNF on this issue.

Travel Management Plan

David Lambert will give an update on the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan and how access to parts of the Forest (and caves) may be affected.

Discussion: Final decisions have not been made with regard to many roads on the White River Plateau. Another update is planned for the next CCS meeting.

Limestone Quarry Near Glenwood Caverns

The inactive Mid-Continent limestone quarry, on property adjacent to Glenwood Caverns, is set to re-open this summer. GC owner Steve Beckley has not requested assistance from the CCS in the matter.

Discussion: No word from Steve Beckley on this issue.

CCS Closed Cave Page

The CCS Closed Cave Page is now active on the CCS website.

CCS Managed-Access 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:
2944 Colgate Dr.
Longmont, CO 80503-2203

LaSunder Cave

Several trips have visited the cave so far this year and the management plan seems to be working well.

Discussion: FRG, SCMG, and NCG have each had one trip this year.

Fly and Marble Caves

The caves were closed on August 27th by the landowner following repeated failures to notify him when trips were scheduled to visit the caves. The landowner was also concerned that liability waivers were not getting filed. A review of the management strategy and sources of the problems has been conducted. New access coordinators have been recruited. A meeting with the landowner is scheduled for Tuesday September 29th and a progress report will be given at the meeting.

Discussion/action: The CCS Chair and Jason Conner met with the landowner and the caves were re-opened on 10/8/2009, just in time for the Rocky Mountain Regional. Access Coordinators for the cave are Jason, Rick Rhinehart, and Jonny Slumpff. Jason will now be changing the combinations on the road and cave gates on a regular basis. The liability waiver has been reduced to a single page. Requirements for cave trips and behavior and parking on the property have been clarified. The CCS webpage has been updated to make all this new information easily accessible. Everyone should understand that continued access to these privately owned caves will only be possible if cavers and Access Coordinators follow the simple procedures for managing access.

Reports from 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.

Recent activity included a trip to photo-document CJ's Crystal Cavern that produced a number of high quality pictures and a 3-D panorama of the main room. Project members visited the CSM museum to view and photograph formations stripped from the cave when it was expected to be quarried away. Some restoration is still 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

Discussion/action: Phil Nyland of the WRNF reported that the positive outcome of this cooperative effort has been recognized both within and outside the FS. The project is complete and so the committee is disbanded.

Colorado Cave Archive 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 CCA 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.

Discussion/action: After a summer hiatus, the committee met on 9/30. Database structure and security were the main topics. To better focus on the true purpose of the project, it has been renamed the Colorado Cave Archive. A report of the meeting will be out soon.

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

There was an inquiry about Whitewater Cave. It is believed that the land swap is still in progress.

Next meeting

The next CCS meeting will be in January, probably in Golden, CO. The possibility of setting up a conference call for far-flung cavers will be explored.

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 Speaect	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: Daniel Laos	canyoncaver@yahoo.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.