

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting (*Minutes*)  
7:00 pm, Saturday, August 18, 2012  
Home of Jeff Polk  
15235 Roller Coaster Rd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Attendees (Grotto representing):

*Rick Speaect (CG)*  
*Gaylene Speaect*  
*Jim Lawton (NCG)*  
*Mike Frazier*  
*Johanna Kovarik*  
*Dave Lambert*  
*Todd Warren (SCMG)*  
*Stuart Marlatt (CG)*  
*Dan Sullivan (CWSG)*  
*LP Lawrence*  
*Dan Castellari (CWSG)*  
*Carey Hunter (TG)*  
*Dave Schmitz (FRG)*  
*Rob Kolstad*  
*Derek Bristol (FRG)*  
*Jeff Polk (SCMG)*

*10 of 14 voting members were present or represented through proxies, so a quorum was met.*

**Meeting Agenda**

***USFS Region 2 – New Closure Order***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual emergency closure order has been issued and it contains a new exception for NSS and CRF members conducting activities covered under the national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each organization. We will review the details of this closure order, and a number of issues related to requesting cave access.

- Coordination of cave access requests. Should the CCS or grottos get involved?

*General agreement that this is a bad idea for the CCS or Grottos.*

- Scope of proposals – team members, caves, dates.

*FS is open to requests including multiple dates and locations. Kay Hopkins has said the WRNF is supportive of Boy Scout groups, etc., caving with NSS members present. As requests come in, limitations may be placed on caves with known bat use, such as hibernation and swarming (Groaning, Premo, Thursday Morning, etc.,). Conversations with Kirk Navo: human behavior doesn't seem to influence swarming. Argument might be made to avoid Groaning Entrance during twilight and dusk hours during swarming season.*

- Recreational cave trips – will they be allowed and under what conditions?

*Allowing recreational caving can be a great a tool for recruiting new cavers. Two-page “monitoring” form is a way to provide a benefit to the FS, allowing for recreational fun*

*while standing up to legal issues.*

- Monitoring trips – what is required?

*Two page form available from FS.*

- Access during the hibernation season.

*FS would like to see trips during off-season for bat documentation... more than education trips.*

Some have suggested the new closure order and its exceptions aren't justified, fair, or legal, and that the entire process should be rejected. We will discuss whether there is broad support in the caving community to have the CCS take some specific action to oppose the latest closure order.

*Discussion:*

*Motion made - "To make an act of formal rejection of the USFS Emergency Closure Order 2012 (Third Year)". There was a brief discussion, but the motion, as worded was not actionable. Motion fails – 2 votes for, 8 votes against*

*There was a brief discussion of writing a formal response to the latest closure order outlining the positive and negative aspects. Mike Frazier agreed to put together a draft for review by the CCS representatives.*

### ***Colorado Cave Survey Files***

Mike Frazier and Donna Rene have been working on organizing and cataloging the contents of the CCS files. We will review the status of this effort and the nature of the information in the index. Topics for discussion include who can have access to the index, how to request information from the files, and how to manage the files going forward including digitization and creating a backup archive.

*Discussion:*

*Four boxes turned into five.*

*Box 1: cave files for Colorado.*

*Box 2: out of state / country caves*

*Box 3: managed caves*

*Box 4: politics (ideally in chronological order)*

*Box 5: publications*

*Box : historical*

*The cave information in the files has been sorted, but the newsletters and political information is still being organized. There are a number of documents that are duplicated or have little to no value.*

*Motion – "Allow Mike and Donna to use their judgment to purge duplicate and unneeded documents from the CCS files and distribute to Grottos to use as they see fit. A maximum of 3 copies of any single document will be retained in the files."*

*Motion passes - 8 votes for, 2 votes against*

*An index of the file contents is being generated that lists what is in the files, but does not include specific information like cave locations.*

*Motion – “Share the index with all CCS represented Grotto members and NSS members that request it. Requests should be made to the CCS Chair.”*

*Motion passes - 8 votes for, 2 votes against*

*Motion – “Any CCS represented member or NSS member can view the physical contents of the CCS files, but can not make copies. Viewing of the files must be supervised by a CCS representative.”*

*Motion passes - 9 votes for, 1 vote against*

*A concern was raised that since there is a single paper version of the files, that it is not secure from destruction by fire, flood, etc., and that information from the files is difficult to distribute when requests are made. Derek volunteered to create the digital archive.*

*Motion – “Create 2 digital copies of the CCS files, one to be kept with the CCS Chair and one with the Vice Chair as an archive.”*

*Motion passes - 9 votes for, 1 vote against*

*To request copies of files, the 2/3 CCS vote remains the same.*

### ***LaSunder Cave Management Plan***

The current management plan is scheduled to be renewed. A final work trip to conduct photo monitoring of broken speleothems and human impact is scheduled for this week. We will discuss changes that should be incorporated into the renewed plan including visitation limitations and access to the back zone.

#### *Discussion:*

*Expanding the number of annual trips was discussed, but since the current limit of 10 has never been reached, there was general opposition to making changes. There was general support for the ideas of removing the 2 trips per month and 2 trips per grotto rules.*

*There was also general support for opening the back zone to recreational trips.*

*Motion – “Allow a temporary one year extension to the current management plan to be signed”*

*Motion passes – 9 votes for, 1 vote against*

*Motion – “Recommend changes to the management plan that would include allowing recreational trips to the back zone, removing the two trips per month restriction, and eliminating the two trips per Grotto allocation. The 10 annual trips will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.”*

*Motion passes – 9 votes for, 1 vote against*

### ***Colorado Parks and Wildlife Bat Surveys***

Biologists with CPW have been conducting external and internal bat surveys as well as using data loggers to collect bat acoustic and microclimate information from various caves around the state. They periodically request help from the caving community to lead these trips. We will discuss how to coordinate these surveys with everyone in the caving community that would like to contribute.

#### *Discussion:*

*This was discussed and the CCS Chair agreed to act as a conduit for communicating bat survey opportunities with CPW, but to have no direct official involvement. People were also reminded that CPW led bat surveys on BLM land come with the opportunity for cost reimbursement. This fund is being managed by Kevin Manley (Colorado Grotto conservation committee representative).*

### **CCS Managed Caves**

#### ***Groaning Cave***

The management plan is up for renewal. The new closure order exceptions may restore limited access to Groaning.

#### *Discussion:*

*Jim Wilson was combo and waiver keeper. In short term, new waivers may be required. The Groaning Cave management plan is up for renewal. No suggested changes were made.*

*Motion – “Renew the Groaning Cave management plan without changes.”*

*Motion passes – 9 votes for, 1 vote against*

#### ***LaSunder Cave***

There have been only two trips in 2012.

#### ***Fly and Marble Caves***

Jason Conner has stepped down as access coordinator and lock maintenance manager in Canon City. Lydia Reynolds has agreed to take over these responsibilities and Jason is thanked for his years of service. The access management team is:

Rick Rhinehart (liability waiver coordinator)

[nss@rockymountaincaving.com](mailto:nss@rockymountaincaving.com)

Lydia Reynolds

[lydiamreynolds@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiamreynolds@yahoo.com)

Jonny Slumpff

[jonny@answergurus.com](mailto:jonny@answergurus.com)

#### *Discussion:*

*A large number of groups from the Canon City HS have been visiting the cave. There was a brief discussion about the cave and field gate locks occasionally being left unlocked. Getting the locks to lock requires closing them with the combination dialed in, and then rotating the numbers. Adding these instructions to the existing cave access instructions was suggested. The CCS Chair will discuss this further with the access coordinators.*

### **Active Committee Reports**

#### ***Colorado Cave Archive***

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.

Committee members:

Carl Bern (Chair)

[cbern5@juno.com](mailto:cbern5@juno.com)

Stuart Marlatt

[Stuart\\_Marlatt@comcast.net](mailto:Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net)

Marty Reames

[skiandcave@gmail.com](mailto:skiandcave@gmail.com)

Steve Reames

[spreames@diskdrive.com](mailto:spreames@diskdrive.com)

Dave Gribble

[gribble@vcn.com](mailto:gribble@vcn.com)

*There was no report and there has been no activity.*

### ***Clear Creek Canyon Project***

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

Project members:

Kevin Manley (chair)

[kevin.manley@colorado.edu](mailto:kevin.manley@colorado.edu)

Dan Castellari

[cavesr4all@yahoo.com](mailto:cavesr4all@yahoo.com)

Dave Lambert

[cavelambert@gmail.com](mailto:cavelambert@gmail.com)

*There was no report. There has been some clean-up and microclimate collection efforts since the last meeting.*

### ***Topics from the floor***

*Mike and Donna's reception is next weekend*

*The concept behind the Colorado Speleological Survey was discussed briefly.*

### ***Next meeting***

This will likely be in January, 2013.

## Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey

Chair           Derek Bristol           [derekbristol@comcast.net](mailto:derekbristol@comcast.net)  
Vice-Chair     Dave Lambert           [cavelambert@gmail.com](mailto:cavelambert@gmail.com)

## Voting Membership of the Colorado Cave Survey

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

Colorado Grotto	Chair: Rick Speaect	<a href="mailto:rick@perryandterry.com">rick@perryandterry.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Stuart Marlatt	<a href="mailto:Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net">Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net</a>
Front Range Grotto	President: Dave Schmitz	<a href="mailto:dschmitz007@yahoo.com">dschmitz007@yahoo.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Derek Bristol	<a href="mailto:derekbristol@comcast.net">derekbristol@comcast.net</a>
Northern Colorado Grotto	Chair: Frank Leskinen	<a href="mailto:fleskinen@wmconnect.com">fleskinen@wmconnect.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Jim Lawton	<a href="mailto:quinoa@frii.com">quinoa@frii.com</a>
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Chair: Jeff Polk	<a href="mailto:polk@delos.com">polk@delos.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Todd Warren	<a href="mailto:twcaver@yahoo.com">twcaver@yahoo.com</a>
Timberline Grotto	Chair: Keneka Newton	<a href="mailto:cavekids@comcast.net">cavekids@comcast.net</a>
	Survey Rep: Carey Hunter	<a href="mailto:mushmc20@netzero.com">mushmc20@netzero.com</a>
Colorado Western Slope Grotto	Chair: Ken Headrick	<a href="mailto:cavejunkie@muchomail.com">cavejunkie@muchomail.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Dan Castellari	<a href="mailto:cavesr4all@yahoo.com">cavesr4all@yahoo.com</a>
Red Canyon Grotto	Chair: Steve Clayton	
	Survey Rep: Ken Dageforde	<a href="mailto:kadag10@juno.com">kadag10@juno.com</a>

## Cave Survey Communication

The Colorado Cave Survey maintains an extensive website at:

[www.coloradocavesurvey.org](http://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 [derekbristol@comcast.net](mailto:derekbristol@comcast.net)