

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
1:00 pm, Saturday, Oct 2, 2010
US Bank, Glenwood Springs, CO

CCS officers and voting members in attendance:

Chairman: Dave Lambert

Vice Chairman: Carl Bern

Colorado Grotto: Stuart Marlatt

Front Range Grotto: Dave Schmitz and Dave Lambert

Northern Colorado Grotto: Jim Lawton

Red Canyon Grotto: Ken Dageforede

Western Slope Grotto: Tanya LeMoine

Meeting Agenda

Bureau of Land Management

The Colorado BLM is developing a strategy for responding to White Nose Syndrome in our state. Helen Hankins, State BLM Director, has provided the CCS a copy of the preliminary draft of the plan and is asking for caver feedback. Stuart Marlatt and Dave Lambert have met with Helen and she seems very serious about caver involvement in this decision making process.

Discussion/Action: *Karl Mendonca, BLM Acting Branch Chief Natural Resources, provided a more thorough explanation of the draft plan, reiterated that the plan was not finalized and opened the discussion to caver feedback. Two points of concern the caving community currently has regarding the plan are 1) the need for a permit system and 2) should WNS be detected in Colorado, an epicenter could be pinpointed on an individual cave with the 40 mile radius closure. Over the course of the first hour of the meeting, cavers discussed these concerns with Karl and perhaps developed positive alternatives that might satisfy everyone involved.*

Dave Lambert is preparing an official CCS response to the BLM WNS draft plan and hopes to discuss these positive alternatives in person with Helen Hankins, Colorado BLM State Director.

White River National Forest

Burnt Mountain Timber Sale

Dave Lambert met with the WRNF in July to discuss the proposed Burnt Mountain Timber Sale near Lime Park. It is believed that some of the unit boundaries

will be redrawn and shortened to avoid creating obvious “tree islands” with a cave entrance at the island’s center. This is still a work in progress.

Discussion: *The Environmental Assessment of the Burnt Mountain Timber Sale is not yet complete, but Kay Hopkins confirmed that some of the unit boundaries are being redrawn to provide more protection for caves within the boundary of the timber sale. Bonnie’s Hall and Ice Palace were previously located in a clearcut harvest unit. That unit has now been changed to a shelterwood harvest with restrictions within 500 feet of the caves. Powerline Cave is within a clearcut unit but a large area surrounding the entrance has been excluded from the harvest area. Kay Hopkins also noted that these changes were a direct result of our on-site meeting earlier this summer.*

USFS Region 2 Cave Closures

Earlier this year and prior to the WNS bat showing up in Oklahoma, the CCS created a committee, consisting of Carl Bern and Skip Withrow, to work with the White River National Forest on cave visitation during the NSS 2011 convention. The USFS Regional Office believes at a minimum a “special-use” permit system can be used for granting cave access during the NSS 2011 convention in Glenwood Springs. Carl, Skip and Dave Lambert will be working with the WRNF to develop necessary criteria for this process and hope it may help to shape the future framework of the closure order.

Discussion: *Carl Bern and Dave Lambert are participating in bi-weekly conference calls with Kay Hopkins, WRNF, and Tom Willems, USFS Region 2. National Forest Special Event Permits may require NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and possibly an EA (Environmental Assessment). Kay Hopkins hopes we can have the permit for the NSS 2011 convention submitted in November and approved in early 2011 before registration really begins to increase. During this time, we will continue refining the criteria for cave access for the convention.*

Colorado WNS Working Group

Bob Davies, CDOW Wildlife Health Unit, has taken the lead for the CO WNS Working Group and began coordinating monthly conference calls once again. There has been discussion of formalizing a working group to coordinate a statewide response for WNS, but for this to happen, the CDOW has to sign-off on such a group. The CDOW is undergoing a re-organization, and it is currently unclear how long it will take for this to happen.

Discussion: *It is believed that Francie Pusateri will be the Bat Specialist for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The coordination of a statewide formal working group,*

although approved by all other parties within the WNS working group, has yet to be finalized by CDOW.

Haygood Canyon

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. Rick is scheduling a visit to this area either October 16 or 23, weather permitting.

***Discussion:** Haygood Canyon is an area within Larimer County Open Space that is closed to visitation due to exotic biota. Rick and others will be visiting this area with Meegan Flennigan on October 23rd and are excited about the potential for discovering new caves in Colorado.*

CCS Managed Caves

Groaning Cave

Dave Lambert hopes to have a visitation report for Groaning Cave prepared before the end of the year and will begin working with Kay Hopkins, WRNF, on the renewal of the cave management plan.

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

LaSunder Cave

Due to the USFS Region 2 cave closures, this has been a very active summer for LaSunder Cave. Nearly every month, since June, has received maximum visitation.

***Discussion:** According to Kimberly Miller (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner) the LaSunder management plan is coming up for renewal in June 2011. Comments or changes to the plan will need to be received by the BLM no later than April 2011.*

Fly and Marble Caves

It's continuing to be a slow year for Fly and Marble, but no problems have been reported. 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: Two trips are scheduled for this month.

Reports from active committees and projects of the CCS

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.

Committee members:

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

Discussion: Planning has been slow due to the recent baby boom (Carl Bern and Dave Gribble are new fathers). They are currently working on the IT development, and hope to make more progress this winter before the NSS 2011 convention occupies everyone's time.

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 been in communication with JeffCo Open Space. They currently have no intention of closing caves due to WNS and hope to seek guidance from the CCS if the time comes.

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: See "Discussion" of "USFS Region 2 Cave Closures" on page 2.

Topics from the floor

1) *Mallory and Harmon Den Cave -*

These two caves within Boulder County Open Space are now closed to visitation in response to WNS. Dave Lambert hopes to invite representatives from Boulder County Open Space to join us at the next CCS meeting.

2) *The North American Society for Bat Research -*

Annual meeting will be at the Denver Tech Center the last week of October. Rick Rhinehart has invited Nina Fascione, BCI, and Peter Youngbaer, NSS WNS liaison, and any other interested cavers to join him for dinner on October 27th to discuss bats and caves in Colorado.

3) *CCS Map Requests -*

Mark Dixon, active FRG member, has requested a copy of Hazel Bartton's Fairy Cave map from the CCS files, in order to help him understand where he is going when doing "rehab trips" with Ken Headrick. CCS members voted to give Mark Dixon, Tanya LeMoine, and Ken Headrick copies of the Fairy Cave map. The CCS also voted to give Cyndi Mosch a copy of the Hubbard's Cave map. Before any map will be released to them, the CCS will need to receive signed copies of the Non-disclosure Agreement, available on the CCS web site. Digital copies of the map will then be provided with an embedded watermark stating when and to whom the map was released.

4) *LaSunder Cave -*

Doug Kent has asked the CCS to consider opening the Back Zone of LaSunder Cave to recreational trips. More discussion is needed, but with the management plan coming up for review, this is a good time to begin this consideration.

5) *Vote of Confidence -*

Dave Lambert asked for a vote of confidence in the leadership abilities of the CCS officers. This was unanimously passed by all members present at the meeting.

6) *Elections next meeting-*

Carl Bern will not be seeking re-election as Vice-Chairman, but will continue with his committee involvement. The CCS is grateful for his dedication of the last 6 years. Derek Bristol, Secretary of CG, will be looking to fill the role of Vice-Chairman at the next election.

Next meeting

Discussion: Next meeting perhaps in January on the Front Range. 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	mariacjacoby@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.