

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
11:00 am, Saturday, Feb 5, 2011
Public Library, Golden, CO

CCS officers and voting members in attendance:

Chairman: Dave Lambert

Vice Chairman: Carl Bern

Colorado Grotto: Rick Speaect and Stuart Marlatt

Front Range Grotto: Dave Schmitz and Dave Lambert

Northern Colorado Grotto: Kristen Levy (proxy) and Jim Lawton

Red Canyon Grotto: Ken Dageforede

Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto: Jeff Polk

Timberline Grotto: Carey Hunter

Western Slope Grotto: Dan Castellari

Meeting Agenda

Updates from Colorado's land managers

US Forest Service

Phil Nyland, White River National Forest, and representatives from the USFS Regional Office will give updates on the closure order and the Special-Use permit for allowing cave access during the NSS convention.

Discussion/Action: *Representatives from the USFS Regional Office included Tony Dixon, Deputy Regional Forester, and Janelle Smith, External Affairs Officer. Tony spoke of the USFS Region 2 closure order and how the lack of data one was one of the reasons he made the decision to sign the order. He does not know if the closure order will be extended or not because more information is still needed.*

Phil Nyland presented the rationale and the list of caves considered for cave trips during the 2011 NSS convention. In addition to the decontamination station and other protocols in place, the USFS is continuing to take a very conservative approach for cave trips during the convention. Following a 30-day public comment period in March, it is hoped the special-use permit could be issued in late April or early May.

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Tina Jackson, Species Conservation Coordinator, will give an update on what the CDOW is doing to monitor bats in Colorado.

Discussion/Action: *Lots of information is known about bat-use in Colorado's mines but little is known about caves. Help is needed to fill these data gaps. Tina Jackson spoke of the need for closer coordination with the caving community. The CDOW response plan is coming soon, and Tina outlined the CDOW three-tiered approach to survey sites.*

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM in New Mexico has temporarily closed 28 caves with significant bat resources (January 25, 2011 – January 25, 2013) to reduce the risk of mortality to bat populations from white-nose syndrome. Following the CCS meeting in October, BLM Colorado adopted many of our suggestions to its own statewide WNS response plan.

Discussion/Action: *Helen Hankins, Colorado BLM State Director, spoke briefly about some of the differences between New Mexico, which has over 1000 caves on BLM land, and Colorado, which has less than 100. Three BLM field offices in Colorado are working on environmental analysis (EA) to determine if seasonal closures are needed.*

White-Nose Syndrome and Cave Closures

Having heard from Colorado's land managers, cavers at the meeting should have a good sense of the current situation regarding these two issues. This would be a good time to discuss potential strategies for how the organized caving community and the CCS would like to make progress.

Discussion/Action: *Mike Frazier opened this discussion with ideas for how cavers might be more proactive. After several minutes of discussion, Carl Bern made 3 motions:*

- 1) Ask Tony Dixon, USFS, what specific data is needed for making decisions regarding the cave closure order.
Vote Results: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain*
- 2) Coordinate with CDOW on data collection and disseminate information to grottos for volunteer assistance without providing new cave locations with greater specificity than counties.
Vote Results: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain*
- 3) Encourage cavers who have or are collecting data to provide this information to the CCS to be given to CDOW, USFS, and BLM, as examples of caver assistance.
Vote results: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain*

2011 NSS Convention Workshop

Val Hildreth-Werker of the NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section is organizing a workshop for the Convention entitled "Cave Conservation Workshop for Agencies and Cavers". As part of the workshop, she would like to have an afternoon social gathering in the Cartography Salon. She is looking for someone from the CCS to give a short talk on how caver volunteer work benefits land managers, talk about all the

effort that goes into creating cave maps, and also talk about examples from Colorado.

Discussion/Action: *Derek Bristol volunteered to assist.*

Special WNS Session at 2011 Convention

A session entitled "Western Perspectives on White Nose Syndrome" will be co-chaired by Rod Horrocks and Carl Bern at the 2011 NSS Convention. They will be seeking contributed presentations from cavers, land managers, and biologists about WNS and the WNS response in the western U.S. A panel discussion is planned for the end of the session.

Discussion/Action: *In addition to the panel session, The BLM and USFS will share a booth at the 2011 NSS convention. More volunteer efforts are still needed for convention.*

Map Request

Derek Bristol has requested a copy of Hazel Barton's map of Fairy Cave from the CCS files. Derek and Mark Dixon have scheduled a survey trip to the cave in February. A Confidentiality Agreement will need to be signed before the map is released. As agreed upon at the last meeting, any map provided by the CCS will also contain an embedded watermark stating when and to whom the map was released.

Discussion/Action: *Derek Bristol received a copy of the map from the owner of Glenwood Caverns. Therefore, no vote or signed Confidentiality Agreement was needed.*

CCS Managed Caves

Groaning Cave

Dave Lambert has compiled the register data for Groaning Cave (2000 – 2010) and will submit a complete report for the next issue of *Rocky Mountain Caving*.

Discussion/Action: *Two years of register data (2002-2003) are missing, but Dave still plans to have a report ready for RMC.*

LaSunder Cave

The management plan for LaSunder is coming up for review this year. Derek Bristol, Andrea Croskrey, Doug Kent, and Dave Lambert have submitted a proposal to the BLM, allowing them to evaluate opening the Back Zone of the cave to recreational trips. Bat use at LaSunder is largely unknown, and, therefore, the BLM has requested this evaluation trip wait until June.

Discussion/Action: *With the management plan up for review, the option of increasing the number of trips was discussed. It was voted unanimously to ask the BLM about increasing the number from 10 to 21 trips per year. Under this option, each grotto in Colorado would be guaranteed 2 trips per year and the remaining 7 trips would be on a first-come, first-served basis.*

Fly and Marble Caves

Access information is available on the CCS website. The access management team is:

Rick Rhinehart (liability waiver coordinator)	nss@rockymountaincaving.com
Jason Conner	jason@caving101.com
Jonny Slumpff	jonny@answergurus.com

Reports from active committees and projects of the CCS

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.

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

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

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/Action: *Due to time limits at the Library meeting space, committee reports were postponed and we proceeded to elections.*

Elections

Carl Bern is not seeking re-election as Vice-Chairman. Derek Bristol, Secretary of CG, has agreed to fill this role if elected. Dave Lambert has agreed to continue as Chairman if elected.

Discussion/Action: *Dave Lambert and Derek Bristol were voted unanimously as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively (both the chairman and vice-chairman-elect opposed). A round of applause was given to Carl Bern for his many years of service.*

Topics from the floor

Next meeting

***Discussion:** Next meeting perhaps in May 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: Jeff Polk	polk@delos.com
	Survey Rep: Todd Warren	twcaver@yahoo.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.