

## Colorado Cave Survey Meeting

**7:00 PM Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**School of Mines- Golden, CO**

### **Attendees:**

#### *In person:*

Jon Schow (CG)  
Chris Carter (CG)  
Kristen Levy (NCG, CCS Chair)  
Jim Lawton (NCG)  
Kevin Manley (FRG)  
Paul Fowler (FRG, CCS Vice-chair)  
Donald Davis  
Layla Borgens  
Ryan Hogan  
Gianna Pittman  
Carl Bern  
Ben Smith  
Derek Bristol  
Hunter Klein

#### *Remote online connection:*

Christine Kirkland (SCMG)  
Craig Yoder (SCMG)  
Kenny Headrick (CWSG)  
Rob McFarland (CWSG)  
Rick Rhinehart  
Max Khaysus  
Jennifer Zedalis  
Dan Sullivan  
David Gnuse

## Meeting Agenda and Minutes

### USFS caves:

#### *USFS Region 2 WNS response policies*

We have not gotten any recent update from USFS R2 concerning any changes to the WNS response implementation. We have requested more information from Rick Truex and from Kevin Laves (who has been standing in for Rick Truex, while Rick has been on temporary assignment elsewhere). We have suggested to them that the current Tier 1 permit system with

little or no modification could also be considered a valid Tier 2 response. Kevin has tentatively indicated that implementation decisions will be pushed down to individual forests, rather than a blanket policy for the whole region. However, the USFS is currently on furlough because of the government shutdown. We will follow up further as soon as the government is re-opened.

*No further discussion at meeting*

***Upper Fryingpan timber harvest (including Lime Park)***

No new update. Jim Baichtal, Forest Geologist/Tongass National Forest recommended that Parcel 103 be removed from the timber sale. Buffer zones of 100 feet were recommended in areas containing solutional collapse features and sinkholes and a 500 feet buffer zone was recommended for area containing a cave. Our understanding is that Jim's recommendations were accepted by the forest. In a recent communication with Jim, this was his belief but recommended I talk with the forest which has been delayed due first to holidays and then to furlough.

*No further discussion at meeting*

***Fixin' cliff climbing***

Follow up phone conference 10/18/2018. A field trip had been scheduled to walk the Fixin' cliffs but was canceled due to snow and inclement weather. Climbers have formed a Deep Creek Climbing coalition to better participate in the Wild and Scenic River Designation Meetings. USFS may post small signs delineating climbing zones, as well as informational signs about bats, WNS, cave closure rules, and future climbing regulations. According to Brandon Kelly (FS road specialist) road 602 may be revegetated. Another jeep track higher up the hill may become the new access route for sheep herder permit holders. We had discussed a parking area to be shared by users but that was nixed. Another meeting and site visit will be scheduled for spring.

*No further discussion at meeting*

***Exception permits on WRNF***

A written request for a CCS / NSS exception permit for Groaning and Spring Caves was submitted July 2018. After several follow-up calls and emails, the permit was finally granted on September 20, valid until October 14, 2018. There was one trip to Groaning and one trip to Spring Cave under the exception permit this year.

*No further discussion at meeting*

***Spring Cave resurgence area fire line remediation***

The Cabin Lake fire burned much of the South Fork White River valley, closing the campground and blocking access to the Spring Cave area this fall. The fire did not reach the campground or cave, however. As part of the fire line construction, large bulldozer trails were cut near the resurgence springs. In September Paul Fowler walked the cat lines with Kim Potter and Liz Roberts (USFS) to evaluate impacts and remediation of the cat line where it crossed the karst

area. A follow-up trip is planned in 2019 after the seasonal spring flooding.

*No further discussion at meeting*

### ***Deep Creek wild and scenic designation***

Ken Newton will provide an update.

*Summarized from Ken's notes after December 5, 2018 Stakeholders' meeting: W+S designation may happen by 2021. It will take longer to draft a full management plan. There may be different designations for different parts of the creek: Uppermost 0.25 mile is "scenic", lowermost 1 mile is "recreational", and the 14.25 miles in between is "wild".*

*Question for CCS and grottos: We want to provide information about geology related to caves and karst, and the value of caves within the karst system. This information will be used as a tool for legislators deciding on W+S designation.*

*Next meeting is February 7, 2019.*

### ***Hanging Lake adaptive management plan***

No new updates. Will follow up when feasible.

*No further discussion at meeting*

### ***Bat Working Groups***

Christine Kirkland attends monthly meetings and will share out relevant information.

*Christine: Bat Working Group for Mountain Prairie WNS Coordination:*

*Phone conference meetings are held one a month to discuss white-nose syndrome (WNS)-related topics including WNS strategic planning, communications, surveillance, grants, and research projects. Meetings are currently on shutdown with the government.*

*The meeting is specific to Region 6 (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). Attendees are Fish and Wildlife, BLM, National Parks, Forest Service, Geological Survey, University individuals, and Colorado Cave Survey. Colorado Cave Survey is basically participating to show support, learn about new information or findings, and to help provide input from a cavers stand point if needed.*

*The group basically educates one another about what WNS projects are going, research findings, educational programs, grant programs, and what efforts are being made to slow WNS.*

*The last meeting was held in December it was noted that Colorado is updating their WNS response and surveillance plan, and most of the WNS monitoring and sampling will occur in the spring and summer 2019.*

*A couple interesting things to note are that in Madison, Wisconsin there are plans to use a high-tech aerosol sprayer to deliver a fine mist vaccine for white-nose syndrome. The vaccine will be sprayed as the bats enter and leave their dwelling and the idea is that the vaccine will be consumed when they groom their fur.*

*Also, Rob Schorr with Colorado State University presented information on a project where rock climbers can report bat sightings while climbing. Kristen Levy has been in contact with Rob Schorr.*

### **BLM caves:**

#### ***LaSunder Cave management plan***

*Previously from Kim Leitzinger (BLM):*

*We have been able to find funding and have set up a Cooperative Agreement with Colorado State University to complete cultural surveys in the Deep Creek area this year. This is a requirement that the tribes asked for to see if we are missing any other cultural resources in that area to consider. They will not be completing surveys inside of the caves but may want to complete surveys immediately surrounding the caves and at the entrances. They will also be looking at other areas and taking random survey samples.*

July 21, 2018- Members of the CCS including Carl Bern, Donald Davis and Kristen Levy guided the CSU team to the Deep Creek Canyon and explored several caves on the southern wall. It was a successful trip, in that we found the caves thanks to Donald Davis. Archaeologists found some shards and a historic camp but no signs of human usage in caves proper. Kristen met with one of the archaeologists recently and she and her team were very thankful to the expertise provided by the team and they all want to be like Donald when they are 80 years old!

September 29, 2018- Another trip was led by Randy Macon of the Northern Colorado Grotto. Report follows: We all hiked to LaSunder cave, leaving the parking lot around 9:30 and making it up to the cave around 12:30ish. Along the trail in the canyon, the archeologists found a 6,000-year-old atlatl dart point, which is called a "Mount Albion" type. They are found all over the Front Range but rarely on the western slope. It's hard to say why it was found where it was without more info. It could have been an ephemeral hunting episode, dropped or discarded tool, or washed in from somewhere else. But in the LaSunder cave entrance, they found nothing indicating Native American usage.

*Donald Davis noted the presence of buried logs in BAD cave that might be interesting to get carbon dated, as they appear to be very old. No other discussion at meeting.*

### ***Twenty Pound Tick Cave***

We will provide updates on communications from the BLM. Like the Forest Service, BLM is also largely furloughed by the government shutdown, so many things are currently on hold. They did construct a hasty barrier in the dug bypass tunnel, which has since been removed by cavers. We will discuss possible plans for constructing an environmental barrier, as well as how best to move forward in general.

*Kristen Levy: Kim Leitzinger, who has been the BLM contact person for cave issues, has transferred to Denver. In the Silt office, we now are talking to Justin Jones and Miles Gurtler about Twenty Pound Tick. In November Justin installed a partial rock and mortar wall in the sump bypass passage. Appendix D of the Colorado River Valley Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan specifies that cave management issues are supposed to be coordinated with CCS. This wall was removed for access by a survey team in December. Carl Bern intends to install a better environmental seal to limit the high airflow, as well as put a register in the cave soon.*

*Carl Bern: If BLM insists on gating the cave, we should learn from our experience with LaSunder and have a management and access plan in place before the gate is built.*

*Paul Fowler: CCS and BLM signed a Cooperative Management Plan (MOU) for LaSunder but also for all other BLM caves back in 2006, but it expired in 2011 and was not renewed. Would it be a good idea to try to sign a new one now?*

*Carl Bern: Yes, it could help us be sure we have a seat at the table when they make decisions.*

*Kevin Manley: MOU can be good for us when BLM contact personnel change. Also it may let us get materials and pay for any work.*

*Derek Bristol: Federal agencies are not really bound by MOUs and can ignore us if they want to, but in general there is no downside.*

## **CCS Managed Caves**

### ***Groaning Cave***

The USFS has requested that a yearly summary of cave trips to Groaning be submitted. Paul Fowler has completed a summary of trips to Groaning for years 2017 and 2018. Jen Prusse, a USFS biologist, requested that bat observations also be recorded for all trips in the future.

The annual summary is perhaps most naturally a task for the present cave access coordinator, as is done currently for LaSunder Cave, provided they are willing to perform this duty. The report would be due by the end of the year after the cave closes for the season. Otherwise, we need to find another volunteer to do this.

*Kristen will ask Mary Klaus, the current combo coordinator, if she is willing to do this annual report.*

New Groaning management plan: No new updates.

The need for an updated management plan has been discussed with the WRNF. It will probably end up looking more like the LaSunder management plan. Kay Hopkins has not sent out templates to the Survey for input. Follow-up when possible.

*Derek Bristol: See if we can get the lower bound for trips officially reduced from 3 to 2, and also extend access to fall at swarming season without having to get special extension permits.*

*Kevin Manley: We also need to fix or replace the culvert at the Groaning entrance because it is so rusted out.*

### ***LaSunder Cave***

Report by Stuart Marlatt

Discuss status of trips, waivers, conservation, etc.

*Reminder: Waivers are required in advance of trips due to late submission in the past.*

*From Stuart Marlatt: Three groups with a total of 14 cavers visited LaSunder this summer. The only impact noted as some mud in a little pearl pool - but the group that noted this were unsure whether it was natural or due to a caver.*

*A new lock is in place, and Carl and Stuart both have new keys.*

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

Discuss status. Christine Kirkland will report out.

The access management team is:

Christine Kirkland (liability waiver coordinator) [agnew200@yahoo.com](mailto:agnew200@yahoo.com)

Talmage Trujillo [ttrujillo@salidaschools.org](mailto:ttrujillo@salidaschools.org)

*Christine: There have been only four trips to Fly and Marble Caves since September. Nothing special to be noted from those trips. We have been stressing to trip leaders that all rules and regulations need to be closely followed to keep good relations with the landowner, Larry Blackwell. Larry hasn't had any complaints.*

*Talmage reports that he will be teaching a caving unit at Horizons Exploratory Academy in Salida in February and his students will do a bat roost build project and will provide the Blackwell family with some. No new report on Porcupine Cave since the last meeting.*

## **Active Committee Reports**

***Mid-Continent Quarry Proposal-*** Rick Rhinehart may give a brief summary of events up to most recent development.

*Rick Rhinehart: Rocky Mountain Resources submitted an application to BLM for expanding the Glenwood quarry, but BLM sent it back with a list of 73 unaddressed further questions. BLM is on furlough just like Forest Service, however. It appears that the limestone in the quarry may not be as pure as RMR was claiming, and they may be hoping to quarry deeper to get Dyer dolomite for sale as aggregate, although good aggregate is also available at other locations. Most Colorado grottos have written letters opposing the quarry expansion because of threats it poses to the caves and karst in the immediate area.*

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

Shannon Glazer will give an update.

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

Project members:

Shannon Glazer	<a href="mailto:mock5turtle@hotmail.com">mock5turtle@hotmail.com</a>
Dan Castellari	<a href="mailto:cavesr4all@yahoo.com">cavesr4all@yahoo.com</a>
Dave Lambert	<a href="mailto:cavelambert@gmail.com">cavelambert@gmail.com</a>

*Shannon was not online.*

*Kevin Manley: Jefferson County has been talking about just cementing CJ's cave closed because of vandalism. Shannon has been circulating a letter for cavers to sign supporting efforts to build a better gate instead. CG, FRG, and CSM cavers have signed this letter and donated money so far toward a new better gate. CWSG asked for information to sign the supporting letter also.*

### ***Cave of the Winds- Bat Appreciation Day-Christine Kirkland***

*Christine: Williams Canyon Project and Colorado Cave Survey will be hosting a Bat Appreciation Day at Cave of the winds to help educate the general public about bats and WNS. Christine Kirkland will be closely working with Kristen Sherwood, an employee of Cave of the Winds, who will be directly coordinating with the manager Ann and owner Daniel Carey*

*We plan to have an information booth set up with, basic information about bats, pamphlets on WNS, coloring pages for kids, interactive displays, etc. Dave Jackson said he is willing to help out by bringing the CaveSim, which is a artificial electronic cave simulator. People just love the simulator and it's always a huge hit.*

*We also hope to have a bat rehabilitator volunteer present that day to give out information.*

### ***CCS website***

Paul has agreed to continue to update the website. Additional volunteers with relevant experience and skills would be greatly appreciated. Site fees are paid through May 2020.

*No further discussion at meeting*

## Topics from the floor

### 1. ***Cave of the Clouds and Drapery Den***

Defiance Cave Preserve- Mike Frazier

We are looking for assistance in cleaning up Drapery Den. It would be great if grottos could arrange trips to support the project. Cavers are also welcome to their own project on the property. Graffiti removal, Digs, Archeology, historical signature studies and more are all possible ideas. The preserve will remain open to cavers despite the possibility of a closure order from the BLM and USFS this spring.

*Kenny Headrick: Mike Frazier, Ken Headrick, and Rob McFarland have the keys to the Cave of the Clouds gate. Bat colony in Cave of the Clouds does not overwinter there, probably because it is too warm inside. They have wintered in Drapery Den, and may again after it gets cleaned up.*

### 2. ***Rocky Mountain Caving***- RMC requested digital files of past RMC journals. Vote was taken of CCS representatives and request was granted.

*Rick Rhinehart says thanks to CCS for help.*

*Derek Bristol: CCS also has digitized copies of other older publications from Colorado area grottos. Should we think about making those available in some form in the future?*

### 3. ***Craig Yoder***, gear cleaning service

*Craig will do cleaning and decontamination of cavers' gear for a small fee. He is in the Colorado Springs area.*

### 4. ***Elections***: Paul Fowler is stepping down as Vice Chair as he had volunteered to serve for only one year.

*Kristen Levy (chair) and Layla Borgens (vice-chair) were elected as 2019 CCS officers by a vote of 10-0 of the attending board members.*

Next Meeting:  
TBD

*Kristen Levy: Next meeting will be in late spring or early summer. We intend to have it somewhere on the Western Slope.*

**2018 Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey**

Chair            Kristen Levy            [kblevy@comcast.net](mailto:kblevy@comcast.net)  
 Vice-Chair     Paul Fowler             [pjfowler1@gmail.com](mailto:pjfowler1@gmail.com)

**2019 Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey**

Chair            Kristen Levy            [kblevy@comcast.net](mailto:kblevy@comcast.net)  
 Vice-Chair     Layla Borgens           [Nurse.layla@yahoo.com](mailto:Nurse.layla@yahoo.com)

**Voting Membership of the Colorado Cave Survey**

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

Colorado Grotto	Chair: Jon Schow	<a href="mailto:acojon@gmail.com">acojon@gmail.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Chris Carter	<a href="mailto:ccarterskis@yahoo.com">ccarterskis@yahoo.com</a>
Front Range Grotto	President: Kevin Manley	<a href="mailto:kevin.manley@colorado.edu">kevin.manley@colorado.edu</a>
	Survey Rep: Paul Fowler	<a href="mailto:pjfowler1@gmail.com">pjfowler1@gmail.com</a>
Northern Colorado Grotto	Chair: Kristen Levy	<a href="mailto:kblevy@comcast.net">kblevy@comcast.net</a>
	Survey Rep: Jim Lawton	<a href="mailto:quinoa@frii.com">quinoa@frii.com</a>
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Chair: Craig Yoder	<a href="mailto:craigyoder@gmail.com">craigyoder@gmail.com</a>
	Sur. Rep: Christine Kirkland	<a href="mailto:agnew100@yahoo.com">agnew100@yahoo.com</a>
Timberline Grotto	Chair: Cole 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:cavecritters@gmail.com">cavecritters@gmail.com</a>
	Survey Rep: Rob McFarland	<a href="mailto:robmcfarland@me.com">robmcfarland@me.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 the CCS Chair.