

Groaning Cave, Colorado: Summary of caver visitation, 2021

We summarize here caver visitation to Groaning Cave during the year 2021, based on the log entries in the cave register filled out by every caver group. There were 17 trips this year. There were a total of 71 cavers on all trips this year. Some cavers did multiple trips, especially trip leaders taking different groups to the cave.

Party size:

The most common party size for Groaning Cave trips was three.

Party size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
# of trips	1	6	5	2	1	1	1

Monthly usage:

Groaning is closed between August 15 and April 15 to protect the bats that live there. Snow normally makes it impossible to reach the cave until June, so visits are concentrated in June through early August.

Month	April	May	June	July	Aug.
# of trips	0	0	4	8	4

Trip destinations:

Most trips list an area of the cave that they intend to visit. This is potentially important in case of accidents or overdue parties. For this analysis, we divided the cave into five main areas: "Front" for trips to the front part of the cave, including the CSU passages and extending roughly as far as Tranquility Hall; "F+G" for trips to the F and G surveys, including Serenity Hall, Hard to Get Hall, Spiders' Den, and Lost Horizons; "J+K" for White Forest, Black Cathedral, and Submarine Boulevard; "M" for Mushrooms and the Madhouse; and "L+N" for the rest of the back part of the cave, including Lakes, Shattered Hall, the Overlook, and Far Away Places.

Destination	Front	F+G	J+K	M	L+N	Unknown
# of trips	8	2	4	3	0	0

Bat observations:

The Forest Service has requested that we record observations of bats, whether asleep or flying, and where in the cave we see them. "No bats seen" can also be a useful observation. 11 of the trips recorded some bat information. We encourage all cavers to include bat observations. A lack of mention of bats typically means no bats were seen, since seeing a bat in a Colorado cave is a relatively uncommon experience and is typically an interesting thing to note upon signing out. Trips that do not record any bat observations likely means that, as expected, none were seen and they did not think to mention it in the log.

June 5	No bats seen
June 5	"Lots of bats!"
June 25	"saw 1 myotis"
June 26	No bats seen
July 8	"saw 1 myotis in the entrance"
July 16	No bats seen
July 17	No bats seen
July 17	2 dead bats. 1 before CSU by water bottle. 1 at DAA23.
July 31	No bats seen
August 14	"One bat (myotis?) on ceiling of CSU passage"
August 14	No bats seen