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CCS Summer Meeting Agenda

July 2026

- Greetings, gratitude, and request for permission to record the meeting for transcription of minutes.

Recognitions —

Paul Slaybeck: NSS Alvin McDonald Award

- Congratulations to Paul as recipient of the NSS Alvin McDonald Award, which “recognizes a young cave explorer for outstanding accomplishments.”

Layla Borgens: CRFP Cave Restoration and Formation Repair Project Colorado Lead

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CCS Bylaws Committee

- Update — Paul F.
- Chad's proposal for CCS bylaw change: CCS Cultural Succession Planning
 - 2 caving restoration trips per year; recommend all CCS reps attend at least one of the two, hosted by the CCS Chair and Vice Chair
 - Groaning TL recommendation: 2 trips with 2 separate Trip Leaders

CCS Digital Library Committee

- Feedback so far suggests considering a proposal to discontinue forward movement on the Library Committee.
- A centralized database for Colorado caving and karst would be valuable, but finding a volunteer to lead it has been difficult.
 - Proposal: reach out to each grotto to brainstorm effective solutions; if none are found, move to table the discussion.

Updates on USFS Caves and Projects

CCS/WRNF

- Updated Significant Cave Nomination form available with minor changes: Significant Cave Nomination Form 2025, WRNF (Alex L.)
- The 2026 Exception Permit request for Spring and Groaning Caves was submitted to WRNF in March. In FS cue for approval.
- Going over old MOU to confirm the language still holds up in collaboration with Alex L.

USFS National Climbing Policy / Bolting Directive 2025 EXPLORE Act.

- New national policy affects bolting practices in wilderness areas broadly, not limited to WRNF-specific caves.
- Should CCS plan to comment when the next round of guidance drops? Alex suggests yes.
- Does this affect anything currently in progress (permits, MOU language) discussed above?
- **Standby for further direction from USFS. Stainless hardware preferred, proper bolting. Poor practices will glean attention from USFS.**

Fixin' Cliff, Lime Creek, and Hadley Point Conservation Issues

- Fixin': The caving community needs to clearly instruct cavers not to drive down the sheep-herder road — CCS has worked hard to protect these caves and the ecosystem from damage. Trust is important.
- 2008 Premonition bat survey (Cindy Mosch) Did not happen. CCS and USFS to develop exemption access/management plan.

Fulford Cave

- **Fulford pseudoscorpion, only on moonmilk! Totally different from anything else found. Adapted to live only on moonmilk.**
- Clean-up May 15–17, 2026.
 - Two techniques used: scrubbing with brushes and tarps, and battery pressure washer / battery wet vacuum.
 - Results: orange particulates visible after both methods — substantial large particulates visible under normal light from the wire-brush method, and very fine particulates visible under blacklight from the pressure-washer method.
 - Improvements in splash-zone control were needed for the pressure-washer method, but it was extraordinarily effective and fast at removing spray paint and mud from decorated and cave-wall surfaces with no visible damage to surfaces. Approved by WRNF.
 - The May Fulford trip would be a great model for the first CCS-rep restoration trip in coming years.

Groaning Cave

- Padlock and combo arrangement — lock maintenance: Chad Pedigo / Mary / Charles / Chad.
- CSMG Grotto has been added to Combo Keepers as a grotto.
- Combo keepers must have tighter communications.
- Vetting for approved trip leaders. List must be transparent. This must be clarified and submitted to Alex/USFS
- Was the cave register recorded and submitted to WRNF by the first trip of the 2026 season? Was a new logbook installed at that time?
- Groaning Cave survey week (June 25–28) Any issues, gear left behind, access notes to log? Duncan?
- Flat Tops Mad Rats Party Aug. 28-30. Willow Peak area. **No Entry Early AM or late afternoon (1hr. before and after sunset and sunrise). Restoration, Monitoring, Bat Observation. Trip Reports required**

Spring Cave

- Spring Cave exception trip reports and bat observations.
- Timberline Grotto meeting, 1st weekend of October — all grottos invited.
- Status check: vandalized gate (photos sent by Alex, March) — Game camera is being installed inside the entrance.
- Status check: break-in incident — resolved, or still open?

Holey-lujah Cave

- Paleontologists report HUGELY important site. Natural trap. 40-50k bones, weaselid, marmot, skunk, deer, porcupine, raccoon, Many others. Staggering. No excavation, surface finds only.
- **Discuss gating with Survey? Every trip in causes damage.** USFS is considering gating due to the extraordinary significance of the site.

Other Sites

- Boom & Boom Boom Gravel Pits
- Sweetwater Cave
- Knox Knasty Pit
- WRNF cave closures and R2 response to WNS-positive results in Colorado.
- Karst LiDAR Mapping Project and WRNF/CG SPA.

Updates on BLM Caves and Projects

- Met with Alan Czepinski, 1/23/2026.
- Working on an update of MOU with BLM/CCS based on WRNF MOU format.

LaSunder Cave

- Stuart M. reports four trips in 2025: an Admin trip in April (3 people), a Timberline Grotto trip in June (6 people), a Front Range Grotto trip in August (6 people), and a Colorado Western Slope Grotto trip in October (4 people). All except the TG trip went to the back section as well as the front.
 - Trips noted the rope swollen by moisture and difficulty on rappel with microracks and frog systems; replacement with a smaller-diameter dri-rope and a new rope pad and/or redirect rigging suggested for the 2026 maintenance trip. Lock also needs lubrication.
 - Stuart M. will include a monitoring impact survey with the biannual report for 2024–25 trips.
 - Stuart M. and volunteers began photo monitoring and plan to change the trail-marking system to a lightweight plastic chain with plastic stakes or ties. Once new marking is in place, each trip will be asked to remove any retrievable PVC flagging, eventually using extensible poles for delicate off-trail areas. Alan C. (BLM) is supportive and has limited funding (~\$300) for materials. Admin/work trip planned for late spring 2026.

Twenty Pound Tick Cave

- CCS continues to encourage BLM to allow monitoring at the cave, and has suggested hydrological and environmental studies be considered appropriate access for cavers.

Witch's Pantry Cave

- CCS will ask WRNF whether the paleontologist team working on FS caves this season can assist in the paleontological survey of WP, with BLM's facilitation.

Great Horned Owl Cave

- Discussed annual monitoring for biota use and visitation impacts, and a possible bat hibernacula and/or swabbing survey request with CPW.

Anvil Points Cave

- Rob M. (CWSG) — coordinator. Access procedure clarified: contact the BLM Rec Planner (Alan C.) with dates two weeks out; BLM sets up an escort through the gate/scales to park at the GarCo landfill. All trips must adhere to GarCo landfill hours of operation. Annual monitoring suggested.
 - CCS has also requested continued access for scientific study of a possibly endemic lampshade spider species, and for monitoring bat habitat and use.

Private Caves

Fly and Marble Caves

- Register plaque given to NSS at convention.
- New handline installed by L.P. Sullivan at “the log.”

Williams Canyon Project (WCP) / Canyon Closure

- Williams Canyon has been closed since May (no caving, no hiking, no trespassing).
- WCP is actively incorporating as a nonprofit — membership fees and insurance under discussion.
- Directly affects CCS member access — worth discussing whether CCS should have formal representation on WCP.
 - Proposal (2-part): a WCP rep as a non-voting attendee of CCS, and a CCS rep as a non-voting attendee of WCP.

Active Committee Reports

- Deep Creek Stakeholders Group
- Mid-Continent Quarry Proposal (RMI Quarry Expansion, Glenwood Caverns)
- Clear Creek Canyon Project

Bat Working Groups

- Colorado Bat Working Group (CBWG)
- Western Bat Working Group (WBWG)

Announcements

- Timberline Grotto hosted 2026 Gauntlet vertical ropes course weekend, August (email from Ken).
- 54th Annual North American Symposium for Bat Research — October 14–17, 2026, Hilton Fort Collins, Fort Collins, CO.
- Proposed Porcupine Cave management/gating — private landowner, Rich R.
- Proposed Colorado hosting of the National Cave & Karst Management Symposium 2027.