

## Notes from the Colorado Bat Working Group Meeting – 4/27/2004

Open with introductions and a quick review of the agenda items and goals of our meeting.

Kirk – Overview of the history and background of the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG).

- Organization formed from townsend's big-eared bat conservation strategy effort in Idaho. Actually first organized at the first Four Corners bat meetings in Durango 1996.
- Lyle Lewis is the chair (USFWS- NM)
- Conference at Reno – formed the species matrix.
- Other working groups – SEBDG and NEBWG. Separate from the WBWG.
- WBWG goals reviewed. (Available online@ [www.wbwg.org](http://www.wbwg.org))
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings in 2003, Durango.

Kristen – Overview of Colorado Bat Management Plan.

- Started 5-6 years ago. Comprehensive plan, intended for agency and academia use and guidance.
- Covers management needs and research issues.
- Current state of knowledge of western bats.
- Begins to prioritize needs for the various species in Colorado, and provides goals for species conservation.
- A conservation strategy, 7 sections, covers threats, populations, and habitats. Research needs, protocols, species status and trends.
- Provides a ranking of species for guidance in management and research. Modeled after Reno matrix effort, and uses the species accounts from that product.
- Is intended to be updated in the future. We did miss capturing some of the more recent research on townsend's, from Rick Sherwin and Scott Altenbach. Will be added in future revisions. Timing the problem.
- Recognition of people who helped with the plan: Laura Ellison, Mike Wunder, Cheri Jones, Kirk Navo, Kathy Peckham, Julie Annear, Ron West, Rick Adams, Eric Brekke, John Burghardt, Cyndi Mosch and Jeremy Siemers.

The Colorado plan was a volunteer effort. No agency directed the effort, and no official “sign off” of the plan is expected or intended. The Nevada Bat plan had taken an “official” route and had many problems with agency sign offs. Our plan effort had representation from most all the agencies in our state, and external review by other professional experts in the field of bat management and research.

A discussion was held on where we could “post” the plan to make it available to the most people and agencies. Heritage program, DOW, USGS, CBS were noted.

## Kirk – By-laws of the WBWG

An overview of what the by-laws will be, why they were developed, and how the voting process will work for the WBWG.

President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, 4 at-large positions (one must be from Canada). Nomination period now through the end of September. Voting will take place in November/December.

No dues will be required, at this point. This may change over time.

Comments from the group included recommendation of having a lawyer review the by-laws (Rick A.). Non-profit status one of the main needs behind the effort.

A discussion took place on what membership would be for the CBWG. Who can be a member? What is the purpose of membership? Lots of discussion on this topic. Should have open membership, and a council or board of directors. Need a diverse representation on the board. Concerns over having too many people involved, and from too many backgrounds. Should we be a “professional only” organization? Other opportunities exist for “lay person” involvement, like CBS. Also, membership is tied to the parent organization, WBWG, and that has to be a factor in Colorado.

We decided to organize ourselves as a council, and worked on getting “volunteers” to fill the seats. As follows:

Kirk Navo – Co-Chair (CDOW)  
Kristen Philbrook – Co-chair (BLM)  
Julie Annear – DMG  
John Burghardt – NPS  
Sonia Marzec – CDOW  
Paul Cryan – USGS  
Rick Adams – UNC  
Jeremy Siemers – CNHP  
Randy Ghormley – USFS  
Toni Piaggio – CU  
Cyndi Mosch – Caving community  
USFWS – needs to be filled if possible  
CDOT - needs to be filled if possible

Quorum set at simple majority of council.

CBWG will have a chair (or Co-chairs), and secretary function will just “float” for now.

Discussion of what we want to be?

- Information exchange
- Colorado input into regional WBWG issues
- Assist state resource managers with needed bat work

- Other ideas?

Information exchange needs to be from our group to the parent chapter (WBWG) and vice versa.

Need to use our “web page” on the WBWG website.

\*\* Anyone interested in being our “webmaster”?

Overview of CO bat issues and management needs for the next WBWG conference call:

- Wind farms
- Rangeland mgmt, mining closures and forest mgmt.
- Fire related issues (from our recent fires)
- Mining- hard rock mining, oil and gas?
- PJ- juniper mgmt, drought issues
- West Nile spraying
- Drought
- Cave mgmt

Possible field trips:

Cave trips

Orient Land Trust (Orient mine bat viewing)

SW PJ habitat project with Kristen

Next Meeting: During the voting period, Nov/Dec. Possible conference call to handle the issue instead of actual meeting.