



COLORADO BAT WORKING GROUP  
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**2019 Colorado Bat Working Group Meeting**  
**9am - 4pm, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office**  
**6060 Broadway, Denver, CO**

9:00 - Greetings and introductions, housekeeping - Dan

- Agenda, sign-up sheet, and lunch options
- Western Bat Working Group Meeting
  - Notes from the Tulsa, OK Meeting (April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>)
- Matrix update discussion - Completed in 2010  
Group agrees that update of Matrix is worthwhile. Committee formed to take lead in determining best way to move forward in accomplishing task: Kirk Navo, Brooke Hines, Jeremy Siemers, Tina Jackson, and Dan Neubaum
- CO Bat Literature page on website?  
Group likes the idea of literature addition. This topic led to larger discussion of webpage updates. Suggestions made to migrate webpage over to newer format that allows for changes/edits to be made more easily/quickly. Group liked idea of having a one-day meeting either in person or as a video conference to knock changes out together in a manner where the page can be viewed visually while working on it. Dan and Jeremy will update Rob Schorr and talk about the possibilities, then get back with working group.

9:30 - NABat - North American Bat Monitoring efforts

- 2019 Colorado accomplishments - Jeremy/Tina  
52 GRTS completed in CO in 2019
- Database development and CO trend Analysis - Brian  
Lots of progress at the national level to advance NABat. Buy in from most states and provinves. Products starting to develop, State of North American Bats targeting within next couple of years. Proof of concept occupancy maps of CO completed and shared with group.
- Manual vetting process/acoustic protocols - Jeremy

Reviewed this process and highly encourage all using acoustic tools to incorporate a manual vetting process. Helps reduce false positives, especially for species highly unlikely to occur when CO is far away from documented range. Encourage documentation of how vetting was done in report methods. One option available is that noted in the NABat report "Reichert, B., C. Lausen, S. Loeb, T. Weller, R. Allen, E. Britzke, T. Hohoff, J. Siemers, B. Burkholder, C. Herzog, and M. Verant. 2018. A Guide to processing bat acoustic data for the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat): U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2018-1068, 33 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20181068>."

10:30 - 15 Min Break - ORDER LUNCH

#### 10:45 - AML Status Update

- General updates - Lisa/Kirk  
Over 10,500 mines closed to date in CO, 200-300 visited each year. DRMS working to get funding that sunsets in 2020(?) renewed. Most projects on Front Range over the last year. BCI contracting to do some West Slope projects.
- Mine gate issues (aka cover for award presentation)  
Presented gift of gratitude to Kirk Navo for 13 years of service as Chair of Colorado Bat Working Group

#### 11:15 - Climbers for Bat Conservation

CBC making good headway in reaching out to climbing community nationwide. Rob is giving multiple talks to further outreach. Some nice videos available online to help promote effort: see <https://www.climbersforbats.colostate.edu/content/news-coveragemedia> Building awareness is more important than ever given rising popularity of sport and potential for user conflicts. Group briefly discuss potential issues like those on the White River National Forest occurring between climbing and caving communities.

#### 11:45 - Efforts to investigate use of bridges and culverts by bats in Colorado

- Bridges - Brooke Hines  
Variety of reasons bats may use bridges: night roosting, maternity use. Bridge type/construction is important. CDOT appears receptive to bat surveys of such structures or design considerations for new structures. Encourage working group to reach out to CDOT contacts to discuss possibilities.
- CO examples - Myyu culvert on Fort Carson - April Estep, Hwy 6 Tadarida Colony Watchable Wildlife Area - Dan  
New maternity colony of Myyu confirmed in open prairie setting on Fort Carson at the northern extent of this species' range along the Front Range. Using a concrete square culvert. Watchable Wildlife area for large Tadarida colony in Grand Junction slowly moving forward.

#### 12:15 - CBWG Exclusion Recommendations for Public

- Headway on this effort  
Shared rough outline of information developed by subcommittee to eventually be placed on the webpage. Group agrees that webpage is becoming more important than ever as a tool to reach larger audiences more effectively, including general public.
- Discussion of recommended dates for exclusion  
Discussed concerns related to "Timing" as conflicting advice is shared. Group felt that regional differences need to be taken into account and decisions based on those considerations. Sentiment that avoiding winter exclusions is not necessary in CO based on evidence. A statement will be included with Timing recommendations that addresses this concern.

12:15 - 15 Min Break - Grab food and move on

12:30 - White-nose Syndrome

- General updates at the national and state levels - Paul/Tina
  - Nearest locations to CO, new positive detections
  - CO surveillance efforts
    - Efforts by state shifting to late spring/early summer swabbing of bats. Collection of samples proved difficult this summer due to the late arrival of many colonies, possibly tied to heavy snowpack/large winter. Group discussed potential for using guano surveys and pros/cons of other sampling methods. Folks working with bats outside of CPW and CNHP interested in assisting with collection of WNS detection sampling. Lots of research has come out in last year on functionality of WNS. Still no silver bullets for cures or management recommendations. Benefits for baseline data appear to growing.
- Implications for USFS and BLM related to triggered cave closures - Rick Truex/Matt Rustand
  - Nothing has been triggered in the BLM plan yet that requires action. USFS does not appear to have made many notable cave closure changes that differ much from where they were previously set. A couple caves have been added as new information became available.
- WNS Decon "refresher" - Dan

1:15 -

2:00 - 15 Min Break

2:15 - Project Updates

- USGS Datalogger backpacks - Cryan
  - Discussed use of new temp/humidity backpacks (< 1g). Potential to learn a lot about hibernacula microclimate for Western bats.
- Steamboat Colony monitoring - Jeremy
  - Getting good data on survival estimates of Mylu prior to WNS arrival. Noted interesting movements of bats to surrounding structures. Bats returned late in summer, as noted previously, making work challenging.
- Elephant Mountain Survival Estimates - Dan
  - Discuss potential for PIT tag loss with this species. Survival estimates of adult female matching those of other studies using PIT tags. Good info on seasonal arrival and departure windows.
- Gateway/Fort Lewis efforts - Kirk
  - Comparisons of fungal communities taken from bats versus guano show high degree of similarity. Offers support to use of guano. Still looking at data from swabbing that examines potential for sampling later in season if "harder to groom" locations on bats still harbor fungal spores.

### 3:15 - Round Table

- Agencies
- Others

If interested in participating in bat surveys at the Orient Mine, be in contact with Paul Fowler of the Colorado Cave Survey

### 3:45 - Working Group Updates

- Bat blitz? Swabbing efforts in spring to look for WNS?  
Potential to help collect swabs of bats close to the NM border on new CPW state park (Fishers Peak) while also helping collect baseline data for the large area. Stay tuned for possible blitz ideas!
- Next year's meeting location and time? Possible dates: September Fri 25<sup>th</sup>, Mon 28<sup>th</sup>; October Fri 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mon 5<sup>th</sup>, Fri 9<sup>th</sup> (2020 NASBR Oct 28-31, Tempe, AZ) Dan will post a Doodle poll.

### 4:00 - Adjourn!

For those who would like to call in (with the caveat that it is often hard to hear) see below:

Dial the local number closest to you and then enter the MeetMee ID.

MeetMe ID #7989 (back up #7984)

Local call in numbers

Colo Springs 719-227-5247

Pueblo 719-561-5367

Denver 303-291-7647

Fort Collins 970-472-4347

Brush 970-842-6347

Monte Vista 719-587-6887

Montrose 970-252-6047

Grand Junction 970-255-6167