

The Western Cave Conservancy  
213 Elm Street ■ Santa Cruz, California 95060  
■ Email: mail@westerncaves.org

Director and Staff Reports for 2011 Q1 Board Meeting Period Reported:

Quarter 1 (Jan 9, 2011 through April 8, 2011) (unless otherwise noted)

**PRESIDENT: MARTIN HAYE**

**Activities this quarter:**

1. Normal clerking duties – receiving checks, scanning them to DropBox, sending email to Eileen and Mike. I have often gotten behind on this, which makes Eileen mad (and rightly so). Dan Snyder has offered to take over this duty as he is more punctual (he's the one that pays our bills at home, always on time) and I gladly have taken him up on that offer.
2. Worked with Kelley Prebil to whip the new WCC web site into shape. It is hosted on Squarespace.com and we're both very happy with the ease of updating content, both for us and for other people at the WCC. We plan to make the site go "live" very soon, turning off the old site. We have a backup of the old content in case we need it for any reason.
3. Participated in the Clough Cave gating project, assisting wherever I was needed. It was a blast, I had a great time and I'm not kidding!
4. Amended our federal and state tax filings for tax year 2008. The State of California pointed out in a terse letter that we had to file a full return because, while our income that year was well under \$25,000, our *typical income* (defined as the average over three years) was over \$25,000 because we had a bumper year in 2006. All done, and what a pain.
5. Updated the spreadsheet of all donations from 2010 to the present, and used that to produce the list of 2010 donors for Kelley to format for the web site. This has needed doing for years!
6. Got new version of QuickBooks running so I can access our books that Mike produces when I need to. He's been doing a great job.
7. Updated public minutes on the (new) web site, including the most recently approved minutes.
8. Maintained our email lists. Currently this is very cumbersome, but based on my experience with the Windeler list, using a private Google Group, I think it can be easily streamlined and that Kelley will be able to do this more effectively, and in a more timely manner.
9. Signed and wrote thank-you notes to all donors who gave over \$100. Do I still need to do this? Again, it's a task I get behind on despite how insanely easy Eileen makes it for me.
10. Coordinated Board of Directors activities: mainly, organizing this meeting, putting together the reports, and building an agenda.

Note:

Eileen has expressed a desire to step down at the end of the year, and I would like to step down soon as well from the office of President. We need a clear and fail-proof plan to get new people onto the board and into officer positions. It's been pointed out to me that, because I've been an officer for almost 10 years now, people may be reluctant to step up for fear of stepping on my, and other founders', toes. I've heard it called "Founder's Syndrome" and it can result in organizational death if not addressed. Of course this organization is stronger than its founders, and must live on after we all meet the bus. I realize that recruitment trouble is a common theme among caving organizations at present, but WCC is more important and more locally relevant to many people. A serious call will result in serious responses.

**Plans for the upcoming quarter:**

1. Work on recruitment, for real.
2. Help Kelley where necessary with the new web site.
3. Continue to get minutes out promptly.
4. Develop better system of membership tracking with Mike, Eileen, and Marianne.
5. Continue my clerking and other duties.

**VICE-PRESIDENT: MARIANNE RUSSO**

**Activities this quarter:**

*Clough Cave, Sequoia Nat. Park Project:*

The re-gating portion of this project has been successfully completed. Over the days of March 23 through 28, 2011 16 volunteers plus various park staff and welder Bill Roberts, worked hard through arduous weather conditions of snow, freezing rain and cold temperatures to get this job done. The old gate was successfully restored and is now locked. The new gate is installed and complete except for the removable door bar which will be fabricated elsewhere and installed during the fall restoration phase.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers profusely for their perseverance, hard work and upbeat mood. Of special note were the efforts of a few: Kaedean Dopplemayr who did an outstanding job of feeding everyone hot food for every meal and having hot water, snacks and hand warming trays of warm water available all day. Roger Mortimer who designed and supervised the construction of the high line haul system that enabled us to "fly" the heavy materials (200 lb. generator, welder, steel bars and concrete) over the river and up to the cave entrance. Martin Haye, who is a one-man pack mule train. He hauled several smaller steel bars (filled with concrete), several sacks of concrete and packs with water up to the cave on the trail. He also carted lunch up to the hard working welding crew so they wouldn't have to come down to camp. Mike Spiess who brought several pieces of necessary welding and fabrication equipment as well as doing much of this work during the days he was there. Wayne Cedidla not only served as the main assistant for all the fabrication, drilling and welding but also used his truck to help me haul ice chests, water containers, propane canisters etc. and he was there helping from the beginning to the end. Finally, Ben Robinson for working hard as usual as well as bringing a huge truck of equipment, some of which turned out to be

extremely handy. The rest of the volunteers included Bill Frantz, Kyle Dwyer, Todd Hill, Rene Nitz, Stu Kerns, Zack Westlake, Carol Vesely, Kat Biacindo, Matt Bowers, and myself.

*M2 Cave:*

I received a finish copy of the cave map from Bill Broeckel. Tracy Audisio and I decided to make the upcoming issue of the WCC newsletter primarily devoted to the results of the MMQC project. We received an article from Neil Marchington (one of our WCC advisors) and another from Bill Broeckel which related the saga of the survey work. I wrote up a short introduction and provided pictures and a digital version of the map to Tracy.

I received no requests from the President during this quarter for any particular jobs.

**Plans for the second quarter:**

No particular tasks are looming for the second quarter at this time. Later in the summer I will begin working with Joel Despain to plan for the Clough Cave Restoration project which will probably be moved up to early October or late September.

**TREASURER: MIKE SPIESS**

[See appendix]

**SECRETARY: EILEEN BELAN**

**Activities this quarter:**

The January 8, 2011 meeting minutes were taken by Advisor Pat Helton.

The “Dropbox” as well as the on line donations with an email directly to the Secretary has been working smoothly. We have received donation from fifteen donors totaling \$1,071. The reminder letters being sent out when memberships are close to expiring seem to be working and will continue. There have been no requests for thank-you gifts.

*Respectfully submitted, Eileen Belan Secretary WCC*

**ACQUISITIONS DIRECTOR: BRUCE ROGERS**

**Activities this quarter:**

Since no new properties have become available on the real estate market in the previous 12 months, the committee has not acted upon this facet of its duties.

*Fremont Peak caves, Fremont Peak State Park, San Juan Bautista, CA* Negotiations were opened with the California State Parks Commission about known caves in the Fremont Peak State Park atop the Gabilan Range at the Santa Cruz-Monterey County boundary. Mr. Eddie Guaracha, Park Superintendent, replied, saying that the Park staff and the retired Park Ranger would be visiting the cave(s) site in January to determine which of the caves were actually on the Park property and would discuss the feasibility of re-opening them. I posted back that if my/our presence on that trip would be of

value then we'd be more than willing to participate. I am still awaiting a reply from Mr. Gauracha as to the feasibility of this undertaking.

*Lake Shasta Caverns, Obrien, CA*

In a slightly different site, Lake Shasta Caverns is still open and functioning. No new report as to the sale of this cave has been received.

*M2 Cave, Medford, Oregon*

I have reports that the selling price of this property has dropped to 1.23 million dollars due to the sluggish real estate market.

*Drip Cave, McCloud Resort, CA*

I became aware of another 150-foot deep vertical cave near Lake Shasta that was last visited in the late 1950's. Further inquiries to local NSS cavers in the Shastacade and Shasta Area Grottos determined that no one currently has any knowledge of this cave. In the near future attempts will be made to find this cave, determine its ownership, and, if it does prove significant, consider it for possible purchase or management by the WCC. Inclement weather has precluded any reconnaissance trips to re-locate this cave.

*Joaquin Murrieta's Cave, San Jose, CA*

*Joaquin Murietta's Cave*

During two trips in July and November, WCC members and other NSS cavers relocated and visited this little cave in a City Park in San Jose, CA. Last visited in November of 1962, the cave is now unknown to the San Jose Parks Commission. Dan Snyder has found some reference materials in the San Jose Public Library including hints of yet another small cave in the City Park. I have corresponded with a former Park employee, now working on bat research in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, and will pursue his knowledge of this possible lead. In the meantime, I have decided to simply let things remain as they are with very little Park staff and public awareness of the cave.

*Limekiln Canyon Cave, Los Gatos, CA*

This little, mostly unexplored cave was visited in May of 1964. An attempt to relocate this little cave was done in October 30, 2010, but the site remained elusive. Again, inclement weather this winter has postponed any attempts to relocate the cave.

Most respectfully,

*Bruce Rogers* Chair, Acquisitions Committee

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS DIRECTOR: (VACANT) [This position is currently vacant, so no report.]

**HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR: JERALD JOHNSON**

**Activities this quarter:**

Seven Directors

- . a) Martin Haye 2010-2013 (President; Director of Stewardship and Chair of the Windeler Cave Management Committee)

- . b) Marianne Russo 2009-2012 (Vice-President; Director Public Relations and Manager of the Weller Natural Preserve)
- . c) Rolf Aalbu 2011-2014 (Director of Research)
- . d) Mike Spiess 2010-2013 (Director and Treasurer)
- . e) Jerald Johnson 2009-2012 (Director of Human Resources)
- . f) Bruce Rogers 2010-2013 (Director of Acquisition)
- . g) Eileen Belan 2009-2012 (Director and Secretary)
- e) **Open 2011-2014 (Director of Cooperative projects)**

Rolf Aalbu was re-elected to another three year term as a Director of Research.

Webmaster: Kelly Prebil

Newsletter: Editor Tracy Audisio

Volunteer Coordinators:

Tracy Audisio, Gretchen Baker, Gale Beach, Ray Beach, Caroline Brown, Roger Brown, Dave Bunnell, Chuck Chavdarian, Ernie Coffman, Dave Cowan, Joel Despain, Steve Deveny, Don Dunn, Bill Frantz, Peri Frantz, Morley Hardaker, Dale Hartwig, Sherry Hartwig, Marc Hasbrouck, Pat Helton, Jim Hildebrand, Steve Hobson, G.O. Graening, Jim Lakner, Joel Ledford, Matt Leissring, Neil Marchington, Heather McDonald, Frank McDonough, John Moreno, Roger Mortimer, Bill Papke, Kelly Prebil, Dell Quick, Rich Sundquist, Rich Steffenson, Bern Szukalski, John Tinsley, Carol Vesely.

Banquet Coordinator: Kaedean Dopplemayr

5. Advisory Board

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS (Two Year Terms January 2011-January 2013) IF YOU ARE NOT A PAID MEMBER OF THE WCC YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD  
CURRENTLY 39 MEMBERS

As stated in May, 2004, and reiterated here, it is important to develop all aspects of a board manual so that all WCC directors will have a complete and thorough guide to the history, policies, and procedures of the organization. If there are individuals on the Advisory Board that would like to offer suggestions on the structure of such a document or are interested in possibly being a board member or know someone who might be interested I would be quite happy to hear from you at [jjj@csus.edu](mailto:jjj@csus.edu) or 916-663-2571.

Because of other commitments this quarter I have not been able to work on the board manual.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR: MARIANNE RUSSO**

### **First Quarter Activities:**

1) *Website:* Kelley has been working on the website and reports that they are very close to launching the new site on SquareSpace.com. She says is a lot cleaner and slicker looking and I think the new look all by itself will make things look fresh and interesting to people. There will be some new features to check out including:

- . a) Links to other cave conservancies and links to grotto websites within the

WCC area.

- . b) Donor list will now be updated on an annual basis.
  - . c) New categories for donors \$100-\$249 and \$250-\$499 instead of just \$100-\$499.
  - . d) A direct link to our facebook page.
  - e) A “contact us” page and an address to correspond directly with Kelley as well. In addition, Bill Frantz and I will be getting her photos and written material about the recent Clough Cave Gating project as soon as possible so that can be featured in recent activities.
- 
- . 2) *WCC Facebook*: The WCC is now on Facebook and Kelley reports that we now have 72 people “liking” it. She is using it to advertise work days and meetings.
  - . 3) *WCC Newsletter*: Tracy Audisio was confirmed as our new editor and has been working as quickly as possible on her first edition. Most of the upcoming edition will focus on the Marble Mountain Quarry Cave expedition of last summer, including a copy of the updated map prepared by Bill Broeckel. There will also be an update on the Weller Preserve, discussing the accomplishments of the several workdays this winter. We are hoping to get this issue mailed out around the first of May. The next issue will feature the Clough Cave Gating Project and probably news from the upcoming Speleo-Ed in mid-May. NOTE: To Directors and Advisors: Please consider contributing to our newsletter. Tell everyone about the workings or activities of your committee, or write about an idea or possible project for the WCC. If you aren’t sure it is appropriate, just contact either Tracy or me. We would like to hear other voices and opinions as well as the news of the quarter.
  - . 4) *Budget to Date*: As of April 9, 2011, a total of \$268.54 was expended at Best Buy for a printer and extra ink cartridges for the Secretary so that she no longer has to use her own printer for WCC business. If and when Eileen declines to continue as our Secretary, this printer will move on to the new person filling that position. No other expenditures were made during the first quarter.

*Second Quarter 2011 Plans:*

- 1) *WCC Newsletter*: Getting out issues more regularly is a high priority for the upcoming year and so far we look to be on track with this goal. THANK YOU TRACY!
- 2) *2011 Speleo-Ed Dinner*: On May 14, 2011, the WCC, headed by Executive Chef, Kaedean Dopplemayr will host another fundraising dinner for the assembled masses.
- 3) *Website*: On my list of “to dos” is updating the Rippled Cave/Weller Preserve page Information, revising the membership information and helping Kelley design a new page, giving her a good set of photos and text for Clough Cave and the Speleo-Ed event AND bugging the rest of the directors to update or create sections for their activities.
- 4) *Membership Campaign*: This project is still on hold due to more pressing responsibilities with the Clough project, the newsletter and the Weller Preserve (not to mention writing up stuff for the Valley Caver, labeling my photos,

leading cave trips, NCRC, and the rest of my life). As soon as we (Martin Haye, Mike Spiess, Eileen Belan, and myself) get the new membership program worked out, which will hopefully happen in the next few weeks, we will move forward to the campaign to expand our membership. I will try my best to see that this happens in 2011. Prospective members will receive an invitation letter, a sample newsletter, a return address envelope and membership application form.

5) *Membership Program*: Working in conjunction with Mike Spiess, Martin Haye, and Eileen Belan, I will be part of a project to revise how we maintain our membership list. For various PR purposes it would be very helpful if I had access to both a current and lapsed list without bothering Eileen or Martin every time. I have prepared a “wish-list” of options I would like to see and Martin and Mike, with their computer skills will see what they can come up with. In addition we will be implementing the annual renewal plan approved at the Oct. 2010 meeting.

#### *Long Range Plans*

- . 1) *Displays*: Both Dan Snyder and Don Dunn have volunteered to assist with these and as other tasks are completed I will return to this effort.
- . 2) *New WCC Brochure*: We will prepare a new and updated WCC Informational Brochure that we can send out to prospective partners, landowners, potential members and supporters.
- . 3) *Dog and Pony Show*: We did one in 2010 and I expect that we will do more of these in 2011 with revisions and updates to the program as needed.
- . 4) *Caver Outreach*: When most of the tasks outlined above are either completed or under control, I will focus effort on making direct contact with more distant grottos in the western states in an effort to solicit more interaction and participation.

#### **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DIRECTOR: ROLF AALBU**

[The Scientific Research Committee has not yet had its charter established, so no report. We need to finish the establishment of the committee.]

#### **STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR: MARTIN HAYE**

This report is about Windeler; the Weller Preserve is covered in Marianne's report. Windeler Committee activities this quarter:

1. *Security*: performed maintenance and monitored; no problems noted.
2. *Mining claims*: Filed all the paperwork and paid (as private citizens) the two claims discussed previously to protect the cave from underground mining. It's all public record now and official.
3. *Mining claimants*: The Committee was contacted by Greta Alexander, one of the claimants of the placer claim covering the area over the cave. I had a detailed discussion with her over two phone calls. She's very interested in the cave, having heard about it from a guy at Italian Bar. He even boasted that he's the one who broke the gate last time. They went to the area, but he was unable to find the cave. I informed her gently about our management plan, that the cave requires significant experience with

caving, cave conservation, and vertical equipment, that there are long waiting lists of other people who also want to go, etc. I encouraged her to seek training from local cavers or a local grotto and she seemed receptive to that idea.

4. *Trustee Trips*: No trustee trips this quarter, but Jef Levin is scheduled to lead the 2011 Diablo trip this very weekend.
5. *NCRC Preplan*: The committee received an offer from NCRC to do a rescue pre-plan. After much discussion we came back with a tentative date and request for further information before a final decision is made.
6. *Committee discussions*: Windeler Committee discussion has been moderate, with flurries around the mining claim and the NCRC.
7. *Management plan*: We're considering this done; the background section can be expanded at a later time, but we would like the Board to review the plan now; see Appendix B.

*Committee goals for the upcoming quarter:*

1. Continue to remain vigilant for break-ins, especially since we know the miners are looking for the cave.
2. *Windeler Cave Trustees*: Straighten out the complicated mess of three trustees (Mike White, Dave Bunnell, and Dale Hartwig) that are somehow in charge of MLG, unaffiliated, and out-of-area cavers. We need a rational division.
3. *WCC-USFS Windeler Cave MOU*: Start the process for renewing our MOU with the Forest Service. April is the time to start this, according to Beth Martinez.
4. Implement decisions from conservation planning. This will likely require a committee work trip.
5. Circulate our management plan with the WCC Board and with the Forest Service and gather their comments.
6. Stay on track making decisions.
  7. Fill two empty spots with new people. We've gotten interest from four people, so we have to figure out who will get in.

*Long-term goals:*

1. *Gates*: Replace both gates with better gates, based on Chuck's design.
2. *Windeler MOU*: Shepherd our MOU renewal through the year.
3. *Windeler WCC-USFS MOU*: Incorporate Board and FS comments on the management plan, produce final plan.

**WELLER PRESERVE MANAGER: MARIANNE RUSSO**

*First Quarter 2011 Activity:*

*Summary*: This quarter includes the days between Jan 9, 2011 and Apr. 9, 2011. Trips to the preserve occurred on eleven occasions during this period. During these eleven days, about 33 person days were spent performing vegetation management and survey tasks on the preserve. This efforts included work on the 100' fire safe perimeter around the Fieldhouse, completion of the survey and marking of the northern boundary, scotch broom removal and sprout spraying and brush clearing and burning in a dense manzanita thicket along the eastern end of the northern boundary. The preserve visits included

two official Weller Workdays, two cave trips and one combined vertical practice/cave trip along with eight unofficial workdays (two of which were concurrent with cave trips). A total of only 34\* vehicle trips on the road were logged during this 89-day period. This figure assumes that vehicles only drive in, park and then later drive out which is usually the case. However, the number is slightly higher when we are using our pick-up to move brush and equipment up or down the road (sometimes 3 or 4 times in one day when working at the northern end of the preserve). This happened on four occasions during this quarter.

*Donations:* Three donations were made to the WCC/Weller Preserve this quarter. The first was for \$25 in cash from Diablo Grotto caver, Jim O'Neill, after his trip into the cave on Jan. 29, 2011. The second was for \$35, given to us by Tammy Meredith for the purpose of subsidizing dinner for the March 5, 2011 workday crew. The final donation was of an unknown amount by San Joaquin Valley Caver, Angela Westlake who very generously picked up the rest of the tab for the Golden Wok dinner after the March 5, 2011 workday. This was not an official WCC donation but I want to recognize her generosity and contribution, she, her husband Zack and friend Stu Kerns worked very hard that day and expressed an interest in coming back again to help out. Thanks Angela!

*Neighbor Concerns:* Mr. Lilley emailed me after the recent SFBC trip to say that a neighbor who live on Highland Drive (a couple of miles or so away), called to tell him that three cars from the Bay Area of young folks came to his house looking for Rippled Cave. They were apparently lost and using those "new fangled" GPS devices. He said he didn't know where the cave was and sent them on their way but was warning Lilley about them in case they did find the right road. Since it was the day of the SFBC trip I email Alan Chern to ask him what happened. He assured me that they normally wouldn't ask locals for directions but the GPS did send them down the wrong road and when he say the man coming out of his house and moving toward the cars he felt that it would be wrong just to run away. Instead he politely told him what they were doing but said he wasn't asking for information. They finally found the Preserve but were almost an hour late. I emailed Mr. Lilley and reassured him that everything was ok.

*Fieldhouse/Stool Shed Project:* No building activity this quarter. However, the Fieldhouse received one good cleaning and tidying up and the Porta-potty was taken home, emptied and cleaned on two occasions.

*Fieldhouse Equipment:* No activity.

*Vegetation Management:*

100' Fieldhouse perimeter: As per Cal-Fire requirements we spent the first Weller Workday (January 15) continuing the work on clearing of the 100' perimeter around the Fieldhouse removing low- hanging tree branches, dead wood and brush and selectively removing live brush. We also are removing some of the recently fallen trees and branches in the area surrounding the

entrance to Rippled Cave. This was primarily material that is blocking our cave access and perimeter trails. While the workday itself was a “no burn” day Jerry and I returned on March 19, 2011 and were able to burn 95% of what we have cut and piled on March 15. We have made great progress on this project but there is still a few days of work ahead to get this area in acceptable shape. Scotch broom: We are keeping good control of the broom on the preserve. On a couple of occasions I rechecked and did additional Round-Up spraying on all of our infestation zones as well as small areas on Huber’s land to the northeast. The big accomplishment of this quarter is that we really got a jump on tackling the huge hillside of broom on

*Lilley’s property.* On the March 15, 2011 workday a small crew led by Matt and Heather worked their way through a large area in the middle and cleared an access trail over to Carper’s driveway. We had hoped to be able to burn the material somewhere in the clearing but after the workday Jerry inspected it with me and advised me that it wasn’t a good place to burn after all. The sides were too steep and the vegetation was just too dense. He recommended that we cut the stacked plants up into more manageable size and remove them for burning in a safer location. So on four subsequent days (March 8 and 12 and April 1 and 6) we returned to work on this. A total of 13 truckloads of broom were moved down to the main burn location behind the fence along the road and by 8:30pm Apr. 6 all of the removed broom plants were incinerated. Depending upon weather conditions we may or may not have an opportunity to do any more work on the patch until next winter. However, if we do, we will concentrate on removing the plants directly adjacent to the road and of course I will monitor everywhere we have cleared for seedlings, which will be treated with Round-Up.

*Misc. Brush Clearing:* On the March 5, 2011 workday most of the volunteers worked on clearing out dead and overgrown manzanita and live oak at the far eastern end of the northern boundary. Most of the material was burned on that day although some still remains to be finished at a later date.

*Firewood:* During the course of most vegetation clearing work some material suitable for firewood is encountered. On the January 15, 2011 workday a significant stack of wood was generated around the field house/cave zone and volunteers, Ben Robinson and Ernie Maier gratefully took it.

*Boundary Survey:* I am VERY pleased to announce that the survey of the very long and very difficult northern boundary is complete. On two days in early February we re-shot the entire line with both foresights and back-sights until Jerry was satisfied with the results. We installed green 6-foot high “T” posts every 50 feet. A few of these will need to be stabilized with some cement work since they occur in very rocky areas. We also ordered 50 more of the wonderful little “Property Boundary Line” aluminum markers that Heather and Matt found for us when we finished the western boundary. These will be wired to the northern boundary posts.

*Trail Development / Maintenance:* No activity.

*Budget Summary:* There were only two expenditures incurred during this quarter: \$23.54 which reflects the cost of 5 green “T” posts used to supplement the stock we already had to mark the northern boundary and \$43.80 which was the cost of the boundary markers. A reimbursement of \$67.34 is requested, receipts will be submitted at the April 9, 2011 meeting.

*Recreation/Grotto Trips:* There were four recreational trips this quarter. The first was on January 29, 2011 (Diablo Grotto, led by Steven Johnson, cave trip with 6 cavers), the second was on February 5, 2011 (Mother Lode Grotto-with some Diablo cavers, led by Marianne Russo and Ron Davis, short cave trip and vertical practice, 12 cavers), the third on March 5, 2011 (San Joaquin Valley Grotto, led by Matt Bowers/M. Russo, short cave tour, 5 cavers) and finally on March 12, 2011 (San Francisco Bay Chapter, led by Alan Chern, all day cave trip, 9 cavers). The cave register was filled out and trip report forms were completed for all trips.

Note: There was also one very short unauthorized trip on March 5, 2011 by a former MLG member, Ted Bobrow who along with a friend, opened the unlocked gate\*, drove in, parked, rigged a hand line into the horizontal entrance and went inside. A few minutes later I arrived with the SJVG folks to take them into the cave and we saw the truck, went to the cave and called down inside. He answered and they came out shortly. We explained that they were trespassing and that if he wanted to visit Rippled Cave he would have to rejoin the grotto and participate in scheduled trips like everyone else. I encouraged him to come to our next meeting which was in just a few days. After some chit-chat they left. He and his brother, Rob Bobrow, did show up at the next meeting and Ted presented me with a high quality metal “No Trespassing” sign for the Preserve.

\*It was the Weller work day and the gate was closed but not locked in case someone needed to use the “Stool Shed”. Unfortunately, now I am making a practice of keeping the gate locked at all times when no one is immediately around the Fieldhouse. Obviously a closed gate and signs is not enough.

*Cave Map:* Bruce Rogers reports that he has been working on the digitized version of the map, completing the drawing on some passages and identifying others that need some additional field work to fill in details. He had also been giving a lot of thought about the best way to present this information and make it a useful tool in interpreting the cave, both for cavers and non-cavers. He is hoping that some time will be available this summer for visiting the cave to collect additional data.

*Misc:* The wasp nest that was such a issue last year disappeared during the winter storms. A few traces of the large paper nest were found around the vertical entrance but otherwise it simply vanished.

*Release Forms:* A supply of release forms is being kept at the preserve now so that we don’t forget to have them signed before every trip into the cave or work day activity.

*Second Quarter 2011 Plans:*

- . 1) *Vegetation:* Continued monitoring of scotch broom and poison oak sprouts and treatment with Roundup.
- . 2) *Buildings:* Additional work will be done to sift and remove the dirt pile located behind the Fieldhouse and we will begin more earnest planning for finish work inside both buildings as well as for the "Tool Shed" which was approved last year.
- . 3) *Calfire 30/100' Protection Zone and scotch broom on Lilley's land:* We may continue our work on these projects if there are any permitted burn days in May.
- . 4) *Weller Management Plan:* I would like to distribute copies of the Weller Management Plan to the neighbors during the upcoming quarter as well as making it available on the website and to other interested parties, such as grottos.
- . 5) Finish the final touches to the Northern boundary, including securing those few posts which situated on rock outcrops and attaching the boundary markers.

*Long Range Plans:*

- 1) *General Vegetation Management:* We will resume our plans of reducing the fuel load within 20-30 feet of Soke Springs Ranch Road and on south facing slopes. We will also continue to remove dense scotch broom patches on neighboring properties to help prevent re-seeding of preserve lands.
  
- 2) *Boundary Identification:* Now that the northern boundary survey is virtually complete we plan to revisit the western boundary for vegetation clearing and placing additional marking posts at 50' intervals (it is currently marked at 100' intervals). After that we will tackle the remaining boundary to the south which should be a much simpler task to survey and mark.
  
- . 3) *Grotto Presentations:* We have done one presentation so far and we did cover management and rules of the preserve in some detail. We plan on doing more of these in the future.
- . 4) *Reforestation:* I plan to experiment with transplanting small pine and fir seedlings found elsewhere on the preserve to the areas where we have done manzanita clearing to encourage reforestation.
- . 5) *Cave Evaluation Test:* We would like to use the Selection Criteria developed by the Research Committee to formally evaluate Rippled Cave in all its aspects. The biology form has had a trial run but we have yet to set up a test run for the other categories.

**APPENDIX A: 2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (MIKE SPIESS)**

Western Cave Conservancy Financial Statements

*Year Ending December 31, 2010*

I, Michael Spiess, in my capacity as Treasurer of the Western Cave Conservancy, have prepared the accompanying financial statements. I believe these financial statements to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Western Cave Conservancy as of December 31, 2010,

and the changes in its net assets, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Michael Spiess Treasurer, Western Cave Conservancy March 31, 2011



ASSETS – December 31, 1010

Cash and Cash Equivalents Checking/Savings

B of A Checking: \$21,461.90

PayPal - Money Market: 2,356.19

Petty Cash: 70.00

Total Current Assets

Fixed Assets Field House: \$9,000.00

Weller Natural Preserve: \$150,000.00

Total: \$159,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS: 182,888.09

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Net Assets Unrestricted

Net Assets Forward: \$163,657.61

Opening Balance Equity: \$9,500.00

Net Assets: \$9,730.48

Total: \$182,888.09

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY: \$182,888.09

Western Cave Conservancy Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2010

Income

Contributions & Donations \$1,717.00

Event Fundraising \$4,798.00

Interest earned \$25.30

Membership Income \$9,235.46

Total Income \$15,775.76

Expense

Banking Bank service charges \$8.87

Credit card processing \$42.92

Total Banking \$51.79

Depreciation \$500.00

Donation to other nonprofit \$500.00

Events

Food and supplies \$954.91

Total Events \$954.91

Insurance \$1,554.00

Membership

Member drive Supplies \$44.35

Total Member drive \$44.35

Total Membership \$44.35

Misc. Expenses \$39.30

Office

Checks (Bank) \$16.17

Conference Call \$107.90

Notarization \$20.00

Postage \$22.42

Total Office \$166.49

Property maintenance Materials: \$441.65

Tools: \$24.84

Total Property maintenance \$466.49

Property tax \$23.20

Public Relations

Educational Materials \$79.22

Newsletter Copying \$196.97

Postage \$61.00

Total Newsletter 257.97

Total Public Relations 337.19

Software 45.00

Stewardship

Copies, Postage, Conf. Calls 219.60 Security 519.75 Supplies 518.45

Total Stewardship 1,257.80

Taxes and Fees

Filing fees - periodic 20.00

Total Taxes and Fees 20.00

Web site \$84.76

Total Expense: \$6,045.28

Change in Net Assets \$9,730.48

Mgt & Weller \$-989.69

Windeler \$-1257.8

General \$-2773.2

Fundraising \$14751.2

Western Cave Conservancy Notes to the Financial Statements Year Ending

December 31, 2010

**Note 1 – Organization**

The Western Cave Conservancy, organized in 2002 and incorporated on August 17, 2002, is a not-for-profit public charity corporation dedicated to protecting caves primarily through direct purchase of land and easements.

The Conservancy is under the direction of a seven-member volunteer Board of Directors. The Directors were selected from among persons interested in protecting caves, and consideration was given to achieving a diverse, cooperative, experienced, and energetic group. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Officers, consisting of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

All of the Conservancy's operations are carried out by unpaid volunteers, which keeps expenses low and ensures maximum use of donated funds.

As of December 31, 2010 the Directors and Officers were:

Martin Haye - President and Stewardship Director

Marianne Russo - Vice President, Public Relations Director, and Weller Preserve Manager

Rolf Aalbu, PhD - Land Research Director

Mike Spiess - Treasurer

Jerald Johnson, PhD - Human Resources Director

Bruce Rogers - Acquisitions Director

Eileen Belan - Secretary and Director

**Note 2 – Significant accounting policies**

*Method of accounting:* The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the cash basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and include the accounts maintained by and directly under control of the Conservancy.

*Financial Statement Presentation:* The Conservancy reports information regarding its financial position and activities in three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. Temporary restrictions are restrictions on the use of donated funds (imposed by a donor) that the Conservancy has a reasonable expectation of meeting. Permanent restrictions are those in which a donor stipulates that a contribution be maintained permanently, but allows the Conservancy to spend all or part of the income derived from the donated assets.

At this time all assets are unrestricted.

*Cash:* The Conservancy maintains its primary checking account at Bank of America which is insured by an agency of the federal government up to \$100,000. Most cash funds are held in these insured accounts. The Conservancy maintains a merchant account with PayPal for the same for processing online transactions. The PayPal account is uninsured.

*Cash equivalents:* For the purposes of the financial reporting, the Conservancy considers all cash and other highly liquid investments with initial maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

*Investments:* The Conservancy had no investments this year.

*Land, Building, Equipment and Depreciation:* Land, buildings and equipment are stated at cost or, in the case of donated property, at fair value at the time of the gift, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives. Normal repairs and maintenance are recorded as unrestricted expenses. In the case of property held for investment or conservation purposes, no depreciation is applied.

*Contributions:* Contributions received and unconditional promises to give are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support depending on the existence of donor restrictions and the nature of restrictions, if they exist.

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a binding promise to give to the Conservancy that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. Otherwise donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction is satisfied, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets. If there is no longer a reasonable expectation of satisfying the restriction, the donor is given the option of either removing the restriction or obtaining a refund of the contribution.

*Income Taxes:* For income from contributions, the Conservancy is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, the Conservancy must pay income taxes on "unrelated business income", that is, income not directly related to the Conservancy's exempt purposes. The Conservancy files all appropriate informational and tax returns with federal and California agencies, as well as agencies in other states in which the conservancy engages in significant fundraising activities and that require such returns (currently only Arizona and Oregon.)

*Sales Tax:* The collection and payment of California sales tax is not reflected as income and expenses in these statements. Rather, sales tax is considered a transfer from the buyer to the state with the Conservancy acting only as intermediary. This is in alignment with the way QuickBooks accounting software models sales tax, easing verification that the financial statements match the Conservancy's electronic records.

### **Note 3 – Program Expenses**

During 2010 the Conservancy incurred many program-related expenses. The

programs listed in this report are as follows:

*Weller Preserve:* In March of 2006, the Conservancy purchased approx. 15 acres in Amador County, California to secure permanent protection for Rippled Cave, a significant cave on the property which is used by many local cavers as well as search and rescue personnel. The property was later renamed the “Weller Natural Preserve” in honor of its history.

*Newsletter:* Members of the Conservancy receive a periodic newsletter containing educational articles, updates on the Conservancy’s activities, and calls to action. Only one issue was published in 2009. The calls to action encourage activities beneficial to protecting caves, such as protecting bats from white nose syndrome, looking for unusual species of cave-adapted invertebrates, and writing letters to help protect caves in Nevada and California. This program is likely to continue. Expenses in this category are minor and included under the Management and General heading.

*Windeler Cave:* In 2007 the Conservancy successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to manage Windeler Cave in the Stanislaus National Forest. Significant costs were incurred in 2009 to improve security (e.g. gate construction) for Windeler cave, per agreement with the USFS. These costs were offset to a large extent by previous fundraising efforts that had been gathered into a temporarily restricted fund in prior years. This project is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

**Note 5 – Donation to other nonprofit**

The Western Cave Conservancy donated \$500 to the Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy for the express purpose of acquiring and protecting Berome Moore cave.

**Note 6 – Fundraising expenses**

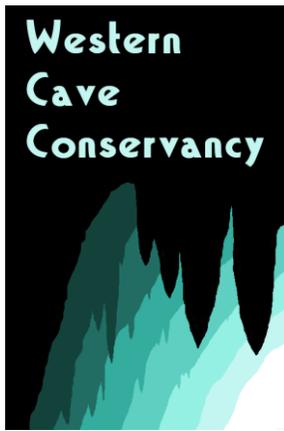
In 2010 the Conservancy conducted a member renewal campaign and raised money by catering dinners at caving functions.

**APPENDIX B: DRAFT WINDELER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(WINDELER COMMITTEE)**

Management Plan for Windeler Cave  
Prepared by the Western Cave Conservancy for the  
Stanislaus National Forest

*March 2011 Draft*

Prepared by the Western Cave Conservancy  
213 Elm Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060



### **I. Management Goals**

1. To protect the natural and cultural features and resources of Windeler Cave in accordance with National Forest Management Policies. This will include the protection of all cave features including speleothems and speleogens, all cave fauna and habitat components, cave sediments, and historic relics.
2. To maintain excellent security and protection for the cave through the use of cave and road gates and security systems as approved by the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF).
3. To manage this cave in such a way that limited and carefully regulated recreational trips may enjoy the spectacular cave speleothems and features of Windeler Cave in keeping with the first two goals in this list.

### **II. Significance, Resources, Management Philosophy & History**

#### **Description of Cave and Associated Physical Resources**

Windeler Cave is a 3,100 foot long solution cave developed in a small lens of crystalline limestone of the Calaveras Group. Though undoubtedly having a phreatic (sub-water table) origin, many or most of the cave's passages show significant vadose (stream) modification. In general, Windeler Cave owes its braided configuration to the ancestor of the stream that rises beneath the floor of the Cornucopia Room on the west end of the cave, running eastward in inaccessible passages beneath Ray's Area and next appearing as a seasonal sump in the RCS passage. The stream rises back into view perennially in the Lower Stream Passage, finally resurging to the surface through inaccessible passages. In the late 19th or early 20th centuries, the surface spring was developed as a water supply by the Windeler brothers who held unpatented mining claim over the area and who resided on the claims, planting extensive kitchen gardens. The spring has not been maintained for many years. The underground stream roughly parallels the surface gulch, which remains dry except during the strongest winter downpours. Passage orientation is horizontal to sub- horizontal. The cave lacks true pits but significant vertical exposure exists where stream canyon development has isolated passages in high ceilings. Breakdown (fallen rock) is present through much of the cave, most notably in the Entrance Room, Lunch Room, and the West Branch from the Lions Tail Room to the Upside-Down Room. Significant raveling, a process whereby loosely-consolidated ceiling material erodes toward the

surface, has occurred in two places in the cave, but constitutes a hazard in only one location, between the entrance culvert and the Entrance Room; that location experienced a major collapse in the early 1980's but has remained stable since.

The age of the cave has not been studied, but Uranium-Thorium dating work conducted in Coral Cave in the Stanislaus River Canyon, and recent cosmogenic dating of other Sierra Nevada foothills caves would point to most passage development having occurred during lengthy interglacial periods several hundred thousand years ago when regional rainfall was much higher than today.

Solution undoubtedly continues at and below the active stream level today, and to a much lesser extent by vadose action in soil-filled conduits feeding into the cave from the surface.

Speleothems are well developed in the cave, and include a broad spectrum of dripstone/flowstone forms (crenellated flowstone, soda straws, stalactites, draperies, stalagmites, columns and cave pearls); numerous well-developed hydrostatic forms (primarily helictites and shields); subaqueous forms such as pool spar, and evaporative forms such as cave coral and moonmilk. As is usual in well-decorated limestone caves, these types form intimate combinations, as in the case of compound draperies (flowstone slopes that grade into draperies as the slope becomes vertical or overhanging,) "parachute" shields (shields from which draperies depend) and Windeler Cave's well-known "Lion Tails," which are a group of long narrow stalactites "furred" with coralloids. Many of the speleothems in Windeler cave are tinted orange or yellow, probably by iron oxide, while others are pure white or translucent; banded drapery ribbons ("bacon rind") are also present. Physical modifications to the basic forms include instances of deflection by air currents, fracturing and offsetting due to floor settling or earth tremors, and notable examples of "false floors" where sediments beneath flowstone has been washed away, leaving projecting shelves and bridges. Essentially all speleothem development postdates exposure of the cave passages to air by Sierran uplift and lowering of the local water level by regional erosion.

We would expect dating studies to show peaks in speleothem development during periods of high rainfall, such as during the last interglacial about 25,000 years ago, as has been shown for Coral Cave [in the nearby Stanislaus river Canyon]. Speleothem development remains active throughout the cave. It is important to understand that these processes are extremely slow, taking many thousands of years to produce most of the forms we regard as aesthetically pleasing. Damage done to these features is thus permanent and for the most part irreparable, from a human perspective.

Biological Resources Vertebrates Invertebrates  
Aquatic  
Terrestrial Significance  
Cultural

### **III. Cave Access and Publicity Policy**

#### **A. Limit on number of trips**

1. The need for work trips will be decided by the Windeler Committee. Work trips will not be subject to a specific limit but should be on an as-needed basis only.
2. Trips for the Forest Service will be done only by request of the Forest Service.
3. Trustees are encouraged to combine two separate trips to Windeler Cave at a time (with 2 different trustees) to minimize environmental impact on the cave, road, and parking area.

#### **B. Limit on number of trip participants**

1. Each trip into Windeler Cave shall consist of a maximum of 1 Trustee, and 5 other cavers. One of the 5 other cavers shall be a “caboose” (see C2).
2. The minimum number of trip participants is 1 Trustee, and 3 other cavers. One of the 3 other cavers shall be a “caboose” (see C2).
- 3.

#### **C. Qualifications of trip participants**

1. All trip participants should be experienced cavers with single-rope technique skills and a strong mind for cave conservation. Windeler should not be any participant’s first vertical cave.
2. At least one caver on the trip should be a strong veteran caver who will be the “caboose” for the trip to make sure that other trip participants stay on the trail and respect the cave.
3. Trustees are not responsible for training trip participants.

Participants must obtain appropriate training before the trip.

4. All trip participants must sign a Limit of Liability Release Form before entering the cave, which will then be dropped off with the key after the trip.

5. Trip participants must obey the Trustee at all times while in the cave.

#### **D. Trustees**

1. Trustees are nominated and confirmed by the Windeler Committee.
2. Each trustee is assigned to serve a designated group of cavers.
3. A trustee must be active in their local caving community and lead one trip to Windeler Cave per year, unless trustee can demonstrate there is no demand for a trip among his/her designated group.
4. Each trip into Windeler Cave shall have at least 1 Trustee in attendance who enters the cave.
5. There will be one trustee for each of the following groups of cavers:
  - i. San Francisco Bay Chapter, NSS

- ii. Diablo Grotto, NSS
  - iii. Mother Lode Grotto, NSS
  - iv. cavers in the Columbia area
  - v. Stanislaus Grotto, NSS
  - vi. Out-of-area cavers (“trustee at large”)
6. Trustees will not allow anyone to duplicate the keys to or map of Windeler Cave.
  7. Trustees must communicate to the Windeler Committee that they are planning a trip to the cave well in advance of the trip date.
  8. The trustees’ duties include:
    - i. Organize the trip
    - ii. Ensure that all trip participants qualify for the trip as designed above in Section III, Part 3.
    - iii. Decide a fair selection process in his or her designed group on who gets priority on attending the trip.
    - iv. Collect signed Limit of Liability waivers from each participant.
    - v. Decide which current work project the trip will work on, if any.
    - vi. Not allow trip participants to wander off the trail or otherwise explore the cave unsupervised.
    - vii. Keep participants out of off-limits areas.
    - viii. Don’t volunteer information about off-limits areas, but answer questions if they arise.
    - ix. Notify a designated person immediately by a pre-arranged time, if there is no cave sitter (see Part III, Section E), that the group is safely out of the cave. The trustee can decide who the point person will be and will make sure the point person has a copy of the emergency on-site contact information.
    - x. Return the key and the signed Limit of Liability waivers immediately to its designated key holder after the trip ends.
    - xi. Write the trip report and email it to the Windeler Committee.
    - xii. Assume responsibility for the actions of all cavers on their trips.

#### E. Cave sitters

1. Trips are encouraged, but not required, to have a cave sitter at the cave entrance.
2. The cave sitter’s primary responsibility is to protect the cave from unauthorized access while the trustee’s group is inside the cave.

#### F. Vehicles restrictions

1. Trustees and trip participants should meet in Columbia (nearest town) and carpool from there to the cave. The fewer cars to attract attention the better.
2. Vehicles should park at the end of the road under the trees and not enter the meadow area.

### **3. IV. Cave Management**

Windeler Cave shall be managed in perpetuity in such a way as to encourage its conservation and preservation. The protection of the cave and its geological, cultural, and biological resources is the highest goal of the WCC, the Windeler

Committee, and this plan.

### **A. General Restrictions and Guidelines for Caving Activities**

1. No speleothem, cave-dwelling animal, plant or fungus, or other natural, historical, paleontological, cultural or archeological artifact may be handled, damaged or removed from Windeler Cave. No items of any sort should leave the cave including rocks and sediments, except for normal dirtying of cave clothes and gear. Research activities, approved by Windeler Committee, may be an exception to this rule.
2. There shall be no marking, writing, or any defacing of any cave walls or surfaces.
3. No solid or liquid human waste may be deposited in the cave.
4. No other items may be left in the cave for any reason other than for approved research or cave maintenance purposes. Cavers are expected to be diligent in removing items which are often left behind such as fruit seeds, candle wax, small candy wrappers, crumbs from food, etc.
5. It is the responsibility of cavers not to disturb cave-dwelling animals. It is easy to step on, lay a hand or pack on, or brush against these animals, killing them or severely injuring them. These animals can also be inadvertently harmed by the "turning over" or moving of rocks or other organic matter. Cavers must be very careful to avoid this.
6. Cavers should consider their clothing when visiting Windeler Cave. Sweaters and other lint-producing articles should not be worn as an outer layer. In tight passages, such clothing will often leave behind small hairs, lint and buttons that are not natural to the cave environment. Cave suits are recommended.
7. Carbide, carbide lamps and all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, snuff, and chewing tobacco may not be used in Windeler Cave or the surrounding area. Fires, fireworks, and smoke of all types are prohibited in the cave.
8. Camping is not allowed in Windeler Cave.

### **B. Cave Restoration**

1. Certain aspects of cave restoration and cleanup must proceed very slowly. However carbide dumps, general trash and litter, and markings in paint (provided these markings are not historical) may be removed at any time, and visiting cavers are encouraged to remove these items.
2. The Windeler Committee will, from time to time, engage in restoration projects, for instance to remove caver-deposited mud from formations etc. The committee will decide which restoration projects should be undertaken and when.

### **C. Cave Restrictions**

1. Flagging: sensitive areas and closed areas should be marked, but *not* with flagging tape. Instead, less visually intrusive means should be used, for instance lining up rocks, or placing little flags on wires in mud.
2. Closed areas should not be visited ever except for restoration or

scientific research purposes, and only with specific permission from the Committee. The Committee will designate these areas based on their sensitivity and these designations may change from over time.

3. Boots and gloves off: certain areas may be designated as acceptable to enter but only with boots off, or gloves off, to avoid soiling formations.

## **V. Research Projects at Windeler Cave**

### **A. Introduction:**

1. The Western Cave Conservancy (WCC) manages Windeler Cave under auspices of the U.S. Forest Service using guidelines and policies as articulated in this document, the Windeler Cave Management Plan.
2. The WCC recognizes and values research for its contributions to science, to enlightened cave management, and to cave preservation. The WCC is prepared to encourage and facilitate research within or upon karst resources it owns, controls, or manages.
3. All research will require a written proposal to be evaluated by the Windeler Committee, the WCC Board of Directors, and the USFS prior to initiating any research activities on site.
4. Preliminary inquiries as to the suitability of research are invited and encouraged. Contact any member of the Windeler Committee with any questions.
5. Contents, evaluations, and approval processes for proposals are articulated below.
- 6.

### **B. Written Proposal -- Minimum Requirements**

1. Individuals or groups who have a research project in mind for Windeler Cave should approach the Committee with the proposal in writing. Electronic formats (.pdf, .doc) are advised for ease in distribution of documents among reviewers and members of the Committee.
2. At a minimum, the proposal must address, in 10 pages or fewer, (including tables, text, figures and bibliography) the following points:
  - a. Project Title
  - b. Name of Principal Investigator (PI)
  - c. Contact information for PI, including pertinent professional affiliations
  - d. Qualifications of PI and Co-PI's to undertake the proposed research
  - e. Name and contact information for all additional investigators
  - f. Purpose of Study, including hypotheses to be tested
  - g. State why Windeler Cave is appropriate for this study
  - h. Methodology, including how hypothesis(es) will be tested
  - i. Sample protocol
  - j. Disposition of unused sample material
  - k. Discussion of pertinent issues such as conservation of cave resources

- l. Pertinent bibliography – key references only
  - m. Planned outlet for dissemination/publication of results
  - n. Proposed budget, including sources of funding
  - o. Proposed field schedule. Note that access will be negotiable subject to availability of requisite personnel. Research trips into Windeler will be supervised by a designated Trustee. Research trips will not count against annual limit on number of Trustee trips but will otherwise be subject to normal limitations (e.g. number of participants).
  - p. Summary of caving experience of proposed field party members
  - q. Proposed project schedule, assuming proposal is approved.
  - r. PI must note and acknowledge that the location of the cave is not to be disclosed to anyone at any time through any medium. Violation will likely result in termination of access.
3. The Committee may pose additional questions or seek additional information from the PI or from others as the Committee sees fit prior to approving the proposal.

### **C. Proposal Evaluation**

- 1. Any member of the Committee upon receiving a written proposal will forward the proposal to the Windeler Committee chair
  - 2. Proposals will be evaluated on the following points:
    - a. Overall impression of the proposal (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)
    - b. Overall evaluation: Recommend approval; Approval possible (more information required for decision); or Do not recommend approval
  - I. Substantive methodological, and theoretical strengths and weaknesses of proposal:**
    - a. Is the proposal scientifically sound? (12345)
    - b. Are the methodology and technical applications sound? (12345)
    - c. Has the relevant literature been cited? (12345)
  - II. Organization and presentation of proposal**
    - a. Is the proposal written clearly? (12345)
    - b. Are the tables and illustrations appropriate? (12345)
  - III. Suitability of the project for WCC at Windeler Cave?**
    - a. Is the project a significant and original contribution to karst science? (12345)
    - b. Is the sampling protocol consistent with the management goal of “zero visible impact” to the cave? (12345)
    - c. Are conservation issues sufficiently addressed? (12345)
    - d. Is the project suitable for WCC at Windeler Cave? (12345)
  - IV. Qualifications of the Applicant(s)**
    - a. Do(es) the applicant(s) demonstrate an ability to carry out this research? (12345)
  - V. Additional comments/concerns from the reviewers**
3. The Committee may at its discretion seek additional reviews and/or opinions from outside the Committee from other experts in the applicant’s scientific field of specialty in order to better evaluate the

merits of the proposed research.

#### **D. Proposal Approval Process**

- a. The Chair of the Committee will tabulate the results of the review and relay the proposal and the evaluations to the WCC Board of Directors and if necessary to the U.S. Forest Service for concurrence.
- b. Provided the U.S. Forest Service does not object and the WCC Board of Directors approves the proposal, the Committee's Chair will promptly inform the applicant.
- c. The applicant can commence to work with the Committee to arrange for access to the Windeler property and cave.
- d.

#### **V. Oversight, Authority, Administration, and Responsibilities**

This plan has been created by the Windeler Committee and takes effect when approved by the Board of Directors of the WCC and the Stanislaus National Forest. This plan shall be reviewed a minimum of once every five years by the WCC Board of Directors or upon the recommendation of changes from the Windeler Committee. All changes to the plan will be approved by the Board of Directors of the WCC.

**A. The WCC Stewardship Director** shall be responsible for the on-going and day to day management of the property. This includes:

1. Recruit and appoint members of the Windeler Committee
2. Remove members from the Windeler Committee if appropriate.
3. Facilitate Windeler Committee discussions, attempt to achieve consensus, and make final decisions when necessary.
4. Be the contact person for permitted groups and individuals wishing to visit the cave.
5. Be the contact person for the property neighbors, local law enforcement, and local fire management personnel.
6. Regularly visit the property to check on property security and ensure that all is well on site.
7. Maintain signs indicating closed areas in the cave and any signage within and outside the cave.
8. Maintain emergency contact information on-site including fire, law enforcement, and the closest location that cell phones from major providers will work, and provide this information to each Trustee.
9. Assist with work project coordination and preparation.
10. Be responsible for other duties and tasks as assigned by the Windeler Committee.
11. Answer letters concerning the cave; if a letter has significant ramifications or is of a legal nature, refer it to the Board of Directors of the WCC for approval.

**B. The Windeler Committee** shall be responsible for overseeing the regular operations of the cave. This includes:

1. The Windeler Committee shall meet as often as needed.. The Committee will be composed of the WCC Stewardship Director and not less than five Windeler Committee members.

2. Select and approve the trustees from among the Committee members.
3. Prioritize, organize, and determine work days and work tasks.
4. Perform work as decided, both inside the cave and outside (e.g. road, gate, trail, etc.)
5. Ensure that yearly trustee trips inspect the cave to determine where work is needed.
6. Making recommendations to the Stewardship Director and WCC Board for changes in management policy, trip number allotments, and changes to these allotments for caving groups.

**C. The Board of Directors** of the Western Cave Conservancy shall:

1. Approve Management Plan for the cave, and any changes or adjustments to it.
2. Approve or disapprove the number of allotted trips per year.
3. Approve or deny requests for research in the cave including the placement of any equipment in or around the cave, and removal of anything from the cave.
4. Direct other requests or requirements to the Stewardship Director.

**D. The Forest Service** shall:

1. Patrol Italian Bar road periodically, and if the road gate is open notify the Stewardship Director (if possible.)
2. Review and approve management plans for Windeler Cave
3. Inform and educate relevant Forest staff on the value of the cave and how it is being managed. This should include periodic trips to the cave for key Forest Service personnel.
4. Notify the Steward Director quickly if the cave gate has been tampered with and/or the cave has been broken into.
5. Notify the Committee of relevant impending changes to general Forest plans, key personnel changes, and other events that are deemed relevant to managing Windeler Cave.

**E. Key Holders**

- a. There will be two key repositories kept in secure discrete locations decided by the Windeler Committee.
- b. These locations should be near enough to the cave so they are convenient for trustees.
- c. Ideally the locations will be homes of Committee members who are also charged with collecting liability releases when the trustee drops off the keys.

**F. Chain of command**

- a. Complaints should be directed to the lowest appropriate level in the following chain of command:
  - i. Trustee
  - ii. Windeler Committee
  - iii. Stewardship Director
  - iv. WCC Board of Directors
  - v. Forest Service
- b. If a complaint is not satisfactorily addressed at a given level, it should be elevated to the next level.

