



C.O.G.nizance

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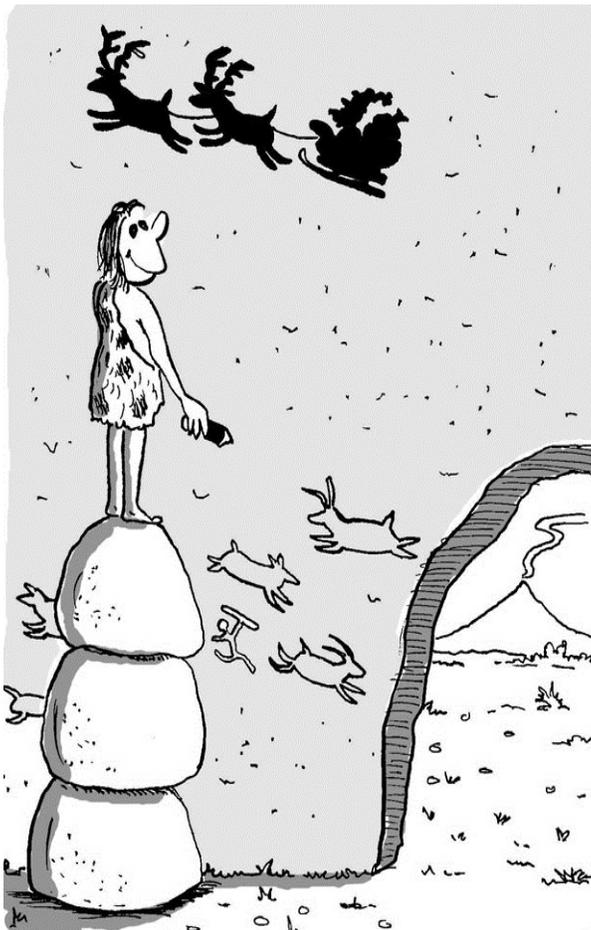
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The December meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, December 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of John and Sue Bozeman.

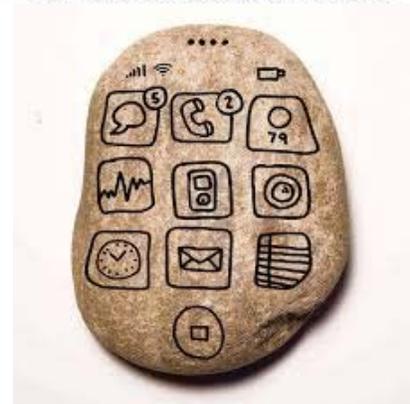


The December meeting is at the Bozeman's and it's the annual grotto Christmas Party.

Caveman Christmas



"The wheel!...Just what I wanted!"



Caveman Phone

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contact Sue or John Bozeman for details.

*The December meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at the Bozeman's, Friday, Dec, 12, 2014.

National White-Nose Syndrome Decontamination Protocol - Version 06.25.2012

The fungus *Geomyces destructans* (*G.d.*) is the cause of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that has devastated populations of hibernating bats in eastern North America. Since its discovery in New York in 2007, WNS has spread rapidly through northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Midwest states and eastern Canada. It continues to threaten bat populations across the continent. For the protection of bats and their habitats, comply with all current cave and mine closures, advisories, and regulations on the federal, state, tribal, and private lands you plan to visit. In the absence of cave and mine closure policy, or when planned activities involve close/direct contact with bats, their environments, and/or associated materials, the following decontamination procedures should be implemented to **reduce the risk of transmission** of the fungus to other bats and/or habitats. For the purposes of clarification, the use of the word "decontamination," or any similar root, in this document entails both the 1) cleaning and 2) treatment to disinfect exposed materials.

Under no circumstances should clothing, footwear, or equipment that was used in a confirmed or suspect WNS-affected state or region be used in a WNS-unaffected state or region. Some state/federal regulatory or land management agencies have supplemental documents¹ that provide additional requirements or exemptions on lands under their jurisdiction.

I. TREATMENTS TO REDUCE RISK OF TRANSFERRING *GEOMYCES DESTRUCTANS*2:

Applications/Products: The most universally available option for treatment of submersible gear is:

Submersion in Hot Water: Effective at sustained temperatures ≥50°C (122°F) for 20 minutes

Secondary or non-submersible treatment options (for a minimum of 10 min.) include:

PRODUCTS: Clorox® (6% HOCl) Bleach : Lysol® IC Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner; Professional Lysol® Antibacterial All-purpose Clean

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO

Minutes of the November 14, 2014 meeting

Host: the home of Dale Amlee

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz, S. Belev.

Potentate Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:04

OLD BUSINESS

- At our last cave trip we couldn't find Cherysbad Cavern! We talked about this problem and have a plan for finding it. It can't hide from us for long. Said Jon Woltz: "We can't find a hole in the ground". I suggested using a dowsing rod. Others suggested asking Jay to take us to it since he knows every cave and snake den (same thing) on the ranch.
- We continue to try to get back into Carlsbad Caverns. The park will soon have a new employee

whose duties should include working with caving groups such as ours. We will ask Duane to try to contact this person in January or February. You have 8 fingers that you need to cross.

- Cave trip in November postponed to November 22nd.

NEW BUSINESS

- John B. told us about his communications with Kevin Blackwood of the Arbuckle Mountain Grotto concerning the name change of what had been *Fat Man's Misery Cave* to *Pearl Cave*, a cave in the Arbuckles. This change was made for various reasons; it was approved by the landowner.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Talbot wasn't available to give his report.

We concluded the meeting at 8:51 🐉



WHERE AM I?

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OH YEAH, I REMEMBER,

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I'M IN A CAVE. BUT WHERE?

TREASURER'S REPORTS

| INCOME | | EXPENSES | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Dues | \$ | | |
| Dividends | \$ | 00.02 | |
| TOTAL | \$ | 00.02 | TOTAL |
| | | | \$ 0.00 |
| CASH ON HAND | \$ | 149.04 | |
| CHECKING | \$ | 597.83 | |
| SAVINGS | \$ | 2,136.35 | |
| TOTAL | \$ | 2,883.22 | |

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 12/8/2014
 PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

TRIP REPORT

Trip Report: Search for Cherylbad
Date: 22 November 2014
Cavers: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz
Report by Dale Amlee

This was going to be yet another attempt at locating the Cherylbad cave. Despite several cavers having strong memories of this being a large, easy-to-find cave entrance, two prior ridge-walks in the last two months had failed to locate it. We had begun to worry that the cave entrance had collapsed during the previous 15 years or so since it was last visited, and our efforts might be wasted. Still, we ventured out on this nice November day to make a third try at locating this elusive cave. We had delayed the caving trip by a week due to inclement weather, and it was a good choice. Weather on this day was very nice, with a cool breeze blowing, but sunny and fairly warm for autumn in Oklahoma.

We spent several minutes going over the various aerial views and topo maps of the region, peering very closely at the pencil marks made during visits to this cave many years ago. We parked in a spot that would appear to be fairly close to the suspected cave entrance. We decided to perform a very deliberate search of each sink and depression in the area, gradually working East and South from our parking spot in an almost grid-like manner.

The first few spots we found were nothing to speak of. Small crawly entrances that terminated very quickly in breakdown, if they went in at all. Still, the spots we found seemed to align with each other, giving us hope that they may be part of an arm leading to a larger entrance. As we worked our way East we began to get closer to a local creek which received all of the runoff from the vicinity, thus narrowing our area of possible cave entrances. The entrance had to be West of the creek.

Finally we searched down one meandering narrow valley and found that it terminated in a fairly steep cliff face. Sue went high, while Jon and I went low. Jon and I found a small entrance, but it only went in about 20 feet or so before terminating in a complex impenetrable break-

down maze. We backed out, and climbed up the valley walls to find Sue. She was patiently sitting, waiting for us in an extremely large, open cave entrance. We had finally found Cherylbad!

The entrance was a large walk-in opening, which dropped down a relatively steep slope as we entered. We spent the next hour or so walking around and mentally mapping the entrance region. There were over 200 feet of high-ceilinged walking passage, forming a general "T" shape, with the entrance at the bottom of the T and the upper portion of the T forming the primary water passage. We walked about as far as we could downstream, but it began to get into breakdown quickly. Perhaps there is a way through, but that would have to wait for future efforts. The upstream end got wet and soggy. Although the general alignment of the primary stream passage seemed at first glance to align with the smaller entrances we had seen earlier in the day, we couldn't confirm that they were part of this same system.

After leaving Cherylbad we decided to visit another local landowner, a person unknown to us but whose ranch house was nearby. The topo map of the region showed a sink at the end of a small dirt road, and we were curious as to whether it contained a cave entrance. This sink would not be part of the Cherylbad system, but its close proximity to the creek made us wonder if there could be a small cave there.

We drove up to the ranch house and spent about half an hour in pleasant conversation with the landowner. He informed us that the sink we were interested in was not actually on his property, but he knew another location that was on his son's land that we might want to visit. He provided us with additional information on names and such for other local landowners in the area that we may contact for additional information on possible cave locations nearby.

Since the day was beginning to run long, we said our goodbyes and proceeded back to Betty's for a quick visit to see how she was doing, and then made our return home. 🐾

POTPOURRI

[Federal Register Volume 79, Number 222 (Tuesday, November 18, 2014)]

[Proposed Rules] [Pages 68657-68659]

From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office
[www.gpo.gov] [FR Doc No: 2014-27407]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service 50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024; 4500030113] RIN 1018-AY98
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species
Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior. [[Page 68658]]

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the reopening of the comment period for our October 2, 2013, proposed rule to list the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We are taking this action to notify the public of new information that was supplied to us by, or on behalf of, State agencies within the range of the species. This reopening of the comment period will allow the public to provide comments on our proposed rule in light of that new information. We also are notifying the public that we have scheduled an informational meeting followed by a public hearing on the proposed rule. Comments previously submitted on the proposal need not be resubmitted, as they are already incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in our final determination.

-DATES: The comment period for the proposed rule published October 2, 2013 (78 FR 61046), is reopened. Written comments: We request that comments on the proposal be submitted on or before December 18, 2014. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see ADDRESSES section, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date.

Public hearing: We will hold an informational meeting followed by a public hearing in Sundance, Wyoming, on December 2, 2014. The informational meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., followed by a public hearing from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please direct all requests for interpreters, close captioning, or other accommodation to the Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Document availability: You may obtain copies of the proposed rule and the information provided to the Service by the State agencies on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024, or by mail from the Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

Written comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

(1) Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. You may submit a comment by clicking

on "Comment Now!" Please ensure that you have found the correct rulemaking before submitting your comment.

(2) By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Information Requested section, below, for more information).

Public hearing: We will hold a public hearing in Sundance, Wyoming in the Community Room at the Crook County Courthouse Basement, 309 Cleveland Street.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Fasbender, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office, 4101 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, MN 55425; telephone 612-725-3548; or facsimile 612-725-3609. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information Requested

We intend that any final action resulting from the proposed rule will be based on the best scientific and commercial data available and be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, we request comments or information from other concerned Federal and State agencies, the scientific community, or any other interested party concerning the proposed rule. We particularly seek comments concerning:

(1) The northern long-eared bat's biology, range, and population trends, including:

(a) Habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering;

(b) Genetics and taxonomy;

(c) Historical and current range, including distribution patterns;

(d) Historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends; and

(e) Past and ongoing conservation measures for the species, its habitat, or both.

(2) Any information on the biological or ecological requirements of the northern long-eared bat, and ongoing conservation measures for the species and its habitat.

(3) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threats (or lack thereof) to this species and regulations that may be addressing those threats.

(4) Current or planned activities in the areas occupied by the species and possible impacts of these activities on this species.

(5) Additional information regarding the threats to the northern long-eared bat under the five listing factors, which are:

(Continued on page 5)

(a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

(b) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

(c) Disease or predation;

(d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and

(e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

(6) The reasons why areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), including the possible risks or benefits of designating critical habitat, including risks associated with publication of maps designating any area on which this species may be located, now or in the future, as critical habitat.

(7) The following specific information on:

(a) The amount and distribution of habitat for the northern long-eared bat;

(b) What areas, that are currently occupied and that contain the physical and biological features essential to the conservation of this species, should be included in a critical habitat designation and why;

(c) Special management considerations or protection that may be needed for the essential features in potential critical habitat areas, including managing for the potential effects of climate change;

(d) What areas not occupied at the time of listing are essential for the conservation of this species and why;

(e) The amount of forest removal occurring within known summer habitat for this species;

(f) Information on summer roost habitat requirements that are essential for the conservation of the species and why; and

(g) Information on the features and requirements of the species' winter habitat (hibernacula).

(8) Information on the projected and reasonably likely impacts of changing environmental conditions resulting from climate change on the species and its habitat.

(9) Information on the data and reports submitted to the Service by affected States and how that information

[[Page 68659]]

relates to our determination of whether the northern long-eared bat is an endangered or a threatened species.

If you previously submitted comments or information on the October 2, 2013, proposed rule (78 FR 61046), please do not resubmit them. We have incorporated them into the public record, and we will fully consider them in our final determination. Our final determination concerning the proposed rulemaking will take into consideration all written comments and any information we receive.

Please note that submissions merely stating support for or opposition to the action under consideration without providing supporting information, although noted, will not be considered in making a determination, as section 4(b)(1)(A) of the Act directs that determinations as to whether any species is an endangered or threatened species must be made "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available."

You may submit your comments and materials concerning the proposed rule by one of the methods listed in ADDRESSES. We request that you send comments only by the methods described in the ADDRESSES section.

If you submit information via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire submission--including any personal identifying information--will be posted on the Web site. If your submission is made via a hardcopy that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review.

However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will post all hardcopy submissions on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to verify any scientific or commercial information you include.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing the proposed rule, will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT). You may obtain copies of the proposed rule on the Internet at; <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024, or by mail from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

Background

On October 2, 2013, we published a proposed rule (78 FR 61046) to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the Act. That proposal had a 60-day comment period, ending December 2, 2013. On December 2, 2013, we extended the proposal's comment period for an additional 30 days, ending January 2, 2014 (78 FR 72058). On June 30, 2014, we announced a 6-month extension of the final determination of whether to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species, and we reopened the comment period on the proposal for 60 days, ending August 29, 2014 (79 FR 36698). We will publish a listing determination for the northern long-eared bat on or before April 2, 2015. For a description of previous Federal actions concerning the northern long-eared bat, please refer to the October 2, 2013, proposed listing rule (78 FR 61046).

Since the publication of the 6-month extension (79 FR 36698, June 30, 2014), we have received additional information from multiple State agencies within the range of the northern long-eared bat. We are reopening the comment period on our proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species for 30 days (see DATES) to allow the public an opportunity to review that information and provide comment on our proposal in light of that new information.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: November 12, 2014.

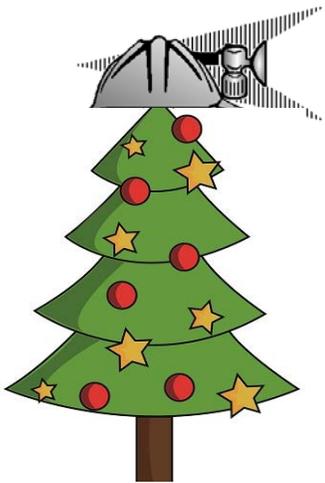
Stephen Guertin, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-27407 Filed 11-17-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P 

Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter (\$6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related Speleological items in a yearly publication, *The Oklahoma Underground* (\$3-\$8/issue) Membership is by sponsor and is \$12 per year for adults, \$6 for spouses and students, and \$3 if under 18. Central Oklahoma Grotto meets once a month on the second Friday of each month. For information, write Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: Telephone: (580)471-1238: E-mail: cavemoose@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for any particular month's issue is the 20th day of the previous month. If you wish material returned. Please include a SASE with submission. All materials in this newsletter is available for reproduction, provided proper credit is given with the article when you print it. Trade publications are welcomed. *Cave softly and safely!* Website: <http://www.okcavers.com>

*The December meeting will be
At the Bozeman's House*



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Christmas Elves Work Farm—Printing Div.
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