

Report of Unauthorized Human Visitation to CRMO Caves

Todd Stefanic 2021

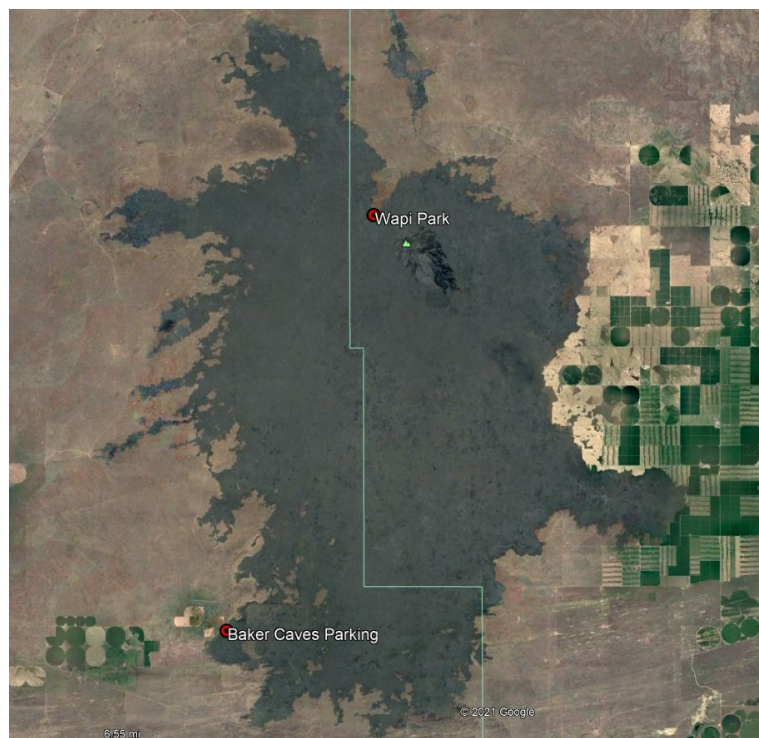
Wapi Park, Moss Cave May 12, 2021

On May 12, 2021 Mauro Hernandez and I were returning to our truck in Wapi Park from deploying an acoustic detector at the Expedition Caves. We encountered a large group of people (8-10) who had just arrived in a truck a UTV and a motorcycle. They approached us and asked if we had been to Moss Cave and told us that was one of their destinations. I informed him that CRMO caves are closed unless you have a research permit. He was very surprised to learn this and wanted to know how long that had been the case. I doubt very much this made any difference in their plans and we had to be on our way so we couldn't police them.

Baker Caves June 23, 2021

In the evening of June 23, 2021 we were traveling past the Baker Caves spur road towards our camping spot for that evening (in order to conduct a Breeding Bird Survey the next morning). There were two trucks parked at the end of the spur (the site where the BLM once had signs for Baker Caves). Eight to 10 people were seen on the lava returning traveling back towards the vehicles.

This is potentially bad news for cultural and biological resources. Baker Caves are a known cultural site and a known maternity colony for Townsend Big-eared bats and possibly a hibernacula as well. This is the time of year when maternity colonies would be active.



Location Map