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ENGAGING ROCK CLIMBERS THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE

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## The Idea

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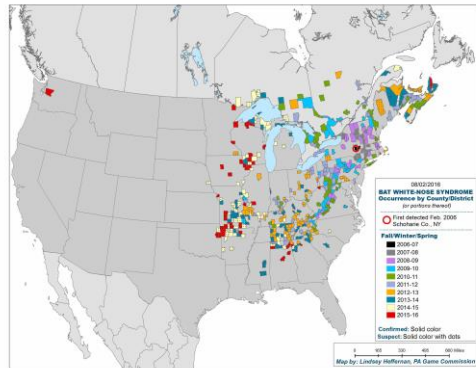
20 species in CO



# The Problem

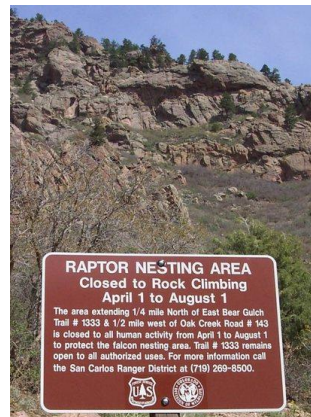


5.7 million bat deaths<sup>1</sup>



# Pushback

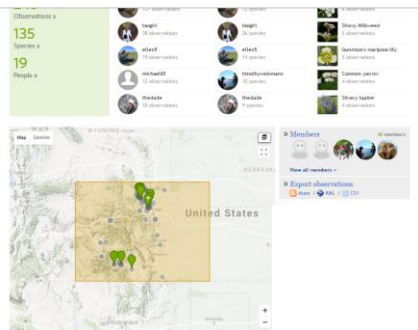
Fear of closures



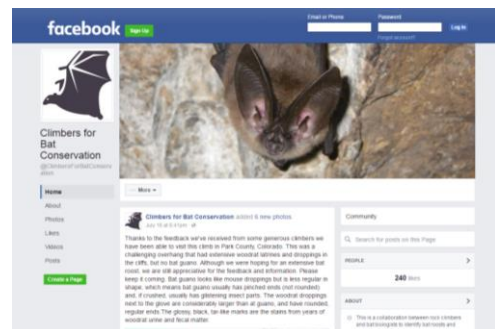
# Conversation



# Launch of Citizen Science Platform



Inaturalist.org



## Recent Activities

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Castlewood Canyon Mist Netting for Bats with Climbers  
REI Interview  
Colorado Outdoors



## Next Moves

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Follow up on bat observations  
Mist Netting at local crag  
Cleanup Days  
CSU Climbing Competitions (Fall 2016)  
Assistance from Climbers for Surveys



## No Guarantees

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- We don't control closures, but they are unlikely
- Bats are ephemeral
- Most known colonies are not located in climbing areas
- Many climbers respect wildlife closures and are interested in conserving wildlife
- We need research on how climbing affects (or does not affect) roosting bats



## Value of Partnerships

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# Literature Cited

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1. Froschauer, Ann; Coleman, Jeremy (17 January 2012). North American bat death toll exceeds 5.5 million from white-nose syndrome. White-Nose syndrome.org (US Fish & Wildlife Service).
2. Heffernan, Lindsey. 2016. White Nose Map. Pennsylvania Game Commission. Online at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>.
3. USFWS. Townsend's big-eared bat photo. Flickr Creative Commons.
4. Mia and Steve Mestdagh. Girl Climbing on Fall Wall at Vedauwoo. Flickr Creative Commons.
5. Hayes, M. A., **R. A. Schorr**, and K. W. Navo. 2011. Hibernacula selection by Townsend's big-eared bat in Southwestern Colorado. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75:137-143.

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