

**From:** [Ross Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [COB mail](#)  
**Subject:** Colossal Cave Mountain Park's future  
**Date:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:46:32 PM

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Pima County Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for developing a plan to sustain Colossal Cave Mountain Park (CCMP). It's an extraordinary resource on the east edge of the Tucson Basin, that is much less known, appreciated, and used than it should be. It anchors a key section of the Arizona Trail, providing a staging area for multiple events that use the trail, like the one we just conducted.

On Saturday November 15th, members of the local running community and the Arizona Trail Association held the inaugural Colossal Vail 50/50 (CV 50/50) at CCMP (<http://www.aztrail.org/cv5050/>). CV 50/50 includes a 50 kilometer run and a 50 mile run on the Arizona Trail, plus a kids run on the Path of the Ancestors. We developed the event in cooperation with several Pima County departments—the Regional Flood Control District, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Department of Transportation. We also worked closely with CCMP management. The purpose of CV 50/50 is to provide Pima County with a nationally recognized ultra marathon event which attracts athletes from across the nation to Tucson. It is an Arizona Trail Event. Any funds remaining after event costs are paid go to support the non-profit Arizona Trail Association.

The event was very successful for its first year. Tucson Medical Center, Cirrus Visual, Fleet Feet Tucson, and Old Pueblo Gymnastics provided very significant support. There were several other community partners, including Vail USD, Saguaro NP, and the Watershed Management Group. We had almost 100 runners sign up—good for the first year for this type of event. Many were from out of town, as far away as Atlanta and New York. They used Pima County lodging, including the camping at the CCMP. We've scheduled a November 14, 2015 CV 50/50. Regional Flood Control, NRPR, and DOT have given permission for up to 250 participants in this year's event. We intended to ask for the same permits for 2015. Given the glowing reviews we've received, we think there's a good chance the event will start to fill up as word spreads.

Over and over, even from locals, we heard expressions of surprise at what a wonderful venue CCMP was. We had well over 100 local volunteers supporting the runners. Both runners and volunteers came away with new awareness of CCMP's value to our County.

I know most of you. You know how much I've appreciated your support. I know you're focused on doing what's best for the County. I'm also aware of the challenges you face relative support and improvement costs for CCMP. I hope a plan to sustain CCMP can be developed and executed.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ross Zimmerman