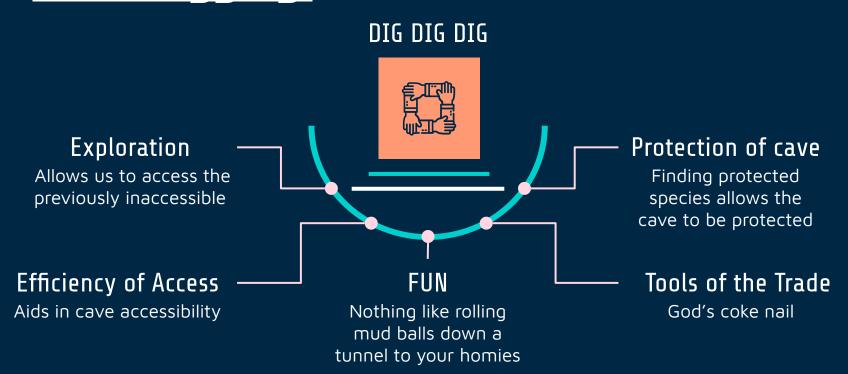
# A.S.S. Meeting-*Project Caving*Jakob Denton, 10/19/2023

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- TCR!
  - Aggie Grotto- Champions of mud wrestling
  - Gauntlet 0.0
  - Vertical contest
  - Speleolympics
- Greenbelt/Airmen's- 10/21
- Powell's- 10/20-10/22
- Vertical Trainings
  - Regularly scheduled- Signup-genius pinned in groupme
- Assoween- 10/28
  - Biggest social of the semester U\_U

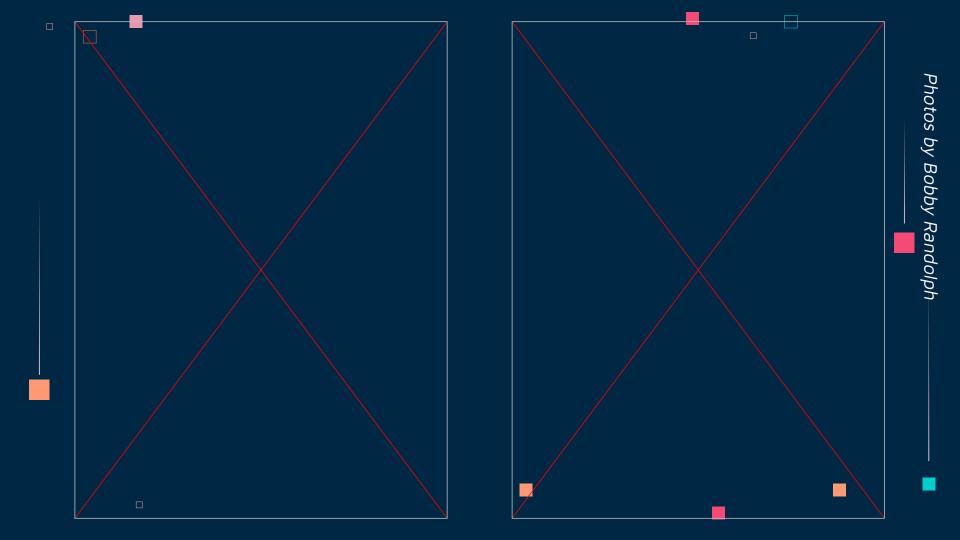
# Cave. Digging.

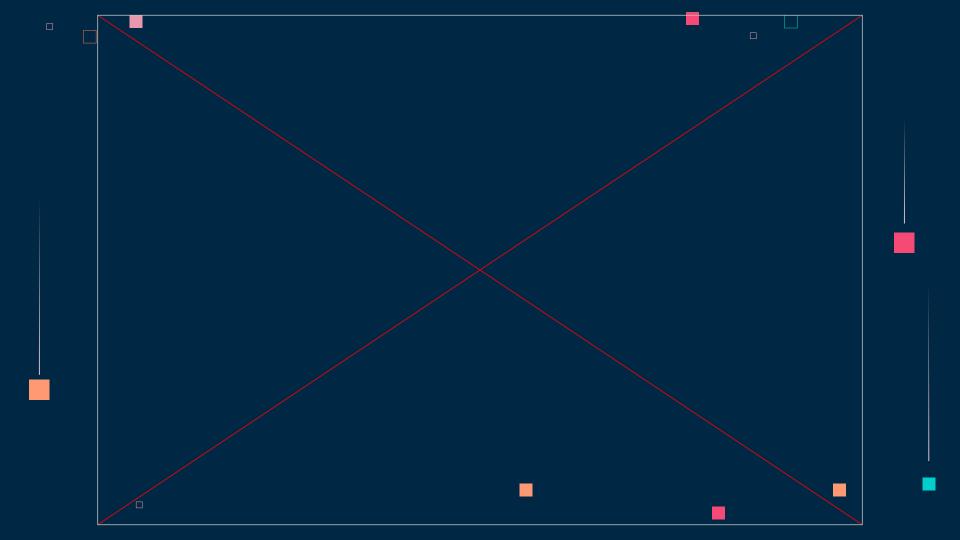


#### Digging Enables Further Exploration

- Often times passages can be blocked completely
  - Collapses
    - Breakdown is often a limiting factor of cave exploration
    - By removing breakdown chunks we can find paths through and forward
  - o Fill-ins

- Mud Mud Mud
- Chambers are often connected with small filled in passages and can be connected with some buckets and determination
- Human trash
  - Silly little humans often times throw trash into pits on their property



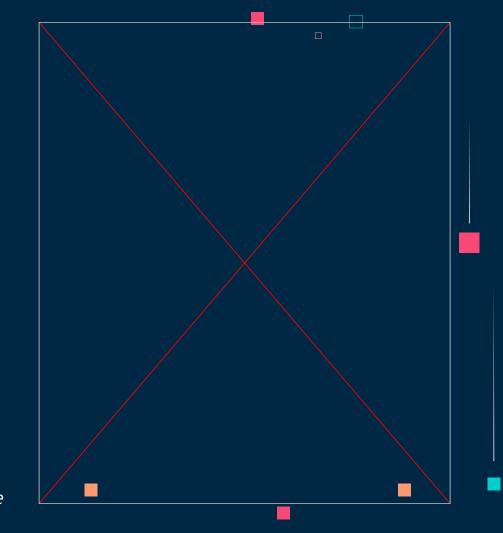


#### Digging Makes Cave Travel and Access More Efficient

- Digging is often used to expand small passages that most people or equipment can't fit through
  - Imagine having to fit someone through the birth canal on stretcher
- Very important: Digging should always be done with consideration to the cave's integrity
  - Only remove speleothems as last resort and with cave managers explicit permission
  - Often times destroying a caves natural features are not worth it

Ecstasy of Gold Chamber in Whirlpool Cave

- Super tiny passage with barely visible chamber on other side
- All Aggie Grotto dig team connected it to main passage
- SECRET TUNNEEEEEL

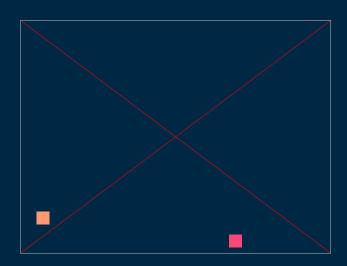


Ecstasy\_of Gold Chamber in Whirlpool Cave Photo by Jenna Crabtree

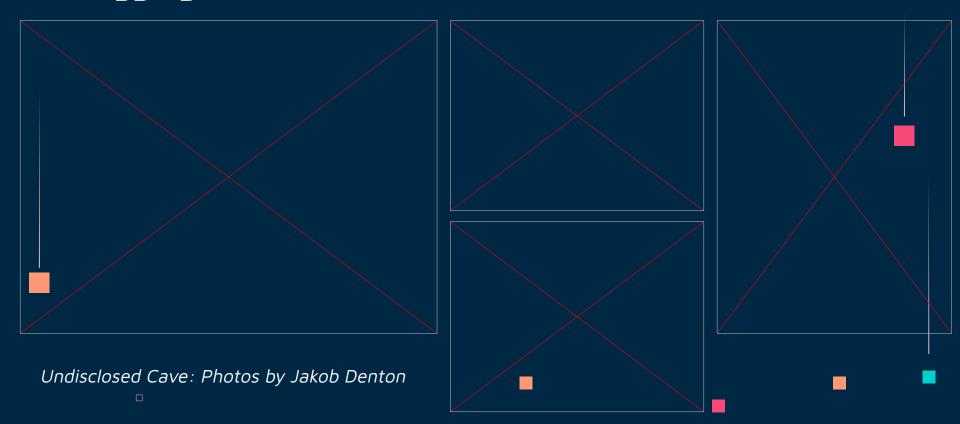
## Digging is Fucking Fun

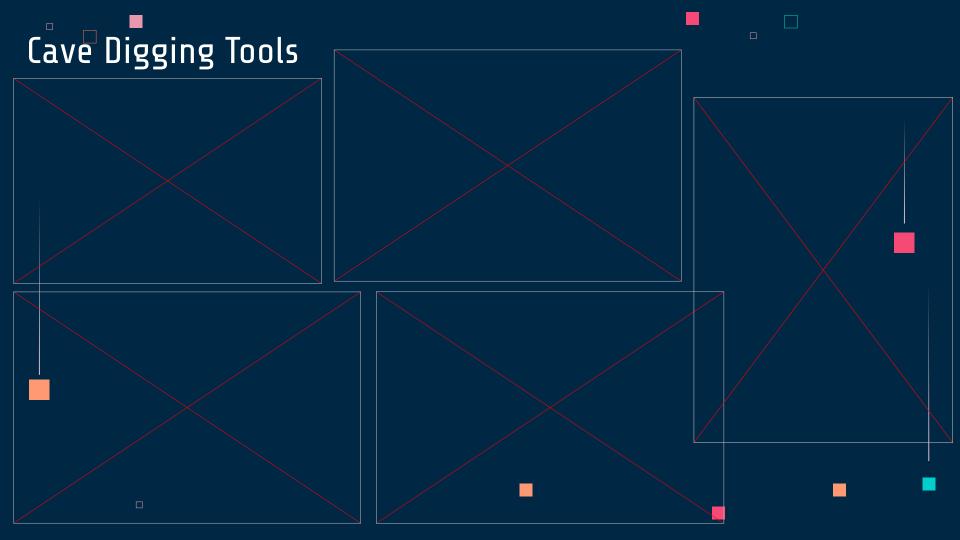
- Nothing beats rolling around in peanut butter mud while listening to Dexter & the Moonrocks with your homiest homies for a good cause
- Live out your repressed mole-person fantasies
- Post-Dig shenanigans





## Digging Into Smaller Caves Can Aid in Protection





#### **New Mexico Winter Break Trip**

- Thinking December 27-January 2
- https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/45484252?adults=4&children=0&enable\_m3\_private\_room=true&infants=0&pets=0&check\_in=2023-12-27&check\_out=2024-01-03&source\_impression\_id=p3\_1697472371\_KfOrfu8ojLFj8dgB&previous\_page\_section\_name=1000&federated\_search\_id=ee6b14d6-f383-4755-ad6f-a023ab7ff336\_
  - Airbnb option
- > Ideal 6-10 people
  - 10 people -> 2 fast caving groups
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park
  - Carlsbad Cavern
- Bureau of Land Management
  - Sand Cave
  - Parks Ranch Cave
  - Doc Brito Cave
  - Gypsum Forest
  - Bobcat Alley
  - Little Manhole Cave\*
  - Selenite Moon Crystal Cave
  - Selenite Mine
  - Wind-Hicks Cave
  - Skylight Cave
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park
  - Gypsum Sand Dunes



