

Cave Activity / Management Plans

You will Learn

Why Have Plans
What Guides Plans
What Goes into a Plan

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Land Use Planning

Activity Level planning -

Project planning -



Why Do You Need Specific Management Plans For Caves?

- ☛ Identifies cave management issues and solutions
- ☛ Puts them on par with other resource programs.
Assists in developing an overall cave management policy for your cave resources - programmatic with cave-specific appendices or individual plans
- ☛ When specific guidance is needed to reach goals and objectives, beyond that which is found in a RMP



More Reasons...

- ☛ Insures/provides a multi-disciplinary mgmt. approach
- ☛ Plans/address potential liability issues
- ☛ Abide by government laws; cave, T&E, cultural
- ☛ Planning provides for consistent mgmt.
- ☛ Sets a range of management options
- ☛ Provides for public safety and emergencies
- ☛ Provides a forum for public input
- ☛ Outlines actions, sets goals, needs- priorities -budget



What May Be Included In Your Cave Specific Plan?

- ✈️ Goals and objectives
- ✈️ Monitoring element
- ✈️ Administrative actions
closures, withdrawals
- ✈️ Management
prescriptions
- ✈️ Permits
- ✈️ Restrictions
- ✈️ Safety/emergency plan
- ✈️ Description of
resources
- ✈️ Background info
- ✈️ Location/setting
- ✈️ Identification of issues
- ✈️ Maps
- ✈️ Research - data trends
- ✈️ Photos that document
critical planning
elements



Case Study: McKITTRICK HILL CAVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION



- A. Management Goal & Objectives
- B. Background
- C. Visitor Use
- D. Geology
- E. Biology



II. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- A. Carlsbad RMP**
- B. Research**
- C. Restoration**
- D. Monitoring**
 - 1. Visitor Monitoring
 - 2. Photo Monitoring
 - 3. Law Enforcement Patrol
 - 4. Bat Monitoring
 - 5. Visitor Use Monitoring
- E. Continued Exploration**



III. Ongoing Management Activities

- ✓ Issue recreational use permits,
- ✓ Review & recommend on research & digging proposals,
- ✓ Change lock combinations at three months intervals,
- ✓ Maintain cave gates, locks, and signs,
- ✓ Maintain and direct monitoring program,
- ✓ Maintain positive caver contacts and relationships,
- ✓ Maintain a viable volunteer constituency,
- ✓ Maintain progressive public outreach and environmental education initiative



IV. Cave Specific Management Practices

- A. Endless Cave
- B. Sand Cave
- C. McKittrick Cave
- D. Little Sand
- E. Dry Cave
- F. Algerita Blossom Cave (ABC)
- G. Phalangid Cave
- H. Spider and Little Spider Caves
- I. Anticline Crest Cave




A. Endless Cave:

1. Permits limited to one per week. The permit week runs from Monday through Sunday.
2. Registers are placed in the Gypsum Room, War Club Room, and Sangre de Cristo Passage.
3. Photo points are monitored annually. The photo monitoring points are identified on a map of the cave. The photos are maintained in a binder with the map in the CRA cave management program files.
4. **West Maze Passage:** “Off limits” from April 15 to September 30 to protect Bat. Passages to West Maze are signed & flagged to prevent access. Bat counts conducted each season.
5. **The Sangre de Cristo Passage:** Gated to protect its pristine character. Permits are limited to one per month. Trips conducted only by BLM authorized trip leaders. A list of leaders is kept in the Endless Cave file. Visitors to Sangre de Cristo will contact trip leaders who will then obtain a permit from the BLM.



V. List of Appendix

- A. The Caves of McKittrick Hill
- B. Guidelines for Cave Research
- C. Guidelines for Cave Digging Projects
- D. Endless Cave Special Stipulations and Hazards, Map



Questions ??

