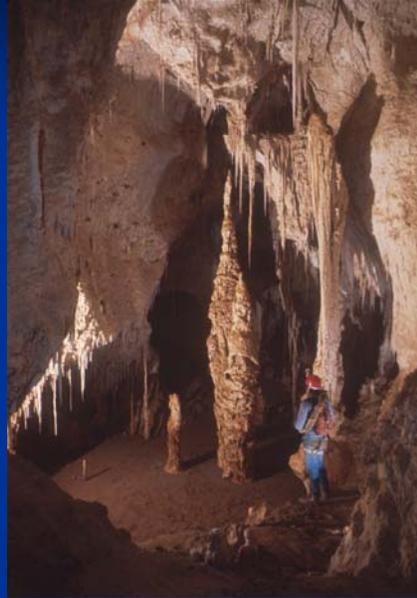


# Cave Management

## Regulations

43 CFR Part 37

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## Subpart A: Management

- 1. Purpose: To provide the basis for identifying and managing Significant caves
- 2. Policy: Protect and maintain Significant Caves and Cave Resources.
- 3. Authority: FCRPA
- 4. Definitions.
- 5. Collection of Information.

## Definitions

- (a) **Authorized officer** – BLM local Field Office manager, FWS
- (b) **Cave** means any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge, including any cave resource therein, and which is large enough to permit a person to enter, whether the entrance is excavated or naturally formed. Such term shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of a cave entrance or is an integral part of the cave.
- (c) **Cave resources** means any materials or substances occurring in caves on Federal lands, including, but not limited to, biotic, cultural, mineralogic, paleontologic, geologic, and hydrologic resources.
- (d) **Federal lands**
- (e) **Secretary** means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (f) **Significant cave** means a cave located on Federal lands that has been determined to meet the Criteria in s 37.11(c).

## Subpart B: Nomination, Evaluation, and Designation

- **Nominations:** For subsequent listings will be accepted from governmental agencies and the public.
- **Evaluations:** Carried out in consultation with individuals and organizations interested in cave resources management, within the confidentiality provisions.
- **Criteria:**

## Significant Cave Criteria

- Biota.
- Cultural.
- Geologic/Mineralogic/Paleontologic.
- Hydrologic.
- Recreational.
- Educational or Scientific.

## Designation

- All caves on National Park Service-administered lands are deemed to fall within the definition of “significant cave”.
- In special management areas that are designated wholly or in part due to cave resources, all caves within shall be determined to be significant.



## Confidentiality

- No employee shall disclose information that could be used to determine the location of any significant cave or cave resources, unless determined that it will further the purposes of the Act and will not risk cave resources.

## **Requesting Confidential Information**

- **Name, address, and telephone**
- **A legal description of the area**
- **A statement of the purpose**
- **Written assurances of information confidentiality and protection of the cave and its resources.**