

## Significant Cave Designation Process



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## Where is it Required ?

- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act
- Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR Part 37
- BLM Instruction Memorandum WO IM 94-125
- BLM Planning Manual H-1601-1 App. C pg 13
- BLM Manual (8380) Cave/Karst Management

## Instructions

- The Federal Caves Resources Protection Act of 1988 requires a list of significant caves.
- Do not be misled by the word `significant'. It is the intent of the Act that significant caves include all caves that have value for scientific, educational, and recreational purposes.
- The term **Significant** was added to provide screening so Federal agencies would not be required to "manage every little hole in the ground" and to screen out cave like features containing "... no resources of any interest to anyone or any recognizable natural resource value"

## Steps

- Nomination
- Evaluation
  - ◆ Does it Meet the Definition of a Cave?
  - ◆ Does it Meet at least One of the Criteria?
- Listing



# Internal Process

Use existing information in cave files to determine if the cave meets Significance Criteria.

Submit list to Local Manager for Designation

# Form

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carlsbad Field Office

\*\*\*\*\* Confidential Information \*\*\*\*\*

Subject: Listing of Significant Caves

Authorities: The Federal Caves Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4301-4309) directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a listing of significant caves. The criteria for listing of significant caves is in 43 code of Federal Regulations part 37.11 (c).

Finding/Decision: After careful review of the cave resources in the Carlsbad Resource Area, it has been determined that the following caves meet one or more of the significant cave criteria listed in 43 CFR, Part 37.11(c). These caves are hereby officially listed as significant caves.

Cave Name	BLM-NM-520 Cave number	Criteria1	Met	(B)	(C)	(G,P)	(H)	(R)	(E,S)
1. Algerita Blossom	078		x			x		x	x
2. Adobe	149		x			x		x	x
3. Banded Pit	111		x			x	x	x	x

As prescribed in 43 CFR, Part 37.11 (g) this decision is not subject to further administrative appeal.

Area Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 See listing of Significants Criteria attached

## Confidentiality

- All Locations submitted will be confidential
- No copies of nomination materials

(It's the Law)

## Reporting in RMIS

Report under No. of Significant  
Caves



## Significant Caves by State

AK Total	6
AZ Total	10
CA Total	16
CO Total	2
ID Total	89
MT Total	3
NM Total	317
NV Total	12
OR Total	41
UT Total	57
WY Total	24
Grand Total	577

Criteria for identifying Significant Caves is set forth in 43 CFR 37.11 (c).

If it is determined that a cave meets one these criteria, it MUST be designated Significant

