
**APPENDIX H
MANAGEMENT AND SETTING
PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CAVES**

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Geologic values specific to the high concentration of cave and karst resources within Deep Creek met the relevance criteria for ACEC designation in the 1984 RMP and in this RMP revision/EIS. Subsequent surface and subsurface management prescriptions, allowable uses and stipulations will preserve the area's current physical setting (see ACEC section in the RMP revision/EIS).

Cave Management Objectives

All caves determined to be significant within the CRVFO planning area will be managed to allow for appropriate access while addressing issues and concerns relating to preservation of the caves pristine and fragile resources, scientific and research values, and to address visitor safety and rescue issues.

Setting Prescriptions

Physical

All significant caves will be managed to maintain the current level of remoteness (backcountry in nature) from motorized and mechanized vehicles and to preserve the natural appearance of the cave. No new facilities, roads or trails will be built to access the caves. Allow for only minor (tape, signage, rescue caches) modifications for scientific purposes and to accommodate safe use. Evidence of use and other people will remain low.

Social

Visitor use limits, group size, season of use, will be managed in coordination with the Colorado Cave Survey (CCS) through monitoring and subsequent implementation decisions described through cave management plans for each significant cave, group of caves, or complex of caves.

Targeted Activities and Outcomes

All management actions will be focused on specific activity outcomes for caving and research. Experience outcomes will be for participants to enjoy and learn more about cave and karst resources. Specific benefit outcomes will be for environmental benefits such as; increased environmental stewardship, preservation/protection of unique biotic, paleontological, and mineralogical aspects of caves. Social benefits will be to provide environmental learning and appreciation of cave and karst systems.

Operational

Appropriate access will continue to be allowed while addressing issues and concerns relating to visitor safety and preservation of the caves values. If issues or concerns arise, necessary managerial controls such as closures, permits, trip requirements, and/or gating may be put in place in coordination with the CCS. BLM will administer and authorize research, inventory, work projects, and digging trips. Information and education materials will be provided to authorized visitors. Cave and karst resources will not be marketed or promoted.