

# BLM-New Mexico Roswell Field Office Call for Caving Proposals, 2015 Caving Season

12/8/2014

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roswell Field Office (RFO) is now accepting proposals for project work in caves within our field office that require a Special Recreation Permit (SRP), for the 2015 caving season (April 15 - October 31). In addition to proposals being submitted for SRP-managed caves, the RFO encourages proposals to be submitted for non-SRP caves on BLM managed public lands. A permit is required for collecting samples on public lands. Proposals will be accepted from December 8, 2014-January 16th, 2015.

Proposals can be submitted to the RFO by email, the postal system, or hand delivered. If submitting by email, please send to [blm\\_nm\\_rfo\\_caves@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_rfo_caves@blm.gov), and use the subject line "2015 Caving Proposal." The proposal should be either a .pdf or a Microsoft Word document, and be an attachment to the email.

If submitting in person, please deliver to the RFO no later than January 16, at:

BLM, Roswell Field Office  
2909 West 2nd St.  
Roswell, NM 88201

If submitting through the postal system, the envelope must be postmarked no later than January 16. Please mail to:

BLM, Roswell Field Office  
Attn: Knutt Peterson, Cave Specialist  
2909 West 2nd St.  
Roswell, NM 88201

## Criteria for Proposals

The proposal should address all the information requested in the BLM-New Mexico Cave Management Team (CMT) Cave Project Proposal document (page 3 of this document). The RFO requests additional information to help better understand the proposal (found in the Special Notes section of this document. Also included in this section is some additional guidance for proposals). The RFO is looking for proposed project(s) that help the BLM/RFO fulfill its cave management priorities.

## **Special notes:**

Recommendations from the BLM-New Mexico CMT have limited the total individual entries into Fort Stanton Cave (FSC) in 2015 to 120. Given the number of entries, the BLM RFO will approve proposals that fulfill our highest management priorities. Those priorities for the 2015 caving season are:

1. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) and other scientific research;
2. Hydrologic exploration mapping and monitoring of Snowy River Passage;
3. Cave Restoration;
4. Data gathering for Caver Quest; and
5. Other in-cave mapping and projects

All trip proposals to far Snowy River South (Midnight Junction) must be camp trips. With the 120 entry limit, each trip needs to be maximized for both in-cave time and safety.

Proposals for Snowy River hydrologic exploration should describe the areas that your team would like to explore. The BLM RFO and Fort Stanton Cave Study Project will work with all survey teams to coordinate areas of interest and operations as new passage becomes known during the caving season.

Trips beneath lands managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) will be evaluated by the USFS Cave Specialist. Remember, all trips under the Forest cannot be longer than 16 hours, unless an 8 hour rest period takes place.

Trip dates can be changed due to circumstances as they arise (e.g. flooding, overlapping trips, etc.).

As hydrologic and scientific exploration has progressed, so have the impacts to FSC, and in particular to Snowy River Passage. The RFO's philosophy is that with the undertaking of mapping this incredible resource, it is our responsibility to mitigate and repair the inevitable impacts that occur. During the 2015 caving season, the RFO is emphasizing restoration trips to Snowy River. In addition to further exploration, please include in your proposal(s) where you recommend cleanup, mitigation, or restoration should occur. Proposals focused primarily on restoration, or with an element of restoration, will be weighted higher than those without.

FSC is a bat hibernaculum that the BLM is tasked with protecting. Decontamination procedures have now become commonplace within the caving community, and are strongly encouraged by national caving organizations like the National Speleological Society (NSS). Current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cave decontamination procedures apply to all persons and equipment entering FSC, and are subject to inspection prior to every trip. No cave gear used in WNS-infected states may be used in any caves managed by the BLM in New Mexico.

If you have any questions regarding the RFO proposal process, please contact RFO Cave Specialist Knutt Peterson at [knuttpet@blm.gov](mailto:knuttpet@blm.gov) or (575)627-0259.

New Mexico BLM Cave Management Team  
Cave Project Proposal Contents  
BLM New Mexico

1. What group, institute, organization will be conducting the activity?
  - Principal investigator's (PI) name, phone number, email address, and caving experience; and
  - Trip leader's name, phone number, email address, and caving experience (If the PI is not going into the cave)
  
2. A detailed description of the activity proposed
  - Why the proposed activity is needed;
  - Total number of cavers per trip or project;
  - Total number of trips needed;
  - Duration of the project; and
  - If any collecting will be necessary, what is proposed to be collected; what is the need for collection; where will the collections take place; what research will be done on the collected material; and what is the disposition or storage location of the collected materials.
  
3. What benefit will the project be to the public or to cave/karst resources on BLM lands?
  
4. What will the BLM receive in the form of reports, photos, survey notes, etc.? And, when should the BLM expect to receive these items?
  
6. Comments