



Call for Caving Proposals: BLM Roswell Field Office 2016 Caving Season

12/11/2015

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Roswell Field Office (Field Office), is now accepting proposals for project work in caves within the Field Office that require a special recreation permit (SRP), for the 2016 caving season (April 15 - October 31). In addition to proposals being submitted for SRP-managed caves, the Field Office encourages proposals 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 today through until January 19, 2016.

Proposals can be submitted to the Field Office by email, the postal system, or in person.

- If submitting by email, please use the subject line “2016 Caving Proposal.” The proposal should be either a .pdf or Microsoft Word document, and be an attachment to the email. Please send the proposal to the following email address: blm_nm_rfo_caves@blm.gov.
- If submitting in person, please deliver to the Field Office address below, no later than January 19.
- If submitting through the postal system, the envelope must be postmarked no later than January 19. Please mail to:

BLM Roswell Field Office
Attn: Knutt Peterson, Cave Specialist
2909 West 2nd Street
Roswell, New Mexico 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 Field Office requests additional information that helps us to better understand the proposal (found in the Special Notes section of this document). Also included in this section is additional guidance for proposals. The Field Office is looking for proposed project(s) that will help the BLM fulfill cave management priorities.

Special Notes:

Fort Stanton Cave (FSC): The Field Office would like to see a variety of proposals for 2016. If Snowy River Passage remains, or is flooded again in 2016, the focus will be work in the historic part of FSC. In the historic part of the FSC, priority will be given to proposals to clean-up old surveys, perform restoration, and mark trails.

Currently, recommendations from the BLM CMT have limited the total individual entries to 120, for 2016. Given the number of entries, the Field Office will approve proposals that fulfill its highest management priorities. Those priorities for the 2016 caving season are:

- White Nose Syndrome (WNS) and other scientific research;
- Hydrologic exploration mapping and monitoring of Snowy River Passage;
- Cave restoration;
- Data gathering for Caver Quest; and
- 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 Passage hydrologic exploration should describe the areas your team would like to explore. The Field Office 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 a USFS cave specialist. Remember, all trips under the USFS land 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 to have impacts to FSC and, in particular, to Snowy River Passage. The Field Office's philosophy is that with the undertaking of mapping this incredible resource, it is the BLM's responsibility to mitigate and repair the inevitable impacts that occur. During the 2016 caving season, the Field Office is emphasizing restoration trips to Snowy River.

In addition to further exploration, please include in your proposal(s) the areas 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. Current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cave decontamination procedures apply to all persons and equipment entering

FSC. All persons entering the FSC, as well as their equipment, are subject to inspection prior to every trip.

No cave gear used in WNS infected States may be used in any BLM-managed cave in New Mexico.

If you have any questions regarding the Field Office proposal process, please email or call Field Office Cave Specialist Knutt Peterson at knuttpet@blm.gov or (575) 627-0259.

Bureau of Land Management-New Mexico Cave Management Team
Cave Project Proposal Contents

12/11/2015

1. Who will be conducting the activity (group, institute, or organization)?
 - Principle Investigator's name, phone number, email address, and caving experience; and
 - Trip leader name, phone number, email address, and caving experience (If the Principle Investigator is not going into the cave).
2. A detailed description of the activity proposed (i.e. what, when, and where):
 - Why is this activity 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 (i.e. what is proposed to be collected; the need for collection; where collections will take place; what research will be done on the collected material; and 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 the BLM will receive in the form of reports, photos, survey notes, etc.? Also, when should the BLM expect to receive these?
5. Comments