United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office

PLEASE READ ALL BEFORE SIGNING

APPLICATION FOR CAVE ENTRANCE PERMIT

Complete this application and mail to: Roswell Field Office, Roswell, NM 88201-2019 {Phone: (505) 627-0278/0272}
Allow one week for processing. A separate permit will be sent to you upon processing. {Fax: (505) 627-0276}

Cave Names and Interior Destinations	Intended Use Dates	Alternate Dates	
		2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Fort Stanton Cave			

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Name:	
Address:	
Zip:	
Day Phone Number:	
Night Phone Number:	
Email:	

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS NOT A PERMIT

TRIP LEADER: (Must be 18 years or older):

Name:	
Address:	
Zip:	
Day Phone Number:	
Night Phone Number:	
Email:	

Names and addresses of other people who will enter the caves*

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

Name:	
Address:	

NM-RFO-8385-1
(Revised 10/27/2003)

Name:	
Address:	

* The consent of a parent or legal guardian is for all individuals under 18 years of age who will not be accompanied on the proposed cave trip by their parent or legal guardian.

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS NOT A PERMIT

PURPOSE OF VISIT:

☐ Recreation ☐ Photography ☐ Education

☐ Research ☐ Survey ☐ Mapping

☐ Administrative ☐ Other, Describe:

PARENTAL OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT

CHILD'S NAME AND AGE		**SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**
NAME	**AGE**	
1		X
2		X
3		X
4		X
5		X
6		X
7		X
8		X
9		X
10		X

Continuation:

RESET FORM

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SAFETY AND CONSERVATION CHECKLIST WHILE VISITING & EXPLORING CAVES

- ☐ **INQUIRED ABOUT THE CAVE BEFORE TRIP**? When taking a surface trip, you would make it a point to learn something about your route and the type of country you would be traveling through. Do the same with caves.
- ☐ **AT LEAST ONE EXPERIENCED CAVER IN EACH CAVE PARTY**?
- ☐ **NO ONE ENTERED CAVE ALONE**. Minimum party of three is the Rule.
- ☐ **COMPLETE FIRST AID KIT WITH GROUP**. In case of injury in the cave:
  - One person goes for help while one person remains with the injured party.
  - Keep injured warm and treat for shock.
  - If there is any doubt concerning the extent of injury, don't attempt to move the injured until help arrives.
- ☐ **MINIMUM OF THREE SEPARATE LIGHTING SYSTEMS FOR EACH PERSON. HAVE SPARE BATTERIES AND BULBS.** Carbide lamps are good for emergency backup light and heat source. Chemical light sticks are a good backup light source.
- ☐ **HELMET REQUIRED FOR EACH PERSON.** Construction-grade hard hats or UIAA approved caving or rock-climbing helmets, with non-elastic chinstrap fastened at all times while in cave**. No other helmet type is considered safe in a cave environment**.
- ☐ **USED STURDY ANKLE-SUPPORTING, NON-MARKING LUG-SOLE HIKING BOOTS.** Leather soles are no good in caves.
- ☐ **USED STURDY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.** Coveralls or pants like blue jeans and long-sleeved shirts. Kneepads and leather gloves are standard items. Leather gloves protect formations from body oils and serve to keep your hands warm and clean.
- ☐ **AT LEAST ONE QUART OF WATER PER PERSON.** Foods high in carbohydrates are good for this activity. A spare emergency food ration is recommended.
- ☐ **ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS LEFT BEHIND.** They cause disorientation and impair motor function, which can easily result in serious cave injury or death.
- ☐ **PETS LEFT ON SURFACE.** They are no allowed in protected, permitted caves.
- ☐ **AVOID ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE PILES OF UNSTABLE OR LOOSE EARTH, ROCK BREAKDOWN.** These can be very dangerous!
- ☐ **STAYED WITHIN OUR ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE.** Never attempt to explore further into cave than a point from which you could safely find your way out. Continually look back while traveling through cave passages. They look much different from opposite direction, and being able to recognize them might avoid trouble. Do not use string or other trash to mark your route.
- ☐ **ON THE WAY OUT RETRIEVED ANY AND ALL ROUTE MARKERS.** Such as flagging tape or reflective markers. If you don't they may confuse others and you have littered the natural cave environment. You are
- ☐ **WORD LEFT WITH SOMEONE, STATING WHICH CAVE VISITED?** Left approximate return time and instructions that if not returned within six hours of planned time, someone should be contacted for help. State Police –911- has search and rescue responsibility in New Mexico.
- ☐ **RAIN IN WEATHER FORECAST?** It is extremely dangerous to enter gypsum or other storm-drain type cave if there is the slightest possibility of a rainstorm anywhere near the area
- ☐ **AVOIDED CONTACT WITH BATS.** Disturbing hibernating bats causes them to use up stored food reserves, which cannot be replenished due to lack of insects for food, resulting in death. Hibernating bats may also die from shock if they are suddenly awakened. All bats in this region are insect eaters; one bat can eat up to six times its weight in insects per night. Bat colonies are of great benefit to are farmers!
- ☐ **DID NOT TOUCH FORMATIONS WITH BARE HANDS.** Caves are very fragile and are subject to vandalism and unintentional damage. Many formations will break at the slightest touch and can't be repaired or replaced. Oil and mud from your hands will stain formations and inhibit their natural growth.
- ☐ **AT SURFACE CAMP PRACTICED LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR AND BACK COUNTRY ETIQUETTE.**
  - **LEAVE NO TRACE** is a national program that emphasized to all backcountry users: pack out what you pack in, leave backcountry places cleaner than you found them, and leave natural and cultural resources intact for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. This is how citizens can enjoin with public land agencies in maintaining and protecting beautiful, fragile public lands – arid and forested, surface and underground.
- ☐ **KEPT CAMP CLEAN – LEFT CAMP CLEAN. NATURALIZED SITE BEFORE LEAVING.** Earn the appreciation of those who follow you and set a good example for them, too.
- ☐ **RESPECTED PRIVATE PROPERTY AND OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER BEFORE CROSSING.**
- ☐ **VEHICLES, ROADS, AND GATES.** Leave all fences and gates as found. Park vehicles to avoid blocking roads or gates. Operate vehicles only where they will not cause ruts or start erosion. Avoid driving on two-track dirt roads when wet. Stay on established roads wherever possible.
- ☐ **AVOIDED DISTRUBING WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK BY CAMPING AWAY FROM WATER SOURCES.** Watch speed during lambing and calving season, March and April. Lambs separated from mothers usually don't survive. Wait for sheep to clear road before passing.
- ☐ **USED ONLY DEAD AND DOWNED**

not doing anyone a favor by leaving markers behind – each group has to experience the cave for themselves.

- **REMOVED ALL HUMAN WASTE FROM CAVE.** Cigarette smoke is not a natural cave element and can impact cave life. People have a tendency to unconsciously flip cigarette butts, resulting in litter and organic waste. Spitting tobacco and leaving other human waste can attract microorganisms dangerous to human health. Microbial action on various types of human waste will cause unpleasant odors. Cave visitors are advised to remove all human waste from cave environments and dispose of it properly.
- **REMOVED ALL MANMADE LITTER FOUND IN THE CAVE, EXCEPT FOR SURVEY MARKERS AND SPECIAL FLAGGING TAPE, CLOSING AN AREA OR MARKING A SPECIAL FEATURE.** Burying garbage in-cave is unhealthy for the cave environment; on the surface, it is dug up by wild animals and blown around by the wind. Package spent carbide in plastic bags or plastic containers remove it from cave and dispose of it properly. *Spent carbide left in-cave kills cave life!*

WOOD FOR CAMPFIRES. BUILT CAMPFIRES ONLY IN SAFE PLACES AND NEVER LEFT THEM UNATTENDED. Be aware of fire danger in area: you are responsible for checking with local, state, and federal agencies to find out if fire restrictions are in effect. A person or persons who cause a Wildland fire may be held financially liable for suppression costs.

CAVER'S MOTTO

Take nothing but pictures & inspiration
Leave nothing but well-placed footsteps
Kill nothing but time.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Roswell Field Office
2909 West Second Street
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

October 24, 2003

Supplement of Understanding for the Bureau of Land Management Roswell Field Office Application for Cave Entrance Permit

WARNING: ***There is an inherent danger in entering caves. If you were injured, rescue may not be possible due to very small crawl areas, varying elevations, and tight turning corners. If you enter caves, you do so at your own risk, realizing the danger of injury or death (See below).***

IF A PERMIT IS GRANTED:

1. **Permittees agree that as a condition precedent to the issuance of a permit, they will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the United States and/or its agencies and representatives against and from any and all demands, claims, or liabilities or every nature whatsoever including, but not limited to, damages to property, injuries to or death of persons arising directly or indirectly from or connected in any way with the use and occupancy of the lands and cave(s) described on this authorization (Public Law 96-95, Public Law 100-691, Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988, 43 CFR 2920.7(f)(3), 43 CFR 8364.1, 43 CFR 8360.0-7, 30-15-6 NMSA 1978). Additionally, permittees will agree and accept the provisions of 17-4-7, New Mexico State Statutes, regarding landowner liability applicable to actions occurring under the permit.**

2. This permit neither authorizes nor implies permission for the intentional or unintentional damage or removal of cave resources, such as: archaeological and historical artifacts, natural materials or features, plant and animal life, or any item of public property. Violations of federal or state laws, general conditions or special stipulations are punishable, upon conviction, by fines up to $10,000.00, or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or both (Public Law 96-95, Public Law 100-691, Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988, 43 CFR 8364.1, 43 CFR 8360.0-7, 30-15-6 NMSA 1978). It is illegal to dig in this cave without a separate Dig Permit from the BLM authorized officer.

3. Each person in the caving party will wear either an ANZI-certified construction-grade hard hat or UIAA- approved caving or rock-climbing helmets, with non-elastic chin strap fastened at all times while in the cave. No other helmet type, such as bike, skateboard, football, military, equestrian, is allowed.

4. Each caver will have in their possession at least three sources of light, preferably electric.

5. At least one person in the caving party must be 18 years of age or older and will be responsible for the actions of younger members of the party.

6. All materials (flagging tape, litter, etc.) taken into the cave(s) by the Permittees must be removed and properly disposed of at the end of each cave visit. It is appreciated if you remove any obvious trash. However, do not remove previously placed flagging tape, reflective markers, or survey markers.

7. All pets are prohibited from entering cave(s).

8. All fences and gates that are equipped with locks are to be secured while permittees are in the cave and before they depart from the cave area. Mechanical problems with locks will be promptly reported to the authorizing officer.

9. Fort Stanton, Crockett's and Targac's (Torgac's) caves are annually closed for bat hibernation from Nov 1 – April 15.

GENERAL HAZARDS

** Watch diligently for hazards, because caves are dynamic and additional hazards not listed below may have appeared after the cave was last inspected. **

1. Loose breakdown.
2. Low or tight passages.
3. Intermittent stream flow with deep pools (usually seasonal).
4. Hypothermic conditions.
5. Steep slopes.
6. Muddy conditions.
7. Extremely long crawls.
8. Low ceilings.
9. Loose rocks.
10. Slippery surfaces.
11. Uneven floors.
12. Darkness.

NOTE: Permission to be exempted from any of the above stipulations must be obtained in writing from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) you prior to entering the cave.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (cave rescue, serious injury, death, illegal entry, occurring vandalism): 911 or BLM 24-HOUR Emergency Number 1-800-650-7498 (tell the dispatcher to send BLM Ranger, state police & cave specialist), or call Bill Murry or Albert Najar at BLM Valley of Fires Recreation Area, Carrizozo (505) 648-2241

For other non-emergency situations, such as lock/combination problems call the BLM Valley of fires Recreation Area (above), or the BLM dispatch at 1-800-650-7498 (tell the dispatcher to contact Mike Bilbo, Bill Murry or Albert Najar) or call BLM Cave Program Volunteers Frank Everitt (505-626-1826) or Stephen Carter (505-808-1204).