

# Operations Plan / Proposal to do work in Fort Stanton Cave



BLM Roswell Field Office – 2909 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St Roswell, New Mexico. 88201 (575)-626-5076

**Please read the Cave Proposal Submission Document before filling out this application.**

It is recommended that you have a discussion with the BLM Cave Specialist about your project proposal BEFORE you start writing. This will cut down on rewrites and possible rejection.

**The BLM is the only entity reviewing and making a decision on whether your proposal is approved or denied.**

Information collected on this form is not shared outside of the Bureau of Land Management

## SECTION 1

<b>Proposal Title:</b>		<b>BLM Proposal No.</b>
<b>Principal Investigator</b> Name: Address:  Phone:  Email:	<b>Proposal Group</b>  Name of Group/ Institution/ Agency:	
Proposal Abstract <i>(Give a short but descriptive overview of the project &lt; 250 words):</i>		

Your proposal should address all the information requested in the Cave Project Proposal document. The Field Office requests this information as it helps us better understand the proposal. The Field Office is looking for projects that help the BLM fulfill its cave management priorities. Proposals will be evaluated by the Field Office Cave Specialist and the BLM New Mexico Cave Management Team, then approved or denied by the Field Office Manager.

I have read the Cave Project Proposal submission Document

**To increase protection to the bat population and other unique life forms in the Cave, the BLM requires all cavers entering Fort Stanton Cave to use dedicated cave gear. It is the responsibility of the project/team leader to inform all team members of this policy.**

Gear that falls into the dedicated gear category includes helmets, gloves, pads, outer layer of clothing used to travel through the historic section of the Cave, boots, and packs. Instruments, lights, tools, cameras, and all other gear carried in a pack need to be decontaminated at the bunkhouse before and after the trip. There are several options for the caver regarding dedicated gear. First, the BLM can loan gear that is dedicated to the Cave and is available for checkout with the Cave Specialist. Second, cavers can dedicate gear by decontaminating their personal gear on-site, have it certified by the BLM Cave Specialist, and then put it in an individual bin with his or her name on it, to be stored on-site at the National Conservation Area. **The use of dedicated gear by all cavers bolsters the BLM's commitment to protect all cave biota and allows the BLM to offer more entries.**

I agree

**If you are writing a proposal to do science in the Cave, and you are not a subject matter expert, the BLM recommends that you have a subject matter expert work with you and co-author your proposal. If you anticipate needing to collect samples, please mention that you are also applying for a sample collection permit.**

**IMPORTANT! Proposals must be received by the BLM by January 7, 2023**

Proposals can be submitted to the Field Office by email or the postal system. If submitting by email, please use the subject line **"2023 Roswell Field Office Caving Proposal."** The proposal should be submitted using the proposal submission form and be an attachment to the email. Please email proposals to: [blm\\_nm\\_rfo\\_caves@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_rfo_caves@blm.gov).

**All email submissions MUST be sent to this email address.**

If submitting through the postal system, the envelope must be received by the Field Office no later than January 8. Please mail to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Roswell Field Office  
Attn: Knutt Peterson, Cave & Karst Specialist  
2909 West 2nd St.  
Roswell, NM 88201

I have read and understand these requirements

## SECTION 2: Team Members

Depending on the type of trip you propose, team selection is critically important to the safety of the team and the protection of the Cave. The BLM understands that team composition can change due to a variety of circumstances. If your proposed trip is NOT on Snowy River, there is some flexibility in your team selection. A trip leader is required to be listed on the proposal. Additional team members should be listed if they are known but can be filled in prior to the trip with BLM Cave Specialist approval. If you are proposing a trip on Snowy River, please fill in your team leader, primary team, and backup team members. Teams traveling on Snowy River, north of Independence Hall, should have an experienced team leader (at least two trips on Snowy River) who is familiar with that section of cave. Teams traveling south of Independence Hall should have a Strong & Lite team leader and two experienced Strong & Lite cavers. A fourth team member may be new to Snowy River but must have extensive caving experience and be approved by the BLM Cave Specialist. Please size your team to the minimum number of cavers to accomplish the task and maintain safety.

<p><b>Trip Leader (Caver 1)</b>          Name:          Address:          Phone:          Email:</p>	<p>Select ALL that apply (control + Click)</p>
<p>Please describe your caving experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <span style="float: right;">Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</span></p>	

<p><b>Caver 2</b>          Name:          Address:          Phone:          Email:</p>	<p>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</p>
<p>Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <span style="float: right;">Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</span></p>	

<b>Caver 3</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	<b>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</b>
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <span style="float: right;"><b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b></span>	

<b>Caver 4</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	<b>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</b>
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <span style="float: right;"><b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b></span>	

<b>Caver 5</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	<b>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</b>
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <span style="float: right;"><b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b></span>	

<b>Caver 6</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	<b>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</b>
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b>	

<b>Caver (Backup)</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b>	

<b>Caver (Backup)</b> Name: Address: Phone: Email:	<b>Select ALL that apply (control + select)</b>
Please describe this caver's experience, including Snowy River trips, special skills, etc. <b>Caver is familiar with WNS/Pd Protocols</b>	

### SECTION 3: Trip Details

Give a brief description of the overall objective of your project and individual trip objectives. *(It is recommended that you write section 7 first and then briefly describe the important details in this section).* What do you expect to occur and accomplish on the trip? If requesting multiple trips, describe the objectives and timing of each trip separately. Show how each trip builds on the previous trip. Where are you planning to go and what do you plan to do?

**Project objectives:**

**Trip Objectives:** *(Describe each trip separately)*

**Entries and potential Trip Dates:** Fill in the number of trips, number of entries per trip, total entries, if this is an ongoing project, and project end date. Because there is a lot of logistical coordination that needs to happen between trips and projects, please work with the Cave Specialist on prospective trip dates. **DO NOT fill in any trip dates.** The Cave Specialist will do this after your proposal has been approved.

How many trips in 2023?	First Trip Date:
How many entries per trip?	Second Trip Date:
Total Entries?	Third Trip Date:
Is this an ongoing project?	Additional Dates:
Project End Date:	

## SECTION 4: Permits

The BLM issues two types of permits for cave projects. The first is a Special Recreation Permit, which allows your team to enter the Cave. The second type of permit is a Sample Collection Permit, which allows you to collect samples from within the Cave for your study or research. Once your proposal is approved by BLM management, and you have worked out your trip dates with the Cave Specialist, you will be issued an Special Recreation Permit on the date of your trip to complete your proposed work. Please request a Collection Permit be generated for the materials to be collected. Collection Permits require Field Office Manager approval and can take up to two weeks to process.

### Will you need a sample collection permit?

If so, briefly describe the types of samples and amounts you plan to collect. Where do you hope to collect samples? Why are the samples needed? What types of analysis will you perform on the samples? What do you hope to learn from these analyses?

## **If your proposal is approved, everyone on the team agrees to the following stipulations:**

1. All data collected under this permit will be turned over to the BLM Cave Specialist (or a designated representative) immediately after the trip.
2. ALL data collected under this permit are property of the U.S. Government.
3. Trip reports are due two weeks after the trip.
4. The team will follow all rules outlined in the permits.
5. The team will follow all recommendations conveyed by the BLM Cave Specialist.

## **SECTION 5: General Questions**

Has this proposal been approved in the past?

*(if YES, answer next question)*

Select one of the following reasons this proposal hasn't been completed.

Are you caught up and current on past trip reports?

Select one of the following categories that best describes your project

Does the trip travel on Snowy River

Is this a camp trip or bivouac?

How many nights?

**Will your team need to stay at the bunkhouse?**

## **SECTION 6: Potential Impacts and Mitigations**

Please identify any potential impacts to the Cave, Cave biota, and participants from this activity. Think about impacts from travel, mapping, camping, eating, human waste, trash, degradation of equipment, collecting samples, use of materials brought into the Cave, materials left in the Cave, and anything else that could adversely impact the Cave. Discuss how you plan to mitigate each impact you identified.



## SECTION 7: Project Details

**Please read section 7 in the Proposal Submission Criteria Document before starting this section. Address all points and questions.**

**In the space below, describe in detail, the proposed activity. If you need more space to fully describe your project, please attach a separate document and indicate that you have done so in the space below.**

**If this is a science proposal**, describe why this project is needed, who is the consulting subject matter expert, how it builds on current knowledge, what samples will be collected, whether or not you will be requesting a sample permit, how will samples be analyzed and by whom, what you hope to learn, and how you plan to convey your research to the world. **If you are a student**, who is your advisor? School? Department? Degree you are seeking? Graduation date?

Copy and paste your detailed project proposal in the input space on the next page. If your proposal has pictures, tables, or graphs, they will not show up in the input box below. If this is the case, please fill out the requested information in sections one through six in this document and a .pdf of your project details and submit together.

Detailed project description: