

(4) Indian tribe

The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims settlement¹ Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(5) Cave resource

The term “cave resource” includes any material or substance occurring naturally in caves on Federal lands, such as animal life, plant life, paleontological deposits, sediments, minerals, speleogens, and speleothems.

(6) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate.

(7) Speleothem

The term “speleothem” means any natural mineral formation or deposit occurring in a cave or lava tube, including but not limited to any stalactite, stalagmite, helictite, cave flower, flowstone, concretion, drapery, rimstone, or formation of clay or mud.

(8) Speleogen

The term “speleogen” means relief features on the walls, ceiling, and floor of any cave or lava tube which are part of the surrounding bedrock, including but not limited to anastomoses, scallops, meander niches, petromorphs and rock pendants in solution caves and similar features unique to volcanic caves.

(Pub. L. 100-691, §3, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4546.)

Editorial Notes**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, referred to in par. (4), is Pub. L. 92-203, Dec. 18, 1971, 85 Stat. 688, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§1601 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of Title 43 and Tables.

§ 4303. Management actions**(a) Regulations**

Not later than nine months after November 18, 1988, the Secretary shall issue such regulations as he deems necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter. Regulations shall include, but not be limited to, criteria for the identification of significant caves. The Secretaries shall cooperate and consult with one another in preparation of the regulations. To the extent practical, regulations promulgated by the respective Secretaries should be similar.

(b) In general

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to further the purposes of this chapter. Those actions shall include (but need not be limited to)—

- (1) identification of significant caves on Federal lands;

- (A) The Secretary shall prepare an initial list of significant caves for lands under his jurisdiction not later than one year after the publication of final regulations using the significance criteria defined in such regulations. Such a list shall be developed after consultation with appropriate private sector interests, including cavers.

- (B) The initial list of significant caves shall be updated periodically, after consultation with appropriate private sector interests, including cavers. The Secretary shall prescribe by policy or regulation the requirements and process by which the initial list will be updated, including management measures to assure that caves under consideration for the list are protected during the period of consideration. Each cave recommended to the Secretary by interested groups for possible inclusion on the list of significant caves shall be considered by the Secretary according to the requirements prescribed pursuant to this paragraph, and shall be added to the list if the Secretary determines that the cave meets the criteria for significance as defined by the regulations.

- (2) regulation or restriction of use of significant caves, as appropriate;

- (3) entering into volunteer management agreements with persons of the scientific and recreational caving community; and

- (4) appointment of appropriate advisory committees.

(c) Planning and public participation

The Secretary shall—

- (1) ensure that significant caves are considered in the preparation or implementation of any land management plan if the preparation or revision of the plan began after November 18, 1988; and

- (2) foster communication, cooperation, and exchange of information between land managers, those who utilize caves, and the public.

(Pub. L. 100-691, §4, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4547.)

§ 4304. Confidentiality of information concerning nature and location of significant caves**(a) In general**

Information concerning the specific location of any significant cave may not be made available to the public under section 552 of title 5 unless the Secretary determines that disclosure of such information would further the purposes of this chapter and would not create a substantial risk of harm, theft, or destruction of such cave.

(b) Exceptions

Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may make available information regarding significant caves upon the written request by Federal and State governmental agencies or bona fide educational and research institutions. Any such written request shall, at a minimum—

- (1) describe the specific site or area for which information is sought;

- (2) explain the purpose for which such information is sought; and

- (3) include assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that adequate measures are being

¹ So in original. Probably should be capitalized.