

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**DEFINITIONS**

For definitions of terms used in this section, see section 1971 of Pub. L. 111–11, set out as a note under section 460www of this title.

SUBCHAPTER CXXXVI—FORT STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

§ 460yyy. Definitions

In this subchapter:

(1) Conservation Area

The term “Conservation Area” means the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area established by section 460yyy–1(a) of this title.

(2) Management plan

The term “management plan” means the management plan developed for the Conservation Area under section 460yyy–2(c) of this title.

(3) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title II, §2201, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1099.)

§ 460yyy–1. Establishment of the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area

(a) Establishment; purposes

There is established the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area in Lincoln County, New Mexico, to protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, archaeological, natural, and educational subterranean cave resources of the Fort Stanton-Snowy River cave system.

(b) Area included

The Conservation Area shall include the area within the boundaries depicted on the map entitled “Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area” and dated December 15, 2008.

(c) Map and legal description**(1) In general**

As soon as practicable after March 30, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a map and legal description of the Conservation Area.

(2) Effect

The map and legal description of the Conservation Area shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subchapter, except that the Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map and legal description.

(3) Public availability

The map and legal description of the Conservation Area shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title II, §2202, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1099.)

§ 460yyy–2. Management of the Conservation Area

(a) Management**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall manage the Conservation Area—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources and values of the Conservation Area, including the resources and values described in section 460yyy–1(a) of this title; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) this subchapter;

(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(iii) any other applicable laws.

(2) Uses

The Secretary shall only allow uses of the Conservation Area that are consistent with the protection of the cave resources.

(3) Requirements

In administering the Conservation Area, the Secretary shall provide for—

(A) the conservation and protection of the natural and unique features and environs for scientific, educational, and other appropriate public uses of the Conservation Area;

(B) public access, as appropriate, while providing for the protection of the cave resources and for public safety;

(C) the continuation of other existing uses or other new uses of the Conservation Area that do not impair the purposes for which the Conservation Area is established;

(D) management of the surface area of the Conservation Area in accordance with the Fort Stanton Area of Critical Environmental Concern Final Activity Plan dated March, 2001, or any amendments to the plan, consistent with this subchapter; and

(E) scientific investigation and research opportunities within the Conservation Area, including through partnerships with colleges, universities, schools, scientific institutions, researchers, and scientists to conduct research and provide educational and interpretive services within the Conservation Area.

(b) Withdrawals

Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal surface and subsurface land within the Conservation Area and all land and interests in the land that are acquired by the United States after March 30, 2009, for inclusion in the Conservation Area, are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the general land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

(c) Management plan**(1) In general**

Not later than 2 years after March 30, 2009, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of the Conservation Area.