

Significant Cave Finding/Decision

Name of Cave: _____

Forest Service Cave Identification Number: _____

Background: The Federal Cave and Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4301-4309) directs the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare and maintain a listing of significant caves. The criteria for listing of significant caves in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 290. To qualify for listing as a significant cave, a cave must meet one or more of the criteria.

Finding/Decision: After careful review of the information submitted with the nomination, it is my finding that _____ Cave:

_____ Qualifies for listing as a significant cave. It meets the following criteria:

- _____ Biota
- _____ Cultural
- _____ Geologic/Mineralogic/Paleontologic
- _____ Hydrologic
- _____ Recreational
- _____ Educational/Scientific
- _____ Specially Designated Area

_____ Does not qualify for listing as a significant cave.

Comment: _____

As prescribed in 36 CFR, Part 290.3(g) this decision is not subject to further administrative appeal.

Forest Supervisor

Date

Role of the Authorized Officer

- Receives listing recommendations from internal staff and partners.
- Verifies questionable data relevant to the evaluation process by consulting with the nominator, internal staff, or consultants. The nomination may be returned to the applicant for more information if there is inadequate information from which to make the listing decision.
- Makes final listing decision.
- Notifies nominator and internal staff of finding.
- Returns all nomination materials to originator for caves not determined to be significant.
- Maintains a log for tracking of each nomination.
- Transmits a copy of the log to the Regional Cave and Karst Program Lead
- Takes necessary measures to ensure the confidentiality of cave information.
- Provides for interim protection of significant caves until they can be incorporated in the agency *Land and Resource Management Plan*.
- Ensures that significant caves are scheduled for inclusion in the *agency Land and Resource Management Plan*.