

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/23/2020 7:00:00 AM

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Comments: As a member of the National Speleological Society since 1974, and a past volunteer and contributor to Forest Service cave management and scientific studies throughout Colorado, I find Cave Resource Protection Forest Order #57443 to be without logical merit.

It is unclear as to why such action is proposed by the Forest at this time. Many of these proposed restrictions are unique to a particular group of Forest users - those who visit caves within the Forest. It is similar to the Forest stating that any persons of color are not allowed to fish or hunt, or that persons who voted for particular political parties cannot use stoves while in the Forest. Basically, you are proposed systematic discrimination against a specific group of individuals and are using the threat of police action as your threat.

A better solution would be to examine particular issues and to create cave management plans unique to the cave which has an issue. For instance, if a particular cave has been impacted with digging for artifacts, that cave's management plan can specifically include this prohibition. If high school students are partying at a particular cave, rather than banning all live or recorded music within 50 feet of any known (and presumably unknown) cave, other options are available than threatening police activity.

Federally-managed Forests, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service land managers have successfully created distinctive cave management plans for hundreds of caves across North America. It is simple to contact experienced land management colleagues at other federal lands for management plans that can be adapted by competent personnel to specifically manage a cave.

The Forest Service has a national Memorandum of Understanding with the National Speleological Society, this nation's largest and oldest cave and karst organization. Reaching out to the Society or its local chapters in Oregon can provide your Forest management team with enthusiastic, competent assistance and guidance in developing realistic management plans that don't discriminate against specific classes of Americans. In Colorado, members of the Society have worked closely with Forest personnel since 1969.