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Comments: Forest Supervisor Holly Jewkes

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Submitted by

Dave Nissen

Wanderlust Tours

Forest Supervisor Jewkes,

Please see my comments on The Cave Resource Protection Forest Order below:

#### Summary of Input

1. Use suggestions of specific China Hat Road caves
2. Naming spray paint as an illegal substance to be used in a cave
3. Outline sand blasting as an approved means to remove graffiti in caves
4. Outline federal penalties for illegal behaviors in caves. Appropriate funds to enforce

#### Cave Use Suggestions

Boyd, Skeleton, Wind, Arnold Caves Year-Round and Seasonal Closures

I desire my input to help strike a balance for use, recognizing the need for open access, the appropriateness of closures for protection and recognition of respectful/educational use.

There are approximately 700 known caves in Deschutes County. Boyd, Skeleton, Wind and Arnold are among those best known to those who live in Central Oregon. As a result, these are the most used caves by humans. The use is positive for the understanding of nature's processes and engaging with nature. Some use is impacting and manifested in negative ways including bat disturbance during hibernation, litter and vandalism. With enjoyment of use, education of nature's processes, animal protection, human visitation and maintenance in mind, I suggest use under these controlled means.

1. Boyd Cave: Leave open year-round for all users. Allow special use permit guide service to conduct year-round interpretive tours of this cave.
2. Skeleton Cave: Retain year-round closure. Allow special use permit guide service to conduct interpretive tours

of this cave from May 1 until October 1. Allow OHDG and National Speleological Society members access from May 1 until October 1.

3. Wind Cave: Retain year-round closure. Allow special use permit guide service to conduct interpretive tours of this cave from May 1 until October 1. Allow OHDG and National Speleological Society members access from May 1 until October 1.

4. Arnold Cave: Seasonal opening for all users. Build a removable gate at the crawl space for seasonal closures. Open for all users from May 1 until October 1.

#### Spray Paint

In the list of illegal substances to be brought into a cave, name spray paint as one of those substances.

#### Sand Blasting

Outline prescribed use of sand blasting by the Oregon High Desert Grotto to clean these caves affected by spray painting.

#### Conclusion

Thank you for devoting time and brainstorming to preserving the forest's natural legacies with consideration of animal and human use. There is a balance for this use. As resource managers, the forest service can count on Wanderlust Tours to continue educational use and maintenance of these four caves and their access roads. We cherish our partnership with the Forest Service and Oregon High Desert Grotto and look forward to continued litter pick up and graffiti mitigation by means of sand blasting- given their willing partnership.

Thank you,

Dave Nissen