

El Malpais publishes natural history work

El Malpais National Monument announced in February 1998 the availability of a major new publication entitled "Natural History of El Malpais National Monument." Published by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines (Bulletin 156, 1997), the bulletin presents a comprehensive interpretation of the park's volcanic landforms and their associated biological components. Compiled by El Malpais Chief Ranger Ken Mabery, it devotes extensive coverage to lava tube caves, including their formation, mineralogy, cave ice, and fauna. Other features include a comparative analysis of seven basalt-dating techniques as applied to flows ranging from 725,000 to 3,000 years ago. The flora and fauna and the fire ecology and succession on lava flows is also cataloged. Maps, historic photos, species lists, charts, and a color photo atlas of the park's volcanic landforms are included in the 185-page volume. The bulletin is available from the publications room of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, 505-835-5410, for \$24.50.