

**Operating Procedures
between
The United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve
and the
Silver Sage Grotto of the National Speleological Society**

This Operating Procedures (hereinafter "OP") is entered into by and between Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS), and the Silver Sage Grotto of the National Speleological Society (hereinafter "SILVER SAGE GROTTO"), an organization in Twin Falls, Idaho, acting through the Silver Sage Grotto Craters of the Moon Project (hereinafter "CRMO") project manager and the Silver Sage Grotto Chairperson.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this OP is to facilitate participation and assistance by members of the Silver Sage Grotto in the inventory, surveying, scientific study, monitoring, and protection of caves and cave resources located on lands administered by the National Park Service, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, pursuant to the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.

AUTHORITY

The NPS enters into this agreement under the authority of the Act of August 25, 1916, 39 Stat. 535, as amended and a national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Park Service and National Speleological Society signed in 2014. All aspects of that MOU apply to these operating procedures.

Whereas, it is the policy of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve to encourage scientific research and interpretation, for the public, of natural features and processes in areas under its administration; and

Whereas, it is the purpose of the Silver Sage Grotto and CRMO to advance the science of speleology and the protection of caves and their natural contents within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

1. The NPS/CRMO agrees to::

- a. Collaborate with the Silver Sage Grotto to create an annual list of potential projects for the Silver Sage Grotto to perform, from which the Silver Sage Grotto can prioritize and schedule field work in coordination with the NPS.
- b. Attend at least one Silver Sage Grotto meeting per calendar year to discuss the progress of the CRMO project and the state of cave management and resources in the monument.

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- c. Provide the Silver Sage Grotto with logistical and technical assistance whenever feasible and not an undue burden to staff time, other projects, and/or equipment.
- d. Properly recognize and attribute the works of the Silver Sage Grotto whenever they are used in publications, publicly displayed, or transmitted in electronic media.

2. The SILVER SAGE GROTTO agrees to:

- a. Conduct cave research, mapping, survey, and inventory projects to improve understanding and management of the cave resources at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. These projects will be completed in a safe manner compliant with the directions, protocols, standards, and behaviors prescribed by the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve's Resource Management program and other applicable federal policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.
- b. In no way intentionally harm, degrade, damage, or otherwise negatively impact the natural or cultural resources of the monument during the course of the CRMO, including the unauthorized disclosure of information pertaining to the location of sensitive resources, including but not limited to caves or archeological sites, beyond the specific members of CRMO working directly in or around those resources.
- c. Assist with other natural resource management or infrastructure improvement projects at the behest of the NPS when participation in such projects is amenable to the Silver Sage Grotto. Examples may include bat population surveys, trail maintenance, sign placement, or other projects approved and managed by the NPS.
- d. Provide, in a timely manner, reports of trips and activities, mapping products, an Annual Report, as well as other publications for use by the NPS in overseeing CRMO project activities, managing cave resources, and in public outreach and education.

3. The NPS and the SILVER SAGE GROTTO, jointly, agree to:

- a. Communicate and collaborate in the survey, inventory, and monitoring of caves and cave resources within the monument and preserve.
- b. Provide timely notification to each other regarding activities, developments, controversies, problems, or issues that may affect the project.

TERM

- 1. Unless earlier terminated or amended by mutual agreement of the parties in writing, this Operating Procedure will remain in effect for one year beginning on the date the last signature is affixed to this document

KEY OFFICIALS

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- A. Key officials are essential to ensure maximum coordination and communication between the parties and the work being performed. They are:

For the NPS:

Park Superintendent

Dan Buckley, Superintendent
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve
P.O. Box 29
Arco, Idaho 83213
E-mail: dan_buckley@nps.gov
Telephone: (208) 527-1310
Facsimile: (208) 527-3073

Local/Coordinating (Agreements Technical Representative – ATR)

John Apel, Resource Program Manager
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve
P.O. Box 29
Arco, Idaho 83213
E-mail: john_apel@nps.gov
Telephone: (208) 527-1350
Facsimile: (208) 527-3073

For the SILVER SAGE GROTTTO:

Silver Sage Grotto ~~President~~ *Chairman*

Name: *STEVE FRYE*
Address: *PO Box 908*
E-mail: *Steve@stewefrye.com*
Telephone: *208-721-1074*

CRMO Coordinator

Name: *John Apel*
Address: *PO Box 29, ARCO ID 83213*
E-mail: *john_apel@nps.gov*
Telephone: *208-527-1350*

1. Communications

The Silver Sage Grotto will address any communication regarding this Agreement to the

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Agreement Technical Representative with a copy to the Superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Communications that relate solely to routine operational matters may be sent only to the Resource Program Manager or other Craters of the Moon Resources Program staff.

2. Changes in Key Officials

Neither the NPS nor the NSS may make any permanent change in a key official without written notice to the other party reasonably in advance of the proposed change. The notice will include sufficient detail to permit evaluation of the impact of such a change on the scope of work specified within this Agreement. Any permanent change in key officials will be appropriate to the purposes of this MOU and will be memorialized by an exchange of letters. The letters will become part of the MOU.

REPORTS AND/OR OTHER DELIVERABLES

The Silver Sage Grotto will provide Trip Reports, using an established template, of all field work within 90 days of the last day of work.

Trip Reports should include a:

- Participant list
- Summary of work completed
- Cave inventory update form
- Planned work (if project is incomplete)
- Significant observations or management recommendations (optional)
- Relevant photographs (optional)

Major reports or products, such as new cave maps or substantial cave surveys and inventories, should be completed and delivered to the NPS within one year of completion of related field work.

An Annual Report of all Silver Sage Grotto CRMO Project work within the park will be submitted by December 31st each year of this Agreement. This report will summarize annual accomplishments, challenges, and future direction and goals for the CRMO Project, and may also be tailored to satisfy the annual reporting requirements placed on the Silver Sage Grotto by the National Speleological Society.

PROPERTY UTILIZATION

- A. The Silver Sage Grotto may be granted use of NPS equipment in the event that it is not being used, or potentially used, for other purposes. Use of all NPS equipment must be documented in a formal, written check-out and checked-in process. NPS equipment should not sustain any damage beyond reasonable wear from acceptable use; lost or damage to NPS equipment by the Silver Sage Grotto will require its repair or replacement by the Silver Sage Grotto at the discretion of the NPS.

MODIFICATION

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These procedures may be modified only by a written instrument executed by both parties.

DISCLOSURE OF CAVE INFORMATION

No cave names, maps, locations, or information about sensitive resources will be published or provided to the public, or members of the Silver Sage Grotto not directly involved in an CRMO project specifically concerned with this information, without the written consent of the NPS; cave numbers provided by NPS staff should be used in lieu of cave names in almost all circumstances.

SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date(s) set forth below.

FOR THE SILVER SAGE GROTTO:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: ~~President~~

Chairman

Date: _____

1-8-15

FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

Signature: _____

Name: Dan Buckley

Title: Superintendent

Date: _____

1/8/2015