

N 7822
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April 23, 1975

Dr. Fred Rabe
Dept. of Biological Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Dr. Rabe:

Paul Fritz, the National Park Service representative in Boise, informed us you are identifying underground aquatic systems in Idaho. We have listed on the accompanying form all the caves in Craters of the Moon with perennial ice. There may be a problem with designating Beauty and Boy Scout Caves as Research Natural Areas according to the criteria listed in "Research Natural Area Needs in Idaho" as both are readily accessible to monument visitors. This is particularly true of Beauty Cave. Visitors enter the front 20 feet or so of Boy Scout Cave, but only a few go back further due to several inches of water that is on the floor from June on each summer. We know very little about the other caves listed.

The waterholes in the lava flows of Craters of the Moon is another restricted aquatic environment you may wish to consider. We have listed the waterhole locations on a second form. Again, we know very little about their role in the ecology of the area. A large number of invertebrates are commonly found immediately around the waterholes and the rodent and bird population seems greater in the general vicinity of the waterholes.

We're pleased to be able to assist in this project. Let us know if there is anything else we can do.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Montges
Superintendent

Enclosures

Reynolds/bf

Table 3. Check list for proposed Aquatic Research Natural Areas

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Location ^{1/}	Ownership ^{2/}	Justification ^{3/}	Aquatic cell(s) filled - other description ^{4/}
Sec6 T1N R25E Boy Scout Cave	Federal, Nat'l Park Service, Craters of the Moon Nat'l Mon (same for all listed)	Several species of trogl- bitic invertebrates are found in Boy Scout and Beauty Caves. No inves- tigations have been made of the other three caves (they are 7-10 miles from the road across rough lava) but probably contain a similar environment.	Lava caves with perennial ice, all are relatively small (to 250 feet in length), elevation ranges from 5750 for Boy Scout and Beauty Caves to 5400 for the unnamed ice caves.
Sec 36 T1S R25E Moss Cave			
Sec14 T1S R25E Ice Cave			
Sec24 T1S R25E Ice Cave			

^{1/} County, section(s), township, range, tentative name of site.

^{2/} Private, state, federal (name of National Forest, planning unit if known).

^{3/} Main reason for selecting this site as an RNA.

^{4/} Approximate area, elevation, dominant terrestrial vegetation, any other description of aquatic features.