

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Wind Cave National Park**  
South Dakota



**Draft Foundation Statement**

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**Wind Cave National Park  
Foundation Statement**

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# INTRODUCTION

The foundation statement is used to guide current and future planning and management of Wind Cave National Park. The primary advantage of developing a foundation statement is the documented understanding of what is most important about the park that provides the basis for future planning and decision making.

The major elements of a foundation statement are a description of Wind Cave National Park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, special mandates, and the legal/policy requirements for administration and resource protection.

Defining the park's foundation of legal and policy mandates is the prerequisite for all subsequent planning and decision making. It helps ensure that all stakeholders, including National Park Service (NPS) managers and staff, understand what is most important about the park, and it provides the parameters for ensuring that all programs and actions contribute to achieving the park's purpose and other mandates. To this end, the park's foundation statement documents the congressionally or presidentially established purpose of each park, the reasons why the park's resources and values are significant enough to warrant national park

designation, the primary interpretive themes to be conveyed to visitors, any special mandates Congress may have placed on that particular park, and the more general mandates contained in the large body of laws and policies that apply to all units of the national park system.

The park's foundation additionally identifies and analyzes a set of resources and values (features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, etc.) determined to warrant primary consideration during park planning and management. Based on this analysis, the foundation statement summarizes the policy-level issues (potential for incompatibility among resources and values) that will require management discretion to resolve.

Wind Cave National Park has been shaped by multiple legislations throughout its history since its establishment in 1903. The result is a park that showcases a diverse range of natural and cultural resources. This foundation statement sets forth the park's evolution and significance with its important resources and values to serve as a guide for the park's future management.

## DESCRIPTION OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

The Black Hills region that includes Wind Cave has had a complex and changing history of human occupation that extends back centuries and many generations to prehistoric times.

The Paleoindian period in the Great Plains around 7500 to 10,000 BP is associated with lush grasslands, large herds, and mineral resources that naturally drew people to the region, including areas of the Black Hills. The later archaic period coincided with a warmer, dryer climate that likely caused the extinction of *bison antiquus*, the ancient relative of modern bison, and moved human populations to the cooler, higher locations of the Black Hills' forests and meadows. Adapting to new territorial ranges, the human population continued to hunt bison in a specialized, communal fashion, but also hunted smaller game, such as pronghorn, elk, and deer. Shelters in the lower hills provided habitation for thousands of years during this time.

The Prehistoric era brought tribes of the northwestern plains use of horses and the bow and arrow by around 250 CE. Bison remained the focus of large-scale hunting as people migrated in the region to the hills, river banks, canyons, and open plains. Tribes frequently met one another in peace, collaboration, competition, and conflict as these diverse groups moved throughout the region.

By the 16th century, the Black Hills were not an exclusive homeland to any one tribe, but rather were habited by different groups with different cultural traditions and practices. Although the Black Hills has traces of habitation of more than 10 different tribal nations, the Lakotas and Cheyennes are the tribes with the most well-documented, ongoing historical and cultural relationship to the Black Hills for the past 200 years. The Arapahos arrived to the area sometime in the early 1700s, and many other tribes have historical and cultural relations with the Black Hills as well.

Oral traditions reveal that Wind Cave is one of the most sacred and culturally significant areas in

the Black Hills for the Lakotas and Cheyennes. The Lakotas have long identified Wind Cave as a site of genesis where the first humans emerged from the subterranean depths of the cave. The park land above the cave also has long been a place of important cultural connection for the Lakotas, who believe that the site is the home of the buffalo nation and carries cosmological traditions about the relationships between the cave, bison, regeneration, and the wind. The Lakotas and Cheyennes both continue to hold important cultural relationships between humans, animals, and topographical features in the Black Hills, including Wind Cave.

In the last half of the late 19th century, large numbers of Lakotas, Cheyennes, and Arapahos moved within the Black Hills and surrounding plains for better grazing lands, more productive bison hunting, and to find sanctuary from the increasing encroachment of U.S. military troops, prospectors, and settlers in the Black Hills by the 1870s. Many of the region's attributes that had sustained the tribes for thousands of years—the mild climate, grasses, rich plant communities, mineral waters, timber supply, and abundant game—had attracted increasing numbers of white, non-Indian settlers to the Black Hills in the late 1800s.

Although American Indian tribes of the Black Hills have known about the opening to Wind Cave for thousands of years, two settlers, Jesse and Tom Bingham, are credited as the first white discoverers of the cave entrance in 1881 when they observed strong winds blowing out of the cave's natural opening. The first recorded exploration of the cave occurred later that year as interest in the cave's natural resources grew. This early, documented exploration set in motion events that eventually led to the establishment of Wind Cave National Park.

Several profiteers sought mining claims at Wind Cave, but most noteworthy to the establishment of the park was the 1890 mineral claim filed by Jesse D. McDonald of the South Dakota Mining Company. When the company's attempts at

mining proved unsuccessful, McDonald realized he could profit from leading cave tours and selling cave formations. McDonald filed a homestead claim over the cave opening while improving a humanmade cave entrance and enlarging passageways for the tour business. It was then when McDonald's 17-year-old son, Alvin McDonald, took on the role of "permanent guide" and began exploring and mapping Wind Cave, recording his findings in a diary. Alvin helped discover about 8 miles of cave and left a lasting legacy to modern explorers. His discoveries also led to increased visitation to the cave and eventually, its national publicity.

In 1892, the McDonalds formed a financial partnership with "Honest John" Stabler and created the Wonderful Wind Cave Improvement Company to help expand and improve tour operations. Between 1892 and 1893, the company widened cave passages, installed wood staircases, and built a hotel near the cave entrance, while a third party established stagecoach service to the hotel.

In the 1890s, the parties became embroiled in a dispute over the legal ownership of Wind Cave and the business relationship between the McDonalds and Stabler deteriorated. In attempts to gain control of the title, while the McDonalds' homestead claim was under review, Stabler worked to secure a mining claim. To settle the ongoing dispute, the General Land Office sent Special Agent C.W. Greene to examine the surface features and subterranean interests of all involved parties. Agent Greene's report found no legitimate evidence for mining or farming activities by the claimants. Instead, Greene surmised that the claims were filed solely for the purpose of owning the cave entrance for further exploitation of the cave.

As a result of Agent Greene's report, the General Land Office denied both the McDonalds' and Stabler's mineral and homestead claims to the property. Greene's report recommended withdrawing the parcel from private settlement and holding the cave in reserve as a "public resort." In 1900, the Secretary of the Interior acted by removing the land in and around Wind Cave from settlement. This move fueled congressional action and became the first step toward the cave's eventual park status. In 1902,

M.A. Meyendorff and Myron Willsie of the U.S. Department of Mineral Survey conducted the first formal survey of the cave and reported on its immense size and complexity.

On January 9, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill creating Wind Cave National Park as the seventh national park and the first park created to protect a cave resource. The park boundary at that time included 10,522 acres, or 16.5 square miles, but mostly encompassed the subterranean cave features plus a few above-ground areas required for visitor and administration buildings. The surface land above the cave at that time contained no bison, elk, or pronghorn herds.

In 1912, the America Bison Society was searching for lands on which to reestablish a bison herd. The open grasslands of the cave surface attracted the society's attention. They found the prairie habitat on the surface of Wind Cave suitable for the bison and supported the establishment of a preserve by providing funds for the acquisition and fencing of the lands. The Department of Agriculture's U.S. Biological Survey established the Wind Cave National Game Preserve on the surface lands within the park boundary for the purposes of reintroducing bison, elk, and pronghorn. The arrival of these animals between 1913 and 1916 had the secondary effect of attracting more visitors to Wind Cave National Park. The increased visitation led to park building and infrastructure improvements in the late 1910s and 1920s.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established a camp of 200 young men at Wind Cave National Park on July 16, 1934, to embark on badly needed improvements to structures, roads, and other infrastructure. Between 1934 and 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees, constructed roads and trails, completed numerous infrastructure projects, and built many of the park administrative structures still extant today, including the area that later became the Wind Cave National Park Administrative and Utility Area Historic District.

In July 1935, Wind Cave National Park assumed authority for the Wind Cave National Game Preserve above it, thereafter combining the two entities into Wind Cave National Park. The move

ended dual agency authority within the park boundary. The decision to incorporate the preserve changed the park's mission from solely protecting a cave to also protecting surface resources. It also allowed the park to serve as a sanctuary for the reintroduction of elk and pronghorn.

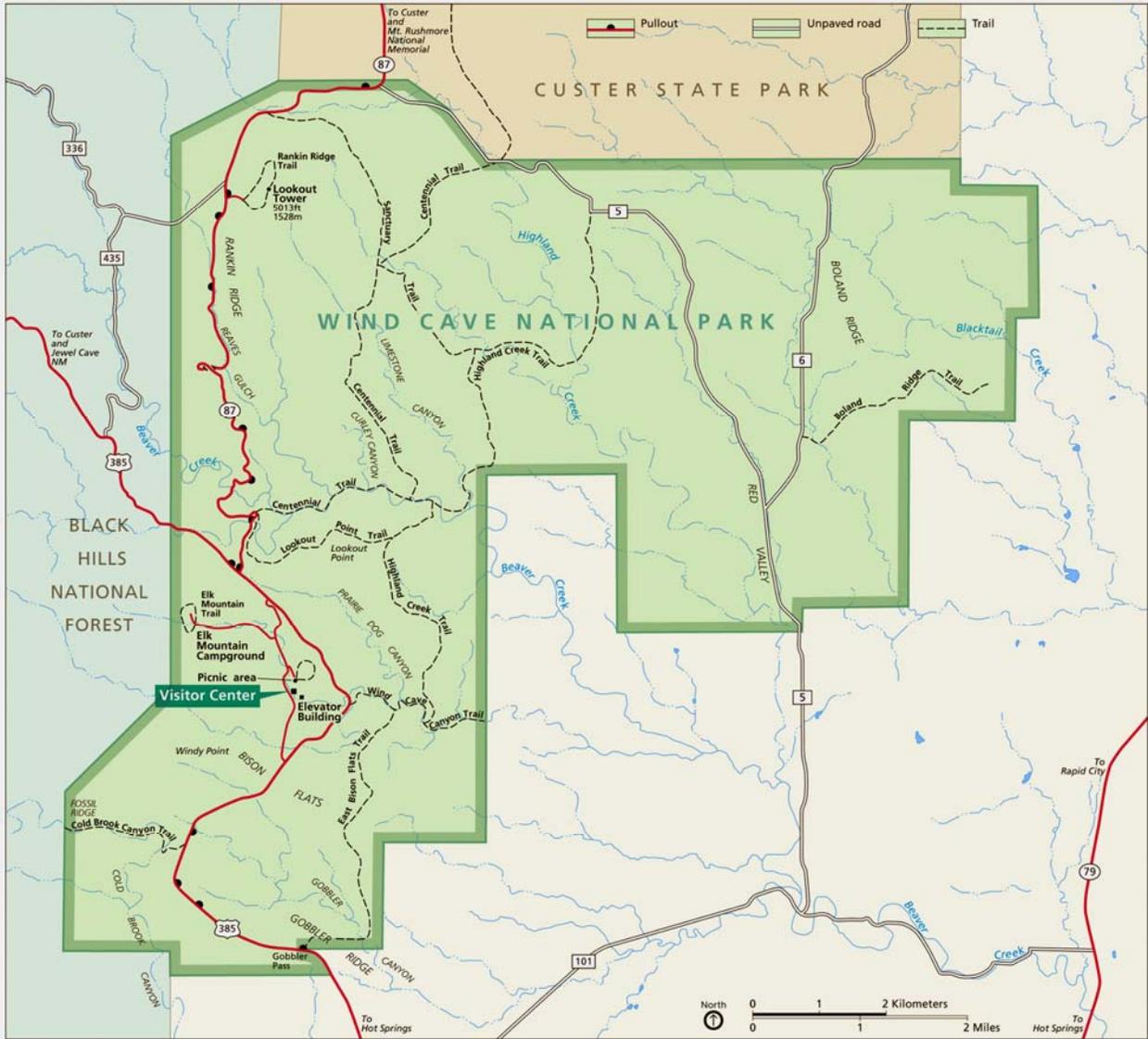
The park boundary expanded in 1946 with the addition of 16,341 acres. This and other previous additions enlarged the park to 28,059 acres by that point. Park staff began to actively manage the carrying capacity of the bison, pronghorn, and elk herds in the 1950s and 1960s. Although the park's 1961 master plan called for new structures to accommodate increasing visitation, the park later made a pivotal decision to not pursue building projects that could damage the cave. Instead, managers limited tour sizes to protect the cave and continued to focus on caring for the wildlife and rangeland through the 1970s and 1980s. Ongoing cave exploration led to the 1964 discovery of the cave's Calcite Lake and Spillway, increasing the explored and mapped area of the cave from approximately 8 to 10 miles to over 70 miles. Explorers revealed Wind

Cave to be one of the longest caves in the world and its full extent is still unknown.

Park leadership embarked on new management approaches in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1972, Wind Cave National Park became one of the first parks to incorporate an active fire program, with its first prescribed fire occurring the following year. The park adapted its first cave management program in the mid-1980s to preserve and manage the cave based on science using monitoring and cave inventories.

Today, Wind Cave National Park encompasses 28,295 acres. Because of the park's relatively small size, park managers are actively engaged in helping the park's ecosystems function as they might have in the past. To do this, park staff work with researchers to replicate that natural system using prescribed fires, vigilant bison herd management and bison round-ups, and biological control of exotic plant species. Park management activities also continue to incorporate wildlife science and cave research to retain the park's natural resources and to provide visitors a quality experience.

Figure 1: Wind Cave National Park



# PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

## PURPOSE

The park purpose is a statement of why Congress and/or the president established the park as a unit of the national park system. It provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested.

The purpose can usually be determined from reading the park's enabling legislation or legislative history; sometimes more investigation is needed to understand and document why Congress and the President created the park.

In the case of Wind Cave National Park, the enabling legislation outlines boundary authorizations but lacks specific identification of park resources and values. Thus, the park purpose had to be clarified using available scientific and scholarly research; the park's history; the legislative history of park expansion; and professional expertise, including park natural and cultural resource specialists from Wind Cave National Park, the Denver Service Center, and the Midwest Regional Office. The planning team collaborated to establish the following park purpose statement in workshops held at the park in May and October 2010:

*The purpose of Wind Cave National Park is to protect the unique Wind Cave resources and preserve and enhance the mixed-grass prairie and native wildlife, while providing for the enjoyment of the public.*

## SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of significance are guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement. These statements of significance define why, within a national, regional, and systemwide context, the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation.

Significance statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing Wind Cave National Park and express the importance of the site to our natural or cultural heritage. They are not an inventory of the site's resources; rather, they describe the park's distinctiveness and help to place it in regional, national, and international contexts. Understanding the significance will help managers make decisions that will preserve the resources and values necessary to fulfill the park's purpose.

Wind Cave National Park is significant as a unit of the national park system because

- Wind Cave is one of the longest, oldest, and most complex caves in the world and contains the largest concentration of boxwork, a rare cave formation first described at Wind Cave.
- Wind Cave is one of the best places in the world to view remnants of ancient sediment-filled caves (i.e., paleokarst).
- Wind Cave is considered a sacred site for many American Indian tribes. This setting gives a sense of life and spiritually that fosters respect, cultural understanding, and an appreciation for the diverse cultures that have cared for this special place.
- Wind Cave National Park supports one of the most intact prairie wildlife communities in North America, with pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, prairie dogs, mountain lion, endangered black-footed ferret, and

- genetically diverse and brucellosis-free American bison.
- Wind Cave National Park supports one of the last remaining examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities found in the Black Hills.
  - Wind Cave National Park provides one of the most expansive unobstructed beautiful natural vistas, night skies, and natural soundscapes found in the Black Hills region.

# FUNDAMENTAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND VALUES

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those resources and values that are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. They are directly tied to the reason(s) that the park was established.

The analysis of fundamental resources articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, the resource's current condition, potential threats, and the related issues that need consideration in planning for and management of the resources.

Identifying the resources and values that support the park purpose and significance provides managers and planners with a focus on what is truly most important about a park. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, then what is most important about the park may be jeopardized.

### The following are identified as fundamental resources or values:

- Cave and Karst Features
- Native Wildlife
- Native Vegetation (Mixed-Grass Prairie Communities)

- Water Resources including Hydrology
- Exploration and Discovery of Wind Cave

## Other Important Resources and Values

Parks may also have other important resources and values that may not be fundamental to the park's purpose and significance, but are still important resources to protect and address in planning actions.

### Other important resources or values include the following:

- Origin Story
- Viewsheds/Vistas
- Solitude/Soundscapes
- Paleontology
- Archeology
- Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes

For more details on these resources and values, please see the "Analysis" sections later in this document.

# ANALYSIS OF FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

The analysis of fundamental resources articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, the resource’s current condition, potential threats, and the related issues that need consideration in planning and management. Included in the analysis is the identification of relevant laws and NPS policies related to the preservation and management of the resources.

In addition, the stakeholders who have a substantial interest in the preservation or management of a particular resource are identified. Monitoring and research improves our understanding of each fundamental resource and value, periodic review and updates of this analysis may be necessary.

<b>Fundamental Resource: Cave and Karst Features</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave is one of the longest, oldest, and most complex caves in the world, and contains the largest concentration of boxwork, a rare cave formation first described at Wind Cave. Wind Cave is also one of the best places to view remnants of ancient sediment-filled caves (i.e., paleokarst).
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Cave is one of the oldest, longest, and most complex rectilinear maze-cave systems in the world.</li> <li>• It is the type locality<sup>1</sup> for and contains some of the largest concentrations of rare cave formations such as boxwork and helictite bushes, and unusual variety of minerals and speleothems (quartz formations, frostwork, and gypsum).</li> <li>• Wind Cave is one of the best places to view paleokarst and associated paleofill.</li> <li>• The cave also has a simple yet highly specialized ecosystem that does not require photosynthesis and has significant microbial diversity with 12 divisions and subdivisions.</li> <li>• The lakes in Wind Cave are the only direct access point to the Madison Aquifer and one of the only examples of a fluctuating water table within a cave.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 134 miles of passages have been explored and mapped (studies suggest this is only a fraction of the cave’s potential extent). An ongoing survey project is documenting an average of 2–4 additional miles of passage a year.</li> <li>• There are over 43 known backcountry caves within the park.</li> <li>• Contaminated water from land uses within and adjacent to the park is infiltrating the cave and causing damage.</li> <li>• Many of the park’s drainages originate outside the boundary; wells, stock diversions, irrigation, timber management, and other activities affect the water flows in the park.</li> <li>• Underground water movement is complicated and is not fully understood.</li> <li>• Airflow problems may exist in the cave due to the visitor entrances.</li> <li>• Mountain pine beetles are spreading and the use of insecticides above the cave could enter the cave and affect cave resources.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The infrastructure necessary to provide safe access has minimal impacts on cave and karst resources.</li> <li>• Activities, including tours, in Wind Cave are managed to have minimal impact on the cave’s natural biotic communities.</li> <li>• Geological resources are identified, documented, and protected.</li> <li>• Biological resources are identified, documented, and protected.</li> <li>• The elements of the natural environment will continue to be identified and maintained, including the natural airflows at the entrances.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> **type locality** is place or source where a specimen was first found and recognized. It is the place where that particular type occurs in its most classic form.

<b>Fundamental Resource: Native Wildlife</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Cave National Park supports one of the most intact prairie wildlife communities in North America, with pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, prairie dogs, mountain lion, endangered black-footed ferret, and genetically diverse and brucellosis-free American bison.</li> </ul>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Cave National Park is the only place in the world with a cohabitating/coexisting resident community of pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, prairie dogs, mountain lion, endangered black-footed ferret, and genetically diverse and brucellosis-free American bison.</li> <li>• The park protects complex and diverse ecosystems that include a mixing zone of eastern, western, northern, and southern flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Through the efforts of park management, the park's bison herd is the only federally owned herd that is genetically diverse and is free of brucellosis.</li> <li>• Animals and plants sacred to American Indians exist in the park. These plants and animals figure in tradition and stories, are used in medicines and ceremonies, and are an important part of the national park ecosystem.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prairie dogs appear to be stable (July 2010), with dog towns covering approximately 2,800 acres. Plague has been identified in flea samples, but no epidemic has occurred.</li> <li>• Pronghorn were reintroduced to the park in 1914 and 1916. Their population numbers are varied but appear to be increasing.</li> <li>• Elk were reintroduced between 1914 and 1916. Over the years, trapping and transplanting have been used to reduce animal numbers until 2002, when chronic wasting disease was found in the park. Currently, elk populations appear to be increasing.</li> <li>• Chronic wasting disease is a threat to individuals, but not a major threat to the elk and deer herds in the park. Chronic wasting disease, in conjunction with mountain lion predation and low recruitment, appears to be having some impact on population growth.</li> <li>• Bird populations vary: grouse are on an overall decline over the past 10 years; there are 12, possibly 13 active raptor nests; nightjar species (nighthawks and poorwills) were identified at 7 of 10 stops; surveys document about 53 species/452 individuals of breeding birds and 62 species (via off-road surveys). The 2010 Christmas Bird Count totaled 1,000 birds representing 25 species which is comparable to previous years.</li> <li>• Sixty-two tiger salamanders were observed during park surveys.</li> <li>• Early accounts (from the 1800s) suggest that bighorn sheep were few in number in the Black Hills; however, historical accounts do place bighorn sheep near the park. The park lacks good sheep habitat and has no evidence of sheep occupation such as skeletal remains.</li> <li>• The black-footed ferret is the only known federally listed mammal species in the park. Black-footed ferrets were reintroduced in 2007 under an Endangered Species Act 10A-1A permit and are considered endangered in the park. They are estimated at a minimum number of 45–52 (2010 survey). These populations are now year-round residents in the prairie dog towns in the park.</li> <li>• The park heavily manages the bison herd to the point of an annual roundup, medical inspections and treatment, and removal of excess bison beyond the capacity of the park's rangeland to support bison. The park also has opened up springs to promote dispersion of the bison. Brucellosis testing is done during the annual bison roundups, unless deferred due to other needs. In October 2009, a bison roundup was conducted and the herd size was reduced to approximately 325 bison including 73 calves; 113 bison were removed from the park.</li> <li>• Bison populations are maintained at a level of between 350–500 animals.</li> <li>• Threats to bison include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ small herd size</li> <li>○ unnatural culling practices</li> <li>○ cattle gene introgression (historical and recent events)</li> <li>○ diseases (brucellosis, anthrax, tuberculosis, foot and mouth disease, <i>Salmonella</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Resource: Native Wildlife</b>	
	<p><i>enteritis</i>, Blue Tongue, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, bovine viral diarrhea virus, malignant catarrhal fever, bovine respiratory syncytial virus, Johne's disease, West Nile virus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ limitations on rangeland/forage availability</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Healthy animal populations are maintained per approved management plans.</li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Resource: Native Vegetation (Mixed-Grass Prairie Communities)</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave National Park supports one of the last remaining examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities found in the Black Hills.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wind Cave National Park is composed of exemplary examples of mixed grass, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities where natural processes are allowed to function over a large area. These communities are rare and are the last remaining in the Black Hills. The park includes 9 of the 15 exemplary sites of vegetative communities of the Black Hills.</li> <li>● The park protects complex and diverse ecosystems that include a mixing zone of eastern, western/northern, and southern flora and fauna.</li> <li>● Animals and plants sacred to American Indians exist in the park. These plants and animals figure in tradition and stories, are used in medicines and ceremonies, and are an important part of the national park ecosystem.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Surface vegetation consists of ponderosa pine, occupying 20% to 25% of the surface, and prairie, occupying 75% to 80% of the surface. Vegetation can be further identified as forb-short grass types, mid-grass types, tall grass types, deciduous trees, and pine forest communities.</li> <li>● The original parklands and the parcels added later have been variously affected by grazing, fire suppression, and other factors. In recent years, programs have been implemented to maintain elk and bison herds at planned levels and to reintroduce fires as a natural component of the ecosystem.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Healthy plant communities are maintained in accordance with approved management plans.</li> <li>● Research of endemic flora and fauna is encouraged to establish management goals.</li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Resource: Water Resources including Hydrology</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	<p>Wind Cave is one of the longest, oldest, and most complex caves in the world, and contains the largest concentration of boxwork, a rare cave formation first described at Wind Cave. Wind Cave is also one of the best places to view remnants of ancient sediment-filled caves (i.e., paleokarst).</p> <p>Wind Cave National Park supports one of the most intact prairie wildlife communities in North America, with pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, prairie dogs, mountain lion, endangered black-footed ferret, and genetically diverse and brucellosis-free American bison.</p> <p>Wind Cave National Park supports one of the last remaining examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities found in the Black Hills.</p>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water resources are important for maintaining cave biota, ungulate populations, and vegetative communities.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Historical information indicates that longer stretches of flowing surface waters existed in the early decades of the 20th century. The main branch of the Beaver Creek drainage once</li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Resource: Water Resources including Hydrology</b>	
	<p>contained more surface water than now exists. Beaver Creek originates outside the park and is influenced by external activities such as wells, stock diversions, irrigation and other removal projects. It is also theorized that some of the reduction in flow is caused by the steadily increasing forest cover in the watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springs have been developed to provide a more dependable water source for large ungulates. The intent is to help disperse bison and elk usage in certain areas of the park that would otherwise not be used.</li> <li>• The perennial streams lose their flow underground where those streams cross the Pahasapa Limestone. Underground water movement is complex and is not fully understood. There is concern that altered drainage patterns (due to administrative site developments and landscaping) are affecting how water enters the cave.</li> <li>• Good water quality and quantity is important. Contaminated water from land uses within and adjacent to the park is infiltrating the cave and causing damage.</li> <li>• Many of the park's drainages originate outside the boundary; wells, stock diversions, irrigation, timber management, and other activities affect the water flows in the park.</li> <li>• Pesticide use above the cave could enter the cave and affect cave resources.</li> <li>• Water quality monitoring has been conducted. Results indicated that pollutants from the main parking lot had been found in the cave. As the result, the sewer lines were replaced with a dual-lined system and the parking lot was repaved with concrete.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological processes and the quality and quantity of surface and subsurface water are maintained and protected to support wildlife, vegetation, and cave resources.</li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Value: Exploration and Discovery of Wind Cave</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave is one of the longest, oldest, and most complex caves in the world, and contains the largest concentration of boxwork, a rare cave formation first described at Wind Cave. Wind Cave is also one of the best places to view remnants of ancient sediment-filled caves (i.e., paleo-karst).
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the first systematic explorer of Wind Cave, Alvin McDonald's early efforts, as detailed in his diary, reveal a tenacious teenager whose exploration efforts helped set into motion a chain of events that eventually led to Wind Cave's establishment as the first national park to protect a cave.</li> <li>• The presence of Alvin McDonald's gravesite memorial, the interpretation of his story and the cave's early history in the visitor center, and his graffiti in the cave all help to reveal his legacy of cave exploration and discovery at Wind Cave.</li> <li>• As early as the 1890s, explorers have been surveying and mapping passages in the cave, and have made many significant discoveries about the cave, such as the room called Rome, the Spillway passage that leads to miles of previously unknown passages, Calcite Lake, Windy City Grotto, and the Blowhole entrance.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration is allowed on a limited basis to experienced cavers</li> <li>• Artifacts, sites, historic graffiti and other resources associated with Alvin McDonald are either protected in situ, or are stored in the Wind Cave National Park collection.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources associated with the story of Alvin McDonald's exploration are maintained and protected to NPS standards, in order to retain their historic integrity and interpret the story of Alvin McDonald.</li> <li>• Passages are protected for future generations to enjoy and study. When exploration conflicts with preservation, preservation comes first.</li> </ul>

## ANALYSIS OF OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES OR VALUES

<b>Other Important Resource: Origin Story</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave is considered a sacred site for many American Indian tribes. This setting gives a sense of life and spiritually that fosters respect, cultural understanding, and an appreciation for the diverse cultures that have cared for this special place.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the Great Plains tribes consider Wind Cave the place where their ancestors came up from the underworld and where the bison, which they depended on for life, also emerged.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional offerings are occasionally left at the natural entrance. Because it is considered sacred, some American Indians do not enter the cave.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service works with American Indians to ensure accurate representation of the American Indian story. Visitors know that the cave is considered a sacred site by many American Indian tribes.</li> </ul>

<b>Other Important Resource: Viewshed/Vista</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave National Park provides one of the most expansive unobstructed beautiful natural vistas, night skies, and natural soundscapes found in the Black Hills region.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewshed and unobstructed long vistas of the park provide a backdrop for viewing the extraordinary abundance of native animal species. From them, a visitor can visualize the park as it might have appeared in prehistoric time, before the advent of modern development.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is managed to maintain herds of bison, pronghorn, elk, prairie dogs and deer (and other native wildlife). The views into and out of the park's southern boundary are threatened by the development of small ranchettes.</li> <li>Wind Cave air quality is considered to be moderate rather than good, but visibility is stable or improving as indicated by the number of clear days compared to hazy days. Wind Cave is one of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources' air monitoring sites.</li> <li>Sulphur deposition and ozone levels (ground level smog) may affect vegetation. The smog is due to the oxidation of nitrogen oxides from combustion sources and volatile organic compounds from industrial processes; and sulphur deposition, in the form of sulphur dioxide, concentrations result largely from stationary sources burning coal and oil, such as electric utilities and industrial boilers.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Park views continue to have unobstructed beautiful vistas, with little or no air pollution.</li> </ul>

<b>Other Important Resource or Value: Solitude/Soundscapes</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	Wind Cave National Park provides one of the most expansive unobstructed beautiful natural vistas, night skies, and natural soundscapes of the Black Hills landscape.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The feeling of solitude within the park, communication with nature, uninterrupted by other visitors is an important experience every visitor should have.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solitude exists away from the visitor center/cave complex and away from Park Roads 5 and 6 and also Highway 385.</li> <li>Development of ranchettes on park boundaries could increase traffic through the park and increase associated noise.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors can readily find solitude/natural sounds within the park without disruption.</li> </ul>

<b>Other Important Resource: Archeological Sites</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park’s significance statements.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind Cave National Park contains many archeological sites, including one of the oldest archeological rock shelter sites, dating back nearly 7,000 years, in the Black Hills.</li> <li>Wind Cave National Park contains 76 recorded archeological sites. These include both prehistoric and historic sites with features such as rock art, rock shelters, tipi rings, rock cairns, kill sites, quarries, lithic scatters, lithic reduction sites, historic homestead sites, and dump sites or middens. Of these, one site, the Beaver Creek Rock Shelter, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (national register). Three sites have been determined eligible for listing in the national register in concurrence with the South Dakota state historic preservation officer. The remaining sites have been either determined not eligible for the national register or are recommended potentially eligible for the national register pending an official determination.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archeological sites are in varying conditions. Some damage could occur from burrowing animals or the hoof action of large animals such as bison and elk. “Pothunting” does not appear to be a problem. Damage to sites could be caused by improper activities associated with fire management practices, or erosion/climate change could occur.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All archeological sites are documented and evaluated for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.</li> <li>All national register-eligible or listed archeological sites are preserved and are monitored to document status.</li> </ul>

<b>Other Important Resource: Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park's significance statements.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Cave National Park protects 29 structures in the national register, most of which comprise the Wind Cave Administrative and Utility Area Historic District. This historic district is listed under criterion A for their association with the CCC and also under criterion C for their local significance.</li> <li>• The 2005 Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Report identifies two cultural landscapes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Wind Cave National Park Historic District, which is an expansion of the Wind Cave Administrative and Utility Area Historic District, and has a period of significance of 1890–1941.</li> <li>○ The South Dakota 87 Historic District, which extends the length of the SD 87 corridor within the park. This district is recommended national register-eligible, but has not been nominated or listed in the national register.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 of 29 historic structures and surrounding landscape are maintained in good condition.</li> <li>• One bridge is one-lane-only and subject to some possible damage from visitor or staff use.</li> <li>• A threat to historic structures is fire.</li> <li>• Carpenter ants and rodents pose threats to the historic structures and require constant management through the IPM process.</li> <li>• Invasive species could change the appearance of the cultural landscape.</li> <li>• Weather conditions could affect building and landscape conditions.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All historic structures and significant features and elements of cultural landscapes are maintained to retain their national register qualities in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> (1995).</li> <li>• Amend the national register nomination for the Wind Cave National Park Historic District to include cultural landscape features, in accordance with the 2005 Wind Cave National Park Cultural Landscape Report.</li> <li>• Nominate the South Dakota 87 Historic District to the national register.</li> </ul>

<b>Other Important Resource: Paleontology</b>	
Related Significance Statement(s)	The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park's significance statements.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Cave National Park contains significant paleontological resources spanning the period from the Paleozoic to the Holocene, (360 million to 2000 years ago).</li> </ul>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential paleo poaching holes have been documented within most of the paleontological sites found in the White River Brule Formation within park boundaries.</li> <li>• Ongoing natural erosion exposes fossils in the easily eroded silty clay stones of the Brule Formation.</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paleontological resources are Identified, researched, documented, and protected in order to understand the history of present-day flora and fauna.</li> </ul>

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Primary interpretive themes are the most important ideas and concepts of the park that need to be communicated to provide people with opportunities to understand and appreciate the park's resources. These themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose and significance. Primary interpretive themes connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values.

The following are identified as primary interpretive themes:

- Wind Cave, one of the oldest, longest, and most complex three-dimensional maze caves in the world, is a vast underground frontier that is still being explored and studied.
- Wind Cave has a large variety of cave formations, including 95% of the world's boxwork. These require great care and wise management to ensure their protection and survival for scientific enlightenment, human inspiration, and the enjoyment of future generations.
- The entrance to Wind Cave and its unique winds, a sacred site to many American Indian tribes, offers a sense of life and spirituality that fosters respect, cultural understanding, and an appreciation for the diverse cultures that have cared for and about this special place.
- Wind Cave National Park protects a spectacular night sky and some of the finest examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities. These natural resources are superb remnants of what once covered a large portion of the central North American continent.
- The survival of the thriving prairie wildlife community at Wind Cave, including species that once came close to extinction such as bison, elk, pronghorn, and black-footed ferrets, is a result of the early efforts of conservationists, the establishment of the Wind Cave Game Preserve in 1912, and the continued dedication of resource managers.
- Exploring the park's diverse surface world, its mysterious subsurface, and their relationship to the human world provides insight into natural processes and the opportunity to investigate how everything is connected and how change has consequences.
- The paleontological resources of Wind Cave National Park provide opportunities to explore the stories of ancient earth and the evolution of life.
- The many archeological sites amidst the abundant resources and sometimes harsh conditions of the Black Hills' landscape illustrate the lasting connections of native people with the land and their instinct of survival and perseverance common to all human beings.
- The park preserves evidence of human struggles, perseverance, and accomplishments illustrated by the fortitude of the American Indians, the passion of Alvin McDonald, and the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- The establishment, growth, and endurance of Wind Cave National Park, the first cave to be preserved as a national park, parallels the changing perspectives of how to preserve and protect the remarkable resources entrusted to the National Park Service.

## ASSOCIATED SIGNIFICANCE, RESOURCES AND VALUES, AND THEMES

**Significance Statement:** Wind Cave is one of the longest, oldest, and most complex caves in the world, and contains the largest concentration of boxwork, a rare cave formation first described at Wind Cave. Wind Cave is also one of the best places to view remnants of ancient sediment-filled caves (i.e., paleo-karst).

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Cave and Karst Features
- Water Resources including Hydrology
- Exploration and Discovery of Wind Cave

**Primary Interpretive Theme(s)**

- Wind Cave, one of the oldest, longest, and most complex three-dimensional maze caves in the world, is a vast underground frontier that is still being explored and studied.
- Wind Cave has a large variety of cave formations, including 95% of the world's boxwork, requiring great care and wise management to ensure their protection and survival for scientific enlightenment, human inspiration, and the enjoyment of future generations.
- Exploring the park's diverse surface world, its mysterious subsurface, and their relationship to the human world provides insight into natural processes and the opportunity to investigate how everything is connected and how change has consequences.



**Significance Statement:** Wind Cave National Park supports one of the most intact prairie wildlife communities in North America, with pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, prairie dogs, mountain lion, endangered black-footed ferret, and genetically diverse and brucellosis-free American Bison.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Water Resources including Hydrology
- Native Wildlife

**Primary Interpretive Theme(s)**

- The survival of the thriving prairie wildlife community at Wind Cave, including species that once came close to extinction such as bison, elk, pronghorn, and black-footed ferrets, is a result of the early efforts of conservationists, the establishment of the Wind Cave Game Preserve in 1912, and the continued dedication of resource managers.
- Exploring the park's diverse surface world, its mysterious subsurface, and their relationship to the human world provides insight into natural processes and the opportunity to investigate how everything is connected and how change has consequences.



**Significance Statement:** Wind Cave National Park supports one of the last remaining examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities found in the Black Hills.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Native Vegetation (Mixed-Grass Prairie Communities)
- Water Resources including Hydrology

**Primary Interpretive Theme(s)**

- Wind Cave National Park protects a spectacular night sky and some of the finest examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities, superb remnants of what once covered a large portion of the central North American continent.
- Exploring the park's diverse surface world, its mysterious subsurface, and their relationship to the human world provides insight into natural processes and the opportunity to investigate how everything is connected and how change has consequences.



**Significance Statement:** Wind Cave is considered a sacred site by many American Indian Great Plains tribes, some of whom identify it as their origin site.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Origin Story
- Native Wildlife
- Native Vegetation (Mixed-Grass Prairie Communities)

**Primary Interpretive Theme(s)**

- The entrance to Wind Cave and its unique winds, a sacred site to many American Indian tribes, offers a sense of life and spirituality that fosters respect, cultural understanding, and an appreciation for the diverse cultures that have cared for and about this special place.
- The park preserves evidence of human struggles, perseverance, and accomplishments illustrated by the fortitude of the American Indians, the passion of Alvin McDonald, and the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- The many archeological sites amidst the abundant resources and sometimes harsh conditions of the Black Hills' landscape illustrate the lasting connections of native people with the land and their instinct of survival and perseverance common to all human beings.

**Significance Statement:** Wind Cave National Park provides one of the most expansive unobstructed beautiful natural vistas, night skies, and natural soundscapes of the Black Hills landscape.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Viewshed/Vista
- Solitude/Soundscapes

**Primary Interpretive Theme(s)**

- Wind Cave National Park protects a spectacular night sky and some of the finest examples of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine, and riparian plant communities, superb remnants of what once covered a large portion of the central North American continent.
- Exploring the park's diverse surface world, its mysterious subsurface, and their relationship to the human world provides insight into natural processes and the opportunity to investigate how everything is connected and how change has consequences.



The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park’s significance statements.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Paleontological Resources

***Primary Interpretive Theme(s)***

- The paleontological resources of Wind Cave National Park provide opportunities to explore the stories of ancient earth and the evolution of life.



The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park’s significance statements.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Archeological Resources

***Primary Interpretive Theme(s)***

- The many archeological sites amidst the abundant resources and sometimes harsh conditions of the Black Hills’ landscape illustrate the lasting connections of native people with the land and their instinct of survival and perseverance common to all human beings.
- The park preserves evidence of human struggles, perseverance, and accomplishments illustrated by the fortitude of the American Indians, the passion of Alvin McDonald, and the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps.



The following “Other Important Resource or Value” does not have a significance statement directly associated with it. Under NPS policy, “Other Important Resources or Values” are not required to have a direct relationship with a park’s significance statements.

**Related Fundamental or Other Important Resources and Values:**

- Historic Structures / Cultural Landscapes

***Primary Interpretive Theme(s)***

- The establishment, growth, and endurance of Wind Cave National Park, the first cave to be preserved as a national park, parallels the changing perspectives of how to preserve and protect the remarkable resources entrusted to the National Park Service.



# SPECIAL MANDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS

## Special Mandates

Special mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to a specific park. These special mandates may be legislative requirements or signed agreements that add another dimension to a park unit's purpose and significance (such as the designation of an area as wilderness). They may commit managers to specific actions (such as a mandate to allow hunting) or limit their ability to modify land use in the park unit (such as when an easement is in place). Following are some mandates and constraints specific to Wind Cave National Park.

**Water Source Purchase, 1931.** In 1931, the National Park Service purchased 101 acres of land (from the McAdam Ranch) that included two spring boxes, some of the surrounding watershed, and a 2-inch pipeline. The water source had been developed prior to 1931 by the Bureau of Biological Survey. The deed for the property and associated water system, dated August 28, 1931, and registered in Custer County Book of Deeds Number IS, page 263, also included a 10-foot right-of-way for the waterline and an access easement "... to the springs and pipeline aforesaid at all times over any existing traveled ways and over the fields of the parties of the first part to the pipeline where the least damage to the property will be done." In conjunction with this, the U.S. Forest Service—through a special-use permit dated May 16, 1932, and still in effect—granted to the park the use of 40 acres for protection of the watershed in the area.

Another important element of the legislation was to provide that "... the State of South Dakota will allow a minimum of ten thousand gallons of water per day to pass from (Custer State Park)..." to Wind Cave National Park.

**Highways Relinquished to Wind Cave National Park.** Through a State of South Dakota act dated March 8, 1947, the State Highway Commission and the Board of County Commissioners of Custer County relinquished to

the United States for use, construction, and maintenance the portions of public highways within the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park. This relinquishment ceded the jurisdiction of the subject highways to the United States. The two main arteries affected are U.S. Route 385 and State Route 87.

Pringle Cut-Off Road, Sections 11 and 14, TSS, R5E. On November 7, 1951, through Deed Number 45, the Custer County Commissioners transferred to the National Park Service maintenance responsibility of a county road (Pringle Cut-Off) in the northwest corner of the park with the following stipulations:

- The road will remain open and unobstructed as a public thoroughfare.
- The road shall not be closed by gates or fences.

**Right-of-Way Exchange, Black Hills Electric Cooperative.** Upon acquisition of the previously mentioned 232 acres, the National Park Service negotiated an exchange of rights-of-way with the Black Hills Electric Cooperative. On June 14, 1988, the U.S. government granted a right-of-way along the southern boundary of the newly acquired property (Sections 23 and 24, T6S, R5E). This easement consisted of a 20-foot-wide corridor running east-west along the new boundary. A minor variation was made in the vicinity of the Schroeder property (SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 23, T6S, R5E). In exchange, the Black Hills Electric Cooperative transferred a 20-foot-wide easement running east-west approximately 1/8 mile south of the pre-1978 Wind Cave National Park boundary. This easement was officially transferred upon the cooperative's relocation of the powerline in January 1989. This exchange was effected in order to facilitate the relocation of the powerline to a less visually impacting corridor. An "administrative" right-of-way document has been established to identify conditions under which the Black Hills Electric Cooperative, or its designee, can access the new right-of-way. This document is administrative in nature because the right-of-way has been previously awarded

through a legally recorded right-of-way exchange.

**Rights-of-Way, South and West Boundary Access Roads.** Two easements and rights-of-way are authorized for use by residents adjacent to the acreage acquired in 1987 (Sections 23 and 24, T6S. R5E). Said easements are recorded in Book 2S of Miscellaneous, page 132 and Book 29 of Miscellaneous, page 235. Wind Cave National Park staff developed a right-of-way document, that is strictly for administrative use, for the purpose of delineating specific requirements that the National Park Service needs from the users of said easements to ensure protection of park resources and values. The National Park Service has the obligation, based on the above-stated deeds, to permit ingress and egress but is under no obligation to provide for the maintenance or upgrading of these roads.

**Concurrent Jurisdiction, 1980.** On February 27, 1980, the state of South Dakota enacted a law that ceded to Wind Cave National Park—as well as Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Badlands National Park, and Jewel Cave National Monument—concurrent jurisdiction. This cession was accepted by the National Park Service through a letter dated June 9, 1980, and confirmed through the governor's signature on August 27, 1980. The state of South Dakota had ceded exclusive jurisdiction through state legislation on March 9, 1917; however, the cession was never accepted and the act was never rescinded.

**Interagency Agreement, Water Gauging Station.** An agreement between Wind Cave National Park and the U.S. Geological Survey, activated on January 31, 1991, establishes the access, construction procedures, and conditions of joint management of a water-gauging station on the south side of Beaver Creek, approximately 200 feet downstream from the mouth of Cold Spring Creek.

**Cooperative Agreements, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).** On November 12, 1982, the state of South Dakota placed the Wind Cave bison herd under quarantine because of brucellosis infection. A cooperative agreement between the South Dakota Livestock Sanitary Board, the Department of

Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Wind Cave National Park established conditions for eradication of brucellosis in the herd. In December of 1986, the quarantine was lifted after a testing and vaccination program reduced the incidence of brucellosis test reactors to zero. This further led to intrastate shipment of live surplus bison to various recipients. The first shipment occurred in October of 1987, with recipients paying roundup expenses on a pro rata cost-sharing basis. This program is expected to continue under the conditions of the existing cooperative agreement.

**Fees, Entrance and User.** Entrance fees are not collected at the park. The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, 17.13(b), states that entrance fees will not be charged on "... any road or highway established as part of the National Federal-Aid Highway System, which is commonly used by the public as a means of travel between two places...." Recreation (user) fees are charged for cave tours and camping.

**Cooperative Agreement, Black Hills Parks and Forest Association.** This agreement took effect November 1, 2010, between the National Park Service and the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. The association agrees to provide interpretive and educational services to the public. The chief interpreter is the agency representative for Wind Cave National Park.

**General Agreement for Bison Management.** This is an annual agreement between the park and the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative to assign and define responsibilities of each party regarding surplus bison disposal at Wind Cave National Park. Agreement covers roundup, transfer, transportation and financial reimbursement activities.

**Cooperative Fire Management Agreement.** This agreement, signed in 2007, defines management protocols and allows for the exchange of expertise and resources in all aspects of fire management activities. Activities include firefighting, fuels management and cooperation in training personnel devolvement.

**Delegation of fire management authority.** This agreement allows the Northern Great Plains Fire Office to act on behalf of the park superintendent

in the management of most business functions for fire management. It gives the authority to represent and advocate for the park in the greater fire community.

Although it does not wholly delegate the wildland firefighting responsibilities, it does offer the ability to coordinate the cooperation needed to manage some incidents, and assert the adherence to fire policy in firefighting activities. This agreement must be renewed annually.

**Memorandum of Agreement, U.S. Forest Service.** This agreement provides for cross-designation of law enforcement authority between Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hills National Forest, and the Nebraska National Forest.

**General Agreement between the State of South Dakota and Wind Cave National Park.**

This agreement establishes standard operating procedures for handling accidental bison exchanges between the park and state lands and reaffirms the commitment to maintain the fence that serves as a common boundary between the two parks.

**Cooperative Agreement, Centennial Trail.**

In 1988, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and State of South Dakota entered into an agreement for the development and maintenance of this 111-mile trail system. These cooperative efforts are still underway.

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## APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

### **An Act To set apart certain lands in the State of South Dakota as a public park to be known as the “Wind Cave National Park,” approved January 9, 1903 (32 Stat.765)**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the united States of America in Congress assembled,* That there are hereby reserved from settlement, entry, sale, or other disposal, and set apart as a public park, all those certain tracts, pieces, or parcels of land lying and being situated in the State of South Dakota and within the boundaries particularly described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of section thirteen, township six south, range five east, Black Hills meridian, South Dakota; thence westerly, to the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section sixteen, said township; thence northerly along the quarter-section lines to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section four, said township; thence easterly to the southwest corner of section thirty-four, township five south, range five east; thence northerly to the northwest corner of said section; thence easterly to the northeast corner of section thirty-one, township five south, range six east; thence southerly along the section lines to the southeast corner of section seven, township six south, range six east; thence westerly to the southwest corner of said section; thence southerly to the southeast corner of section thirteen, township six south, range five east, the place of beginning: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any valid rights acquired in connection with any of the lands embraced within the limits of said park. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 141)

SEC. 2. That said park shall be known as the “Wind Cave National Park” and shall be under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be to prescribe such rules and regulations and establish such service as he may deem necessary for the care and management of the same. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 142)

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized, in the exercise of his discretion, to rent or lease, under rules and regulations to be made by him, the cavern underlying the above-described lands, and also pieces and parcels of ground within said park for the erection of such buildings as may be required for the accommodation of visitors. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 143)

SEC. 4. That all funds arising from such rentals or leases shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as a special fund to be expended in the care and improvement of said park. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 144)

SEC. 5. That in cases in which a tract covered by an unperfected bona fide claim or by a patent is included within the limits of this park, the settler or owner thereof may, if he desired to do so, relinquish the tract to the Government and secure other land, outside of the park, in accordance with the provisions of the law relating to the subject of such relinquishment of lands in forest reserves in the State of South Dakota. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 145)

SEC. 6. That all person who shall unlawfully intrude upon said park, or who shall without permission appropriate any object therein or commit unauthorized injury or waste in any form whatever upon the lands or other public property therein, or who shall violate any of the rules and regulations prescribed hereunder, shall upon conviction, be fined in a sum not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned for a period not more than twelve months, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 146)

**Agricultural Department Appropriation Act of Aug. 10, 1912 ch. 294. Wind Cave National Game Preserve establishment]**

For the establishment of a national game preserve, to be known as the Wind Cave National Game Preserve, upon the land embraced within the boundaries of the Wind Cave National Park, in the State of South Dakota, for a permanent national range for a herd of buffalo to be presented to the United States by the American Bison Society, and for such other native American game animals as may be placed therein. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire by purchase or condemnation such adjacent lands as may be necessary for the purpose of assuring an adequate, permanent water supply, and to enclose the said game preserve with a good and substantial fence and to erect therein all necessary sheds and buildings for the proper care and maintenance of the said animals, twenty-six thousand dollars, to be available until expended [37 Stat.L. 223)

**An Act to extend the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota, approved March 4, 1931 (46 Stat. 1518)**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of American in Congress assembled, That the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota are hereby extended to include the lands within the east half of the southwest quarter, southeast quarter section 26, south half of the section 25, east half of section 33, township 5 south, range 5 east, and south half section 30, township 5 south, range 6 east, Black Hills meridian, South Dakota, comprising in park a part of the Harney National Forest. Such lands are hereby made a part of Wind Cave National Park, and shall hereafter be subject to all laws and regulations applicable to such park. (U.S.C., 6th supp., title 16, sec. 141a)

**Excerpt from An Act To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, and certain other Acts relating to game and other wildlife, administered by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes, approved June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378, 383)**

**TITLE VI-TRANSFER OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

SECTION 601. That, effective July 1, 1935, the Wind Cave National Game Preserve in the State of South Dakota; be, and the same is hereby, abolished, and all the property, real or personal, comprising the same is hereby transferred to and made a part of the Wind Cave National Park and the same shall hereafter be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a part of said park, subject to all laws and regulations applicable thereto, for the purposes expressed in the Act of August 10, 1912 (37 Sta. 268-293), establishing said game preserve. (16 U.S.C. sec. 141b)

**An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of surplus buffalo and elk of the Wind Cave National Park herd and for other purposes, approved June 16, 1938 (52 Stat. 708)**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in his discretion and under regulations to be prescribed by him, to sell or otherwise dispose of the surplus buffalo and elk of the Wind Cave National Park herd.

SEC. 2. All moneys received from the sale of any such surplus animals, or products thereof, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. (16 U.S.C. sec. 141c)

**An Act To revise the boundaries of Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes, approved August 9, 1946 (60 Stat. 970)**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park is hereby established as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of section 13, township 6 south, range 5 east; thence west to the southwest corner of section 15, township 6 south, range 5 east; thence north to the west quarter corner of section 10, township 6 south, range 5 east; thence to the north quarter corner of section 10, township 6 south, range 5 east; thence to the west quarter corner of section 2, township 6 south, range 5 east; thence north to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 11, township 5 south, range 5 east; thence to the north quarter corner of section 11, township 5 south, range 5 east; thence to the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 2, township 5 south, range 5 east, thence east to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 6, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence in a southeasterly direction to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 7, township 5 south, range 6 east along a line to be mutually acceptable to the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission and the Secretary of the Interior; thence from the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 7, township 5 south, range 6 east; east to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 12, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence south to the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 12, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence east to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 7, township 5 south, range 7 east; thence south to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 5 south, range 7 east; thence west to the northeast corner of section 24, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence south to the southeast corner of section 24, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence west to the southwest corner of section 24, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence south to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 35, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence west to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 35, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence south to the southeast corner of section 34, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence west to the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 33, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence north to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 28, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence west to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 29, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence west to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 29, township 5 south, range 6 east; thence south to the southeast corner of section 7, township 6 south, range 6 east; thence west to the southwest corner of section 7, township 6 south, range 6 east; thence south to the southeast corner of section 13, township 6 south, range 5 east; the point of beginning, and all of those lands lying within the boundary above described, together with the south half of the northeast quarter and the west half of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 32, township 5 south, range 5 east, are hereby included in and made a part of the Wind Cave National Park and shall be subject to all laws and regulations applicable thereto. (16 U.S.C. §141a)

SEC. 2. All those lands which by section 1 thereof are excluded from the Wind Cave National Park as heretofore constituted and those lands of the Custer Recreational Demonstration Area lying in section 2, township 5 south, range 5 east, Black Hills meridian, are hereby included in and made a part of the Harney National Forest, and hereafter shall be subject to all laws and regulations applicable to the national forests.

SEC. 3. All those lands heretofore within the Custer Recreational Demonstration Area and which are not included within the Wind Cave National Park by virtue of section 1 hereof, except those lands of the Custer Recreational Demonstration Area lying in section 2, township 5 south, range 5 east, Black Hills meridian, which are included within the Harney National Forest by virtue of section 2 hereof, shall be conveyed by the Secretary of the Interior to the State of South Dakota for addition to the Custer State Park for public park, recreational, and conservation purposes (subject, however, to a proviso that the State of South Dakota will allow a minimum of ten thousand gallons of water per day to pass from springs or streams in these lands into the lands of Wind Cave national Park as herein described) as soon as all lands owned by the State of South Dakota lying within the boundaries of the Wind Cave National Park as described in section 1 hereof are conveyed to the United States; and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 2, township 5 south, range 5 east, Black Hills meridian, owned by the State of

South Dakota, is conveyed to the United States to be included in the Harney National Forest as provided in section 2 hereof: Provided, however, That section 25, township 5 south, range 6 east, of the Custer Recreational Demonstration Area shall be conveyed by the Secretary of the Interior to the State of South Dakota as State school lands.

**An Act to authorize additional appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho (92 Stat. 3467) (P.L. 95-625) (Approved November 10, 1978)**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**TITLE III-BOUNDARY CHANGES**

SEC. 301. The boundaries of the following units of the National Park System are revised as follows, and there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, but not exceed the amounts specified in the following paragraphs for acquisitions of lands and interests in lands within areas added by reason of such revisions:

(21) Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota: To add approximately two hundred and twenty-eight acres as generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota", numbered 108-80,008, and dated July 1977: \$227,000.

SEC. 302. Within twelve months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed map or other detailed descriptions of the lands added or excluded from any area pursuant to section 301.

SEC. 303. (a) Within the boundaries of the areas as revised in accordance with section 301, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer from any other Federal agency. Lands and interest therein so acquired shall become part of the area to which they are added, and shall be subjected to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable thereto. When acquiring any land pursuant to this title, the Secretary may acquire any such land subject to the retention of a right of use and occupancy for a term not to exceed twenty-five years or for the life of the owner or owners. Lands owned by a State or political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation.

(b)(1) Lands and interests therein deleted from any area pursuant to section 301 may be exchanged for non-Federal lands within the revised boundaries of such area, or transferred to the jurisdiction of any other Federal agency or to a State or political subdivision thereof, without monetary consideration, or be administered as public lands by the Secretary, as the Secretary may deem appropriate.

(2) In exercising the authority contained in this section with respect to lands and interest therein deleted from any such area which were acquired from a State, the Secretary may, on behalf of the United States, transfer to such State exclusive or concurrent legislative jurisdiction over such lands, subject to such terms and conditions as he may deem appropriate, to be effective upon acceptance thereof by the State.

(c) It is the established policy of Congress that wilderness, wildlife conservation, and park and recreation values of real property owned by the United States be conserved, enhanced, and developed. It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that unutilized, underutilized, or excess Federal real property be timely studied as to suitability for wilderness, wildlife conservation, or park and recreation purposes. To implement this policy, the Secretary, the Administrator of General Services, and the Director of the Office of Management and budget shall establish a system with appropriate procedures to permit the Secretary full and early opportunity to make such studies and propose appropriate recommendations to disposing agencies for consideration in connection with determinations of further utilization or disposal of such

property under existing law. Each affected executive agency is authorized and directed to provide to the secretary such advice and information relating to such studies as the Secretary may request.

SEC. 304. The authorities in this title are supplementary to any other authorities available to the Secretary with respect to the acquisition, development, and administration of the areas referred to in section 301.

**An Act to revise the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota. (119 Stat. 2011) (P.L. 109-71) (Approved September 21, 2005)**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**SEC. 1.SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act of 2005.”

**SEC. 2.DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

- (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision,” numbered 108/80, 030, and dated June 2002.
- (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Wind Cave National Park in the State.
- (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of South Dakota.

**SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION.**

**(a) AUTHORITY.—**

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire the land or interest in land described in subsection (b)(1) for addition to the Park.
- (2) MEANS.—An acquisition of land under paragraph (1) may be made by donation, purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

**(b) BOUNDARY.—**

- (1) MAP AND ACREAGE.—The land referred to in subsection(a)(1) shall consist of approximately 5,675 acres, as generally depicted on the map.
- (2) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.
- (3) REVISION.—The boundary of the Park shall be adjusted to reflect the acquisition of land under subsection (a)(1).

**SEC. 4.ADMINISTRATION.**

**(a) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary shall administer any land acquired under section 3(a)(1) as part of the Park in accordance with laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

**(b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—**

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall transfer from the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to the Director of the National Park Service administrative jurisdiction over the land described in paragraph (2).
- (2) MAP AND ACREAGE.—The land referred to in paragraph(1) consists of the approximately 80 acres of land identified on the map as “Bureau of Land Management land.

SEC. 5.GRAZING.

(a) GRAZING PERMITTED.—Subject to any permits or leases inexistence as of the date of acquisition, the Secretary may permit the continuation of livestock grazing on land acquired under section3(a)(1).

(b) LIMITATION.—Grazing under subsection (a) shall be at not more than the level existing on the date on which the land is acquired under section 3(a)(1).

(c) PURCHASE OF PERMIT OR LEASE.—The Secretary may purchase the outstanding portion of a grazing permit or lease on any land acquired under section 3(a)(1).

(d) TERMINATION OF LEASES OR PERMITS.—The Secretary may accept the voluntary termination of a permit or lease for grazing on any acquired land.

## APPENDIX B: PLANNING NEEDS

Note: the actions described in the table below are reiterated from previous planning documents, and are not being introduced for the first time in this Foundation Statement.

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
<b>Cave and Karst Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize impacts along tour routes.</li> <li>• Ensure that in-cave infrastructure that is necessary to provide safe access will have minimal impacts on cave and karst resources.</li> <li>• Manage activities in Wind Cave to have minimal impact on the cave's natural biotic communities.</li> <li>• Identify, document, and protect geological resources.</li> <li>• Identify biological resources and maintain natural biodiversity.</li> <li>• Identify and maintain natural environment.</li> <li>• Work within the guidelines of the 1994 general management plan and the Developed Zone defined therein, ensure that proposed development does not alter or adversely impact karst or cave processes.</li> <li>• The Walk-In Entrance was partially sealed in 1992 with a revolving door. Replace revolving door with a true airlock door to protect environmental conditions in the cave.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 Cave and Karst Resource Management Plan</li> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Native Wildlife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain healthy plant and animal populations.</li> <li>• Maintain wildlife populations at a level that is in harmony with the maintenance of natural plant communities.</li> <li>• Use management-ignited, prescribed fire as a tool to perpetuate native plant and animal species and communities, eradicate and minimize the opportunity for encroachment of alien plant species, and reduce hazardous fuel accumulations.</li> <li>• Make the park available to educators from elementary through university levels as a valuable educational resource.</li> <li>• Encourage researchers from other agencies and universities to use the park for scientific studies of the endemic flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Reintroduce the black-footed ferret to Wind Cave National Park as a nonessential, experimental population.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008 Elk Management Plan</li> <li>• 2006 Bison Management Plan</li> <li>• 2006 Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Plan</li> <li>• 2006 Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management Plan/EA</li> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>• 2003 Ethnographical Study (<i>The Home of the Bison</i>)</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul>

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
<p><b>Native Wildlife (continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reestablish a sustainable population of the ferret in Wind Cave National Park living among the black-tailed prairie dog complexes in the park—a black-footed ferret population that can withstand, or at least recover from, stochastic events such as severe winters or a disease outbreak such as sylvatic plague.</li> <li>• Maintain an elk herd of 350–400 elk; Herd population would be maintained with other wildlife so approximately 25% of total forage is used, while allowing natural variability in population size.</li> <li>• Establish a monitoring program to address the concern of maintaining the desired numbers while ensuring effective range utilization.</li> <li>• Maintain or increase the genetic integrity and diversity of the bison herd. (Bison numbers should remain above the minimum number of 350 to avoid problems with genetic diversity. Also, the park must make sure that other bison are not added to the herd so that the genetic significance is maintained.)</li> <li>• Manage the herd for health conditions resembling free ranging bison—free of nonnative diseases such as foot and mouth disease, brucellosis, tuberculosis, etc.—to avoid any need for de-population or any impacts on the ability to ship live animals to other locations.</li> <li>• Manage bison as an important ethnographic and cultural resource.</li> <li>• To the extent possible, allow bison to decompose on the prairie.</li> </ul> <p>Needs include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An up-to-date complete plant list that includes threatened, endangered, sensitive, and alien species.</li> <li>• Research on endemics, sensitive species and endemic disjuncts in order to provide adequate protection.</li> <li>• An updated comprehensive map of plant communities in the park.</li> <li>• Determine the overall effect of large ungulates on the park’s vegetation, including identification of preferred plant species of the grazers and completion of vegetative surveys to determine status of those plant species.</li> <li>• Research and monitoring programs to obtain an understanding of the vegetative baseline, ecosystem processes and inter-relations of plants and animals within the system.</li> <li>• Develop long-term strategies to address genetic diversity for bison and antelope in the park.</li> <li>• Detailed Information on raptor species.</li> <li>• More research on endangered, threatened, and rare species, including the monitoring sensitive wildlife species.</li> <li>• A survey of the cave’s biota and their habitat requirements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy</li> <li>• parkwide plant survey</li> </ul>

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
<b>Native Vegetation (Mixed-Grass Prairie Communities)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain healthy plant and animal populations.</li> <li>• Maintain wildlife populations at a level that is in harmony with the maintenance of natural plant communities.</li> <li>• Use management-ignited, prescribed fire as a tool to perpetuate native plant and animal species and communities, to eradicate and minimize the opportunity for encroachment of alien plant species, and to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations.</li> <li>• Make the park available to educators from elementary through university levels as a valuable educational resource.</li> <li>• Encourage researchers from other agencies and universities to use the park for scientific studies of the endemic flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Conduct research on native plants for the establishment of guidelines to assist in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ restoring native plant communities</li> <li>○ rehabilitating lands modified by pre-park agricultural activities</li> <li>○ restoring shrubs and hardwood stands that were impacted by wildlife some 15 to 20 years ago</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>• 2003 ethnographical study (<i>The Home of the Bison</i>)</li> <li>• 2000 Backcountry Management Plan</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• ethnobotanical study</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Water Resources including Hydrology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research the surface water resources in order to establish their physical and biological characteristics as a means of establishing and implementing water management programs.</li> <li>• Need additional research to document the extent of alteration to infiltration routes into the cave. Specifically, a study documenting surface drainage modification issues and documenting possible water loss to the cave from vegetative changes above the cave due to landscaping.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Exploration and Discovery at Wind Cave</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and protect all associated resources at NPS standards to retain their historic integrity and interpret the history of Wind Cave’s exploration and discovery, including the story of Alvin McDonald, the cave’s first explorer.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010 Historic Resource Study</li> <li>• 2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan(outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy; incorporate cultural resource inventory of the proposed boundary expansion</li> </ul>

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
Origin Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with American Indians to ensure accurate representation of the American Indian story regarding the site. As a sacred site, visitors to the cave should be apprised of the need to protect this site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 Historic Resource Study</li> <li>2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>2003 Ethnographical Study (<i>The Home of the Bison</i>)</li> <li>1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>updated general management plan</li> <li>resource stewardship strategy; incorporate cultural resource inventory of the proposed boundary expansion</li> </ul>
Viewshed/Vistas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain natural function of a variety of open (prairie), forested, and riparian habitats, allowing little or no air pollution, in order to preserve unobstructed beautiful vistas into and out of the park.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>updated general management plan</li> <li>resource stewardship strategy</li> <li>viewshed analysis</li> </ul>
Solitude/Soundscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The desired condition is that visitors and staff can readily find solitude within the park without constant disruption by other visitors.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>updated general management plan</li> <li>soundscape management plan</li> <li>resource stewardship strategy</li> </ul>

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
<p><b>Archeology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All archeological sites preserved with monitoring to document status.</li> <li>• Evaluate all sites via a parkwide survey for possible inclusion in the national register.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010 Historic Resource Study</li> <li>• 2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 2004 Archeological Inventory Project</li> <li>• 2004 The Impact of Wildland and Prescribed Fire on Archaeological Resources</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated general management plan resource stewardship strategy; incorporate cultural resource inventory of the proposed boundary expansion</li> </ul>
<p><b>Paleontology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paleontological resources are identified, documented, and protected.</li> <li>• Need research on park paleontological resources from Pleistocene and earlier times in order to understand the history of present-day flora and fauna and provide for appropriate protection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007Cave and Karst Resource Management Plan</li> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy</li> </ul>

Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value	Recommended Management Actions	Planning Efforts (Current / Needed)
<p><b>Historic Structures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain all historic structures and cultural landscapes at NPS standards to retain their national register qualities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010 Historic Resource Study</li> <li>• 2008 Historic Structures Report on CCC-era Bunkhouse</li> <li>• 2005 Cultural Landscape Report</li> <li>• 2005 Fire Management Plan</li> <li>• 1994 General Management Plan (outdated)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated general management plan</li> <li>• resource stewardship strategy; incorporate cultural resource inventory of the proposed boundary expansion</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX C: GENERAL LAW AND POLICY GUIDANCE

- National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*
- *Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77*, 2004
- DO-28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines*, 1998
- Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
- NPS Organic Act of 1916
- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988
- NPS 77: *Natural Resource Management Guidelines*
- NPS 14: *Cave Radon*
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43—Public Lands: Interior
- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Archeological Resources Protection Act
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation *Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties*
- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*
- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*
- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*
- EO 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites"
- EO 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- 36 CFR
- Clean Air Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- NPS *Museum Collections Management*
- NPS *Museum Handbook*