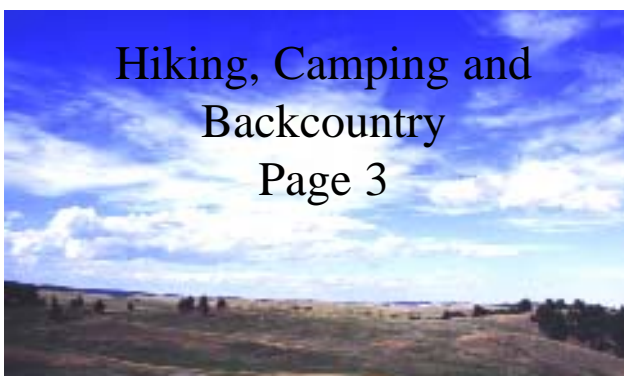




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Visitor's Guide to Wind Cave National Park

2005

Wind Cave National Park - Exploring New Worlds!

Wind Cave National Park offers a surprisingly complex landscape to visitors who take the time to explore it. Driving park roads provides the opportunity to view wildlife native to the Great Plains and the many different species of plants that support the wildlife. While hiking park trails, visitors can imagine what it might have been like for the first people to hunt and settle on the vast prairie. Going underground, visitors can see one of the longest and most complex cave systems in the world. As one of the nation's first parks, Wind Cave National Park protects an unusual combination of natural and cultural landscapes.

An Unexpected Find

Today as explorers find new passages deep within the earth, the cave continues to present surprises. In 1996, a team of cavers intent on reaching the "Lakes," or the water table at the deepest section of the cave, noticed a small trickle of water in an area that had, on all previous trips, been dry. The team was a little startled by this change, but even more so, when on subsequent trips, they found the water continuing to collect until in 1999 it blocked the passage and access to the 2.5 miles of surveyed cave beyond it. For five years this body of water, 150 feet long and 10 feet deep, blocked access to the deepest parts of the cave. It wasn't until August of 2004 that the water level dropped enough so explorers could squeeze past this new lake and beyond into sections of known cave.

A Never Ending Landscape

Today, over 115 miles (185.2 km) of cave passageways have been surveyed and, based on airflow studies, an estimated 90 percent of the cave remains undiscovered. Modern explorers tend to agree with Alvin McDonald who wrote in 1891 that he had "given up the idea of finding the end of Wind Cave." Today's explorers feel they too may never find the end of the cave but the mystery of the unknown spurs their imagination and their exploration efforts toward more discoveries in this amazing underground wilderness.

A Symbol Returns

As people explored the underground landscapes of Wind Cave, others were discovering the unique surface landscapes. In the early 1900s, conservationists were growing concerned that many of the vistas and wildlife that defined the West were being lost to settlement. This caused the American Bison Society to consider the park's prairie as a place to reintroduce bison. In 1912, Congress set aside lands bordering and including the park to establish the Wind Cave National Game Preserve.

We must handle the woods, the grasses, the streams so that we will hand them to our children and our children's children in better and not worse shape than we got them. Theodore Roosevelt

In 1913, 13 bison were brought to the preserve. These magnificent animals, one of the symbols of the American west, had become nearly extinct. Within two years, two other animals threatened by extinction, elk and pronghorn, were also relocated to the park. The animals flourished and in 1935, the preserve and the park were combined to create a larger Wind Cave National Park.

Whispers from the Past

The Lakota people, who lived in and near what is now Wind Cave National Park, consider the Black Hills to be sacred. Evidence of their presence, from stone flakes to tepee rings, goes back centuries. Homesteaders arrived in the late 1800s and traces of their struggles are also visible throughout the park. The complex stories of these early people may be pieced together from relics found on the prairie today.

A Lasting Change

As the world continually changes around us, protecting this unusual combination of natural and cultural landscapes increases in importance. Theodore Roosevelt, the president who established Wind Cave National Park in 1903, recognized that when he worked to protect the open spaces of the west. His words provide guidance for us all when he said, "We must handle the woods, the grasses, the streams so that we will hand them to our children and our children's children in better and not worse shape than we got them."



Contacting the park:
In case of **Emergency** dial 911
Visitor Center: 605-745-4600
www.nps.gov/wica/

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

If you are planning your visit or doing a project about Wind Cave, look for us on the Internet at www.nps.gov/wica/. Our website has almost anything you might want to know about the park, the cave, the animals, or the plants. We have even included some animal sounds! If you want to know what's happening in the park, this is the place to be.



FOOD, LODGING AND GASOLINE

Wind Cave National Park operates one campground and has limited food and beverage vending services in the visitor center. There are no lodging, gasoline, grocery, or restaurant services available in the park. These services are available in the nearby towns of Hot Springs (15 minutes south) and Custer (25 minutes north). The town of Pringle (10 minutes west) has gas and limited food services. For information regarding services in Hot Springs, call 605-745-4140 or 800-325-6991. In Custer, call 605-673-2244 or 800-992-9818.



Custer State Park, bordering Wind Cave National Park on the north, has campgrounds, restaurants, motels, and some grocery services. Information about Custer State Park is available by calling 605-255-4515. For information about state park lodging, please call 800-658-3530.

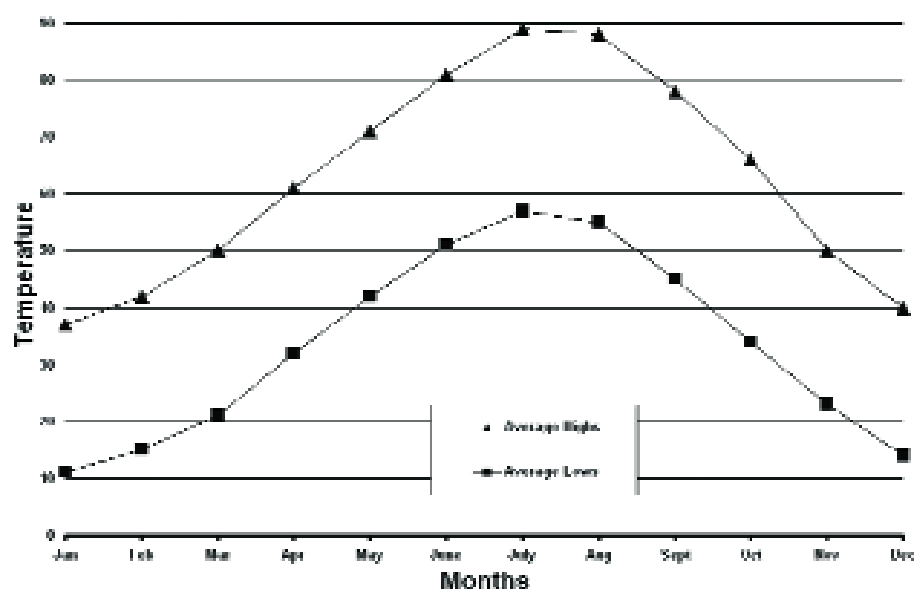
WEATHER

Wind Cave National Park and the rest of the Southern Black Hills are much warmer and drier than the northern hills. Winter snowfall averages 30 inches annually. The spring and fall can be warm and sunny, or rainy and snowy with a chilly wind. Summer brings warm daytime temperatures with cool evenings.

Severe thunderstorms are common in June and July and occasionally in August. Thunderstorms can be dangerous and visitors should be prepared

for them. Large hail is common and the storms can produce severe lightning. Slow moving storms can dump great amounts of rain over a small area. The steep canyons, rock cliffs, and small creeks of the Black Hills are prone to flash flooding. Be cautious when camping near a creek bed even if it is dry. Move uphill if flooding starts.

For current forecasts and warnings, listen to NOAA Weather Radio on 162.425 MHz in the southern Black Hills or 162.550 MHz in Rapid City.



RANGER PROGRAMS

When planning your visit, plan to attend a ranger-led program. There are many interesting programs each day. Programs include cave tours, a prairie hike, discovery programs, or evening campfire programs. Topics might include cave history, geology, the relationships of the park's animals and plants, the importance of fire to the park's ecosystems, or other natural or

cultural history topics. For more information, please ask at the visitor center information desk or check out pages 6 and 7 in this newspaper.



VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS

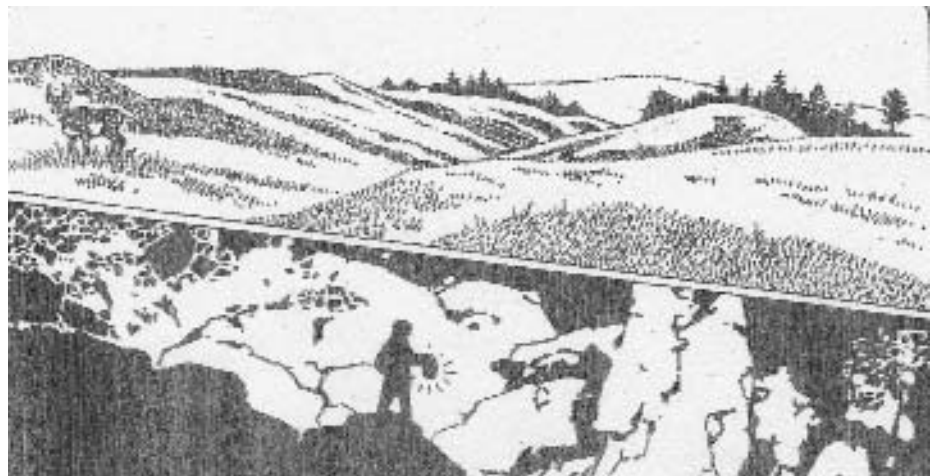
The Visitor Center is a great place to start your park visit. Whether you are intrigued with the cave, prairie, or both, it is easy to discover more about the park by exploring the exhibit rooms.

The upper exhibit room has displays ranging from how the Plains Indians used the bison to how the park manages the prairie. The cave exhibit room explains cave formations, the development of the cave, and the park's colorful history. A video about the cave, the prairie, and the park is

shown in our auditorium.

Stop at the visitor center for information about cave tours, or for maps, exhibits, book sales, backcountry permits, and Golden Age and Golden Access Passports, or National Parks Passes.

This year, through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we will be updating many of our visitor center exhibits with new pictures and information.



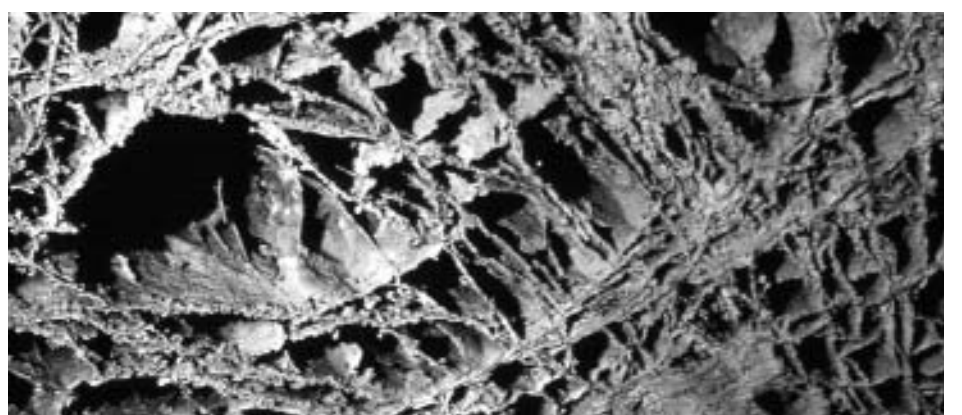
THE CAVE

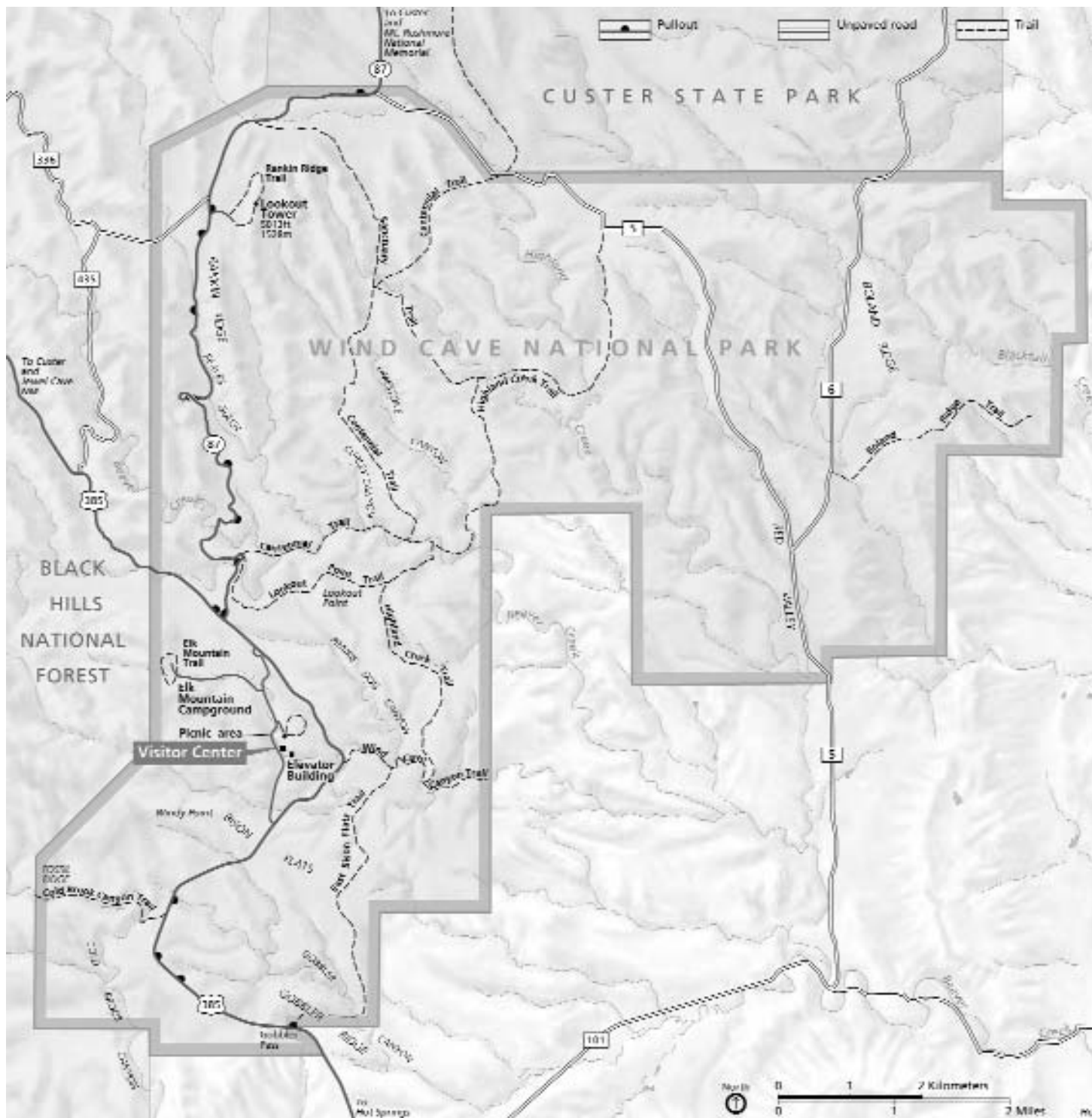
Wind Cave is quite different from other caves. Instead of stalactites and stalagmites, the cave is decorated with boxwork. Boxwork is a crystalline formation that probably predates the cave. It was formed when calcite filled tiny cracks within the limestone. Later, when the cave formed, water dissolved the limestone and revealed the delicate crystal fins that had filled the cracks.

Wind Cave is also known for its length and the maze-like configuration of its passageways.

All of the known cave passageways lie beneath a land area of about one-square mile. As of March 2005, the cave was 115 miles long making it the fifth longest cave in the world. Few caves are longer, but none as complex as Wind Cave.

To see the cave, stop at the visitor center where all cave tours begin. Cave tours are offered daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) throughout the year. Tour schedules vary throughout the year. The schedule is listed on page 7.





CAMPING

Wind Cave National Park maintains a developed campground one-mile north of the visitor center. The campground is open all year and rarely fills to capacity. Occupancy is on a first-come, first-served basis. Each site accommodates up to eight people. There are two sites accessible for campers with disabilities.

Restrooms have cold water and flush toilets, but no showers, hook-ups, or dump stations. To protect park resources, firewood can not be collected; however, it is available for \$3.00 per bundle.

The fee for camping is \$12.00 per night. In the off-season when facilities are limited, typically late fall through early spring, the fee is \$6.00 per night. Visitors holding a Golden Age or Golden Access Passport pay half price.

Group camping is available by reservation. For information contact the park at 605-745-4600.



HIKING TRAILS

Wind Cave National Park includes 28,295 acres of prairie grasslands and ponderosa pine forest. The park is a fascinating combination of ecosystems where eastern habitats meet



western ones. They support a diverse assortment of life. Hiking any of the 30 miles of trails can help visitors better understand the park. You may even want to leave the trails and travel cross-country along the ridges, through the canyons, or across the rolling prairie. A topographic map is recommended and can be purchased at the visitor center.

CENTENNIAL TRAIL

An excellent example of the diversity of the park can be seen by hiking Wind Cave's six-mile section of the Centennial Trail. This trail crosses the prairie, climbs the forested ridges, and explores the wetter, riparian habi-

tat of Beaver Creek. The 110-mile Centennial Trail meanders from Wind Cave National Park north through the Black Hills.

NATURE TRAILS

There are three nature trails in the park. The Rankin Ridge Nature Trail leads to the highest point in the park where the views are spectacular. The Elk Mountain Nature Trail explores an ecotone, or meeting zone, where the grassland and forest converge. The Prairie Vista Nature Trail starts at the visitor center and explores the prairie grasslands. Booklets are available at the trailheads. Each trail is about one mile in length.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Wind Cave National Park's backcountry offers visitors an excellent opportunity to experience and enjoy the abundant resources of the park. Backcountry camping is permitted in the northwestern part of the park. Within this area are several habitats and a variety of plants and animals.

Backcountry campers must have a permit. Permits are free and can be obtained at the visitor center or at either of the Centennial Trailheads. For the protection of park resources and for your safety, follow all regulations during your stay. Leave no trace of your visit. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.

SIMPLE RULES TO PROTECT PARK RESOURCES

Park resources are for everyone to enjoy. **Do not disturb or remove plants, wildlife, antlers or bones, or any other cultural or natural feature.** These features are all part of the park ecosystem and are important to the park history or for the survival of other animals and plants. They are protected by federal law.

Animals in the park are wild and unpredictable. **Do not feed the wildlife.** When you feed animals they become attracted to highways where they can be struck by passing vehicles. They also may become dependent on

handouts and fail to survive the winter. **Hunting in the park is prohibited.**

When driving park roads, **obey all speed limits.** They are strictly enforced to protect you and the wildlife. Vehicles (including bicycles) must be on the roadways at all times. **Off-road driving or bicycle riding is prohibited.**

Be aware that rattlesnakes are sometimes found in prairie dog towns and in rocky areas of the park. Bison also frequent prairie dog towns. They can run 35 mph and may weigh a ton! Do not approach them or any wildlife.

To protect your pet and park wildlife remember: **pets may not be left unattended and must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on park trails or in the backcountry.**

Do not leave traces of your visit. Litter is unsightly and spoils the park experience for everyone.



Bison - Symbol of the American West

The return of the bison to the North American prairie was perhaps one of the most successful environmental stories of all times. In the 1800s, one pioneer spoke of a prairie so filled with bison that it “appeared as if in motion,” but by the turn of the century their number was reduced to a woeful few.

Fortunately, they never completely vanished. Ranchers, hunting organizations, zoos and average citizens actively worked to preserve this symbolic species. The task was not easy. For example, the *Indianapolis Star* once asked why “any intelligent person would care for the preservation of these moth-eaten ungainly beasts?” It was through the perseverance of men like Charles Goodnight, Scotty Phillips, Charles “Buffalo” Jones and William Hornaday that we are able to experience these majestic animals in their natural environment. It is believed that nearly all of the approximately 300,000 bison in North America are descendants from the animals saved either by these conservationists or from a remnant population left in Yellowstone.

The American Bison Society reintroduced these “ungainly beasts” into Wind Cave National Park in 1913. The thirteen bison that started the Wind Cave herd came from Hornaday’s New York Zoological herd and were believed to have descended from the last few remaining wild bison. In 1916, six additional bison arrived from Yellowstone National Park.

While ranchers did save the bison from extinction, many also experimented with domestic cattle-bison crosses in hopes of producing a “heartier beef breed.” Hybrids seemed resistant to disease, required less feed, and produced more calves.

As these hybrid efforts increased, conservationists became concerned for the long-term preservation of a pure bison species. Genetic analysis in the 1990s revealed evidence of domestic cattle introgression in several public bison herds and in all but one of 50 private bison herds examined. Further genetic studies completed by Texas A&M in 2003 revealed the Wind Cave National Park herd is one of the only federal herds free of cattle gene introgression.



Managing early bison herds

Why is this important? The goal of bison conservation is to maintain bison as a wild species. Ideally, ‘wild’ bison would be subject to evolutionary adaptations through natural selection and they would live in free-ranging, naturally regulated herds. That is not possible today. Most herds are confined by fences and subjected to varying degrees of management intervention.

Because it is not possible to have a truly wild herd, it is important that herd size, population structure, levels of genetic variation, and the incidence of domestic cattle introgression be considered in the management of federal bison populations. Resource specialists at Wind Cave are very aware of these factors and address them in management plans.

The protection of a genetically diverse bison herd, free of cattle gene introgression, provides us with the opportunity to experience what our ancestors experienced. We are able to hear the bison roar during the rut, marvel at their size, and if we are lucky, to see a herd so large that the prairie seems filled with them. All of this is a gift from people long gone; people who cared enough to protect these amazing animals so we too could share in one of the wonders of the wild.

Tracking the Elusive Elk

Watching wildlife roam the prairie and forests of Wind Cave National Park is an amazing experience. Bison graze peacefully, prairie dogs perform their antics, and if you are real lucky, you might see an elk before it slips off into the woods. The expansive western landscape seems untouched, but the behind-the-scenes effort that helps keep this scenery natural is a complex combination of research, public involvement, and resource management activity.

In the case of the park’s elk herd, resource managers are beginning a study to collect information about these elusive animals. Biologists will be investigating the movement and behavior of about 54 elk per year over the next 3 years. The study started in January of 2005 with the collaring of 54 elk (22 bulls and 32 cows). Similar numbers of elk will be collared in January of 2006 and 2007. Study animals will be fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) collars that will store location data every 5 hours until November when the collars will be released from the animals and the data downloaded for analysis. The information collected by these collars will help answer questions such as where the elk spend time feeding or hiding, what plant communities they use at different times of the day and in different seasons, what water sources they use, and when they migrate in or out of the park.

This information is important because the number of elk in the park has increased dramatically in the last decade. A study completed in

1997 determined that approximately 300 elk shared the park in the winter with other grazers such as bison, pronghorn, deer, and prairie dogs. Today, research indicates that as many as 850 elk use the park, many only seasonally in the fall and winter.

As park managers develop the Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact



Statement, public involvement will be sought. Information about the plan will be available at www.parkplanning.nps.gov. Over the next few years, park managers and the public will formulate a plan that will be used to determine the park’s carrying capacity. While it is exciting to be able to see wild elk in their natural landscapes, too many animals in a small space can create a situation where they literally eat themselves out of house and home. This destroys not only the habitat for elk, but also habitats that other animals depend on.

The Elk Management Plan will define a healthy number of elk for the park and provide a means to deal with excess animals. Previously, the park rounded-up excess elk and shipped them to other parks. This option is no longer available since some elk and deer in the park tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). (See related article on page 5 concerning CWD). The location data gained from the study will help managers understand how this disease could be spread.

The data from this study will also be shared with state resource managers, the park’s partners in managing elk herds in the Southern Black Hills. Working to protect and preserve elk in their natural habitat is one of the basic resource management goals of Wind Cave National Park. This study and Elk Management Plan will allow all of us to continue to experience the thrill of seeing these majestic animals in the wild while making certain that the population remains healthy.





Guardian of the Landscape

From Rankin Ridge, the highest point in the park, the Great Plains unroll to distant horizons. Here views are unhindered, the eroded pinnacles of the Badlands seem to scrape the sky and, as day fades into night, stars and planets shimmer to life.

Wind Cave National Park has some of the best visibility and cleanest air of any place in the country. The park is a Class I Area as defined by the National Clean Air Act of 1977. This act mandates that air quality in Class I Areas, such as Wind Cave, be protected and not be allowed to deteriorate significantly.

Unlike water, a resource with discernable boundaries, the boundaries of air are vast and often undefined. Once polluted, the repercussions can be seen fifty, sixty, even hundreds of miles away and it can take decades of aggressive countermeasures to fix. Wind Cave National Park is far from major cities, but even here, many diverse processes can create haze in the air. Cars give off emissions; factories, mining processes, and power plants add contaminants to the air.

The park has been monitoring air quality since 1979, and in 2004 with the cooperation of the State of South Dakota, the precision of

monitoring equipment was increased so levels of pollutants could be detected with greater accuracy.

Like early miners who used birds, often canaries, to test for poisonous air in mine shafts, Wind Cave National Park with its monitoring efforts stands like a modern day canary. The air quality in the park is monitored daily and if scientists notice any degradation in particulate matter or clarity of the air, park managers will notify the regulatory agencies so they can investigate the cause and solve the problem. This monitoring helps ensure that regional air quality, which is vital to the area's scenic vistas, remains pristine.

National parks play many roles in today's society and one of these is the monitoring of vital indicators that affect our every day life, such as clean air. Being able to enjoy spectacular views and gaze at the night sky are important parts of a visit to Wind Cave National Park. Through these enhanced monitoring efforts, the National Park Service is working to preserve not only the landscapes of this precious land but the incredible views they present.

Exploring the Unknown

Walking along any of the paved trails through the incredible maze of Wind Cave provides visitors with a sense of wonder regarding the complex nature of this cave. Where do all of those passageways go? As you look down any of those dark holes – looking to where the light ends and darkness begins – you begin to realize that you are surrounded by a wilderness unlike any you have seen before. There are places down those passageways where no person has ever been.

Wind Cave is currently more than 115 miles long and is one of the longest caves in the world. Yet, studies of the air moving in and out of the cave indicate that only a small portion of it – maybe as little as 5 to 10% – has been found. Every time they enter the cave, explorers have



the prospect of finding a place unseen by human eyes.

In January 2005, explorers went into the cave “hoping to find more.” These five teams of explorers slithered through tight, uncharted passages until they had surveyed over a half-mile of cave. Their work meant that they entered the fourth

longest cave in the United States and exited the third longest.

Adults seldom find a way to experience this special thrill of adventure. Do you remember exploring woods near your home or following a creek bed to its end when you were a child? Children never seem to lose that thrill of trying to find a place where no one has been before. As we grow older, the woods become more familiar and the adventures fade away. However, below ground in Wind Cave National Park, there is a baffling system of passageways where those who don't mind crawling into tight spaces can seek adventure in a mysterious wilderness.

Cave explorers are not there just for the adventure (although that is what often initially draws them). They are also there to document the unknown by surveying, or mapping, into the darkness. While mapping, explorers record details such as information about the geology of the cave, where water is dripping, and what evidence of early explorers they might find. This information assists cave management staff in

identifying the best way to protect not only the cave but also the special resources found within it.

No matter how long the crawl, how tight the passage, or deep the hole, there will always be those people with the spirit of adventure who will be rewarded with the call “It goes!” They are the lucky ones – the ones who continue to find that thrill of adventure that we experienced as children when we explored our own expanding landscapes.



Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease that affects deer and elk. First noticed in Colorado in 1967, it is now found in many western states. The disease is believed to be caused by an abnormal protein called a prion that affects the deer or elk's brain. Animals infected with CWD show progressive loss of weight and muscle control and eventually die. Once an animal contracts the disease, nothing can be done to save it.

Veterinarians believe removing infected individuals may help prevent the spread of infection. If you see a deer or elk behaving in a strange manner, please report it to any park employee. Public health officers have found no link between CWD and diseases in humans nor is there any evidence that CWD can be transmitted to domestic livestock.

Currently, resource managers are studying the disease within Wind Cave National Park. Biologists have captured and tested more than 114 deer and 19 elk for the disease. As of March 2005, there have been 10 cases of CWD found within the park – 3 elk, 6 mule deer, and 1 whitetail deer.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wind Cave offers a variety of wonderful opportunities to learn about the natural resources of the park. Ranger guided hikes, cave tours, or campfire programs provide interesting information about many different aspects of the park. Exploring the visitor center, participating in the Junior Ranger Program, or hiking in the park are also great ways to discover what is special about this national park.

Teachers wanting an educational opportunity for their students

can participate in the park's *Connections* program. This Parks as Classrooms program allows students to explore the park with a ranger. The program is offered in late April and early May.

The park also has a teaching unit and trunk titled *Water in the Environment*. This program is available from the park or on the website at www.nps.gov/wica/. The environmental education programs and the trunk are free. For more information call the park at 605-745-4600.



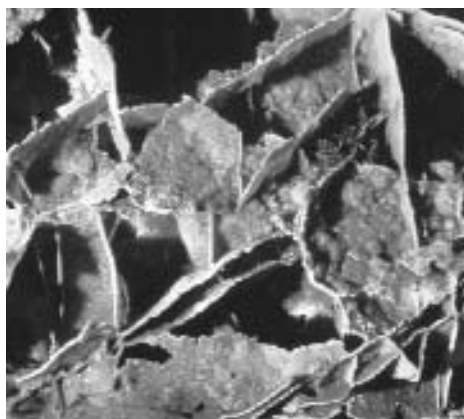
LEARNING ABOUT THE CAVE

CAVE TOUR INFORMATION

All tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis at the park visitor center. Tickets must be purchased at least five minutes before tour times. The cave temperature is 53°F (11°C) year round. A jacket or sweater is recommended. Good walking shoes are required.

GARDEN OF EDEN TOUR

This 1-hour tour is the least strenuous. It is a wonderful sample of Wind Cave. Small amounts of all of the beautiful cave formations - boxwork, popcorn, and flowstone - are seen along the ¼-mile trail. The tour is for people with limited time or abilities. It enters and exits the cave by elevator and has 150 stairs.



NATURAL ENTRANCE TOUR

This tour includes a visit to the only known natural entrance of Wind Cave providing visitors with the opportunity to learn how the cave got its name. Participants enter the cave through a man-made entrance and journey through the middle level of the cave. Wind Cave's famous boxwork is abundant throughout this trip. Most of the 300 stairs along this route are down. This moderately strenuous tour lasts 1¼ hour and exits the cave by elevator.

FAIRGROUNDS TOUR

This 1½-hour tour explores both the upper and middle levels of Wind Cave. Boxwork is abundant along the trail in the middle level of the cave. In the upper level, the trail winds through large rooms and into areas where popcorn and frostwork can be seen. This is the most strenuous walking tour. The tour enters and exits the cave by elevator. There are 450 stairs along the route with one flight of 90 steps up.



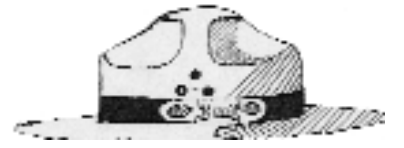
WALKS AND TALKS

PRAIRIE HIKE

Take a hike with a ranger! Explore the park's varied habitats with this 2-hour summer activity. The daily hike begins at the visitor center before the group drives to a nearby trailhead. Bring drinking water and wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes. Check at the visitor center for details.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Become better acquainted with Wind Cave National Park by attending an evening campfire program. These talks are presented nightly during the summer at the Elk Mountain Campground Amphitheater. Topics may



include wildlife, plants, geology, cave exploration, park management, and history. The programs last about 45 minutes.

DISCOVERY ACTIVITY

Daily, during the summer, ranger talks or demonstrations take place at the visitor center. These programs explain some facet of the park. Topics may include local wildlife, plants, geology, area history, and cave surveying. Check at the visitor center for meeting place and topic.

JUNIOR RANGERS

The Junior Ranger Program is an exciting opportunity for children and their families to learn about the park. Becoming a Junior Ranger helps youngsters understand the park's ecosystems, the cave, and the animals. It also helps them learn how they can help protect all parts of our environment. Junior Ranger booklets are available for \$1.50 at the bookstore. There are activities for children up to age 12.

This year through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we



will be taking photographs of the accomplishments of our Junior Rangers. These youngsters will then be able to share their pictures and adventures with families and friends.

SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS

CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Experience the cave by candlelight. This tour takes place in a less developed, unlighted part of the cave. Each participant will carry a candle bucket. Shoes with non-slip soles are required. No sandals! This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 8. This strenuous tour covers 1 mile of rugged trail and lasts 2 hours. Reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

TOURS FOR VISITORS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The visitor center and the cave are accessible to people with limited mobility. Please call ahead to make special arrangements or ask at the information desk for a special tour. Limited areas of the cave are accessible to wheelchairs. The fee for the tour is \$5.00 for adults and half price for Golden Age or Access Passport holders. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

WILD CAVE TOUR

Explore the cave away from the developed trails. On this 4-hour tour visitors will be introduced to basic, safe caving. Wear old clothes and gloves, as much of the trip will include crawling. Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and sturdy, lace up boots or shoes with non-slip soles are required. The park provides hard hats, lights, and kneepads. Please do not bring jewelry, watches, or other valuables on the tour. Clothing worn on the Jewel Cave Wild Cave Tour is not permitted in Wind Cave since this clothing could be covered with manganese.

This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 16. We require a signed parental consent form for participants 16 and 17 years old. Reservations are required. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.



CAVE TOUR INFORMATION & SAFETY

All tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, except for the Candlelight and Wild Cave Tours (see *Reservations* below.) During peak summer visitation, long waits for tours may be encountered. To avoid waits, the best time to visit the cave is during the early hours of the day. During the summer, weekends are good times to visit; Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the busiest days. Reservations for school and organized groups are available (see *Reservations*.)

A light jacket or sweater is recommended for all cave tours, as Wind Cave is 53°F (11°C) throughout the year. Good walking shoes are required on all tours. Cave trails are dimly lighted and trail surfaces may be uneven, wet, and slippery. Do not wear sandals. Ceilings along the tour route

are low, requiring some bending.

For the protection of the cave, do not touch or remove rocks or formations and do not step off the trail. There are no restrooms in the cave. No eating, drinking, chewing tobacco or gum is allowed in the cave. Photography is permitted, but no tripods. Pets are not allowed in the cave.

Cave tours are moderately strenuous. Persons with claustrophobia, heart or respiratory conditions, or other physical limitations should reconsider. A tour is available, by request, for visitors with special needs. Call 605-745-4600 or ask at the information desk.

Do not leave your pets in your vehicle while visiting the cave or for any length of time. The temperatures inside a vehicle can become extreme, putting your pet in grave danger. Kennel space is available in Hot Springs or Custer.

RESERVATIONS

Most cave tours are first-come, first-served; however, reservations are strongly recommended for the Candlelight Tour and required for Wild Cave Tour.

Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Reservations are also accepted for large groups. Please call 605-745-4600 for reservations.



TOUR FEES*

Tickets must be purchased at least 5 minutes before tour time.

	Garden of Eden	Natural Entrance	Fairgrounds	Candlelight	Wild Cave
Age 17-61	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	****\$23.00
Golden Age**	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$11.50
Age 6-16	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	***\$4.50	Not Permitted
Under 6	Free	Free	Free	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

* Holders of a Golden Access Card receive a 50% discount on tours.
 ** Person must possess a Golden Age Passport to receive the discount.
 *** Minimum age for Candlelight Tour is 8.
 **** Minimum age for the Wild Cave Tour is 16. The fee is \$23.00.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



April 9 - April 30, 2005

Visitor Center open daily 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Garden of Eden Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

May 1 - 27, 2005

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30

May 28 - 30, 2005, Memorial Day Weekend

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Garden of Eden Tour 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00
 Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:20, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30
 Fairgrounds Tour 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00
 Campfire Program 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

May 31 - June 4, 2005

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Garden of Eden Tour 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00

June 5 - August 17, 2005

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, and 4:40
 Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00.
 Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 10:20, 11:40, 12:20, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, and 4:20
 Candlelight Tour 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m.
 Ranger led Hike 9:00 a.m.
 Campfire Program 9:00 p.m.

August 18 - September 5, 2005

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:30, 1:40, and 3:40
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00
 Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 11:20, 12:20, 1:20, and 3:20
 Candlelight Tour 1:30 p.m.
 Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m. Weekends Only Aug. 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 and September 3 and 4
 Campfire Program 8:00 p.m.

September 6 - September 17, 2005

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30
 Evening Program 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday beginning September 6.

September 18 - October 15, 2005

Visitor Center open daily 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Cave Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

October 16 - November 30, 2005

Visitor Center open daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving
 Cave Tour 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00

December 1, 2005 - Early April, 2006

Visitor Center open daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. except Christmas, and New Year's Day
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00

Tour schedules are subject to change. Please call 605-745-4600 to confirm tour times. Programs are subject to cancellation during severe weather.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Dial 911 or

Contact any park ranger or call the visitor center at 605-745-4600.



The Park Bookstore

The Black Hills Parks & Forests Association sells books, maps, and other park related publications in visitor centers at Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer State Park, the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and Black Hills National Forests. The association publishes books and materials about these areas.

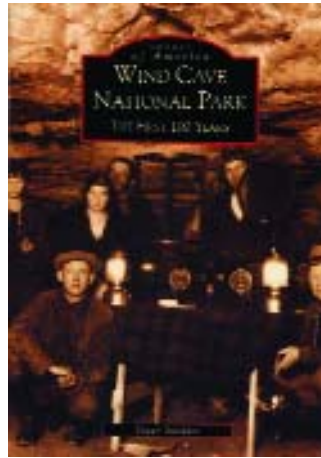
Cooperating associations are non-profit, tax exempt organizations authorized by Congress to promote educational and scientific activities within national parks. All profits from association sales support the educational, interpretive, and research activities of these agencies.

Many different types of publications are available in the bookstores including books specific to Wind Cave National Park and others about local natural and human history. These publications, maps, and items are available at the bookstore, by mail order, or from the association web site, www.blackhillsparks.org, fax: 605-745-7021, or email bhpf@blackhillsparks.org. Membership in the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association supports the organization and entitles members to a 15% discount on all purchases. The membership is \$29.95 per year. For more information call 605-745-7020.

Wind Cave: An Ancient World Beneath the Hills

In this wonderful, easy-to-read book, Art Palmer explains the geology of Wind Cave, how it is related to the Black Hills, and how the boxwork formed. The charts and graphs help make the topic easily understood by people unfamiliar with geology. The pictures of the unusual Wind Cave boxwork alone make this book well worth the investment.

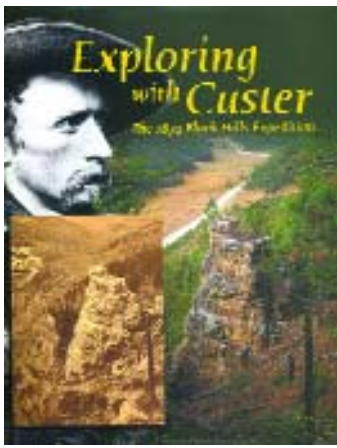
\$8.95



Wind Cave National Park: the First 100 Years

In 1903, Wind Cave National Park became the eighth national park in the nation and the first created to protect a cave. Peggy Sanders encapsulates the park's 100 year history in over 200 vintage images. Travel through time with the early cave and animal management teams, through the Great Depression, and into the present with a collection of classic pictures and stories.

\$19.95



Exploring with Custer – The 1874 Black Hills Expedition - Custer's expedition to the Black Hills was better documented than any other of the Old West. William Illingworth photographed superb views and several diaries brimming with vivid detail remain. Grafe and Horsted's book blends past and present day photos with diary excerpts. Together they paint a portrait of life on the trail. The maps, directions, and GPS readings lead you to campsites, photo stops, and sometimes, ruts left by Custer's wagons.

\$34.95

Wind Cave, The Story Behind the Scenery

If you are interested in learning more about the ecosystems, wildlife, and history of Wind Cave National Park, this book by Ron Terry is an excellent choice. It contains outstanding photographs and information about the cave and its unusual boxwork formation. This book goes beyond the cave, including photos and insights about the park's incredible prairie. This book is part of a series that explores the natural, geological, and cultural history of the national parks.

\$9.95



Trails Illustrated Map, Black Hills Southeast - If you are interested in hiking in Wind Cave National Park or Custer State Park, this is the trail map to have. This tear-proof, waterproof map details the hiking trails, campsites, roads, elevations, and many other standard features of a topographic map. Wind Cave National Park is illustrated on one side and Custer State Park and the Black Elk Wilderness are on the other side. The map is part of a series of National Geographic Trails Illustrated Maps. There is also a Black Hills Northeast map detailing the Black Hills National Forest.

\$9.95



Wind Cave: One Park, Two Worlds - takes viewers on a journey into two vastly different landscapes of uncompromising beauty - the prairie and the cave. This 20 minute movie tells the dramatic stories of Wind Cave National Park's natural and human history, including the story of Alvin MacDonald - the first explorer of this subterranean world and the story of the bison - the symbol of the Great Plains. Through breathtaking photography this video captures the spirit, mystery, and beauty of one of America's oldest National Parks.

\$19.95

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>	<p>Mail to: Black Hills Parks & Forests Association RR 1 Box 190 Hot Springs, SD 57747</p> <p>Fax to: 605-745-7021</p>																																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Quantity</th> <th style="width: 70%;">Title</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Subtotal</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">15% Member Discount</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(-)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Shipping</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(+)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">SD orders add 5% sales tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(+)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Membership at 29.95 each</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(+)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quantity	Title	Price													Subtotal			15% Member Discount		(-)	Shipping		(+)	SD orders add 5% sales tax		(+)	Membership at 29.95 each		(+)	Total			<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have enclosed my check payable to: Black Hills Parks & Forests Assn.</p> <p>I would like to charge the order to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Am. Exp.</p> <p># _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Expiration Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>
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