



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
NOPA-040-15-06

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION LANDS IN WILDERNESS

STATE: Nevada

COUNTIES: White Pine

FIELD OFFICE(S): Schell

WILDERNESS AREA(S): Far South Egans

PROPOSED ACTION: Request for Cave Rescue Training in Whipple Cave

Description of the Proposed Action

The Western Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission has requested to use Whipple Cave, which lies within the Far South Egan Wilderness, for a Small Party Assisted Rescue Seminar. The National Cave Rescue Commission is affiliated with the National Speleological Society (NSS). The proposal is to use the cave for one full day in June for onsite practical training. The class size will be, at most 26 people. This intensive three-day seminar presents cave rescue techniques using minimal gear to perform the rescue of patients by parties of six people or less. The group may operate in smaller parties during the course of the day within Whipple Cave.

The BLM does not anticipate any substantial impacts to wilderness character over the long-term. On the day of the training, the class may temporarily impact the area at the entrance to the cave where use tends to bottleneck.

The BLM, NCRC training coordinators, and Nevada Department of Wildlife will survey the cave for bats several days prior to the training to determine if mitigation measures will be needed to avoid disturbing bats, if present. Mitigation measures may include dividing the group into

