



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

El Malpais & El Morro National Monuments
123 E. Roosevelt Ave.
Grants, New Mexico 87020

IN REPLY REFER TO:
N1625

October 20, 2012

Dear Friend,

El Malpais National Monument is planning to develop a Cave Access & Permitting Strategy and Environmental Assessment to guide how the lava tube caves in the monument may be accessed through a recreational permitting system. As part of this effort we are seeking input from the public about any concerns or interests they may have regarding cave management within the monument.

The monument's lava tube caves are a significant and sensitive resource, and traditionally one of the monument's main recreational attractions. The National Park Service seeks to balance the protection of these natural and cultural resources with the public's desire to experience and explore them. This planning process is a way to address these goals through engagement and communication with users and stakeholders.

We recognize that you may have an interest in the management of El Malpais National Monument and we want to include you in our planning efforts. To learn more, please visit the project website and use the online comment system found at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cavepermits>

If you have any questions or concerns about this planning process, please contact David Hays, Natural Resources Branch Chief, at 505-285-4641 ext. 26, or at david_hays@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Kayci Cook Collins
Superintendent