



NOV 2015  
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Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview

# OREGON CAVES

NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE | OR

NOVEMBER 2015

# Executive Summary

The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes major findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The SETP resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary design team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for accomplishing work in priority park areas were developed, and associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document work as it is completed. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goal of an SETP is to design an effective plan to improve the park's accessibility by upgrading services, activities and programs at park areas and to instill a culture around universal access by employing means to convey information to the widest population possible and by prioritizing ongoing staff training.

Following are the key park experiences and associated priority park areas addressed in the SETP:

- **Experience and understand the geology, biology, and adventure of the cave** – Oregon Caves Visitor Center and Chalet, Cave Creek Campground, Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center, Main Cave
- **Experience, appreciate, and comprehend the landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity of the aboveground ecosystem** – Oregon Caves Visitor Center and Chalet, Cave Creek Campground, Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center, No Name Trail, Main Cave
- **Understand and experience the park's human history, exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District** – Oregon Caves Visitor Center and Chalet, Cave Creek Campground, Chateau, Guide Shack, Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center, Main Parking Area and Picnic Area, No Name Trail, Preserve and Monument Entrances, Ranger Cabin, Main Cave

Overall, the same types of services, programs, and activities were found throughout park areas and assessment findings for these generally repeated from area to area, for both physical accessibility and program accessibility. More detailed accessibility improvements are recommended for each finding by area location.

## Physical Accessibility

The park's very steep terrain and the historic character of buildings and landscapes present significant challenges to improving physical access. Options for providing access must respect the park's natural and cultural values. In certain cases, programmatic solutions are preferred.

One notable issue is that the access route to the Oregon Caves Visitor Center, the park's primary destination for visitor orientation and information, does not meet standards for accessibility. This prevents many from entering the visitor center and nearby cave and from participating in services, activities, and programs that otherwise would be available. Recurring findings for physical access relate to parking areas, accessible paths of travel, hiking trails, and visitor information areas, such as kiosks, bulletin boards, interpretive panels, and waysides. In certain locations, restroom features did not meet required dimensions, and mechanisms to open trash and recycling receptacles exceeded allowable poundage for operation. Amenities offered for picnicking did not always meet appropriate access route and clearance requirements. In addition, amenities and services provided at the Oregon Caves Visitor Center, Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center, and the Chateau require repair or rehabilitation to improve accessibility. These amenities include information desks, book and gift stores, a loaner jacket area for cave tours, and areas that support overnight accommodations. Furthermore, a campground was added to the NPS unit as part of the December 2015 boundary expansion. This campground, which has been closed to the public due to natural resource concerns in recent years, does not meet standards for accessibility.

Recommended improvements to physical access include adding or relocating accessible parking stalls, establishing accessible routes from parking spaces to the Oregon Caves Visitor Center and other destinations, providing companion seating at multiple locations in the park, and addressing barriers related to restrooms, trash receptacles, and interpretive and visitor information noted above. This plan also recommends making a section of the No Name Trail physically accessible through trail widening, removing roots, and regrading and resurfacing. A future construction project at the Chateau, which is currently in the planning phases, will provide access to rooms and public areas in and around that building.



## Program Accessibility

Recurring findings related to program accessibility included individual elements of some interpretive waysides, such as font and contrast issues, that would require modifications to meet minimum size and readability guidelines. (However, most interpretive and informational panels generated by the park generally met guidelines for readability.) In general, interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternate formats available, such as materials in braille or large print, or audio or electronic formats. Although assistive listening devices are available for people with hearing loss for guided tours or special events, there are no standard operating procedures in place to help employees use or care for them properly. Audio description for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours to describe visual elements to persons with low or no vision also were not available. In general, the park lacks effective accessibility training for personnel and will need to work with the Pacific West Region to determine appropriate training requirements.

Providing enhanced information on accessibility conditions in the cave, particularly in accessible formats, would better serve visitors, as would ensuring (through a standard operating procedure or similar method) that staff consistently turn on open captioning of park videos, such as that offered in the Chateau. Some areas within the historic district which were assessed during the workshop, such as the Ranger Cabin and the Guide Shack, have been proposed as exceptions to code should facility alteration or construction occur in the future. It is infeasible to provide physical access to these buildings due to very steep terrain and cultural resource concerns. Neither the Ranger Cabin nor the Guide Shack is open to visitation. Yet, on occasion, park staff conducts tours or programs focused on the historic district. Programmatic options for accessibility—for instance, expanding interpretation of these inaccessible buildings in the visitor center or elsewhere—should be considered to ensure that the widest cross-section of visitors can be included in these interpretive experiences.



## Parkwide Accessibility

During the self-evaluation and assessment process, the planning team discussed some noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges. These include: postings and publications in and regarding alternative formats, website accessibility and information, and staff training.

It is suggested that the park employ trained consultants to assist them in determining how best to address parkwide program accessibility improvements and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs best meet the intended audiences. When alternate formats (e.g., braille or large print publications or a cave tour video in American Sign Language) are provided, the park shall ensure that signage announcing the availability of these alternate format materials are placed at appropriate locations and that other park materials (website, handouts, etc.) also communicate this availability.

Staff training is of primary importance, as creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness and understanding and appropriate action. General training for all staff and regular, specific training for maintenance and interpretive staffs to upkeep physical and programmatic access are advised. Conducting the assessment process with the park team was a step forward as it brought higher awareness and field training to staff and served to strengthen the park's existing commitment to enhancing accessibility. However, the park requests specific guidance related to these trainings—for instance, which offerings would be available and most relevant to specific park positions.

While improving accessibility across the board is important, park staff will need to consider which improvements in which park areas expand accessibility to the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. In addition, suggested time frames for implementation and relative cost need to be factored in to decisions related to accessibility investments.

## Successes to Date

Oregon Caves National Monument staff is striving to be inclusive and welcoming, and already the park has taken great strides toward this goal. A notable success is the set of educational exhibits that were recently installed inside the Oregon Caves Visitor Center. These interactive museum exhibits were designed to serve a wide spectrum of visitors with varying interests and abilities. The exhibits appeal to multiple senses. Visitors are encouraged to touch items and displays and to experience the sounds of the cave, and even the odors that are present underground. A centerpiece of these new exhibits is a replica cave environment. Many visitors enjoy this replica cave as they wait for their guided tour to begin; however, it also creates an alternate cave experience for those who are unable to enter the cave. In addition to persons with certain disabilities, this group includes children and other people who do not meet the 42" height requirement for cave tours.

The park also provides programmatic access to the Main Cave through a web-based virtual tour that is hosted on a partner website and through a film that is viewed in the Chateau. This room is currently inaccessible, but this barrier will be addressed through planned construction at the Chateau. Currently, the park is engaging partners and consultants to develop a video that would present a standard cave tour in American Sign Language. The park intends to complete this project, which would be another positive step toward making the cave more inclusive.

Given the inherently challenging natural cave conditions (e.g., narrow, confined spaces, very steep changes in grade, low lighting, and naturally protruding objects and surfaces), the park offers a surprising level of physical access to the Main Cave. The majority of visitors who can access the cave entrance are able to experience approximately the first 150' of the cave, from the entrance to Watson's Grotto. The park offers special "Sneak Peek" programs for disabled visitors through this portion of the cave, thereby enabling an authentic cave experience. Altering the cave to expand physical access beyond this area is infeasible because the new infrastructure and other changes would degrade the natural setting and disrupt sensitive natural cave systems.

The park staff's commitment to accessibility is also demonstrated in other ways, for example the park-created informational signs at kiosks—nearly all of which meet guidelines for font size, color, and contrast—and through the careful planning being undertaken for improvements to the Chateau.





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## Introduction

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic, fragile structures. The many reasons this park, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, and other parks exist are due to their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) along with visitation. To accommodate our visitors, facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Most facility installation preceded the passing of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public, and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. Within its nearly 100 years of operation, the National Park Service has continued to work toward a more inclusive environment. Paralleling these efforts, laws and regulations have provided additional guidelines. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For nearly a century, the park service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Today's generation of visitors has different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern science and visitor trend analysis have provided new insight into the opportunities and challenges related to accessibility in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, with the number expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as the number of baby boomers (people 65 and older) rises. This information can help the service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure with the threats of decreasing funding. Adequate planning can identify unique solutions to challenges and provide the service with a trajectory that is full of opportunity—for visitors now and for future generations. The National Park Service is committed to making all practicable efforts to make NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities.

## Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Description

Located in southwestern Oregon in the Siskiyou Mountains, at 4,000 to 4,360 feet in elevation, there exists a dynamic system of marble caves with limestone formations that started forming 330,000 years ago through calcium carbonate deposition. In 1909, by presidential executive order, Oregon Caves and its surrounding environment were identified as nationally significant and designated as a national monument for the enjoyment of future generations.

The original designation was 480 acres. This small size almost immediately led to legislative proposals and plans for monument expansion so that the watershed that supports the caves, including old-growth mixed coniferous and deciduous forests, would be preserved.

The addition of the 4,070-acre national preserve, signed into law on December 19, 2014, by an act of Congress, included the surrounding watershed and forest, adding new visitor opportunities and cultural and natural resources to the park unit. Visitors to the national monument and preserve will see natural waterfalls, mountain and subalpine meadows, alpine rock gardens, dozens of vegetation communities, and vistas of Mount Shasta. Glacial features in the preserve include cirques, tarns, montane ponds, erratics, windblown loess deposits, hanging valleys, faceted boulders, and moraines.

Preservation and protection of resources include management of fifteen plant communities, such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands. Assuring that the airflow, water flow, biology, and chemistry of surface and subsurface watersheds are reflective of natural cycles is essential to maintaining subsurface and surface environments and their interactions. Within the caves is a large assemblage of endemic cave-adapted invertebrates. The caves also provide a hibernaculum and roost for several bat species, including the Townsend's big-eared bat, listed as threatened by the state of Oregon. All the caves in the park unit provide foraging and nesting sites for woodrats, which are a major food of the northern spotted owl, a federally listed species. Cougars and bears are common in the park. Deer are seen and Douglas squirrels are heard daily. For the past two decades, there has been a healthy population of fishers in or near the major waterways in the preserve. It has been proposed for federal listing as threatened.



Visitors to the park's main and only developed cave can tour through large twisted catacombs and view spectacular calcite-flowstone formations. During a tour with a guide, visitors can also learn about many other rich natural and cultural resource features of the caves and of the surrounding ecosystem.

The area is one of the most concentrated examples of geodiversity in this hemisphere due to the presence of tilted rock slabs from back-arc and forearc basins, mid-ocean ridges, island arcs, and rifting volcanism from sinking seafloors, all stacked by massive tectonic forces against the continent and soldered by granitic welding.

Five buildings and their associated landscape features, such as stone benches and original trails, were designed and constructed by a private public partnership and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The centerpiece of the historic district is the Chateau, a national historic landmark. This unique six-story, cedar bark-sided building was built in 1934 and still operates today, providing lodging and food service to park unit visitors. The nationally significant Chateau was designated a national historic landmark in 1987 because of its architecture and design. Other buildings in the national register historic district include the Chalet, Guide Dormitory (Guide Shack), Ranger Residence (Ranger Cabin), and the Kiosk.



## Park Purpose and Significance Statements

In August 2015 a foundation document for Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve was approved. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve foundation document identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. The park purpose and significance below may require updating once the foundation document process is completed. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans.

### Park Purpose

Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve protects and preserves the scientific interest and the unusually diverse and concentrated biology and geology of an important solution cave system and watershed within the Siskiyou Mountains for the benefit, understanding, and enjoyment of the public.



## Park Significance

- **Complex Geology** – Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is an outstanding place to view one of the world’s most complete and complex arrays of geology. Visitors can see beautiful glacial features, along with marble cave passages that were transformed deep within the earth.
- **Solution Cave Access** – Oregon Caves is an excellent example of solution cave geology in the Pacific Northwest region and is easily reachable by the public.
- **Fossils** – The cave possesses a significant collection of well-preserved fossils, including one of the oldest American grizzly bear bones, the remains of a jaguar, and a bone tentatively identified as being from a short-faced bear. There also is a unique assemblage of trace fossils and subfossils that record much older and more recent habitat change.
- **Historic Resources** – The Oregon Caves Chateau, a national historic landmark, and the Oregon Caves Historic District are outstanding examples of public and private efforts to develop, manage, and protect the monument’s natural and recreational resources. The Chateau and designed landscape of the historic district exemplify the rustic-romantic architectural style of developed national park tourist facilities built in the early 20th century.
- **Genetic Biodiversity** – Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve contains a rich variety of habitat types that support unusually high genetic diversity, including one of the highest concentrations of endemics in North America and more single-cave endemics than any other cave in the western United States.
- **Climate History** – Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve protects dripstone chemistry and fossil deposits that record half a million years of detailed and accurate climate history and drastic climate change a quarter of a billion years ago. These caves thus provide an opportunity for scientific research and education about climate and habitat change.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers** – Oregon Caves is home to the first subterranean National Wild and Scenic River, the River Styx. The River Styx and the other rivers in this watershed are critical to the sustained health of the cave and karst features.

## Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) has been prepared to provide Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based in an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that the plan would consider all park programs. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be considered priority park areas. Each priority park area was assessed to determine where barriers existed to participating in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions.

The general public, including people with disabilities and organizations representing people with disabilities, will be invited to provide comments on this draft Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan process and findings.

## Implementation of the Plan

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan, and the park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.



# Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Process

## Self-Evaluation

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described below.

### Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Key park experiences are grounded in park legislation and can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Based on input from NPS staff, the following key park experiences were identified at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve.

- Experience and understand the geology, biology, and adventure of the cave.
- Experience, appreciate, and comprehend the landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity of the aboveground ecosystem.
- Understand and experience the park’s human history, exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District.

## SELF-EVALUATION



## Step 2: Identify All Park Areas Where Key Park Experiences Occur

After key park experiences were identified, the park areas where those experiences occur were determined. A park area is a location within a park regularly used by visitors and/or staff. The list of park areas within Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve was considered and then areas were prioritized per criteria in step 3.

## Step 3: Prioritize Park Areas

The criteria below were used to prioritize park areas for scheduling and completing assessments at this time:

- Level of visitation
- Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in area
- Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflected a broad distribution throughout the park)
- Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the visiting public to access the key park experiences. Each key park experience is represented within the identified priority areas so that all key park experiences will be accessible in some way. At the conclusion of this step, the list of priority park areas outlines which locations were assessed in steps 4 and 5. Other areas not assessed at this time will be improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

## Step 4: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area

Step 4 is the identification of all services, activities, and programs within each priority park area. This process ensured that during step 5 all visitor amenities within a priority area would be assessed.

Assessments include both physical and programmatic elements. The lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 10 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertain to providing improved accessibility.

## Step 5: Conduct Accessibility Assessment

During step 5, an interdisciplinary assessment team assessed physical and programmatic barriers within each priority area. Levels of access were identified to understand how usable the existing park program is for people with cognitive, mobility, vision, and hearing disabilities. The three general levels of access were defined by the team:

**Level 1:** a physical or programmatic barrier where program participation is usable by most participants with disabilities

**Level 2:** a physical or programmatic barrier where program participation is possible with assistance or modification

**Level 3:** a physical or programmatic barrier that prohibits participation in a program

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team to determine the current level of access. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, while universal access solutions were of primary concern. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined, as it was not always possible to eliminate all physical barriers due to limitations such as historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives to provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible was considered.

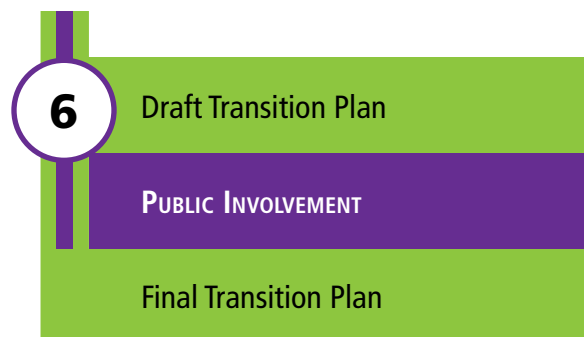
All collected data, including findings, preliminary options, and conceptual plans, are organized by park area for the park and planning team to use in implementing the recommendations for the transition plan.



## Transition Plan

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve transition plan. Public involvement will occur at the draft stage of the transition plan. Once the draft plan is developed, it will be released to solicit input from the general public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers. Upon gathering all comments from the public, the park will analyze the comments to determine if any changes to the plan are necessary. Those changes will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

## TRANSITION PLAN





The final step of the process was drafting and finalizing the transition plan and the park implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex, because making accessibility improvements may present a large range of coordination efforts for scheduling work. It is necessary to schedule improvements strategically and consider the activities and requirements associated with park operations. The final plan makes specific recommendations to improve accessibility, identifies time frames for completion of each improvement, and notes the parties responsible for each project.

Time frames for implementation of recommended solutions are primarily based on the level of access of the barrier and the ability of the park to complete the work within normal scheduling of park operations and planned improvement projects. Time frames for making improvements are categorized as follows:

**Short-term (0–3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

short-term

**Mid-term (3–7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next servicewide budget call (servicewide budget calls happen annually). For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year of receipt of funding. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

mid-term

**Long-term (>7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

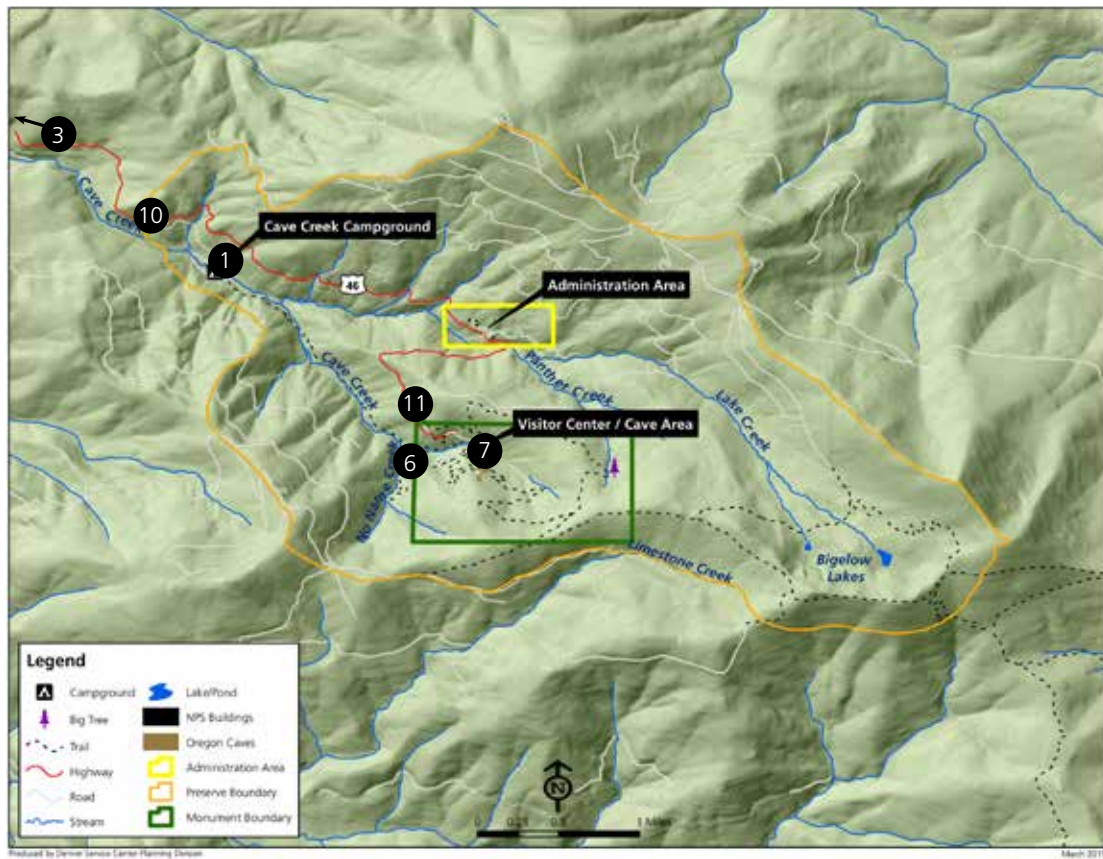
long-term

# Implementation Strategy for Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

## Priority Park Areas

Each key park experience at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is represented within the priority park areas when viewing the park as a whole. As feasible, park areas not included in the priority park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alterations and/or new construction are planned. The priority park areas identified earlier and listed below are those that were assessed and included in the transition plan implementation strategy (featured in alphabetical order). The priority park area locations can be found through the number key and associated map below:

- 1** Cave Creek Campground
- 2** Chateau
- 3** Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center
- 4** Main Cave
- 5** Main Parking and Picnic Area
- 6** No Name Trail
- 7** Oregon Caves Visitor Center
- 8** Guide Shack
- 9** Ranger Cabin
- 10** Preserve Entrance
- 11** Monument Entrance



Map of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve



Aerial Image of Visitor Center and Cave Area

## Implementation Strategy for Priority Park Areas

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. In 1984, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) were adopted for federal facilities. In 2006, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were added to ABAAS as chapter 10.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards would apply (i.e., pre-1984, post-1984, post-2006, or post-2011). In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used for ease of using only one standard for on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration, and may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication, and training are included. Employee areas are addressed as needed. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, the supervisor and employee will discuss accommodations that are needed by the employee. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment.

Site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements for each priority park area in a conceptual format. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is strongly recommended to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

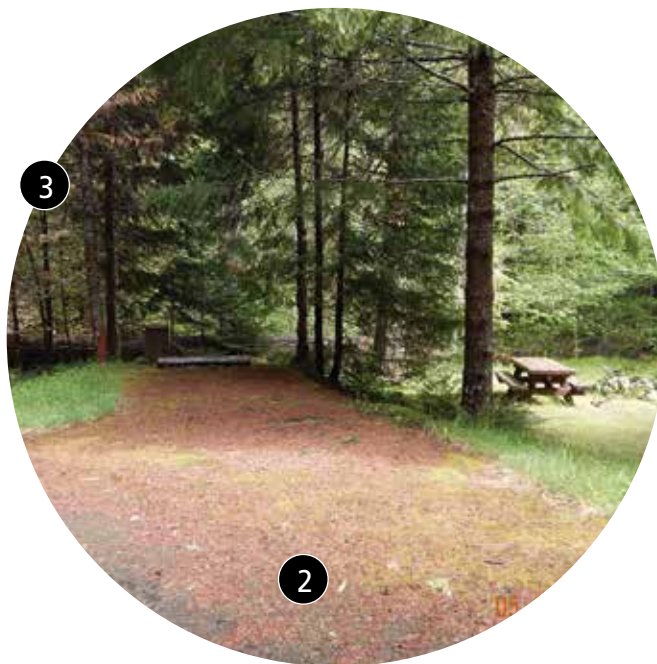






# Cave Creek Campground

## Site Features



## Cave Creek Campground

### Implementation Strategy

Formerly managed by the US Forest Service, the Cave Creek Campground is currently closed due to natural resource concerns and does not have any designated accessible sites. In the future, the National Park Service intends to rehabilitate the campground, including accessibility upgrades, before reopening it to visitors. The key park experience that would be provided at the Cave Creek Campground is the opportunity to experience, appreciate and comprehend the landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity of the aboveground ecosystem. It is also the only campground available to visitors located within the park itself. Upon reopening, the activities and programs provided at this area for visitors would include camping, hiking, and (perhaps) educational programs. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car and oversize vehicle parking, wayfinding signage, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, trash and recycling, an amphitheater, trails, viewing areas, picnic tables, fire pits, water spigots, restrooms, information kiosk, and map. Accessibility improvements to this park area would include:

- 1 Campground Registration Kiosk.** 1) Regrade area in front of kiosk to provide space for an unmarked accessible parking stall (16' wide total) at 2% running and cross slopes. 2) Provide a firm and stable accessible route to the campground registration kiosk with a landing at the kiosk at 2% cross and running slopes. 3) Ensure information at kiosk is in a minimum 24 point font with no underlines or italicized text, and that text is at 70% contrast or greater.



- 2 Car Parking.** 1) Provide one signed and marked van accessible parking stall at each accessible campsite. The stall shall be 2% maximum slope in all directions, 11' wide with a 5' wide access aisle. 2) Connect access aisles to accessible routes to restrooms and campsites.



- 3 Campsites.** 1) Provide two accessible tent campsites for individuals, potentially at current sites #10 and #11 or other suitable locations. According to ABAAS standards, the guidelines require at least two accessible spaces where two to 25 spaces are provided. The campground has 18 total sites making the requirement the minimum amount of two accessible sites. 2) Provide a firm and stable surface at 2% running and cross slopes at campsite and connections between each campsite element (compacted aggregate). 3) Provide a 36" clear space around all sides of picnic table on a firm and stable surface at 2% maximum slope in all directions. 4) Provide 48" clear space around all sides of fire pit with firm and stable surface.

5) Provide a living space for tents 48" by 48" minimum on a firm and stable surface with 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

- 4 **Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Provide a 5' wide firm and stable surface accessible route that connects accessible campsite to the restroom and other campground facilities. If there is a great distance between accessible campsites and restroom, provide a van accessible parking stall at restroom.

long-term

- 5 **Restroom.** 1) When rehabilitating campground restroom, ensure that it meets the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F212, F213, and F216), Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities, and Chapter 7 Communication Elements and Features (subsection 703).

long-term

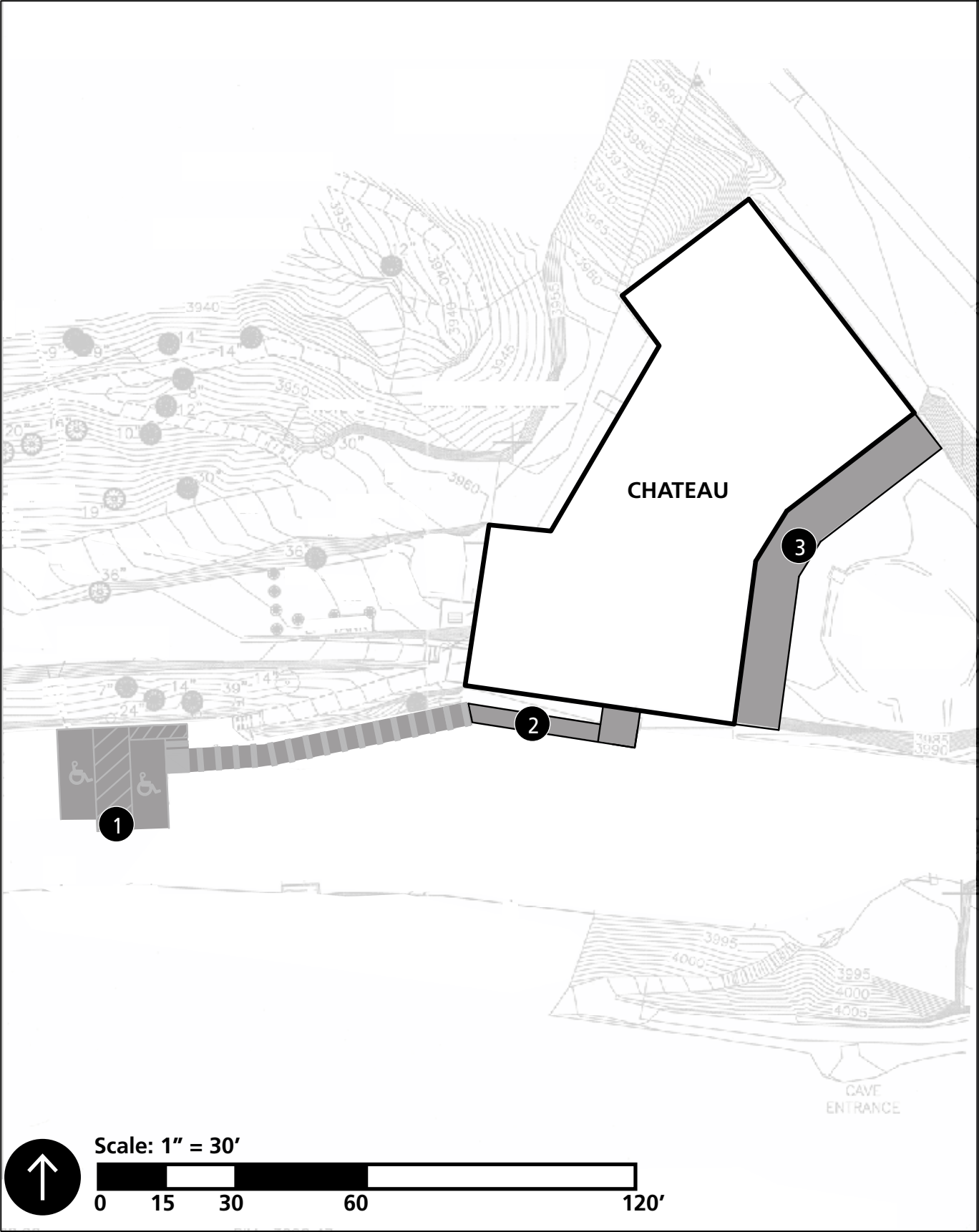
- 6 **Water Spigot.** 1) Provide a clear, firm, and stable surface to the water spigot measuring 72" by 48" with the long side of the space adjoining the road. 2) Locate the spigot at 11" minimum and 12" maximum from the rear center of the long side of the space. 3) Remove curb and provide a level landing with 2% maximum slope in all directions at spigot. 4) Replace water spigot handle with a lever that is operable with a closed fist and five pounds or less of pressure.

long-term

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Chateau  
Site Plan



## Chateau

### Implementation Strategy

Accessibility improvements to the Chateau, which is a national historic landmark, have been in planning and consultation with the Oregon SHPO for many years. Planned improvements are contingent upon the approval of funding and are tentatively scheduled for FY 2018. The key park experience provided at the Chateau, which is a designated national historic landmark, is the opportunity to experience and understand the park's human history as exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District. Activities and programs provided at this popular visitor attraction include lodging, food services, and educational programs. The existing services that support these activities and programs include overnight accommodations, wayfinding signage, accessible routes, an information desk, restrooms, a public telephone, drinking fountain, indoor seating, exhibits and maps, videos, concessions, vending machines, a gift shop, restaurant, and cafe. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Car Parking.** 1) Restripe the accessible stalls in new location to meet grade requirements. Provide one van accessible stall and one standard accessible stall, with the standard stall offset 3' from the front of the van accessible stall in order to provide a 3' wide minimum route from the access aisle to the accessible route accessing the Chateau. A wheel stop will be necessary on the standard accessible stall to ensure the 3' wide path is maintained at all times. Both stalls should be 8' wide and share an 8' wide access aisle, and both stalls and access aisle shall be 2% maximum slope in all directions. See site plan for greater detail. 2) Install accessible parking signs 60" minimum above the finish grade to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage designation on van accessible stall. 3) Stripe a 5' wide accessible route from the accessible stalls to the accessible Chateau entrance. Ensure running slopes do not exceed 5% and cross slopes do not exceed 2%.

mid-term

- 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) When rehabilitating Chateau entrance, ensure that the ramp, doorway, and walking surfaces meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsection F206) and Chapter 4 Accessible Routes.

mid-term

- 3 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces (Lower Pond Area).** 1) Repave the walking surfaces to be firm and stable with 5% maximum running slope, 2% maximum cross slopes, and to have vertical thresholds no greater than 1/4".

2) Replace door thresholds to have vertical changes no greater than 1/4" or 1/2" with a beveled edge. 3) Provide a 60" by 60" level landing outside of each door.

mid-term

### Services, activities, and programs to be addressed inside the Chateau (not depicted on site plan):

**Front Desk / Check-in.** 1) The Chateau is currently scheduled for significant accessibility improvements in 2018, which include the design of an accessible front desk / hotel check-in. Ensure desk meets ABBAS section 904.

mid-term

**Restrooms.** 1) When rehabilitating restrooms, ensure restroom interiors and doors, including toilet fixtures, dispensers, toilet compartment, grab bars, and accessory items, meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206.4, F213, and F216.8) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.

mid-term

**Dining Room and Cafe.** 1) When rehabilitating the dining room and cafe, ensure that they meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206 and F226), Chapter 4 Accessible Routes, and Chapter 9 Built-In Elements (subsection 902).

mid-term

**Game Room.** 1) Replace the existing merchandise rack with a unit that does not present a potential hazard. The new rack shall stand between 27" and 80" above the finish floor and shall protrude no more than 4" horizontally into the circulation path. 2) If possible, relocate some of the merchandise on shelves so that a variety of merchandise falls between 15" and 48" above the finish floor. 3) If merchandise must be presented above 48", provide a sign to ask for assistance with higher placed items.

mid-term

**Gift Shop.** 1) Replace the existing merchandise rack with a unit that does not present a potential hazard. The new rack should stand between 27" and 80" above the finish floor and shall protrude no more than 4" horizontally into the circulation path. 2) If possible, relocate some of the merchandise on shelves so that a variety of merchandise falls between 15" and 48" above the finish floor. 3) If merchandise must be presented above 48", provide a sign to ask for assistance with higher placed items.

short-term

**Hotel Rooms.** 1) When rehabilitating Chateau hotel rooms, ensure that they meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206 and F224), Chapter 4 Accessible Routes, and Chapter 8 Special Rooms, Spaces, and Elements (subsection F806).

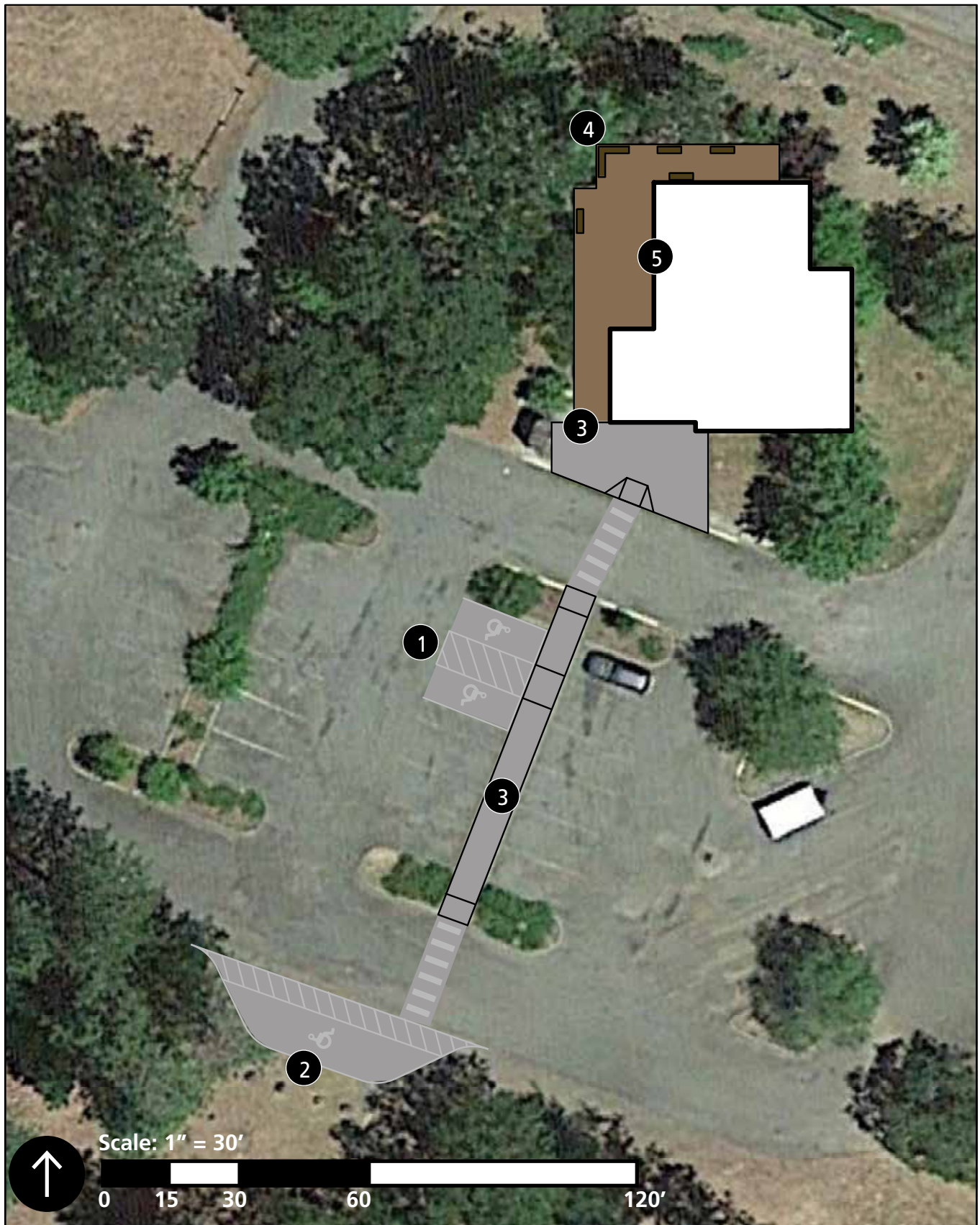
mid-term





# Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center

## Site Plan





## Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center

### Implementation Strategy

In some form, all three key park experiences are provided at the Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center. Visitors have opportunities to learn about the landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity of the aboveground ecosystem; the geology, biology, and adventure of the cave; and the park's human history, exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District. Activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include shopping and visitor orientation and information. The existing services that support these activities and programs include an information desk / sales counter and reception area, car and oversize vehicle parking, wayfinding signage, accessible routes, interpretive waysides, trash and recycling, exhibits, and maps. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 **Car Parking.** 1) Restripe parking to provide one signed and marked van accessible parking stall, thereby providing one van accessible stall and one standard accessible stall. Both stalls should be 8' wide and share an 8' wide access aisle, and both stalls and access aisle shall be 2% maximum slope in all directions. See site plan for more information. 2) Install accessible parking signs 60" minimum above the finish floor to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage designation on van accessible stall.

 long-term

- 2 **Oversize Vehicle Parking.** 1) Provide one oversize vehicle parking stall in the current gravel oversize parking area at 2% maximum slope in all directions. The stall shall be 11' wide minimum, and 20' wide minimum measured from striping centerline or face of curb. The stall should be a minimum of 30' long and provide a 5' wide access aisle on the passenger side of the vehicle. Pave the parking stall to formalize its use within the parking lot. 2) Install accessible parking sign to be 60" above the finish floor to the bottom of the sign.

 long-term

- 3 **Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) When the deck is replaced, ensure that the spacing between decking planks does not exceed 1/2" and that the deck retains a nonslip surface.

 mid-term

- 4 **Outdoor Seating (Benches).** 1) If possible, cut benches to provide compliant companion seating 36" wide minimum. If not possible, ensure that companion seating is provided at other nearby benches.

mid-term

- 5 **Main Entrance.** 1) Replace the door threshold so that the difference in elevation from the outside of the door to the interior of the building does not exceed 1/2" with a 1/4" beveled edge. 2) Replace the entry door handle with one that can be operated with a closed fist.

short-term

### Services, activities, and programs to be addressed inside the VC (not depicted on site plan):

**Gift Shop.** 1) Relocate some of the merchandise on higher shelves so that a variety of merchandise is available between 15" and 48" above the finish floor. 2) Rearrange shelving and merchandise so that a 36" wide route is maintained throughout the Interagency Illinois Valley Visitor Center.

short-term

**Concessions.** 1) Replace the doors to the refrigerated snacks cooler (or replace the cooler with a different model) so that the doors can be opened with a closed fist and five pounds of force or less.

short-term

**Drinking Fountain.** 1) Replace the drinking fountain with one which is operable with a closed fist and provides 27" minimum knee clearance underneath.

mid-term

**Interior Informational Signs.** 1) Lower interpretive signs so that they can be easily viewed by an individual in a wheelchair. Ensure there is 27" minimum knee clearance underneath.

short-term

**Restrooms (men's and women's).** 1) When rehabilitating restroom, ensure restroom interiors and doors, including toilet fixtures, dispensers, toilet compartment, grab bars, and accessory items, meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206.4, F213, and F216.8) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.



long-term

# Main Cave

## Site Features



## Main Cave

### Implementation Strategy

The Main Cave is the park's primary visitor attraction. It is strongly connected to all three key park experiences, offering direct opportunities to experience and learn about the geology, biology, and adventure of the cave, as well as the park's human history and its aboveground landscapes and biodiversity. Activities and programs provided for visitors include guided tours of the cave, educational programs, and guided caving options. The existing services that support these activities and programs include a trailhead at the cave entrance, an extensive network of paths, railings, steps, viewing areas and gathering areas, and seating. A portion of the cave is accessible to people with disabilities via special "Sneak Peek" programs, provided that these visitors can access the cave entrance. Maps and models of the cave are available at the nearby Oregon Caves Visitor Center and a video highlighting the cave may be viewed at the Chateau. The following improvements to accessibility at the Main Cave are planned:

- 1 Outdoor Recreation Access Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) When the trail from the visitor center to the main cave is altered, ensure that the running slope is 5% maximum, cross slope is 2% maximum, and there are no vertical thresholds greater than 1/4". 2) When the grate in the entrance to the cave is replaced, select a grate design that does not allow gaps greater than 1/2". 3) Based on conversations with the park, there may be an opportunity to consider raising the natural ceiling height in select locations of the cave where natural formations are low and present hazards. Improvements may be concentrated on trail portions along the "sneak peek" tour route. 4) In the future, should the route through the cave be altered, the park shall seek an ABAAS Exception to Code (ABAAS 1019) stating that it is infeasible to provide an accessible route through the cave due to topography. 5) Provide an accessible route to the maximum extent possible and provide alternate means of experiencing the cave through exhibits and other programmatic solutions. The park has done well to ensure that the cave trail can be programmatically accessed through various exhibits and media at the nearby Oregon Caves Visitor Center. Future improvements to media should further this programming of critical portions of the trail that are not physically accessible.

long-term

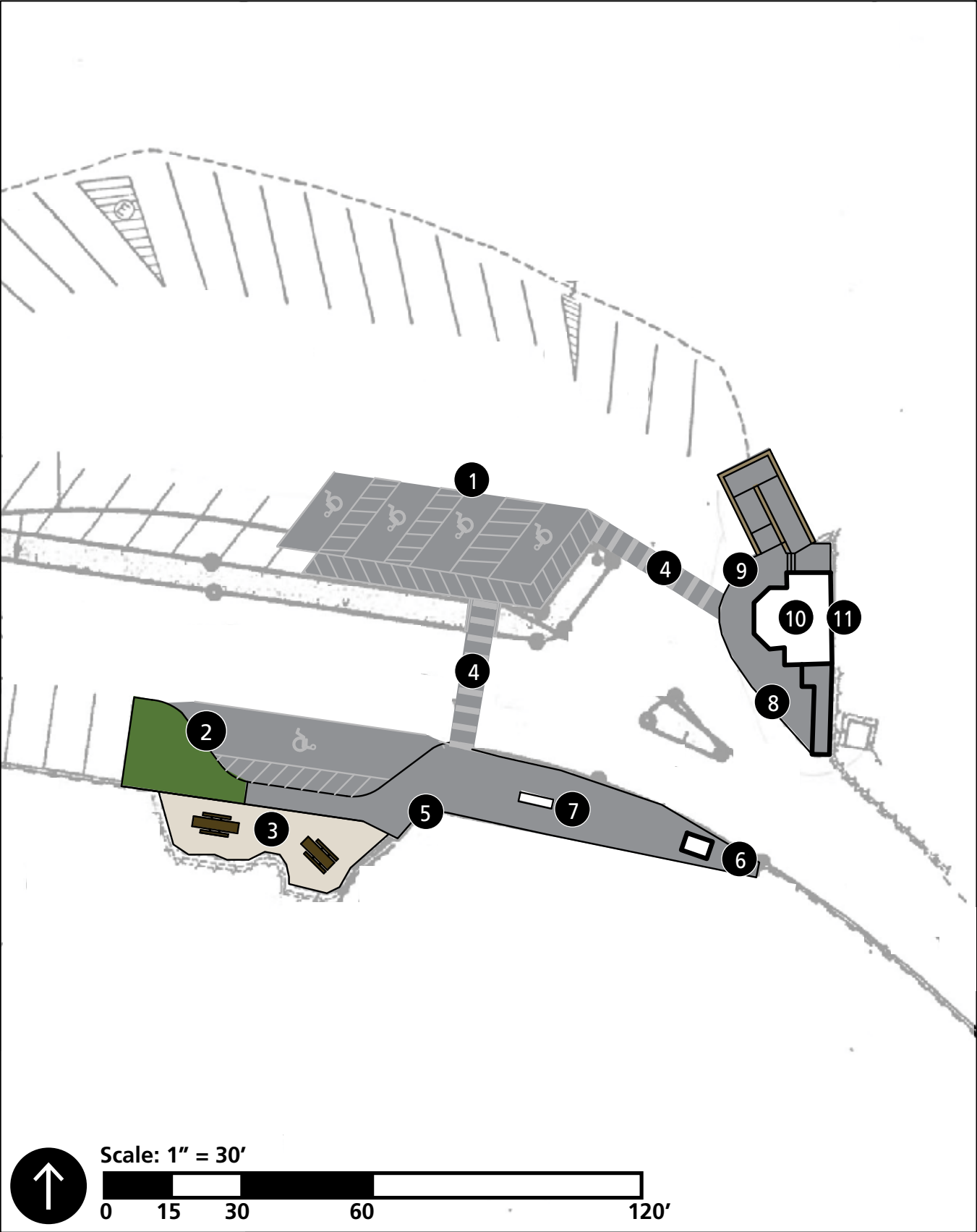
- 2 Cave Exit Trail.** 1) In the future, should alterations be made to the trail, the park shall seek an ABAAS Exception to Code (ABAAS 1019) stating that it is infeasible to provide an accessible route exiting the cave due to topography. 2) The park has done well to ensure that the cave trail can be programmatically accessed through various exhibits and media at the visitor center. Future improvements to media should further this programming of critical portions of the trail that are not physically accessible.

long-term



# Main Parking and Picnic Area

## Site Plan



## Main Parking and Picnic Area

### Implementation Strategy

The historic park entrance sign and checking and comfort station are contributing resources to the Oregon Caves Historic District; therefore, the key park experience provided at the main parking and picnic area is the opportunity to experience and understand the park's human history, as exemplified by the historic district. Activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include the only accessible picnicking area in the park and educational programs. The existing services that support these activities and programs include the park's primary visitor car and oversize vehicle parking, directional signage, accessible routes, interpretive waysides, trash and recycling, picnic tables, restrooms, drinking fountain, and maps and other visitor information. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Car Parking.** 1) Reconfigure and restripe all parking stalls and move the accessible stalls adjacent to the existing island. 2) Provide four accessible stalls with one being van accessible, 8' wide with an 8' wide access aisle. Stalls may share access aisles. All stalls shall be 2% maximum slope in all directions. 3) Install parking signage at all accessible stalls to be 60" minimum above the finish floor to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage designation on van accessible stall.



- 2 Oversize Vehicle Parking.** 1) Provide one oversize vehicle parking stall. The stall shall be 11' wide minimum, and 20' wide minimum measured from striping centerline or face of curb. The stall should be a minimum of 30' long and provide a 5' wide access aisle on the passenger side of the vehicle. 2) Install accessible parking sign to be 60" above the finish floor to the bottom of the sign.



- 3 Picnic Tables.** To be completed in tandem with changes made to parking and accessible routes. 1) Lower the height of both picnic tables to be 34" maximum above the finish floor. 2) Relocate the tables to a firm and stable surface with 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure that the clear space around the entire table is 36" minimum.



- 4 **Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Reconstruct the access ramps to both men's and women's restrooms to meet ABAAS requirements, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsection F206) and Chapter 4 Accessible Routes (subsection 405). 2) Resurface the path in front of the information facility to be 2% maximum cross slope. 3) Install an accessible route from the picnic facility to the restrooms at 5% maximum running slope, 2% maximum cross slope, and with vertical thresholds no greater than 1/4".

long-term

- 5 **Trash and Recycling.** 1) Relocate trash and recycling containers so that they allow a level approach and provide a clear space of 36" by 48".

short-term

- 6 **Interpretive Wayside / Informational Kiosk.** 1) Replace signage with new signs without the use of italics and with minimum 24 point font. Ensure graphics provide 70% minimum contrast between text and background images.

short-term

- 7 **Park Entrance Sign.** 1) Since access to the historic park entrance sign cannot be provided in a safe manner, develop a new sign in a safe location of the main parking and picnic area to provide a replacement photo opportunity for visitors. Consider a design which allows visitors to interact with the sign; an example mentioned was a "climbable" sign with integrated seating. 2) Locate the new sign on an accessible route from the accessible parking at 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope, and place the new sign near the existing kiosk in the current native planting area. Provide a firm and stable area around the base of the sign at 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

- 8 **Outdoor Seating (Bench).** 1) Relocate bench to provide an adjacent space 36" wide minimum on a firm and stable surface with 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

9

**Drinking Fountain.** 1) Relocate drinking fountain to be along an accessible route and/or remove from this location.

mid-term

10

**Restroom (men's and women's).** 1) When rehabilitating restroom, ensure restroom interiors and doors, including toilet fixtures, dispensers, toilet compartment, grab bars, and accessory items, meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206.4, F213, and F216.8) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.

mid-term

11

**Temporary Visitor Contact Station.** 1) When the temporary visitor contact station is in use, ensure that there is a clear space 36" by 48" adjacent to the table. 2) The table shall be 34" maximum in height, with 27" minimum knee clearance underneath. Material on table shall be reachable within 20".

short-term

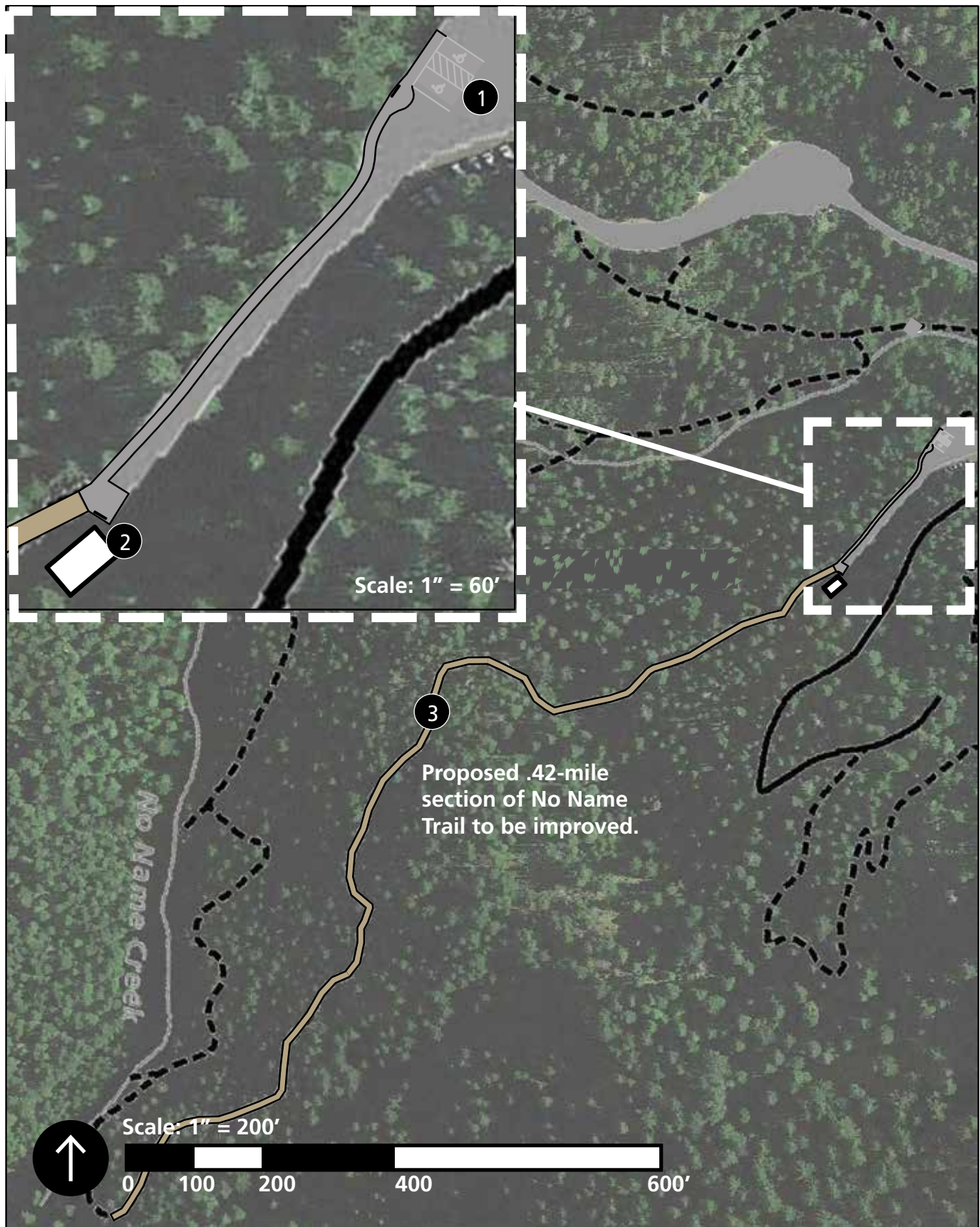


A park entrance sign at Grand Canyon National Park.



# No Name Trail

## Site Plan





## No Name Trail

### Implementation Strategy

The No Name Trail is connected to two key park experiences; it offers opportunities to experience, appreciate, and comprehend the landscapes and biodiversity of the aboveground ecosystem, and to learn about the park's human history, as exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District. The trail provides a loop trail from the Chateau into the adjacent forest, with views of creeks and waterfalls. The primary activity for visitors is hiking, with guided hikes and special educational programs being provided on occasion. Existing services that support these activities and programs include the hiking trail, wayfinding signage, interpretive waysides, viewing areas, and benches. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Car Parking.** 1) Restripe the accessible stalls further away from the Chateau so that slopes in all directions are 2% or less. Provide two accessible stalls, each 8' wide and sharing an 8' wide access aisle. Mark one as being a van accessible stall. 2) Install accessible parking signs 60" minimum above the finish floor to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage designation on van accessible stall. 3) Install wayfinding signage near accessible parking stalls that call out the location of and distance to the accessible trail.



- 2 Trailhead Information.** 1) Install trailhead informational/directional signage, including trail information on length, width, surface type, running and cross slopes. Locate sign on an accessible route.

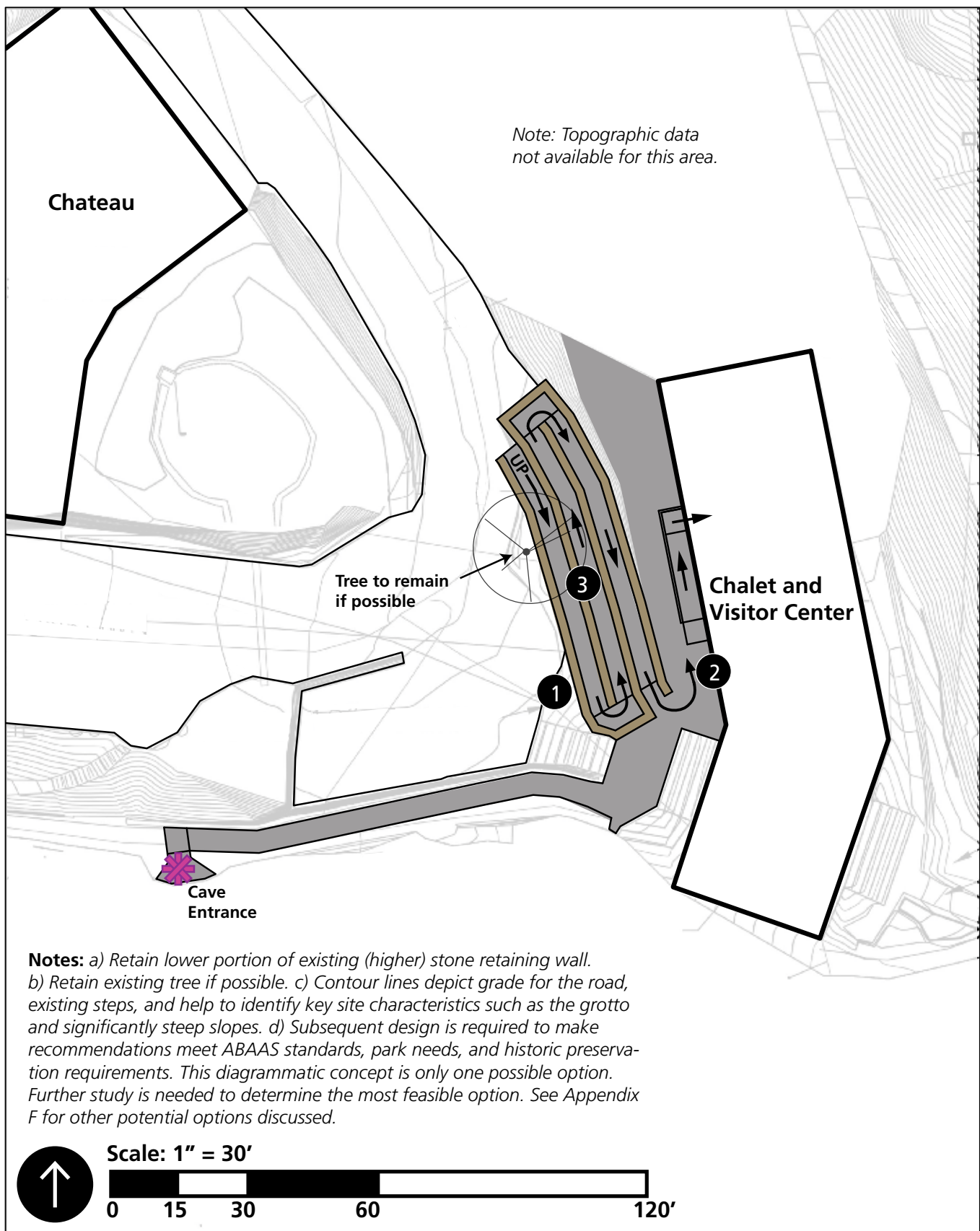


- 3 Hiking Trail.** 1) The trail is 1.36 miles in length and contains many steep and narrow sections with several areas of rock steps. However, the first 0.42-mile section of trail from the Chateau parking area could be rehabilitated to provide for an accessible trail meeting the requirements of ABAAS section 1017. This section of trail could provide access to an overlook and turnaround area. Regrade 0.42-mile section of trail to 5% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope, with short sections of trail at 8.33% maximum running slope for 200' and 10% maximum running slope for 30' where necessary. 2) Remove loose gravel from road surface on an ongoing basis. 3) Remove tree root obstacles. 4) Where necessary, widen trail surface to ensure 36" minimum width.



# Oregon Caves Visitor Center

## Site Plan



## Oregon Caves Visitor Center

### Implementation Strategy

The Oregon Caves Visitor Center is located in the historic chalet, which is a contributing resource to the Oregon Caves Historic District. However, due to the difficult terrain in which the chalet was built, a fully accessible route to access the visitor center presents a challenge which will require a long timeframe. Currently, a driveway with running slopes over 8.33% and cross slopes over 2%, followed by a short flight of steps, provide access to the visitor center. Upon request, park staff provides assistance to visitors and sets up a temporary ramp to overcome the steps. Initial observations and discussion suggested that a series of ramps and landings may be feasible to provide access; however, further study will be needed to determine the most feasible option. As the park's main visitor center, it is strongly connected to all three key park experiences, offering opportunities to experience and understand the geology, biology, and adventure of the cave; the park's human history; and its aboveground landscapes and biodiversity. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include guided tours, educational programs, and special events. The existing services that support these activities and programs include an information desk, maps, educational exhibits—including a replica cave—wayfinding and interior signage, restrooms, drinking fountains, indoor seating, concessions, vending machines, gift shop, and comment drop box. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Informal Picnic Area.** 1) Relocate the picnic tables and/or benches so that they are in an area with a firm and stable surface and a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The chosen area must be located on an accessible route. 2) Alternatively, regrade the exiting area to meet ABAAS standards when access to the visitor center is reconfigured.

short-term

- 2 Outdoor Seating (Bench).** To be completed in tandem with construction of access ramps. 1) Repave underneath and adjacent to the benches to ensure there is a 2% maximum cross slope and no vertical thresholds greater than 1/4".

long-term

- 3 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Construct an accessible route in front of the historic visitor center through a series of ramps and landings conforming to ABAAS requirements. Relocate sections of the rock retaining wall to provide the additional width required for multiple switchback ramps and railings. The ramp providing access from the upper landing to the chalet will provide direct access through the southern door north of the breezeway.

long-term

Services, activities, and programs to be addressed in the breezeway  
(not depicted on the site plan):

**Trash and Recycling.** 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacle to the interior of the breezeway. Provide a firm and stable surface adjacent to the receptacle of 30" by 48".

short-term

**Interpretive Waysides.** 1) Relocate trash receptacles within breezeway so that they do not block the panels. 2) Replace interpretive panels with versions which have 24 point minimum font and no italics.

short-term

(1)

long-term

(2)

**Comment Box.** 1) Provide a writing surface near the comment box stand or replace the current stand with one which includes an accessible comment writing surface, with the top of the surface being between 28" and 34" above the ground and with a minimum 27" knee clearance underneath. 2) Provide a firm and stable surface adjacent to comment box of 30" by 48".

short-term

**Bench.** 1) Provide companion space adjacent to bench for wheelchairs, 36" by 48" with 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

**Restrooms (men's and women's).** 1) When rehabilitating restroom, ensure restroom interiors and doors, including toilet fixtures, dispensers, toilet compartment, grab bars, and accessory items, meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F206.4, F213, and F216.8) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.

short-term



Services, activities, and programs to be addressed inside the VC  
(not depicted on the site plan):

**Basket with Loaner Coats for Cave Tours.** 1) Repair the hinge on the broken basket and ensure it is operable with a closed fist and less than five pounds of force. 2) Add a shelf (piece of wood) within the box so that jackets are located a minimum of 15" above the finish floor.

short-term

**Counter Surface.** 1) Modify counter to provide a 36" long minimum section that does not exceed 36" in height and provides an adjacent clear floor space of 36" by 48".

mid-term

**Gift Shop.** 1) Redistribute merchandise so that all items for sale are available located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor. 2) If merchandise must be presented above 48", provide a sign to ask for assistance with higher placed items.

short-term

**Drinking Fountain.** 1) Replace the drinking fountain with one which is operable with a closed fist. Ensure that the spout is 36" maximum above the finish floor and it provides 27" minimum knee clearance from the bottom of the fountain to the finish floor.

mid-term

**Interactive Buttons in Interpretive Displays.** 1) When repairing or modifying exhibits, lower the buttons so that they are between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.

long-term

**Temporary Exhibit (Fossilized Skulls).** 1) Increase the size of text on the labels to 24 point minimum.

short-term

**Seating.** 1) Provide a mix of seating levels in the visitor center. Some seating options shall be at 17" above the finish floor. 2) Provide companion seating space, 36" by 48" minimum, adjacent to some seating options.

short-term

**Exhibit Video.** 1) Provide transcript of the closed-captioned video featured in interpretive exhibits. 2) Consider replacing the current video with an open-captioned version.

short-term

**Lockers.** 1) Provide lockers with latches that visitors can operate with a closed fist and less than five pounds of force.

mid-term

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# Guide Shack, Ranger Cabin, and Preserve and Monument Entrances

## Site Features





## Guide Shack, Ranger Cabin, and Preserve and Monument Entrances

### Implementation Strategy

#### Guide Shack

The Guide Shack is currently closed to the public and provides minimal access to people with disabilities. However, as a contributing resource to the Oregon Caves Historic District, it is directly connected to the key park experience of understanding and experiencing the park's human history. Visitor activities and programs that could be provided at this area are severely limited due to the structure's poor condition and its current closure, and there are no current plans to rehabilitate the structure. However, the building could be featured in interpretive or educational programs focused on the park's history and, if rehabilitated, could potentially be used for administrative or other uses in the future. Accessibility improvements to this park area would include:

- 1 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces:** 1) In the future, should alterations be made to the route, the park shall seek an ABAAS Exception to Code (ABAAS 1019) stating that it is infeasible to provide an accessible route due to topography and vegetation. 2) Provide the opportunity to understand and experience the Guide Shack in the greater context of the historic district through alternative interpretive and educational programming.



#### Ranger Cabin

The Ranger Cabin is not a public destination and is inaccessible. However, as a contributing resource to the Oregon Caves Historic District, it is directly connected to the key park experience of understanding and experiencing the park's human history. Activities and programs provided at this area for visitors are limited, though occasionally it is included in interpretive programming. The existing services that support these activities and programs include a very steep hiking trail that leads to the building. Accessibility improvements to this park area would include:

- 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces:** 1) In the future, should alterations be made to the route, the park shall seek an ABAAS Exception to Code (ABAAS 1019) stating that it is infeasible to provide an accessible route due to topography. 2) Provide the opportunity to understand and experience the Ranger Cabin in the greater context of the historic district through alternative interpretive and educational programming.



## Preserve and Monument Entrances

The key park experience provided at the monument entrance is the opportunity to understand and experience the park's human history, exemplified by the Oregon Caves Historic District. No visitor activities or programs are provided at this area, but it is a popular location for photographs due to the beautiful entrance sign that stands in this location. The rustic character of this historic entrance sign exemplifies the principles of naturalistic design and construction evident in built facilities throughout the historic district. Although the sign isn't a direct accessibility concern, the practice of stopping along the roadside for photo opportunities has created safety concerns. The park expressed a desire to provide visitors with an alternative photo opportunity at a site selected in this SETP process.

With the recent boundary expansion and redesignation of the national park system unit to a national monument and preserve, a need has also arisen to determine how best to mark the visitor entrance to the preserve.

The solutions below seek to improve wayfinding and signage and address the visitor safety concerns:

- 3 Preserve Boundary Sign.** 1) Place the new Oregon Caves Preserve boundary sign and campground sign at the entrance to Cave Creek Campground or at a suitable site nearby in a location that provides a wide shoulder for visitors to safely exit their vehicles. Ensure there is a firm and stable surface and an accessible route to the sign from an accessible parking space with 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope. Placement and design of signs should take into account the visual impact to the surrounding context and nature of the site.

mid-term

- 4 Monument Entry Sign.** 1) To discourage visitors from parking near and taking pictures of the historic Oregon Caves National Monument, place native boulders in this area. See main parking and picnic area site plan and implementation table for a proposed new sign location that provides a replacement photo opportunity.

mid-term

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## Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Policy, Practice, Communication, and Training





# Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Policy, Practice, Communication, and Training

## Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit, and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations that the park employs.

## Postings and Publications

- 1 Accessibility Posters Placed in Common Areas.** 1) Place posters in common areas of staff and visitor buildings which provide locations for obtaining information about accessibility requirements and contact information for accessibility-related questions and complaints.

short-term

- 2 Junior Ranger Booklet.** 1) Provide a large-print and braille version of the Junior Ranger Program booklet.

short-term

- 3 Publications.** 1) Provide braille brochures, large print brochures, and tactile wayfinding maps. Market and partner with outreach organizations to determine content. All publications should be in a readable type face at 18 point font. Alignment should be flush left and rag right with hyphens avoided. Black or white type color should be used and red text avoided. Italicized and underlined text should be avoided. Graphics should have at least 70% contrast. 2) Add accessibility information in all publications, providing information on all services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

## Staff Training and Park Protocols

- 4 Accessibility Awareness Training.** 1) Require yearly accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and non-permanent employees, starting with the training list provided on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan SharePoint site.

mid-term

- 5 **Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training.** 1) Require yearly training for maintenance staff on maintaining accessible facilities, including restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes that are clear of obstructions, and universal design principles.

short-term

- 6 **Accessibility for Project Managers Training.** 1) Require yearly training for project managers on entering information into PMIS and other forms about accessibility, universal design principles, and quality control of projects and design.

short-term

- 7 **Accessible Interpretive Training.** 1) Provide training for the interpretation and education division about accessibility issues, people first language, major disability categories, how to assess programs and make them more accessible, which websites offer more information, service animals, what technologies are available, universal design principles, visitor services and communication in accessibility. Also, require yearly visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of assistive technology—assistive listening devices, audio description, how to interpret tactile models and maps.

short-term

- 8 **Communication with Law Enforcement.** 1) Provide standard operation procedures for law enforcement to communicate with a person with a disability.

mid-term

- 9 **Movable Seating.** 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for moveable cubicles and conference rooms and movable seating arrangements to provide accessible routes to all elements in a room or building, maintain integrated accessible seating in visitor seating areas, and clearly identify accessible seating locations.

mid-term

- 10 **Powered Mobility Devices.** 1) Provide guidance outlining where powered mobility devices are or are not allowed within the park.

mid-term

- 11 Wheelchairs.** 1) Wheelchairs for public use are not required to be provided by park, but it is necessary to provide guidance on procedures for maintaining and operating the existing wheelchairs used for emergencies. 2) There is no need for standard operating procedures for checking out and returning wheelchairs since they are not provided for public use. 3) Provide standard operating procedures for emergency-use wheelchairs to address and provide training on pre-and post-inspection, cleaning, and maintenance. Note: This may include hiring a trained professional to periodically inspect wheelchair maintenance to ensure it meets specifications of regular use. 4) Since wheelchairs are not provided for public use, no signage or information in publications is needed to alert visitors to their availability.

long-term

- 12 Emergency Preparedness.** 1) Review the evacuation plan for guidance related to accessibility and update if needed. Then develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency. Training should be dependent upon experience and expertise of park staff and should clearly identify roles and responsibilities in an emergency, including who assists individuals requiring assistance, what type of assistance may or may not be needed, and where to go in the event of an emergency.

mid-term

## Audio and Visual Programs

- 13 Assistive Listening Devices.** 1) Provide standard operating procedures for assistive listening devices to address guidance for checking out and returning devices, pre-and post-inspection of devices, and using devices for ranger programs and informational services. Procedures should address and provide training on cleaning, use, and maintenance of all devices. 2) Advertise availability of assistive listening devices in all publications, on signs at the visitor center, and on the website.

short-term

- 14 Live Audio Description.** 1) Provide training for interpretation and education division on live audio description for guided tours at the park unit (see accessible interpretive training).

short-term

- 15 **Open Captioning and Audio Description.** 1) Provide open captioning on park videos and indicate its availability on the website.

short-term

- 16 **T-Coil Hearing Loops or Neck Loops.** 1) Purchase T-coil hearing loops and neck loops. 2) Provide standard operating procedures for auxiliary aids to include guidance for checking out and returning devices, pre-and post-inspection of devices, and using devices for ranger programs and informational services. Procedures should address and provide training on cleaning, use, and maintenance of all devices. 3) Advertise the availability of these devices in all publications, on signs at the visitor center, and on the website.

short-term

- 17 **Text Telephone (TTY) Machines.** 1) Provide a TTY machine at all locations there is a public telephone (i.e., the Chateau). 2) On publications and website where the park contact information or phone number is provided, include a TTY number. 3) Provide standard operating procedures for TTY machines to include protocol for pre- and post-inspection of TTY machines and guidance on using TTY machines for communication. Procedures should address and provide training on cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

short-term

## Visitor Information

- 18 **Communication.** 1) Provide park contact information with-e-mail address and telephone number on website and in publications for questions: George\_Herring@nps.gov.

short-term

- 19 **Marketing.** 1) Outreach and marketing is currently limited because much of the park is difficult to access; however, this could be broadened once improvements to the Chateau are made. 2) As appropriate, contact groups with disabilities directly to inform them about accessible programs, services, and activities that are available at the park and as solutions are implemented. 3) Continue to contact and reach out to groups with disabilities to involve them in improvement projects as they occur.

short-term



- 20 Reservations.** 1) On the website, identify the following numbers to call: Federal Relay Service (800-877-8339), Voice (877-377-8642), Voice Carry Over (877-877-6280), Speech-to-Speech (877-877-8982), and TeleBraille (866-893-8340). Provide online reservation system built into content management system. Also, provide information on website reservation systems about services that are accessible for each park area that requires a reservation. 2) Provide alternative accessible formats of making reservations through Federal Relay Service, Text Telephone (TTY), Video Phone, etc. Provide information on the website regarding the accessibility of facilities.

long-term

- 21 Signage.** 1) Provide signage at both visitor centers that accessible alternative formats are available.

mid-term

- 22 Website.** 1) All websites should have a manual switch to change size of fonts. Alignment should be flush left and rag right. Hyphens, red and green text, italicized and underlined text, and all caps should be avoided. Black or white type color should be used. Graphics and text should contrast at least 70% with the background. Provide Word documents as an alternative to PDFs. 2) Provide information on the website regarding the accessibility of facilities.

short-term

## Tours, Programs, and Special Events

- 23 Guided Tours, Educational Programs, and Special Events.** 1) Provide alternative formats upon request, such as trail information in large print and audio description of tours and educational programs. 2) Provide information at visitor center, in publications, and on website. 3) As part of long-term facility upgrades, (for instance to the Chateau), provide designated stopping points or resting areas at 2% maximum cross and running slopes with a firm and stable surface and 30" by 48" clear space.

long-term

- 24 Self-Guided Tours.** 1) Provide alternative formats upon request, such as trail information in large print and audio description of the tour. 2) Provide information about the self-guided tour and environment (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) at visitor center, in publications, and on website. 3) Provide

designated stopping points or resting areas at 2% maximum cross and running slopes with a firm and stable surface and 30" by 40" clear space.

long-term

- 25 Special Events.** 1) Provide information on how to contact the park to request accommodations for special events. Release announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.). 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for including accessibility information on event announcements and to address how accommodations are made.

mid-term

## Concessions and Partnerships

- 26 Park Partner, Leasee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs.** 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures to partners that identify accessibility requirements and protocols, including the use of assistive technologies. Provide guidance to outside groups that advise how to make presentations accessible. 2) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) applies to all lands funded by the federal government. Communication shall take place between park partner concessionaires and the federal government to ensure accessibility of services, activities, and programs. The National Park Service shall conduct an assessment and develop a transition plan at park partner concessionaire facilities as required.

mid-term

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# Conclusion

Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to enjoy the full range of experiences available at the park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect the unique attributes of the cave, the extraordinary biodiverse ecosystems of this unique landscape, and the park's place in human history.

The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve SETP is a living document, intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as part of this plan.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works toward its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve.

For visitors with mobility impairments, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park has to offer, will be more accessible. Experiences, such as exploring an underground cave, picnicking with family and friends, hiking, and learning about the natural and human history of the park, will be enhanced.



For visitors with vision, hearing, or cognitive disabilities, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve will deliver programs, exhibits, and waysides that interpret the park's resources, landscapes, and stories in new and interactive ways. Additionally, alternative formats such as large-print transcripts, audio description tours, and virtual tours will provide ease of navigation in the park. Guided tours will have assistive listening devices, sign language interpreters, T-coil hearing loops, and live audio description tours available to all.

The results of this collective effort, over time, will make Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, histories, and experiences the park has to offer.



# Appendix A: Accessibility Laws, Standards, Guidelines, and NPS Policies Applicable to Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

As a national park, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and Director's Orders specifically pertain to Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve.

## **LAWS AND STANDARDS**

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

### **Architectural Barriers Act of 1968**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

### **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.section508.gov/>

### **Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

## **Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

## **Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

## **Effective Communication**

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

## **Reasonable Accommodations**

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

## **Other Powered Mobility Devices**

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

## **Service Animals**

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

## **Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

## **Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

## **Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

### **Director's Order 16A**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

### **Director's Order 42**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

### **National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

## **GUIDELINES**

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

### **Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media**

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

## Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

**Accessibility assessment:** A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

**Accessibility assessment team:** This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

**Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan:** A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving park wide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

**Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS):** Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

**Barrier:** Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

**Best Practices:** A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

**Consultation:** A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

**Facility Management Software System (FMSS) Work Order:** The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

**Guidelines:** A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

**Interdisciplinary Design Team:** This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

**Key park experiences:** For the purpose of the SETP, key park experiences are those that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

**Laws:** A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

**Level of access:** For the purpose of the SETP the team assessed the general degree of accessibility for programs, while considering each experience, disability, and physical and programmatic access. It also assists in identifying the accessibility level for participating in a park experience and where it falls in priority for action.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements:** NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

**Park areas:** A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

**Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB):** Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

**Park Policy:** Those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome that are adopted by the park.

**Park Practices:** Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.



**Responsible Person:** The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

**Policy:** A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility:** A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility:** A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number):** A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

**Project planning team:** This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and a regional liaison. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

**Readily Achievable:** Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

**Service, activity, and program:** A service, activity, or program has a single purpose and is an activity undertaken by a department that affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

**Solution:** The action to eliminate the barrier that has been identified.

**Standards:** A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

**Time frame:** Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on level of access of the barrier. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommendations are divided into three time frames including: short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

# Appendix C: Contributors

## Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

Alicia Alvarado – Administrative Officer

George Herring – Interpretation

John Roth – Natural Resources

Vicki Snitzler – Superintendent

Lynne Stokes – Chief Ranger

John Taerea – Facility Manager

Christopher Willis – Media Specialist

## Lava Beds National Monument

Patrick Taylor – Supervisory Park Ranger

## Pacific West Regional Office

Patricia (Peetz) Brouillette – Project Manager

Jack Williams – Civil Engineer

## Denver Service Center

Kelly Donahue – Project Specialist/Landscape Architect, DSC-Planning

Tom Gibney – Project Manager/Landscape Architect, DSC-Planning

Colin Heffern – Project Specialist/Landscape Architect, DSC-Planning

Katie Ryan – Project Specialist/Landscape Architect, DSC-Planning

## Appendix D: Park Areas Not Prioritized

The following park areas are those that were not considered priority park areas for this Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan process and therefore did not receive in-field assessments. The prioritization process determined that key park experiences provided in nonpriority areas were available in an equivalent way within the areas identified as priority park areas. While all park areas where a key park experience occurs may not be assessed at this time, all key park experiences in Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve will be accessible via the areas that were assessed.

Additionally, if any of the nonprioritized areas are improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.

Rationales are provided below for areas that were not considered priority park areas for this plan:

Park Area	Rationale
Cave Exit Trail	<p>The Cave Exit Trail has steep grades, including some short sections that are considered extremely steep. The entire trail is well-beyond accessibility standards. However, the No Name Trail provides an opportunity to experience nature in the park, and one section of the No Name Trail is recommended for accessibility improvements. The main cave was also a prioritized area. The park provides access to a portion of the cave for people with disabilities via “Sneak Peek” special programs and intends to continue providing this type of access. With proposed improvements on the trail to the cave entrance, accessibility to the cave experience will be improved.</p> <p>During the site visit, the Cave Exit Trail was assessed and slope measurements recorded. These measurements confirmed that due to the steep terrain and heavily forested setting, the trail cannot be reasonably altered to meet ABAAS section 1017 requirements. See appendix G for more information.</p>
Cliff Nature Trail	<p>Like many trails in the park, the Cliff Nature Trail has extremely steep grades and uneven, unpaved surfaces. Furthermore, the Cliff Nature Trail begins near the cave entrance, approximately 300’ in elevation above the Oregon Caves Visitor Center. Therefore, access to the Cliff Nature Trail is provided by way of the Cave Exit Trail, which also is not physically accessible. The No Name Trail provides the opportunity to experience nature in the park and has a section that is recommended for accessibility improvements.</p> <p>During the site visit, the Cliff Nature Trail was assessed and slope measurements recorded. These measurements confirmed that due to the steep terrain and heavily forested setting, the trail cannot be reasonably altered to meet ABAAS section 1017 requirements. See appendix G for more information.</p>

Park Area	Rationale
Big Tree Loop Trail	The Big Tree Loop Trail is not physically accessible due to steep grades, uneven terrain, narrow width, and numerous obstacles. These natural factors would present significant challenges to improving accessibility. The trail is not officially documented, nor is it captured in the NPS Facility Management Software System (FMSS), which tracks the associated maintenance of facilities such as trails. The opportunity to experience nature in the park can be made accessible through improvements to a section of the No Name Trail mentioned previously.
The Historic District Site	The Oregon Caves Historic District is one of the fundamental resources of the park. To recognize the importance of the park's historic character, including the cultural landscape, NPS personnel initially identified the Historic District Site as a priority park area for assessment. During the subsequent site visit, the accessibility of facilities within the historic district was found to be sufficiently assessed as part of other priority park areas, including the Chateau, Oregon Caves Visitor Center, Ranger Cabin, and Guide Shack. During implementation of the proposed accessibility solutions, great care should be taken to preserve the historic district's unique design character, including the cultural landscape. Solutions must be designed with care so that they harmonize with the natural environment and are compatible with the district's historic values.
Headquarters	Due to a low number and type of services, activities, and programs offered, this park area was not prioritized. The park headquarters primarily houses administrative (nonpublic) functions. It therefore did not align strongly with the identified key park experiences and ranked lowest on popularity and types of services offered among other potential sites. For these reasons, it was decided to focus on other priority areas.

# Appendix E: Actions Taken By The Park

**Identification no.** \_\_\_\_\_

Please record this sheet number in the implementation table where this action is identified.

This sheet should be used to document accessibility accomplishments throughout the park. It is beneficial to track and document when action has been taken on accessibility issues. This template can be used for documenting completed projects:

Action Taken by Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

Location: [Park Area]

Barrier:

Action taken:

Date work was completed:

Cost:

Photograph(s), sketches, or notes documenting completed work:

Submitted by:

Date:



# Appendix F: Potential Solutions for Providing Access to the Oregon Caves Visitor Center and the Main Cave Entrance

As of 2015, the access route to the Oregon Caves Visitor Center and Main Cave entrance exceeded maximum running slope requirements for accessible routes. The site has historical significance and the Chalet building that houses the visitor center is a contributing resource of the historic district. The paved driveway leading to the Chalet is very steep, and the area also contains three sets of concrete steps at the building entrance. Park staff desires an accessible route to both the visitor center and cave entrance.

The Oregon Caves Visitor Center implementation table and site plan included in the SETP depict one potential concept that appeared to be feasible from initial observation and analysis; however, further study will be needed to determine the most feasible option. This appendix includes additional information recorded and discussed during the June 2015 on-site assessment as a starting point for subsequent work.

## Preliminary Measurements

Very rudimentary elevations were obtained with the use of an inclinometer and tape measure as noted below:

1. Elevation gain from transformer (beginning of steeper slope for current walk) to the landing in front of and below visitor center breezeway (between the two sets of concrete steps) is approximately a 10 feet vertical gain.
2. Elevation gain from landing to grade at fire door exit is approximately a 2 feet vertical gain.
3. Elevation gain from landing to finish floor of visitor center is approximately a 4 feet vertical gain.
4. Elevation gain from landing to cave entrance is approximately a 1.5 feet vertical gain.
5. Elevation gain from cave entrance to visitor center breezeway is approximately a 2.5 feet vertical gain.

## Potential Solutions Discussed at the Workshop

The assessment team discussed the following different options:

1. Raise elevation of electrical transformer located near the base of driveway and extend driveway (as a ramp with 8.33% maximum slope) approximately 50' past the transformer toward the parking area. This would provide one long length of ramp with landings at 30" elevation gain. The total length of ramp from roadway to the landing would be approximately 140+ feet. This length would infringe upon the current roadway at the start of ramp, decreasing the current road width of 21' to at best 17'. This option would create an unacceptably narrow road width adjacent to the Chateau.
2. Move transformer back into hillside and raise elevation of transformer. This would assist option #1 in not infringing into roadway; however, the hillside is extremely steep and would require extensive concrete retaining walls. This option may be feasible but is not recommended in the historic site.
3. **(The option depicted on the site plan)** Construct three lengths of ramps and landings with two switchbacks to access the landing. This requires a minimum of 12+ feet of width to allow three widths of ramps, (i.e., minimum 4' width for each ramp). This would require moving the outer historic rock wall out and creating switchbacks with new retaining walls. To access the visitor center from the landing, construct ramp or walk (5% maximum slope) from the landing with entry into visitor center at the fire door or one of the large front window openings. There is a manhole access that would need to be lowered, but it appears there is sufficient height in upper concrete access to lower the manhole access approximately 2 feet. From the initial study, this option appears to be the most feasible for construction but would require cultural compliance and topographic survey to confirm elevations and distances.
4. Construct two long lengths of ramp with landings with one single switchback from the transformer to grade at north end of visitor center, and then ramp/walk from grade up to the fire door entrance or front window entrance. This would require approximately a 14' elevation gain for the ramp. There might be too great an elevation gain with very long ramps to make this option feasible. Need to verify this option with accurate topographic survey and cultural compliance.
5. Extend the ramp directly from visitor center breezeway and then connect with a series of switchback ramps. The park staff was not in favor of this option due to desire to maintain historical integrity of entry stairs and breezeway.
6. Install a chair lift adjacent to the transformer with exit at visitor center grade and ramp/walk into visitor center fire door or front window opening. The lift would need to provide approximately 14' elevation gain. This option was not desired due to experience with unreliable lift operations in exterior inclement

weather, and the lift would not provide independent access for persons with disabilities.

7. Provide accessible shuttle ride from main parking lot to the landing and then construct ramp/walk to the visitor center fire door or window opening. This option was not desired due to limited space for shuttle turn-around and the congestion with pedestrians and shuttle.
8. Access from the landing to the Main Cave entrance is feasible with a walkway at less than 5% slope.

Conclusion: The park staff needs to obtain a good topographical survey to determine if any of above options are feasible and then prepare schematic design for potential options and impacts upon the historic site. In addition, the park should conduct outreach to potential user groups, including those representing visitors with disabilities, to gather insight into if and how each potential option would affect their experiences at and around the VC. The ideas and data collected may inform which solution best meets the needs of each user group and is ultimately the most feasible.

# Appendix G: Additional Assessment Information on Trails

During the June 2015 site visit and accessibility assessment, several trails were walked and slope measurements recorded to determine feasibility for accessibility improvements. This appendix includes information recorded during these assessments for trails which were chosen as priority site areas and those which were not. For additional detail on trails not prioritized, see appendix D.

1. **No Name Trail:** This trail provides a loop trail from the Chateau into the adjacent forest with views of creeks and waterfalls. The trail can be accessed from the main parking area or the Chateau parking area. The trail is 1.36 miles in length and contains many steep and narrow sections with several areas of rock steps. The first 0.42 mile section of trail from the Chateau parking area could be rehabilitated to provide for an accessible trail meeting the requirements of ABAAS section 1017. This section of trail could provide access to an overlook and turn-around area. The remainder of trail is very steep and narrow with numerous rock obstacles. (This trail should be a separate site area with table.)
2. **Cave Exit Trail:** This trail provides cave tour participants a return trail from the cave exit to the parking area. The paved 36" wide trail is 0.31 miles in length. The trail is very steep with an average running slope of 10.34%; and several 200' sections of trail have running slopes of 10.4%, 14.1%, and 24.4%. Due to the steep terrain and heavily forested setting, the trail cannot be reasonably altered to meet ABAAS section 1017 requirements, without exceptionally long and tall concrete retaining walls and impacts upon the historic and natural environment. (This trail could be included as one numbered item with the Main Cave.)
3. **Cliff Nature Trail:** The trail provides a loop trail from near the cave exit up the hill for distant views returning to the Oregon Caves Visitor Center. The trail can be accessed from either the visitor center or the Cave Exit Trail. The trail width varies from 30" to 48" and is 0.75 miles in length. The trail is located on very steep topography with an average running slope of 9.53%; and numerous sections of the trail exceeding 12%, and with a maximum running slope of 22.7%. The trail also includes several sections with rock steps and other rock obstacles in the tread. Due to the steep terrain and heavily forested setting, the trail cannot be reasonably altered to meet ABAAS section 1017 requirements. (This trail could be included as one numbered item with the visitor center.)

**Big Tree Trail and Cave Creek Trail:** Neither of these trails was assessed in detail for accessible trail routes, due to steep topography, narrow width, and numerous obstacles.

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Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview

# OREGON CAVES

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