



Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve



Location: Cave Junction, Oregon

Expansion Legislation: S. 354/Ron Wyden and H.R. 2489/Peter DeFazio

Background: The west's longest marble cave open to the public, Oregon Caves' streams that created and continue to sculpt the caves joins the River Styx in underground grottos; continuing its journey as Cave Creek, the water then travels through the "dining room" of the historic Oregon Caves Chateau, and remarkably, forms the only stream in the National Park System that flows unobstructed to the ocean.

The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve expansion will add 4,070 additional acres of federal land to the existing monument to better protect the larger watershed and the cave system. President William Howard Taft originally protected 480 acres of this area in 1909.

NPCA Support:

- NPCA has supported the Oregon Caves expansion effort for more than eight years
- NPCA has engaged its members and supporters to help advance the legislation and partnered with allies including the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Council (KS Wild).

Expansion of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve: Supportive Comments by NPCA and Partners

Rob Smith, Northwest Director for the National Parks Conservation Association

“Through the expansion to Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, visitors will now be able to enjoy the caves, the river that still carves these marbled caverns, trails, campground and lodge all in one national park visit. The unique and endemic critters and plant species that make their homes in the area will also receive greater protection, under the National Park Service management. This expansion, which involves a transfer of lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service to the park service does not cost taxpayers a dime and stands to provide an increase in tourism dollars spent in communities surrounding the site.”

Joseph Vaile, Executive Director of KS Wild

“Protecting this unique corner of Southwest Oregon’s Siskiyou Mountains will put this region on the map, and help attract visitors from around the country to visit a special natural wonder.”

Bernie Thurber, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau

“We applaud Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio for the expansion of the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve by 3,600 acres. This 105 year old National Monument has been welcoming visitors for many generations, and offering a magical lodging experience in the 81 year old National Landmark Lodge – the Oregon Caves Chateau. This expansion will offer a new variety of recreational opportunities, wonderful scientific and outdoor activities for families, greater access and appreciation of the diverse bio-region with back country tours, guided tours and camping opportunities. Economically, this is a gift to the region. It will offer more year-round and seasonal jobs in an area still recovering from the effects of the reduction of the timber industry.”

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/11QGkUe>.

All comments are available for media use.

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