SENATE BILL NO. 214

INTRODUCED BY WELDON, MCCLERNAN, BIANCHI, KLAMPE, PIPINICH, REAM, TOOLE, HARPER, FOSTER, FAGG, DOHERTY, WILSON, FRANKLIN, CHRISTIAENS

	IN THE SENATE
JANUARY 20, 1993	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.
	FIRST READING.
FEBRUARY 8, 1993	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
FEBRUARY 9, 1993	PRINTING REPORT.
FEBRUARY 10, 1993	SECOND READING, DO PASS.
FEBRUARY 11, 1993	ENGROSSING REPORT.
	THIRD READING, PASSED. AYES, 40; NOES, 10.
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE.
	IN THE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 23, 1993	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.
	FIRST READING.
MARCH 11, 1993	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 13, 1993	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.
MARCH 16, 1993	THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 96; NOES, 4.
MARCH 17, 1993	RETURNED TO SENATE WITH AMENDMENTS.
·	IN THE SENATE

RECEIVED FROM HOUSE.

CONCURRED IN.

SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS

MARCH 19, 1993

MARCH 20, 1993

THIRD READING, AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

REPORTED CORRECTLY ENROLLED.

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3	Granklin Chuffring Foster For Donaly I do
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
5	VANDALIZING OF CAVES; PROHIBITING THE DISTURBANCE,
6	DESTRUCTION, OR REMOVAL OF CAVE MATERIALS, PLANT LIFE, AND
7	ANIMAL LIFE; PROHIBITING THE SALE OF SPELEOTHEMS AND
8	SPELEOGENS: GRANTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND
9	PARKS AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MONTANA'S
LO	CAVE RESOURCES; EXEMPTING A CAVE OWNER AND THE OWNER'S
1	AUTHORIZED AGENTS FROM CERTAIN LIABILITY CONNECTED WITH USE
12	OF A CAVE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
L 3	EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, caves are uncommon geologic phenomena; and

WHEREAS, minerals deposited in caves may be rare and

occur in unique forms of great beauty that are irreplaceable

if destroyed; and

WHEREAS, archaeological resources of significant

20 cultural, scientific, and historic value also occur in caves
21 and are irreplaceable; and

22 WHEREAS, organisms that live in caves are unusual,
23 limited in number, and could become threatened and
24 endangered species in the absence of protection; and

25 WHEREAS, caves are a natural conduit for ground water

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flow, are highly subject to pollution, and thus have far-reaching effects transcending property boundaries.

3 THEREPORE, the Legislature finds it appropriate to 4 protect these unique natural and cultural cave resources and 5 provide assistance in the management of Montana's cave 6 resources.

7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 1.** Short title. [Sections 1 10 through 9] may be cited as "The Montana Cave Conservation 11 Act".

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 9], the following definitions apply:

14 (1) "Cave" means any geologically formed void or cavity 15 beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge, 16 including but not limited to natural subsurface water and drainage systems, whether or not a natural entrance is 17 present. The term does not include a mine, tunnel, aqueduct, 18 19 or human-made excavation but does include any structure 20 commonly known as a cavern, sinkhole, pit, grotto, or rock 21 shelter.

(2) "Cave life" means any life form that occurs in,uses, visits, or inhabits a cave.

(3) "Department" means the department of fish,
 wildlife, and parks provided for in 2-15-3401.

1 (4) "Gate" means a structure or device located to limit
2 or prohibit access or entry to a cave.

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- (5) "Material" means all or part of any archaeological, cultural, paleontological, biological, or historical item or artifact found in a cave, including but not limited to any petroglyph, pictograph, pottery, basketwork, fossil, human remains, or animal remains.
- 8 (6) "Owner" means any person or public or private9 agency that has the right to possession of a cave.
 - (7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, association, trust, corporation, or other legal entity.
 - (8) "Speleogen" means the surrounding natural earth or bedrock in which a cave is formed, including but not limited to clastic sediments, walls, floors, ceiling, and other related structural and geological features.
 - (9) "Speleothem" means a natural mineral formation or deposit occurring in a cave, including but not limited to formations known as stalagmite, stalactite, helectite, shield, anthodite, gypsum flower and needle, angel's hair, soda straw, drapery, bacon, cave pearl, popcorn, rimstone dam, column, palette, and flowstone. A speleothem is commonly composed of calcite, gypsum, epsomite, aragonite, celestite, or other similar mineral.
- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Vandalism of cave unlawful. A
 person may not purposely or knowingly, without prior written

- permission of the owner:
- 2 (1) carve, write, mark upon, break, crack, burn, or
 3 remove or in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar, or
 4 harm the surfaces of any cave or material found in a cave,
 5 whether attached or broken, including speleothems,
 6 speleogens, and sedimentary deposits;
- 7 (2) break, force, tamper with, or otherwise disturb a 8 lock, gate, door, or other obstruction designed to control 9 or prevent access to a cave;
- 10 (3) remove, deface, or tamper with a sign stating that
 11 a cave is posted or citing provisions of [sections 1 through
 12 9]; or
- (4) disturb or alter in any way the natural condition
 of a cave.
- 15 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Disturbance of cave life unlawful. A person may not purposely or knowingly remove, 16 17 kill, harm, or otherwise interfere with cave life, except 18 for health or safety reasons or when the act is a minimal disturbance or for removal of organisms for recognized 19 20 scientific inquiry. Gates at the entrance or at any point 21 within a cave must be of open construction to allow unimpeded passage of air, insects, bats, and other cave 22 23 life.
- NEW SECTION. Section 5. Pollution of and burning
 harmful substances in cave unlawful. (1) A person may not

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- purposely or knowingly store, dump, litter, dispose of, or otherwise place in a cave any refuse, garbage, dead animal, 2 sewage, or toxic substance harmful to cave life or human 3 life.
- (2) A person may not burn in a cave any substance that 5 produces smoke or gas that is or may be harmful to cave life. The use of a carbide lamp that produces acetylene qas 7 is permitted. Я
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Sale of speleothems 9 speleogens unlawful. A person may not sell, offer for sale, 10 or export for sale any speleothem or speleogen. 11
- NEW SECTION. Section 7. Department powers. The 12 department may: 13
- (1) employ cave resources management personnel; 14
- and management (2) appoint volunteer cave 15 administrative personnel; 16
- (3) provide cave owners with technical assistance and 17 18 management advice;
- (4) enter into volunteer management agreements with 19 persons, owners, members, and associations of the caving 20 community; 21
- (5) initiate a comprehensive inventory of cave 22 23 resources;
- (6) issue grants from any appropriated funds 24 furtherance of cave resource management; and 25

- 1 (7) perform other actions when appropriate and 2 consistent with the provisions of [sections 1 through 9].
- NEW SECTION. Section 8. Conditions of owner liability. The owner of a cave or the owner's authorized agent, employee, or designated representative acting officer. within the scope of authority is not liable for injuries or death sustained by any person using a cave for recreational or scientific purposes if the prior consent of the owner has been obtained and a charge has not been made for use of the cave or if the injury or death occurs while the person is trespassing on the owner's property. 11
- 12 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Penalty. A person convicted of 13 violating any provision of [sections 1 through 8] is subject 14 to a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000, 15 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days, 16 or both.
- 17 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date. [This act] is 18 effective on passage and approval.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for SB0214, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act prohibiting the vandalizing of caves; prohibiting the disturbance, destruction or removal of cave materials, plant life and animal life; prohibiting the sale of spelethems and spelogens; granting the department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks authority to assist in the management of Montana's cave resources; exempting a cave owner and the owner's authorized agents from certain liability connected with use of a cave; and providing an immediate effective date.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1. The bill does not require the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to play a statewide role in cave resources management. However, citizens of our state who are interested in caves will ask FWP to be active in cave management.
- 2. There are over 300 caves in Montana and 15-20 caves would be provided with technical assistance in the first year.
- 3. Once cave owners and interest groups know that FWP is available for assistance, the number of requests for technical assistance will increase.
- 4. In order to provide technical assistance, FWP would need an additional 1.00 FTE cave resource expert (Grade 14).
- 5. Enforcement of the provisions of the bill will be done by local law enforcement agencies.
- 6. The statewide comprehensive inventory of cave resources would be contracted out to the private sector, and will not be undertaken until a future biennium. (The last somewhat similar statewide environmental study contracted out by FWP cost about \$90,000, and it did not include extensive site visits.)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures:

Personal Services Expenditures (Grade 14, 25% benefits)	\$30,368	\$30,368
Operating Expenditures	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$15,000
Total	\$45,368	\$45,368

Revenues: None.

Net Impact: The department would incur an additional \$45,368 in expenditures per year to become active in cave management.

(continued on next page)

DAVID LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE

Office of Budget and Program Planning

JEFF WELDON, PRIMARY SPONSOR

DATE

Fiscal Note for SB0214, as introduced

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Fiscal Note Request, <u>SB0214</u>, as introduced Form BD-15 page 2 (continued)

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

All of the enforcement duties highlighted in the bill are covered by existing statutes. Local law enforcement agencies are already charged with enforcing these statutes. Therefore, there should be little or no impact.

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The bill calls for a comprehensive inventory of Montana's caves. Depending on the level of detail of such an inventory, this could cost between \$100,000 to \$500,000.

An additional FTE Grade 11 will be needed in two years to assist the cave resource expert in record keeping, volunteer coordination, up-keep and maintenance of the inventory data base. Estimated cost: \$23,000 per year.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

The liability protection in section 8 is limited to recreation or scientific purposes. A creative lawyer would find other reasons for a client's visit to the cave. Courts traditionally have read limitations on liability narrowly. Therefore, liability for the state is unknown but would likely increase.

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for SB0214, third reading.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION: An act prohibiting the vandalizing of caves; prohibiting the disturbance, destruction or removal of cave materials, plant life and animal life; prohibiting the sale of speleothems and speleogens; exempting a cave owner and the owner's authorized agents from certain liability connected with use of a cave; and providing an immediate effective date.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will no longer be involved in providing assistance in managing caves in Montana.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

BUDGET DIRECTOR DAVID LEWIS. Office of Budget and Program Planning WELDON, PRIMARY SPONSOR

Fiscal Note for SB0214, third reading
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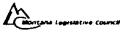
shelter.

uses, visits, or inhabits a cave.

APPROVED BY COMM. ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1	SENATE BILL NO. 214
2	INTRODUCED BY WELDON, MCCLERNAN, BIANCHI, KLAMPE,
3	PIPINICH, REAM, TOOLE, HARPER, FOSTER, FAGG,
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11	PARKS-AUTHOR: TY-TO-ASSIST-INTHE-MANAGEMENTOPMONTANA+S
12	CAVERESOURCES; EXEMPTING A CAVE OWNER AND THE OWNER'S
13	AUTHORIZED AGENTS FROM CERTAIN LIABILITY CONNECTED WITH USE
14	OF A CAVE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AMENDING SECTION 70-16-301,
15	MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
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17	WHEREAS, caves are uncommon geologic phenomena; and
18	WHEREAS, minerals deposited in caves may be rare and
19	occur in unique forms of great beauty that are irreplaceable
20	if destroyed; and
21	WHEREAS, archaeological resources of significant
22	cultural, scientific, and historic value also occur in caves
23	and are irreplaceable; and
24	WHEREAS, organisms that live in caves are unusual,
25	limited in number, and could become threatened and

endangered species in the absence of protection; and
WHEREAS, caves are a natural conduit for ground water
flow, are highly subject to pollution, and thus have
far-reaching effects transcending property boundaries.
THEREFORE, the Legislature finds it appropriate to
protect these unique natural and cultural cave resources and
provide-assistanceinthemanagementofMontana'scave
resources.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1
through 9} may be cited as "The Montana Cave Conservation
Act".
NEW COUNTRY Continue 2 Desired
NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. As used in
[sections 1 through 9], the following definitions apply:
(1) "Cave" means any geologically formed void or cavity
beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge,
including but not limited to natural subsurface water and
drainage systems, whether or not a natural entrance is
present. The term does not include a mine, tunnel, aqueduct,
or human-made excavation but does include any structure
commonly known as a cavern, sinkhole, pit, grotto, or rock.



(2) "Cave life" means any life form that occurs in,

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2	wildlifeand-parks-provided-for-in-2-15-3401-

- 3 +4+(3) "Gate" means a structure or device located to limit or prohibit access or entry to a cave.
- #5†(4) "Material" means all or part of 5 6 archaeological, cultural, paleontological, biological, or historical item or artifact found in a cave, including but 7 8 limited to any petroglyph, pictograph, pottery, 9
- basketwork, fossil, human remains, or animal remains. 10 (6)(5) "Owner" means any person or public or private agency that has the right to possession of a cave.
- +7)(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, 12 13 association, trust, corporation, or other legal entity.
- 14 (8)(7) "Speleogen" means the surrounding natural earth 15 or bedrock in which a cave is formed, including but not 16 limited to clastic sediments, walls, floors, ceiling, and 17 other related structural and geological features.
- 18 +9+(8) "Speleothem" means a natural mineral formation 19 or deposit occurring in a cave, including but not limited to 20 formations known as stalagmite, stalactite, helectite, 21 shield, anthodite, gypsum flower and needle, angel's hair, soda straw, drapery, bacon, cave pearl, popcorn, rimstone 22 23 dam, column, palette, and flowstone. A speleothem is
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- 25 celestite, or other similar mineral.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Vandalism of cave unlawful. A 1 person may not purposely or knowingly, without prior written 2 permission of the owner:

- (1) carve, write, mark upon, break, crack, burn, or remove or in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar, or harm the surfaces of any cave or material found in a cave, whether attached or broken, including speleothems, speleogens, and sedimentary deposits;
- 9 (2) break, force, tamper with, or otherwise disturb a lock, gate, door, or other obstruction designed to control 10 11 or prevent access to a cave;
- 12 (3) remove, deface, or tamper with a sign stating that 13 a cave is posted or citing provisions of [sections 1 through 14 9); or
- 15 (4) disturb or alter in any way the natural condition of a cave. 16
- 17 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Disturbance of cave life 18 unlawful. A person may not purposely or knowingly remove, 19 kill, harm, or otherwise interfere with cave life, except 20 for health or safety reasons or when the act is a minimal 21 disturbance or for removal of organisms for recognized scientific inquiry. Gates at the entrance or at any point 22 23 within a cave must be of open construction to allow 24 unimpeded passage of air, insects, bats, and other cave

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life.

SB 0214/02

SB 0214/02

1	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Pollution of and burning
2	harmful substances in cave unlawful. (1) A person may not
3	purposely or knowingly store, dump, litter, dispose of, or
4	otherwise place in a cave any refuse, garbage, dead animal,
5	sewage, or toxic substance harmful to cave life or human
6	life.
7	(2) A person may not burn in a cave any substance that
8	produces smoke or gas that is or may be harmful to cave
9	life. The use of a carbide lamp that produces acetylene gas
10	is permitted.
11	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Sale of speleothems and
12	speleogens unlawful. A person may not sell, offer for sale,
13	or export for sale any speleothem or speleogen.
14	NEW-SECTION: Section 7 Department powers The
15	department-may:
16	<pre>figemploy-cave-resources-management-personnel;</pre>
17	(2)appointvolunteercavemanagementand
18	administrative-personnel;
19	<pre>+3}provide-cave-owners-with-technicalassistanceand</pre>
20	management-advice;
21	<pre>+4}enterintovolunteermanagementagreements-with</pre>
22	persons,-owners,-members,-andassociationsofthecaving
23	community;
24	(5)initiateacomprehensiveinventoryofcave
25	resources;

1	(6)issuegrantsfromanyappropriatedfundsin
2	furtherance-of-cave-resource-management;-and
3	(7)performotheractionswhenappropriateand
4	consistent-with-the-provisions-of-(sections-1-through-9)+
5	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Conditions of owner liability.
6	The LIABILITY OF THE owner of a cave or the owner's
7	authorized agent, officer, employee, or designated
8	representative acting within the scope of authority is not
9	liable-for-injuries-or-death-sustained-by-any-person-using-m
10	cave-for-recreational-or-scientific-purposesiftheprior
11	consentof-the-owner-has-been-obtained-and-a-charge-has-not
12	been-made-for-use-of-the-cave-oriftheinjuryordeath
13	occurswhilethepersonistrespessingonthe-owner's
14	property- RESTRICTED PURSUANT TO 70-16-302.
15	SECTION 8. SECTION 70-16-301, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:
16	*70-16-301. Recreational purposes defined.
17	"Recreational purposes", as used herein in this part, shall
18	include includes hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, water
19	skiing, camping, picnicking, pleasure driving, winter
20	sports, hiking, touring or viewing cultural and historical
21	sites and monuments, spelunking, or other pleasure
22	expeditions."
23	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Penalty. A person convicted of

SB 214

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violating any provision of [sections 1 through 8] is subject

to a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000,

SB 0214, 02

- 1 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days,
- 2 or both.
- 3 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date. [This act] is
- 4 effective on passage and approval.

-End-

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14	NBW-SBCTION: Section-7 Departmentpowers:The
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16	(1)employ-cave-resources-management-personnel;
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18	administrative-personnel;
19	†3}provide-cave-owners-with-technicalassistanceand
20	management-advice;
21	<pre>†4)enterintovolunteermanagementagreements-with</pre>
22	persons,-owners,-members,-andassociationsofthecaving
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24	†5†initiateacomprehensiveinventoryofcave
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-5-

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to a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000,

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- imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days,
- 2 or both.
- 3 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Refective date. [This act] is
- effective on passage and approval.

-End-

March 11, 1993 Page 1 of 2

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on <u>Natural Resources</u> report that <u>Senate Bill 214</u> (third reading copy -- blue) be concurred in as amended.

Signed: Dick Knox, Chair

And, that such amendments read:

Carried by: Rep. Gilbert

1. Title, line 14. Following: second ";" Insert: "AND"

2. Title, line 15.
Following: "MCA"
Strike: ";" through "DATE"

3. Page 2, lines 12 and 15. Following: "through" Insert: "7 and"

4. Page 2, line 21. Following: "any" Insert: "natural" Following: "structure" Insert: "that is"

5. Page 2, line 23.
Following: "shelter"
Insert: "and that communicates with a subterranean passage or drainage system"

6. Page 4, line 1.
Following: "unlawful."
Strike: "A"
Insert: "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a"
Renumber subsequent subsections

7. Page 4, lines 2 and 3. Following: "knowingly" on line 2 Strike: ", without" through "owner" on line 3

Insert: "(b)".

10. Page 4, line 12.

Strike: "(3)"
Insert: "(c)"

8. Page 4, line 4.

9. Page 4, line 9.

Strike: "(1)" Insert: "(a)"

Strike: "(2)"

11. Page 4, line 13. Following: "through" Insert: "7 and"

12. Page 4, line 15. Strike: "(4)" Insert: "(d)"

13. Page 4.
Following: line 16
Insert: "(2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to a cave owner or the owner's authorized agent, officer, employee, or designated representative who undertakes work to improve or control physical access to the cave."

14. Page 6, line 24. Strike: "8" Insert: "7"

15. Page 7. Following: line 2 Insert:

"NEW SECTION. Section 10. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 7 and 9] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 23, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 23, chapter 2, apply to [sections 1 through 7 and 9]."

16. Page 7, lines 3 and 4.
Strike: Section 10 in its entirety

HOUSE

53 214 550956SC.Hss

1	SENATE BILL NO. 214
2	INTRODUCED BY WELDON, MCCLERNAN, BIANCHI, KLAMPE,
3	PIPINICH, REAM, TOOLE, HARPER, FOSTER, FAGG,
4	DOHERTY, WILSON, FRANKLIN, CHRISTIAENS
5	
6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
7	VANDALIZING OF CAVES; PROHIBITING THE DISTURBANCE,
8	DESTRUCTION, OR REMOVAL OF CAVE MATERIALS, PLANT LIFE, AND
9	ANIMAL LIFE; PROHIBITING THE SALE OF SPELEOTHEMS AND
10	SPELEOGENS; GRANTINGTHE-BEPARTMENT-OF-FISH, -WILDLIPE, -AND
11	Parks-Authorffy-to-assist-inthemanagementofmontana-s
12	CAVERESOURCES; EXEMPTING A CAVE OWNER AND THE OWNER'S
13	AUTHORIZED AGENTS FROM CERTAIN LIABILITY CONNECTED WITH USE
14	OF A CAVE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND AMENDING SECTION
15	70-16-301, MCA? AND-PROVIDING-AN-IMMEDIATE-EPPECTIVE-DATE."
16	
17	WHEREAS, caves are uncommon geologic phenomena; and
18	WHEREAS, minerals deposited in caves may be rare and
19	occur in unique forms of great beauty that are irreplaceable
20	if destroyed; and
21	WHEREAS, archaeological resources of significant
22	cultural, scientific, and historic value also occur in caves
23	and are irreplaceable; and
24	WHEREAS, organisms that live in caves are unusual,
25	limited in number, and could become threatened and

1	endangered species in the absence of protection; and
2	WHEREAS, caves are a natural conduit for ground water
3	flow, are highly subject to pollution, and thus have
4	far-reaching effects transcending property boundaries.
5	THEREFORE, the Legislature finds it appropriate to
6	protect these unique natural and cultural cave resources and
7	provideassistanceinthemanagementofMontana's-cave
8	resources.
9	
10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
11	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. {Sections 1
12	through 7 AND 9] may be cited as "The Montana Cave
13	Conservation Act".
14	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. As used in
15	[sections 1 through 7 AND 9], the following definitions
16	apply:
17	(1) "Cave" means any geologically formed void or cavity
18	beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge,
19	including but not limited to natural subsurface water and
20	drainage systems, whether or not a natural entrance is
21	present. The term does not include a mine, tunnel, aqueduct,
22	or human-made excavation but does include any NATURAL
23	structure THAT IS commonly known as a cavern, sinkhole, pit,
24	grotto, or rock shelter AND THAT COMMUNICATES WITH A



SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGE OR DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

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- 1 (2) "Cave life" means any life form that occurs in,
 2 uses, visits, or inhabits a cave.
- (3)--"Bepartment"---means---the---department---of--fish; wildlife;-and-parks-provided-for-in-2-15-3401;
- 5 (4)(3) "Gate" means a structure or device located to limit or prohibit access or entry to a cave.
- (5) (4) "Material" means all or part of any archaeological, cultural, paleontological, biological, or
 - historical item or artifact found in a cave, including but
- not limited to any petroglyph, pictograph, pottery,
- ll basketwork, fossil, human remains, or animal remains.

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- 12 (6)(5) "Owner" means any person or public or private
 - agency that has the right to possession of a cave.
- 14 (7)(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm,
 - association, trust, corporation, or other legal entity.
- 16 +0+(7) "Speleogen" means the surrounding natural earth
 - or bedrock in which a cave is formed, including but not
- limited to clastic sediments, walls, floors, ceiling, and
- other related structural and geological features.
- 20 (9)(8) "Speleothem" means a natural mineral formation
- 21 or deposit occurring in a cave, including but not limited to
- 22 formations known as stalagmite, stalactite, helectite,
- 23 shield, anthodite, gypsum flower and needle, angel's hair,
- 24 soda straw, drapery, bacon, cave pearl, popcorn, rimstone
- 25 dam, column, palette, and flowstone. A speleothem is

- 1 commonly composed of calcite, gypsum, epsomite, aragonite,
- 2 celestite, or other similar mineral.
- 3 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Vandalism of cave unlawful. A
- 4 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), A person may not
- 5 purposely or knowingly,-without-prior-written-permission-of
- 6 the-owner:
- 7 (1)(A) carve, write, mark upon, break, crack, burn, or
- 8 remove or in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar, or
- 9 harm the surfaces of any cave or material found in a cave,
- 10 whether attached or broken, including speleothems,
- 11 speleogens, and sedimentary deposits;
- 12 (2)(B) break, force, tamper with, or otherwise disturb
- a lock, gate, door, or other obstruction designed to control
- 14 or prevent access to a cave:
- 15 (3)(C) remove, deface, or tamper with a sign stating
- 16 that a cave is posted or citing provisions of [sections 1
- 17 through 7 AND 9]; or
- 18 f4)(D) disturb or alter in any way the natural
- 19 condition of a cave.
- 20 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1) DO NOT APPLY TO A
- 21 CAVE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT, OFFICER,
- 22 EMPLOYEE, OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE WHO UNDERTAKES WORK
- 23 TO IMPROVE OR CONTROL PHYSICAL ACCESS TO THE CAVE.
- 24 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Disturbance of cave life
- 25 unlawful. A person may not purposely or knowingly remove,

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ı	kill, harm, or otherwise interfere with cave life, except
2	for health or safety reasons or when the act is a minimal
3	disturbance or for removal of organisms for recognized
4	scientific inquiry. Gates at the entrance or at any point
5	within a cave must be of open construction to allow
6	unimpeded passage of air, insects, bats, and other cave
7	life.
8	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Pollution of and burning

- NEW SECTION. Section 5. Pollution of and burning harmful substances in cave unlawful. (1) A person may not purposely or knowingly store, dump, litter, dispose of, or otherwise place in a cave any refuse, garbage, dead animal, sewage, or toxic substance harmful to cave life or human life.
- 14 (2) A person may not burn in a cave any substance that
 15 produces smoke or gas that is or may be harmful to cave
 16 life. The use of a carbide lamp that produces acetylene gas
 17 is permitted.
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Sale of speleothems and speleogens unlawful. A person may not sell, offer for sale, or export for sale any speleothem or speleogen.
- 23 (1)--employ-cave-resources-management-personnel;
 24 (2)--appoint----volunteer----cave----management----and

25 administrative-personnel;

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2	management-advice;
3	(4)enterintovolunteermanagementagreements-with
4	persons;-owners;-members;-andassociationsofthecaving
5	community;
6	(5)initiateacomprehensiveinventoryofcave
7	resources;
8	t6)issuegrantsfromanyappropriatedfundsin
9	furtherance-of-cave-resource-management;-and
10	(7)performotheractionswhenappropriateand
11	consistent-with-the-provisions-of-{sections-l-through-9};
12	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Conditions of owner liability.
13	The LIABILITY OF THE owner of a cave or the owner's
14	authorized agent, officer, employee, or designated
15	representative acting within the scope of authority is not
16	liable-for-injuries-or-death-sustained-by-any-person-using-a
17	cave-for-recreational-or-scientific-purposesiftheprior
18	consentof-the-owner-has-been-obtained-and-a-charge-has-not
19	been-made-for-use-of-the-cave-oriftheinjuryordeath
20	occurswhilethepersonistrespassingonthe-owner+s
21	property: RESTRICTED PURSUANT TO 70-16-302.

SECTION 8. SECTION 70-16-301, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:

"Recreational purposes", as used herein in this part, shall

includes hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, water

*70-16-301. Recreational

(3)--provide-cave-owners-with-technical--assistance--and

defined.

purposes

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1	skiing, camping, picnicking, pleasure driving, winter
2	sports, hiking, touring or viewing cultural and historical
3	sites and monuments, spelunking, or other pleasure
4	expeditions."
5	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Penalty. A person convicted of
6	violating any provision of {sections 1 through 8 $\underline{7}$ } is
7	subject to a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000,
8	imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days,
9	or both.
0	NEW SECTION, SECTION 10. CODIFICATION INSTRUCTION
1	[SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 7 AND 9] ARE INTENDED TO BE CODIFIED AS
L 2	AN INTEGRAL PART OF TITLE 23, CHAPTER 2, AND THE PROVISIONS
L3	OF TITLE 23, CHAPTER 2, APPLY TO [SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 7 AND
L 4	<u>91.</u>
15	NEW-SECTION:Section-10:Effective-date:-{This-act}-is

effective-on-passage-and-approval.

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-End-