

Research Policy & Procedure

(as found in Appendix VII of the board manual)

General Policy

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy encourages individuals and organizations to undertake research at its properties as long as it meets one or more of the following general objectives:

- 1) Increases the understanding of processes and features on NCC properties or those in other karst regions.
- 2) Leads to better management of NCC properties or those in other karst regions.
- 3) Improves the overall "experience" of those visiting NCC properties or other karst regions
- 4) Increases the safety of those visiting NCC properties or other karst regions.

In addition, all research carried out on NCC properties must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The goals and objectives of the research must be clearly defined.
- 2) The research must not duplicate research already carried out. Note that this does not preclude appropriate follow-up studies designed to detect changes or to supplement previous work.
- 3) There must be a clear beginning and end to each project.
- 4) The work must not cause permanent damage to any caves, natural features, biota, or historical resources nor interfere with natural hydrologic or chemical processes.
- 5) The research plan must assure the maximum safety of all concerned.
- 6) Unless specifically authorized by the NCC Board, researchers must operate within the confines of the established management plans for each property.
- 7) The work must not interfere with the "experience" of other property visitors.

Procedure for Proposing a Research Project

Those desiring to conduct research at NCC properties must submit a proposal to the Science Coordinator. Proposals will first be evaluated by the Coordinator and the property manager, along with anyone else that the Coordinator deems appropriate. They may request modification of the proposal before they send it on, with their recommendations, to the NCC Board for final approval. It is important that proposers understand that final approval rests entirely with the NCC Board. While proposals may be submitted at any time, we recommend that proposers allow at least six weeks for revision and approval.

The proposal will include the following information:

- 1) A short abstract (250 words or less) of the proposed research.
- 2) A detailed narrative outlining the proposed research. This narrative should include the following parts:
 - Introduction
 - Statement of Problem
 - Background
 - Research Methods
 - Analysis Methods
 - Expected Results
- 3) An estimate of the beginning and ending dates of the research.
- 4) A list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email contacts of the principal investigator and all co-investigators along with their university or other affiliations as appropriate.
- 5) A detailed c.v. of the principle investigator including education, previous experience related to the proposed research, and a list of any publications.
- 6) Any other information that will help the Science Coordinator and the Board understand the research and its importance.