

Cave Conservation and Restoration

2006 Edition

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Current practices in
cave conservation
plus proven field
methods for cave
restoration and
speleothem repair



National
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Jim Werker prepares three pieces of a broken stalagmite for reassembly. He uses stainless steel pins and epoxy in the repair process.



The stalagmite is repaired and restored to its original position on the edge of a slope. Note traces of repair joints.

Cave Conservation and Restoration Not the Last Word ... But the Current Best Practices

For every decision related to a cave, the foremost concern should be perpetuation of speleological processes, values, and resources. As cavers, cave managers, land owners, and project leaders, what factors should we consider when making management decisions for cave systems?

This book—crafted to explore questions and formatted to use as a field manual—discusses the current best practices in cave conservation.

Easy-to-identify sections describe tools and proven methods for cave restoration and repair.

Representatives from various scientific disciplines within speleology explain their conservation and preservation concerns.

Encouraging minimum-impact ethics, this book covers techniques that any caver can use to better protect, understand, restore, and conserve cave environments.

Ultimately, if we can avoid unnecessary impacts to caves and karst systems—if we can cave softly—we will minimize the need for restoration.



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