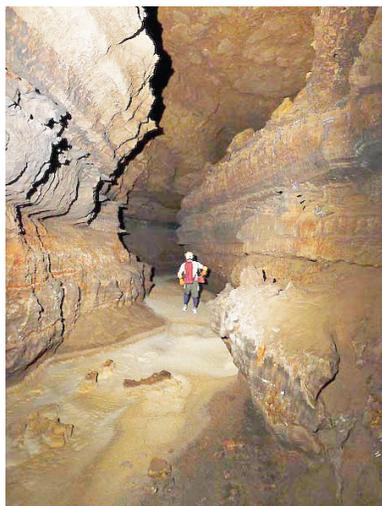




## Fort Stanton Cave Study Project hits two homeruns

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Snowy River Cave

When it rains, it pours as the old expression goes and for the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project, a decades old organization of dedicated cavers and researchers, this past few months has seen much activity and two major accomplishments beyond the usual thousands of hours of volunteer work. Last year the organization was honored nationally for their leadership and research, and by Lincoln County as it was the 10th anniversary of their discovery of the now famous Snowy River Passage within Fort Stanton Cave.



Caver Headquarters contuction

This year, the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project has been awarded \$100,000 via the BLM Challenge Cost Share program that will allow the researchers and scientists to continue the valuable exploration and mapping of Fort Stanton Cave. This grant was given in part because the FSCSP volunteers provide well over \$100 K worth of volunteer hours/work sometimes adding up to more than 10-12,000 hours annually. These volunteers include: physicists, software and microwave engineers, educators, historians, micro and bat biologists, geologists, and hydrologists. Their invaluable research assists the BLM in management of the cave and the karst region on the National Conservation Area known as the Fort Stanton Cave and Snowy River NCA, a designation much like that of a National Park.

After three years of being on a waiting list, networking and meetings, \$111,000 will be expended by the Government Services Division of the state of New Mexico to help upgrade, re-roof, stabilize/repair or replace walls and windows, and insulate the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project headquarters and the BLM offices in use for the NCA. This will, according to public outreach liaison, Lynda Sánchez: “be a major improvement and allow us to expand our operations throughout the winter and early spring. FSCSP fields three major expeditions a year to continue exploration, survey, DNA analyses, bat research, assists students in these fields and provides detailed reports and data for the BLM. This partnership has been ongoing for many years and has progressed rapidly since the incredible discovery in 2001 of the famed Snowy River Passage, a calcite formation that is now more than

ten miles long!"

For additional information on the FSCSP contact Sánchez, 575-653-4821, or visit the website at [www.fscsp.org](http://www.fscsp.org).

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