

(3) Minutes

Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) Exemption from chapter 10 of title 5

Chapter 10 of title 5 shall not apply to the advisory group.

(Pub. L. 105–96, § 7, as added Pub. L. 107–141, § 4, Feb. 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 13; amended Pub. L. 117–286, § 4(a)(121), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4319.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 7 of Pub. L. 105–96 was renumbered section 8 and is classified to section 4266 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117–286 substituted “chapter 10 of title 5” for “Federal Advisory Committee Act” in heading and “Chapter 10 of title 5” for “The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” in text.

§ 4266. Authorization of appropriations**(a) In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to carry out this chapter, which may remain available until expended.

(b) Administrative expenses

Of amounts available each fiscal year to carry out this chapter, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent or \$100,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 105–96, § 8, formerly § 7, Nov. 19, 1997, 111 Stat. 2153; renumbered § 8 and amended Pub. L. 107–141, §§ 2–4, Feb. 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 13; Pub. L. 110–133, § 2(b), (c), Dec. 6, 2007, 121 Stat. 1362; Pub. L. 116–9, title VII, § 7001(c)(1)(B), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 784.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

2019—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–9 substituted “2019 through 2023” for “2007 through 2012”.

2007—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110–133, § 2(c), substituted “2007 through 2012” for “2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110–133, § 2(b), substituted “\$100,000” for “\$80,000”.

2002—Pub. L. 107–141, § 3, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, substituted “There is authorized” for “There are authorized”, and added subsec. (b).

Pub. L. 107–141, § 2, substituted “2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007” for “1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002”.

CHAPTER 63—FEDERAL CAVE RESOURCES PROTECTION

Sec.	
4301.	Findings, purposes, and policy.
4302.	Definitions.
4303.	Management actions.
4304.	Confidentiality of information concerning nature and location of significant caves.
4305.	Collection and removal from Federal caves.
4306.	Prohibited acts and criminal penalties.
4307.	Civil penalties.

Sec.	
4308.	Miscellaneous provisions.
4309.	Savings provision.
4310.	Establishment of Cave Research Program.

§ 4301. Findings, purposes, and policy**(a) Findings**

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) significant caves on Federal lands are an invaluable and irreplaceable part of the Nation’s natural heritage; and

(2) in some instances, these significant caves are threatened due to improper use, increased recreational demand, urban spread, and a lack of specific statutory protection.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to secure, protect, and preserve significant caves on Federal lands for the perpetual use, enjoyment, and benefit of all people; and

(2) to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and those who utilize caves located on Federal lands for scientific, education, or recreational purposes.

(c) Policy

It is the policy of the United States that Federal lands be managed in a manner which protects and maintains, to the extent practical, significant caves.

(Pub. L. 100–691, § 2, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4546.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**SHORT TITLE**

Pub. L. 100–691, § 1, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4546, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be referred to as the ‘Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988’.”

LECHUGUILLA CAVE PROTECTION

Pub. L. 103–169, Dec. 2, 1993, 107 Stat. 1983, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act of 1993’.

“SEC. 2. FINDING.

“Congress finds that Lechuguilla Cave and adjacent public lands have internationally significant scientific, environmental, and other values, and should be retained in public ownership and protected against adverse effects of mineral exploration and development and other activities presenting threats to the areas.

“SEC. 3. LAND WITHDRAWAL.

“(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the boundaries of the cave protection area described in subsection (b) are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

“(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The cave protection area referred to in subsection (a) shall consist of approximately 6,280 acres of lands in New Mexico as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Lechuguilla Cave Protection Area’ numbered 130/80,055 and dated April 1993.

“(c) PUBLICATION, FILING, CORRECTION, AND INSPECTION.—(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 2, 1993], the Secretary of the In-