



Hose named director of National Cave and Karst Research Institute

Louise D. Hose became the first permanent director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in December 2002. Hose now leads staff and partners in the effort to further develop and refine the long-term

vision of the institute from her office in Carlsbad, New Mexico. She provides expertise built over 30 years in research, education, exploration, and conservation efforts related to caves and karst. She has explored and studied caves in New Guinea, England, Greece, South Africa, Oman, and Yugoslavia, but her most extensive work has been in the western United States and Mexico. *National Geographic* has twice featured her research: <<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0304/feature2/index.html>> and <<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0105/feature4/index.html>>. She currently leads the institute through a “gearing up” phase, which is likely to last through 2003, and will consist of staff recruitment, design of the headquarters building, and initial operational setup.

With the selection of Hose, Zelda Chapman Bailey—who served as the institute’s interim director for two years and moved the institute from merely a concept to a fledgling but thriving organization—left the institute in May 2003. She now serves as director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Boulder Laboratories, in Boulder, Colorado. Bailey’s primary goal as interim director was to establish the institute on a solid foundation of strong partnerships that would allow the institute to grow into a world-renowned center for cave and karst issues.

The National Cave and Karst Research Institute Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-325) enabled the National Park Service to establish the institute. The mission of the institute is to facilitate speleological research, enhance public education, and promote environmentally sound cave and karst management. In January 2003, the National Park Service, the City of Carlsbad, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, who constitute the three primary partners involved in establishing the institute, signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate its development and management. The latest news regarding the institute is available at <<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri/index.htm>>.