

Preliminary Management Plan for the Misty Cave Property

Revision 2 - 2/10/09

Preliminary draft of the Management Plan of Misty Cave Property. The Stewardship committee will act as temporary management committee until a permanent management committee is seated, hopefully within 3-6 months of acquisition.

The Stewardship committee will nominate the Management committee chair and forward for voting to the RKC BOD, at which time the new manager takes over

The management plan is a living document and is subject (and expected) to change. Changes will be approved by the RKC BOD

1. Due to the unique and sensitive nature of the cave and property, at least one member of any group entering the cave must be a member of RKC, the National Speleological Society or a Grotto of the NSS. Visitors must notify the property manager before visiting the preserve. While membership is not required for each person visiting the preserve, the RKC strongly recommends that visitors be members of the RKC. Membership in the National Speleological Society is also encouraged, as well as a Grotto of the NSS.
2. Visitation is on a first-come, first-served basis. The Management Committee should be contacted as soon as is possible for access arrangements in order to avoid scheduling conflicts.
3. The cave is closed to all access from November 1 through May 1, while the Indiana Bats are in hibernation. There will be "NO" entry allowed during the closed period without written permission from the Misty Cave Property Management Committee.
4. Please keep noise to a minimum and be discreet while changing clothes. Fireworks, explosives, loud music, and other noisemaking activities are prohibited. All visitors to the preserve are expected to be considerate of our neighbors, and refrain from disturbing them, especially at night. The preserve is a natural area, and should be treated with peaceful and quiet appreciation.
5. To minimize the impact to the cave, the RKC requests that groups entering the cave be limited to twelve (12) people or fewer, with a minimum group size of 3 people. Arrangements for caving groups larger than 12 people must be made in advance by contacting the Misty Cave Property Management Committee at least two weeks before the desired date. The RKC and the Misty Cave Managers reserve the right to refuse access to Misty Cave Property to anyone.
6. All plants and animals on Misty Cave Property are to be respected and observed from a distance, and are never to be removed. Avoid disturbing wild life and plant life. Cave flora, fauna, and cultural resources are to be left undisturbed. In addition, do not touch, break, or remove formations from the cave. Do not cut trees or brush for firewood or any other purpose. *Anyone found defacing the cave or formations, or causing harm to the plants and wildlife of the preserve will be*

- subject to prosecution under both state and federal laws.* For any questions or concerns or to report vandalism or other abusive activities at the preserve, please contact the Misty Cave Property Management Committee (if not yet established, the Chair of the RKC stewardship committee).
7. Park only in the designated area, and drive only on existing roads. Do not block access to roads or gates.
 8. Camping is not permitted on the property.
 9. Please remove any trash that you bring to the preserve. Also, please help keep the cave and preserve clean by removing any trash left by others.
 10. Spray-painting, carbide marking, and all other types of graffiti are never permitted. Vandalism and abuse of the cave or the surface areas of the property will be prosecuted.
 11. Modifications of the cave or property, including placing bolts or artificial anchors, marking or constructing trails, cutting trees or brush, all digging, excavation, or blasting on the property or in the cave is prohibited without written permission from The Misty Cave Property Management Committee. Persons violating this policy may be subject to prosecution under state and federal laws.
 12. To avoid parking and over-use problems during caving conventions and special events, access to the property will be limited during those events to trips organized through The Misty Cave Property Management Committee.
 13. ATVs are not permitted on the property without written permission from The Misty Cave Property Management Committee. Any permissible ATV use is restricted to established roads and trails.
 14. Hunting is not allowed except by direct written permission from The Misty Cave Property Management Committee AND the RKC BOD. Discharging firearms of any type for purposes other than hunting is prohibited.
 15. Use of the cave or property for any type of commercial activity, including guided or commercial caving or other recreational activity, is not permitted.
 16. No collection of specimens, artifacts, or any type of natural or cultural resources from the preserve or the cave is permitted without written permission from the Misty Cave Property Management Committee Board.