

## **Management Plan For Sites Cave, Sites Attic and Cave Rat Cave Pendleton County, WV**

Updated January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The access to the property is at the consent of the landowner, and is managed for him by Mr. Earl Suitor.

The entrances to Cave Rat Cave and Sites Cave are enclosed by fencing, the function of which is to keep the landowners dogs from falling into the caves. These fences are maintained by the Grottos of The National Speleological Society, The Potomac Speleological Club, and The Cave Conservancy of the Virginias.

The caves will be open for caving between January 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The property is closed the remainder of the year at the landowner's request.

Caving parties are limited to 8 participants (including trip leader). No more than 3 cars are to be parked per cave (as shown on provided access / parking maps). (Carpool as needed)

VAR LIMITED/CLOSED CAVES LIST:

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/conservation/closed-caves/var-limited-access-caves>

The fences have combination locks. The combinations will be kept by the landowner and Mr. Suitor. The combinations will be changed several times a year.

- Valid, dated parking permits must be displayed on the dashboard of the cavers cars.
- Parking will be permitted in the areas shown on the maps supplied to the approved trip leader upon approval of the trip.
- No lanes or roads should be blocked.
- The landowner's lane to his house will not be used or blocked.
- Any unauthorized entry onto the landowner's property may be prosecuted by the landowner and may jeopardize future access to these caves.
- Access to either cave will require proper gear including, but not limited to: Caving helmet with headlamp, at minimum two other light sources per participant, enough extra batteries to last for 24 hours, drinking water, gloves, sturdy boots, coveralls or other sturdy clothing, a pee bottle, sanitary supplies (no waste is to be left in the cave) and a small pack.
- Please leave word with a trusted person where you will be and when you will be out and safe. Instruct that person to call for help if you do not return by the prearranged overdue time.
- Access to Sites or Sites Attic will require proper and safe vertical gear and cavers must have prior vertical experience of over 75 feet in cave, the ability to do changeovers and the physical ability to climb out safely. The trip leader must provide a 300 foot (or longer) 11mm static caving rope and rope pads.
- Do not use the natural headwall entrance to Cave Rat Cave. Unstable breakdown exists overhead in an extremely tight crawlway.

A hand-line of at least 100 feet as well as an etrier are STRONGLY recommended for negotiation of the Cave Rat Cave entrance / exit.

Access and egress to and from the caves will be as indicated on the supplied maps. All materials will be sent to the trip leader as soon as possible after permission has been granted.

Trip leaders will provide a list of participants prior to the trip being approved.

A copy of the Management Plan will be supplied with the maps, parking permits and combination.

As a courtesy, a short trip report would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Earl Suitor

703-431-2661 (Call or text)