

*Appendix D (updated)*



## HAZARDS AND SPECIAL STIPULATIONS LaSunder Cave



### **GENERAL HAZARDS:**

All undeveloped caves, by their very nature, contain hazards. Make your trip a safe and enjoyable one by being prepared and careful.

All caves contain hazards which are common to the underground environment, such as loose rocks, low ceilings, low tight passages, slippery surfaces, and unstable and uneven floors. Be prepared by wearing the proper clothes and carrying the proper equipment, following safety hints, staying within your groups capabilities, and using common sense.

Specific Hazards described below are those which are known by BLM, but additional hazards due to natural causes could exist.

### **SPECIFIC HAZARDS:**

1. The dig constriction at the gate is tight and subject to loose rock and dirt movement.
2. Many areas have low ceilings.
3. There is a tight crawl, approximately 2,100 feet from the entrance and between stations C25 and C29 that is awkward and tight (less than 9 inches of clearance in some points). Access beyond this point will be limited to four recreational trips per year and indicated on the LaSunder Trip Permit. Passage beyond this squeeze poses a possible stuck-caver hazard. Being stuck in this crawlway is a serious matter, as one could quickly become hypothermic and rescue operations would be extremely difficult.
4. The climb (33 feet) to the upper section in the rear of the cave poses hazards due to unknown conditions of rope and a fall from some point along this climb would almost certainly seriously injure a caver. Only experienced cavers well versed in single-rope techniques should venture to the upper passage of the cave.
5. There is loose material near the top of the rope climb
6. At times sections of this cave will be blocked-off with flagging tape to protect cave studies. Please do not enter these blocked-off areas.
7. There is a large pack rat midden at entrance of cave; respiratory masks should be used when traveling through this area.
8. Much of LaSunder Cave is 49-54° F. Hypothermia is a genuine concern.

**SPECIAL STIPULATIONS:**

1. No renewable or nonrenewable resources--either plant, animal or mineral--shall be collected from this cave for personal use, sale, barter, or consumption unless specifically authorized in writing.
2. No one shall intentionally deface any natural surface in the cave.
3. Overnight camping, firearms, pets, and open fires are prohibited in this cave.
4. At times sections of this cave will be blocked off with flagging tape to protect resources and cave studies. Please do not enter these blocked-off areas.
5. **Passage into and beyond the tight crawl approx. 3,000 feet into cave and into the side passage known as the Flamingo Crawl is PROHIBITED.** Access into these restricted areas is limited to pre-approved scientific, research, inventory trips with specific BLM authorization and permits.
5. Persons entering the cave are required to adhere to USFWS WNS decontamination protocols; which can be found here:  
<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/decontamination-information>
6. Clothing and equipment that has been used in caves or mines in other States or Canadian Provinces where White-nose Syndrome or *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (the fungus that causes the disease) has been confirmed or suspected is **PROHIBITED**•
7. Avoid contact and **DO NOT DISTURB BATS AT ANY TIME.**  
Minimize disturbance to bats through actions such as talking in low voices or not at all in the open room before the gate, avoiding shining lights directly on bats if encountered, and do not linger in the open room before the gate.
8. Maximum group size is limited to 6 people; special arrangements may be made.
9. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that if newly discovered cultural resources are identified during project implementation, work in that area must stop and the agency Authorized Officer notified immediately (36 CFR 800.13). The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Remains or Objects occurs, activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)). Further actions also require compliance under the provisions of NHPA and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.
10. **DO NOT STRAY OFF MARKED TRAILS.**

*I, the undersigned, have received a copy of this document and will adhere to all requirements stipulated herein.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name