



Jones County Conservation Board

12515 Central Park Rd.
Center Junction, IA 52212

Brad Mormann, Director

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Special Use Permit

Description of Special Use: Permission to enter Indian Bluff Cave at Pictured Rocks

The person signing this permit is responsible for making sure the attached guidelines and requirements are followed by everyone in their group. The permit is valid for the time specified on this page. Failure to follow the guidelines and rules may result in a misdemeanor violation of rules adopted by the Jones County Conservation Board at a meeting on July 19, 2010 and (or) revocation of cave access privileges.

In the event the new rules and regulations or guidelines are adopted to help control the spread of White-nose Syndrome in bat populations or if the disease is detected in Indian Bluff Cave, the Jones County Conservation Board reserves the right to terminate this agreement at any time.

Special Rules for Accessing the Cave at Pictured Rocks due to White Nose Syndrome in Bat Populations

1. Leaders must ensure that no participants have entered caves in infected states – check the following website for current information and maps: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>
2. Any participant that has entered any other cave including those in Iowa must follow the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disinfection protocols for clothing, shoes and equipment. <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/decontamination-information>
3. Participants that have not entered any cave in the last five years will not need to complete the disinfection protocol.
4. Cave users must have a special use permit authorized from the Jones County Conservation Board or Director to enter the cave and it must be carried when entering the cave.

Please Complete the Following Information for the Permit Holder:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Phone Number _____

Permit Begin Date: **March 23, 2025**

Permit End Date: **December 31, 2025**

Signature of Permit Holder: _____
Date

Permit Approved by: _____
Date

Disinfection Protocol
Recommended Procedures to Prevent the Spread of White-nose Syndrome (WNS)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

You should not handle bats. If you come across live or dead bats with white-nose syndrome, click on the links below to contact your state wildlife agency or your nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office, or email WhiteNoseBats@fws.gov or visit: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/contact/region>

State Office Listing - Iowa Local Bat Expert - <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/contact/local-bat-expert>
USFSW Office Listing - <https://www.fws.gov/offices/Directory/ListOffices.cfm?statecode=19>

We ask that you take the following precautions to prevent the possible spread of WNS ("cave" includes all caves, fissures, mines, portals, etc.):

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that all cavers observe all cave closures and advisories in all states, especially in WNS affected states¹ and unaffected adjacent states². Some states have instituted closures and issued advisories beyond normal permanent and seasonal closures. Other states have instituted closures of caves with bats and/or advisories to stay out of caves with bats.

Decontaminate all clothing, footwear, and gear prior to departing for a caving outing if you did not decontaminate these items after last exiting a cave.

To avoid contaminating a cave in a currently unaffected state, we ask that you not use gear that was used in a WNS affected state if that gear cannot be thoroughly decontaminated or disposed of (e.g., if harnesses, ropes, or webbing cannot be decontaminated, we advise that you not enter caves or parts of caves requiring use of this gear). Because clothing, footwear, and gear used in a cave in a WNS affected state within the past 3 years could pose a risk of spreading WNS, the Service advises that these items not be used in caves anywhere.

Updates on disinfecting protocol and other issues related to WNS are updated continuously on the website: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/decontamination-information> This website and information included in it is used as the latest up to date information.

What is known about *Geomyces* sp. viability:

- The fungus survives exposure to mammalian body temperature (38°C/100°F) for at least 3 days but does not remain viable after 8 days (W. Stone, NYSDEC, pers. communication 4/14/09).
- The fungus survives exposure to temperature (30°C/86°F) for at least 15 days (W. Stone, NYSDEC, pers. communication 4/14/09).
- Short-term incubation of fungus at higher temperatures reduces the number of conidia present and alters the morphology of the hyphae which may not inhibit growth once returned to colder temperatures (W. Stone, NYSDEC and D. Blehert, USGS NWHC, pers. communication 4/14/09).
- Clothes dryer heat treatment (49°C/ 120°F) alone increases fungal spore germination and does not kill the fungus (H. Barton, NKU, pers. communication 4/22/09).