

Land of the Swirling Mists Rigging Trip Report

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Summary

Kevin Manley, Mary Klaus, Michael Behm and Derek Bristol visited Land of the Swirling Mists in Williams Canyon with the primary purpose of exploring the cave, but rigging gear and a rope were brought in case there was a need to change the fixed rigging in one short pit. A SS quick-link and 11mm PMI Max-Wear rope were used to replace a damaged plated steel quick-link and unrated rope that were in the 15' handline pit on the east side of the Lobby. The anchor and rope in this short pit are the only fixed rigging in the cave so no additional work is needed.

The Lobby

The handline in the Lobby is rigged to a single bolt. This is reportedly a 3/8 x 3" SS wedge bolt and is equipped with a SS Metolius hanger. The bolt appears to be properly installed in good quality rock, and the nut is properly torqued. This anchor is used to secure a handline in a 15' narrow pit/chimney. This handline is just there for convenience and so the single bolt anchor is appropriate. A 1/4" plated steel quick-link was attached to the bolt hanger but it was unscrewed and could not be closed because it had been weighted and bent slightly. This was removed and replaced with an 8mm SS quick-link. There were two knotted ropes attached to this quick-link, but neither rope was rated kernmantle, so these were both removed and an 11mm x 46' PMI Max-Wear rope was knotted and attached to the SS quick-link. This rope is longer than needed and the extra 10' was left at the bottom of the pit.



Mary Klaus with anchor and rope in handline pit

Future Work

There are no other existing fixed anchors or ropes in Swirling Mist, and there is no need to add any so the work in this cave is now complete.

The team would like to thank Cave of the Winds management and the Williams Canyon Project for their support of this effort.