

Precinct 11 is located in Rockcastle County in the Johnetta quad. The cave starts as a phreatic tube in the overflow route for the cave. This tube is located in St. Genevieve limestone, but quickly joins the Newman member. The majority of the cave is in the Upper Newman limestone.

The cave begins with a crawl over gravel which is always pooled at the entrance. The cave "T's" at this point and a choice of straight or left turn has to be made immediately. The right is the usual route since it's a stoop in water with approx. 4" of airspace. The left route leads to a belly crawl which can be in 1' deep water or less, depending on sediment deposition that has occurred over the winter.

After the initial complete body immersion a crawl in and out of water for 1000' leads to 800' of stoop walk. At this point the cave becomes walking stream vadose passage for a distance before more backbreakers are encountered. The cave again opens into comfortable walking passage after these backbreakers.

The upper level of the cave, which is entered by a climb after the first 1800' of passage, is a large 30 x 30 foot phreatic trunk with well over a mile of passage. This upper area is in a region of large breakdown boulders and winding fossil stream beds. Different areas connect to the lower level from the upper trunk. The end of the first trunk, called the "EA trail", leads to a side passage where a crawl over the top of a dome allows access to the next phreatic trunk. This is a nicely decorated high multi-level passage which ends in a blank wall after 1000-2000 feet of passage. A connec-

tion to the lower level can be found before entering the elusive entrance to this second trunk.

The lower stream level of the cave eventually reaches the largest room in the cave, the obligatory "Big Room". This room is filled with breakdown boulders which have to be crossed to regain the stream. The stream continues for a short distance before turning into a low belly crawl in water.

Before the low portion of the stream is reached, a side passage to the left leads to a large dome. This area connects to a dry passage which bypasses the low crawl and leads to the back of the cave. This is breached by numerous climbs, crawls, and belly crawls. The cave ends in what is known as the "Dead Meat Section", which refers to the consequences of human occupation at the time of flooding. The end of the explored passage is a terminal breakdown with large quantities of air blowing through the rocks.

The current mapped length of the cave is over 5 miles with numerous passages being unmapped, as well as excellent possibility of virgin passage.

Warning! This cave does not react quickly to water but can flood shut under the right conditions. The entrance crawl could also be deadly due to limited airspace.

Access: Due to the sensitivity of the cave and the hazardous nature of the entrance, the location will not be published. Directions will be available at registration desk.

Mark Rocklin