

Warnings for Visitors to Muir Valley

Last amended: November 26, 2012)

It is important that you carefully read and understand the list of warnings of the hazards and potential dangers, both identified and unknown that may exist in Muir Valley. Your presence in Muir Valley signifies that you have read and fully understand these warnings.

Please notify Muir Valley Nature Preserve (MVNP) as soon as reasonably possible of any unusual dangerous condition or hazard that you see or encounter in the Valley. This includes, but is not limited to, loose, missing, or worn hardware on the rock climbing routes, loose rocks, and any and all activities by other persons that could be considered to be reckless and an endangerment to the wellbeing of other people in Muir Valley.

If you are not willing to accept full responsibility for your presence in Muir Valley, then do not enter the property.

1. WARNING: It is virtually impossible for us to be aware of every hazard and dangerous condition that may exist in the 350 acres and 7+ miles of cliff line that constitute Muir Valley. It is, therefore, necessary that you acknowledge a general warning that hidden and unknown dangers may exist in Muir Valley that cannot always be specifically identified and warned or guarded against.

2. WARNING: Rock climbing can be a dangerous sport, participation in which can cause permanent paralysis or other serious injury and death to you or to those around you. You should never climb without extensive training by experienced climbers. You should never climb without proper high-quality rock climbing gear. And, you should never climb if you are not willing to accept full responsibility for the consequences of your participation in this dangerous sport.

3. WARNING: The rock in Muir Valley is substantially Corbin Sandstone. This is a very soft, friable sedimentary rock that is laced with pockets, fissures and soft chossy sections. Even the best of hardware permanently affixed to or temporarily placed into this rock can fail unexpectedly and catastrophically due to the poor structural integrity of this rock, possibly causing your injury or death.

4. WARNING: The rock in Muir Valley contains sections that are either loose or that can be easily loosened. These sections can spontaneously fall off a cliff, or they may be inadvertently or purposely pulled off by a climber. In any case, rock fall poses a threat to visitors to Muir Valley and therefore poses a danger to the climber and/or persons below the climber. All persons participating in rock climbing and/or those present in the vicinity of rock cliffs are strongly advised to wear protective headgear designed specifically for a rock climbing environment.

5. WARNING: Never climb inside the many caves in Muir Valley. The ceilings are often flaky and prone to breaking down and falling.

6. WARNING: Hanger brackets have been bolted to, or glued into, the walls of many of the climbing routes in Muir Valley. Additionally, other hardware, such as slings, quickdraws, chains, rings, cable leaders, and permadraws may be attached to hanger brackets. As is traditional with rock climbing route development, this hardware was installed by many different persons. The specific hardware and installation methods are neither approved by nor monitored by us. Nor, is this hardware routinely inspected. NO warranties of safeness of this hardware have been given by the persons who installed it or the owners of Muir Valley. Hanger brackets have been known to pull loose from the rock. And, rock in which hanger brackets have been affixed has been known to fail. If you climb in Muir Valley and rely on any piece of hardware affixed to any rock surface for your personal safety and/or the safety of others with you, you do so at your own risk and with the full knowledge that this hardware may fail catastrophically and without warning.

7. WARNING: Be very careful hiking along the tops of cliffs. Most of the seven plus miles of cliffs range from 50 to over 145 feet high.

8. WARNING: As a nature preserve, Muir Valley has wildlife, including, but not limited to: poisonous insects, such as the northern millipede; venomous snakes, such as copperheads and rattlesnakes; and poisonous plants, such as poison ivy and pokeweed.

If you have any suggestions or questions or wish to report any problems, please feel free to contact Rick or Liz Weber, owners of Muir Valley Nature Preserve, LLC at 606 668-9066, 317-291-0354, 317-402-0118 or email us at richardhweber@gmail.com