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Geological Overview of the Peter Cave Hollow Rockshelters in the Hoosier National Forest

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GEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF THE PETER CAVE HOLLOW ROCKSHELTERS IN THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST
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The rockshelters in the Peter Cave Hollow drainage are invaluable to understanding settlement patterns of early inhabitants. Cultural material is present in over thirty percent of the 117 rockshelters surveyed. This includes talus slope deposits as well as shelter deposits. Understanding the age of formation and sediment depositional patterns are crucial for isolating these cultural materials. The ability to date the sediments more accurately would give us the opportunity to pinpoint the possible existence of additional cultural material. It would shorten the man-hours used for collection of data and limit the use of intrusive methods of recovery in areas that are proven to be too old for habitation. Future geological research will open the door for new and accurate ways to date these sediments as well as the cultural material found therein.