

Man Cage and Ore Skip Audio Tour
Chapter 4, Stop 3
1:02

The man cage, which is the top portion of this equipment, held the men when they traveled underground. It was capable of holding 15-18 men. It is very similar to the man cage that visitors ride underground today, except it had only one level.

Beneath the man cage is the ore skip. This is what hauled the ore to the surface. This ore skip could hold a total of 6 ton. Men and ore never traveled together. This was for safety reasons. When the ore came to the surface, it was raised above the “collar” or surface, so it could be dumped into a Larry car. It was too dangerous to have men in the man cage, since they would be raised so high. Plus some of the safety devices were disabled during ore hauling, thus making it unsafe for the miners to be riding in the cage at that time.

Today, we have removed the ore skip and we created a double-decker man cage. It allows us to carry more people with each cage movement. Look for the two-deck man cage when you visit the headframe.