



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave  
National Monument

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## Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Jewel Cave National Monument Temporarily Closes Cave for Tours**

Custer – Jewel Cave National Monument will temporarily close the cave for public tours for one week, beginning Tuesday, February 7 through Monday, February 13, 2012, due to elevator maintenance. Two 28-story elevators serve as the primary transportation mode into the cave, and all staff and visitors access the cave using this system. The elevators will be off-line and will not be available for use during the maintenance work.

The maintenance work will consist of rewiring the elevator hoistway, repairing position indicators, and installing waterproof door interlocks, as well as conducting a thorough maintenance check before the upcoming summer season. Superintendent Larry Johnson states, “Due to a hectic summer schedule and high visitation, elevator maintenance is best done during the winter months. With predicted low visitation in early February, we are hopeful that the maintenance can be completed without much visitor impact.”

The Visitor Center will continue to be open daily from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Park Rangers will also be available to answer questions and provide service for those that wish to visit the facility during the cave closure.

During the cave closure, free guided nature hikes will take place each day at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The hikes are scheduled for the one-quarter mile Roof Trail and will showcase the surface features of the Monument. Johnson further comments, “With a lack of snow cover and mild temperatures, we invite walkers and outdoor enthusiasts to the ponderosa pine forest for some recreational exercise. Our trails often go unnoticed, so we are taking advantage of the cave closure to invite the public to see the surface features of this beautiful area.” Interested hikers need to meet at the visitor center.

To learn more about the Monument, call the Visitor Center at 605-673-8300 and select Option 2. Monument information can also be accessed online at [www.nps.gov/jeca](http://www.nps.gov/jeca).

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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