



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Navajo National Monument News Release

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### KEET SEEL CLOSED FOR YEAR

On August 16, 2011, Navajo National Monument's Superintendent Alden Miller announced that Keet Seel cliff dwellings will remain closed to all tours the rest of the year. This summer the area around Navajo National Monument has experienced heavy rainfall causing flash flooding and massive erosion resulting in deep arroyo cutting and soil loss, making the trips to Kawestima/Keet Seel hazardous. Superintendent Miller stated "With the amount of damage the rains have caused, the trail leading to the cliff dwelling is unsafe for our visitors and park employees. Therefore, I am asking that all tours be cancelled until next season, summer 2012. Weekly reconnaissance trips, written reports and photographs by park rangers show that our staff needs to do a lot of work before reopening the site to visitors."

Photos show recent exposure of large boulders, quicksand, and total loss of part of the trail. "We need to be extremely careful with our visitors when they hike out to Keet Seel. We do not want anyone in harm's way. With extremely unsafe conditions within the canyon system and at Kawestima/Keet Seel, the only decision we can make is to close the site this season." Superintendent Miller explained.

Navajo National Monument's cultural resource team along with the maintenance division will assess the damage and determine what needs to be corrected to make conditions safe again. The work on the trail system may take months to repair and Superintendent Miller is asking our visitors for their patience.

If you have questions or need more information, please call 928) 672-2720 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/nav](http://www.nps.gov/nav) to find our photo gallery.

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