



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia &
Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – September 29, 2008

Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

Dayna Higgins, Sequoia Natural History Association, (559)-565-3759

Crystal Cave Closes for the Season

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) have determined that Crystal Cave will not re-open for this season.

The decision was based on continued fire activity in the Crystal Cave area due to the Hidden Fire and the amount of work needed to clear the area before it can be safely opened to the public. Repairs to utilities, clearing the roads and trails of fallen trees, and other related work precludes re-opening the cave before the seasonal closure scheduled for October 26th.

“It was a difficult decision for us to make,” said Superintendent Craig C. Axtell. “Crystal Cave is one of the highlights for our visitors and we wanted the option of re-opening kept available to us. However, as the timeline has narrowed, it is no longer a viable alternative.”

“It’s a sad day for us,” said Mark Tilchen, Executive Director for SNHA. “We take great pride in the program provided by dedicated professionals at the cave. The fire has had an impact on our operations and our employees. We were hoping to get a chance to be back in the cave doing what we do best—showing our visitors what makes the cave so special.”

The Hidden Fire was started by lightning on September 10th and grew in spite of firefighting efforts. It has been contained at 3,700 acres. Although much of the interior of this perimeter has burned, the fire will continue to smolder over the next week or so.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --