



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE SUMMER 2009 GUIDE



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Recovery & Reinvestment in Your Parks

Got water? How about good wastewater treatment? Trails to walk on? Lights to view the cave?

We tend to take such things for granted in a national park, and we'd all be very unhappy if we couldn't. Yet, in remote parks, keeping such things functional and up to date is not always easy — or easy on the budget.

This summer we are getting extra help from the ARRA, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ARRA is funding important, long-awaited, shovel-ready maintenance projects in many national parks.

Here in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, ARRA projects will bring an investment of more than \$11 million to these parks, and jobs for those who can do the work:

- The largest project entails replacing old drinking-water tanks and improving outdated fire hydrants and other fire-suppression systems. At the Foothills Visitor Center and park headquarters, the present system dates from the 1930s and 1940s.

- Crystal Cave wildlife and visitors will benefit from new energy-efficient lighting. These LED lights, powered by solar energy, won't encourage unnatural algae growth on the mineral formations. In addition, the old generator that ran the lights can disappear, reduc-



Projects funded by ARRA improve park systems in many ways. Some projects help to minimize the affect of our utilities on park habitats, including the rare ecosystems in caves. The old lights in Crystal Cave promote plant growth that supports an unnatural number of these millipedes in the cave. Such changes can upset delicate natural systems.

Photo © Jean Krejca

ing noise, fuel use, and air pollution.

- Crews are rebuilding part of the Kennedy Pass Trail in western Kings Canyon Park. Last August a severe rainstorm eroded a large gully on the trail's switchbacks. They will also rebuild trail damaged during last year's Tehipite Fire and will clear fallen trees.

- Another project involves replacing components for one of the parks' main wastewater treatment plants. It includes providing new power generation for monitoring components that will reduce carbon footprint. It may not sound exciting, but it is critical to keeping drinking water and rivers clean — an important requirement in the parks.

Some \$750 million will be spent in national parks across the country. "This is," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, "not only an investment in our economy, it is an investment in our heritage, an investment in telling the story of America to future generations by conserving our awe-inspiring landscapes, our diverse history, and our rich culture."

In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. As this anniversary approaches, the landscapes we love and systems we rely on to enjoy them are getting a boost from ARRA.