



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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For Immediate Release

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The National Park Service is Seeking Public Comment on Cave Management Plan

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address major revisions to the Cave Management Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California. This update is **needed** because it has been 11 (1997) years since the last revision and during that time more than 75 new caves have been found in the park.

The public is invited to submit written comments to SEKI_planning@nps.gov or by mailing them to Park Superintendent, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA, 93271. Comments concerning the scope, contents, and breadth of this plan will be used to help identify significant issues for the management of caves within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Comments received by May 15th will be of most use during this initial phase of the project, however there will be future opportunities to comment on the specifics and the alternatives developed for the Cave Management Plan. Note that all comments become part of the public record.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain more than 260 known caves formed within marble rock at a wide range of elevations across the parks. This includes the longest cave in California, commercialized Crystal that is popular with park visitors, alpine caves in Mineral King, and more.

The **purpose** of the Cave Management Plan (CMP) is to provide direction for the parks' cave management team in working with the visiting public and researchers. This direction supports the protection and conservation of all park cave and karst resources as directed by federal law and National Park Service (NPS) policy.

Public Participation

Note that all comments become part of the public record. Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. If individuals commenting request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. As always the NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Anonymous comments may not be considered.

If you would like more information than is presented here, please contact Joel Despain at 559 565 3717 or joel_despain@nps.gov or Benjamin Tobin at 559 556 4271 or benjamin_tobin@nps.gov.

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