



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

News Release

**For Immediate Release** – August 24, 2009

**Contact** Adrienne Freeman 559/ 565-3131

### **Public Input Sought on Proposed Redevelopment and Restoration of Crystal Cave, Sequoia National Park**

*Public comment period open from August 24, 2009 to September 25, 2009*

The National Park Service is seeking public comment for the proposed redevelopment of the Crystal Cave facilities within Sequoia National Park. The goal of the project is to improve the existing visitor facilities to provide a better visitor experience while restoring and protecting important cave resources.

The facilities at Crystal Cave are old and deteriorated. The current restroom facility and septic system are outdated and are not universally accessible. Trash cans at the parking lot are decades old and unsightly. The ½-mile asphalt trail to the cave has deteriorated and has a failing exterior wall, broken and unsightly fencing, and damaged handrails. The existing sales kiosk is small and does not meet the needs of the Sequoia Natural History Association for providing opportunities for education and retail sales. The cave entrance area has important but previously unrecognized environmentally significant resources and could provide a large amount of habitat.

Work being considered includes improving the parking lot and picnic area, replacing the existing bathrooms with vault toilets, rehabilitating the access trail to the cave, constructing a new sales and information facility, and relocating the visitor gathering area at the cave and restoring the cave entrance to improve habitat and ecology.

The National Park Service is preparing an environmental assessment that will evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed redevelopment and restoration project. Interested members of the public are invited to provide input on the project goals and the proposed project work. Comments received during this initial scoping period will be used to help define the issues and concerns to be addressed in the environmental assessment and also to develop additional alternatives.

Public comment may be submitted online by selecting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki>. The public may also direct comments regarding this project to the park in writing by sending an e-mail to [seki\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:seki_planning@nps.gov), or the public may mail or hand deliver their comments to:

#### **Superintendent**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
Attn: Crystal Cave Redevelopment and Restoration Project  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

**All comments must be received by September 25, 2009.**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

The public is invited to visit Crystal Cave on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 for an informational presentation on the cave area facilities. A special cave tour will be provided at 10 am for meeting participants, with an informational presentation will follow at the Crystal Cave parking lot at 11:30 am. Due to limited access in the cave, only the first 50 people who RSVP at 559/565-3102 will be able to take advantage of the free cave tour. However, all are welcome to attend the 11:30 public meeting and additional cave tours are offered throughout the day. More information on Crystal Cave tours can be found at: <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/cave/cave.htm> or by calling (559) 565-3759.

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