



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
P.O. BOX 188
WHISKEYTOWN, CA 96095-0188



Crystal Creek Falls

Length: About 1/3 mile one way

Elevation: Flat

Difficulty Level: Easy

Special Features: Two picnic tables and BBQ grills

Enter at your own risk

The Carr Fire burned through 98% of the park's forested lands in the summer of 2018. Be aware of hazards created by the fire, including falling trees and limbs, burned out stump holes, abandoned mine features, and loose rocks.

Watch the weather and do not hike if rain is forecast. Rainstorms present the possibility of flash flooding, landslides and debris flows in the fire area.

Stay on established roads and trails and report hazards to park dispatch, (530) 242-3431.

Directions

From Highway 299 west, follow Crystal Creek road for 2 miles until you see the rehabilitated quarry area on your left. Huge piles of rock were removed from the tunnel between Lewiston Dam and Carr Powerhouse and deposited here. Walk the paved trail behind the gate for about 1/3 mile until you reach a picnic and barbecue area. The falls are immediately ahead of you.

As you look at Crystal Creek Falls, you will see a small concrete structure on the right. This building houses an overflow valve for the tunnel. The valve is used when letting water out through Carr Powerhouse is not an option. The excess water from the tunnel then spills into Crystal Creek. When the overflow structure was built, the Bureau of Reclamation rerouted Crystal Creek. The creek was moved about 50 feet to the left to make a shortcut over the creek, creating this picturesque waterfall. This makes Crystal Creek the only "man-made" waterfall in the park.

Another lovely waterfall can be reached by walking behind the cement building. This is not a maintained trail, so use caution as you walk up the steep and rocky route.