

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House
Denver, Colorado
March 22, 1932

The Director
National Park Service
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Director:

On February 25 I visited the proposed Crystal Cave National Monument, in Arizona, and on February 26 talked with the owner, Mr. F.O. Rhodes, 1408 West Polk Street, Phoenix. Crystal Cave is located to the east of the road connecting Mammoth and Winkelman. The distance from Tucson is 68 miles. At a point 14 miles north of Mammoth and about 11 miles south of Winkelman one turns to the left at a sign reading "Cave two miles." The road to the cave entrance is steep, rocky and only sufficiently improved to be passable.

The cave is said to be located in Section 23, T. 6 S., R. 16 E. It is located about two miles east of the San Pedro River and in the lower foothills of some mountains which rise three or four miles further east. These mountains appear to be of igneous formation. The slope between the base of the mountains and the San Pedro River has been cut by the erosion of a number of gulches. Almost at the bottom of one of these arroyos an area about 75 feet in diameter caved in, giving access to the cave. Mr. Rhodes discovered the cave on March 9, 1927, and, from the appearance of the entrance, the cave-in probably occurred shortly before that date.

No one lives at the cave and it is open to the public, although there seem to be but very few visitors, since the road shows little sign of use. The roof at the entrance appears insecure, but it is more solid after one has entered the cave. The passages are from ten to twenty feet in height and from twenty to thirty feet in width. From the entrance passages extend to the north, south, east and west. With the aid of a flashlight I followed the eastern passage to a point where the passages began to ramify and there seemed to be a good chance of getting lost. Mr. Rhodes tells me that the east, north and west passages extend for about a half a mile each and that the south passage extends for about a quarter of a mile. There is a small lake at the end of the north passage and another one at the end of the east passage. The latter is about 400 feet in length and varying in width to a maximum of approximately 50 feet. Mr. Rhodes has built a boat by which he can cross the lake and continue along the passage beyond.

On his first visit Mr. Rhodes was lost in the cave for about two hours and had difficulty in finding his way out, though he had used a dozen candles as trail markers.

There is no drip formation in the cave. In some places the roof is quite white, probably with gypsum; in other places there is a black formation. Minute crystals of calcite or gypsum make the cave walls sparkle. Mr. Rhodes says that in the north passage the best crystals appear and extend for about 300 feet in length. Many of them have now been broken off by visitors.

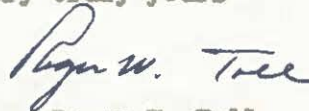
Mr. Rhodes located a mining claim to cover the cave entrance. This claim is the usual 600 feet in width by 1,500 feet in length and therefore does not cover all the cave passages. He sold half interest in the claim to A.L. Logan, who expended some money building the road to the cave. Mr. Logan now lives in California. Mr. Rhodes would like to sell his remaining half interest and has twice accepted an offer of \$1,500 for it, but after a small initial payment the deals have fallen through.

The region is rich in gypsum deposits and Mr. Rhodes says that the Arizona Gypsum Company has 26 claims, each of 160 acres, lying to the west of the cave. It is said that a well drilled three miles south of the cave went to a depth of 700 feet and was in gypsum for the entire distance.

The vegetation surrounding the cave entrance is of semi-arid type and includes some sahuaro, or giant cactus, ocotillo, cholla, prickly pear, palo verde, creosote bush, etc.

Conclusions: Crystal Cave includes no drip formations, but only crystal formations, the best of which have been damaged. It seems to have no outstanding feature of exceptional merit and does not appear suitable for establishment as a national monument.

Very truly yours



Roger W. Toll

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JAN 21 1933

(PROPOSED) CRYSTAL CAVE NATL. MONUMENT, ARIZONA.

REVIEW:

This area is located in Pinal County, east of the road connecting Mammoth and Winkelman, and is owned by Mr. F. G. Rhodes.

Mr. Toll investigated this area and submitted an adverse report under date of March 22, 1932, in which he stated that this cave has no drip formations but only crystal formations, the best of which have been damaged. It seems to have no outstanding features of exceptional merit and does not appear suitable for establishment as a national monument.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this area be disapproved and dropped from our list of proposed national monuments.

C. L. WIRTH.

APPROVED:

JAN 23 1933

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON
August 7, 1935



The Superintendent,
Yellowstone National Park,
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

Dear Sir:

In a recent study of the proposed areas on the permanent list the following areas have been removed on the basis of disapprovals by the Director in recent years:

- ✓ Frio Canyon National Monument, Texas
- ✓ Archaeological National Monument, New Mexico
- Bears Paw National Monument, Montana
- Cabinet National Park, Montana
- Canoe Camp National Monument, Idaho
- ✓ Crystal Cave National Monument, Arizona
- ✓ Davis Mountain National Monument, Texas
- ✓ Hooker Hammock National Park, Florida
- ✓ Kildeer National Park, North Dakota
- ✓ Montezuma Well National Monument, Arizona
- Mt. Shasta National Park, California
- ✓ Ouachita National Park, Arkansas
- ✓ Ozarks National Park, Missouri
- ✓ Picture Rocks National Monument, Arizona
- Pikes Peak National Park, Colorado
- Pike Stockade National Monument, Colorado
- ✓ Royal Gorge National Park, Colorado
- ✓ San Rafael River National Monument, Utah
- ✓ Spa National Park, Nevada
- Virgin Pine National Monument, Mississippi

The Regional Officers concerned have been notified of these removals in order to prevent further investigation, if possible. Any comments you may have on these removals will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence C. Merriam
Acting Assistant Director