



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Craters of the Moon National Monument
P.O. Box 29
Arco Idaho 83213

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 2, 1994

Memorandum

To: All CRMO Employees
From: Superintendent
Subject: North End Policy

Thanks for your comments on the North End Policy. Attached is the final and it incorporates many of your comments. Please read it over and become familiar with the contents. You will note it is the same as the draft except for the following:

- * Sections on snowmobiles and hunting season closures were added.
- * I eased up on the restrictions in the Natural Environment Zone to permit off-road hiking and skiing, except for the caves.
- * I made an exception for use in the Watershed Protection Zone for "Groups or individuals under the direct supervision of an NPS employee for the purposes of maintenance, interpretation, environmental education, or resource management"

I believe these restrictions and this level of use will both protect this invaluable resource while allowing some visitor and administrative activity.

Jon

VISITOR USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
NORTH END
CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT
1994

I. Introduction

North End of CRMO is the approximately 5000 acres North of Highway 20/26/93 within the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument. This policy sets the standards for visitor use and resource management.

II. Authorities

In 1928, President Calvin Coolidge, by proclamation, added approximately six sections of land north of the highway to Craters of the Moon for "the purpose of including within said monument certain springs for water supply and additional features of scientific interest located thereon." (45 Stat. 2959). President Herbert Hoover added additional sections to the North End in 1930 by Proclamation because they "...contains a spring which is needed to furnish the said monument with adequate water supply..." (16 Stat. 3029)

III. Relationship to CRMO Plans

A. Management Zoning: The North End is designated by the 1992 General Management Plan into two subzones of the Natural Zone (see map):

Watershed Protection Subzone: "The 2380 acres in the watershed protection subzone encompass the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains.... The purpose of this subzone is to protect rare and sensitive water resources in the North End, adjoining arid lava fields to the south. Uses allowed in the watershed protection subzone are those that are unlikely to disrupt the balance of riparian ecosystems or threaten the purity and safety of water sources. Facilities for such uses include trails, temporary research stations, and administrative access roads. (GMP page 20)

Natural Environment Subzone: The natural environment subzone....purposes are to provide a definable, visually comprehensible buffer between the wilderness and the development zones and to protect lands where resources are in nearly pristine condition. Uses that would not visually degrade the area are allowed as are environmentally compatible recreation and interpretive activities. Examples of allowable uses are trails, unpaved roads for administrative use, low-profile interpretive displays, primitive camping in designated areas, and buried utilities. (GMP page 20)

IV. Significant Resources

A. Water System: CRMO operates a Public Non-Transient Non-Community Water System that lies entirely in the North End. It consists of four springs, two wells, the main distribution line, a chlorinator building, and two concrete storage tanks,

one 50,000 gallons and one 100,000 gallons. The water is primarily derived from the springs and fed by gravity to the storage tanks. The system is old but very functional. The spring water is collected in covered spring boxes and subject to surface influences and surface run-off. The two wells are approximately 75 feet deep and provide a combined capacity of 13 gallon per minute. A test of these wells in 1993 found them inadequate to provide water for peak season use. Spring water not used in the water system forms Little Cottonwood and Leach Creeks. These creeks disappear underground at the base of the Pioneers and presumably feeds the two wells.

B. Martin Mine: This is an abandoned gold/silver mine with significant spoil piles on the banks of Little Cottonwood Creek. Rehabilitation of the site is in the planning stage.

C. Caves: Several caves/lava tubes are known in the North End and contain a recorded population of Townsend's Big Eared Bat, a category 2 Species. The Townsend's Big Eared Bat is sensitive to human disturbance. The population may be an overwintering/maternity colony, however, this is only suspected.

D. Vegetation: The North End contains significant communities of Great Basin wildrye, sagebrush grass, upland aspen, Douglas fir, and riparian vegetation. A low sagebrush community along the ridge is in consideration for designation as a National Natural Landmark. Two rare plant species (Stipa pinetorium and Phacelia inconspica) are found within the watershed protection zone.

E. Wildlife: The Riparian zone provides unique habitat for wildlife including mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and a variety of birds. A Sharp Shinned hawk nest was recorded along the administrative road in 1993. The 300-400 animal deer herd uses the North End in both the spring, fall and summer for forage and water. The deer come under heavy hunting pressure in season along the boundaries and seek refuge within the park.

V. Visitor Use

A. Prohibited Uses:

--Stock (horses, mules, llamas, etc.) are prohibited except under direct special permit from the Superintendent and then only for the purposes of administrative patrol. Special provisions may be authorized for the passage of stock on the road portion of Goodale's Cutoff by officially recognized wagon groups. No grazing is permitted nor the use of hay for feeding of passing stock. No stock will be allowed to remain overnight.

--Trespass stock: Stock trespassing on the North End from adjacent private or BLM grazing lands will be removed ASAP. Where evidence of trespass can be tied to an individual, citations and claims for damages will be pursued.

--Administrative use of vehicles off-road: No vehicles may be used, except in cases of emergency off existing roads.

--Snowmobiles: Visitor use of snowmobiles in the north end is prohibited. Administrative use is limited to the roadway to access the water system and for emergency use.

--Public Access during Hunting Season: The entire north end is closed to public access during the fall hunting season: generally late September through November.

B. Closed Areas:

--Caves: All caves in the North End are closed to the public. Employees and researchers must obtain permission to enter caves from the CRMO Resource Management Division.

--Watershed Protection Zone: The area delineated as such on the map is closed to all public use for water system protection. (See Exception #8 below)

C. Permitted Uses:

The following uses of the North End are available to all visitors in possession of a valid permit. Permits may be obtained from the Visitor Center.

1. Day Use Hiking (permit required): Visitors may hike anywhere within the Natural Environment Subzone except for the caves.

2. Group Camping (permit required): One large group site is located within the North End. It consists of a fire ring, picnic tables, a large charcoal grill, two pit toilets, a bulletin board, and multiple tent sites. There is potable water at a spigot. Group size limits are 30 and they may not stay longer than 14 days. The area in the general vicinity of the group camp is open to their use. Private vehicles may use the North End road to the group site but not beyond.

3. Mountain Biking (permit required): The roads within the Natural Environment Subzone of the North End (see map) are open to Mt. Bikes. Off road travel is not permitted, and the bikes may not enter the watershed protection subzone. A sign will be erected along the road where this zone begins indicating no entry by bikes.

4. Goodale's Cutoff (Special Use Permit required): The Northern route of the Oregon Trail passes through the North End along an administrative road. The Superintendent may permit through passage along that route on a case by case basis after evaluating the validity of the request. Only organizations that are directly related to commemoration of the history of the trail will be permitted to pass along the existing road. Stock drawn wagons may be permitted to pass but cannot stop to graze or water.

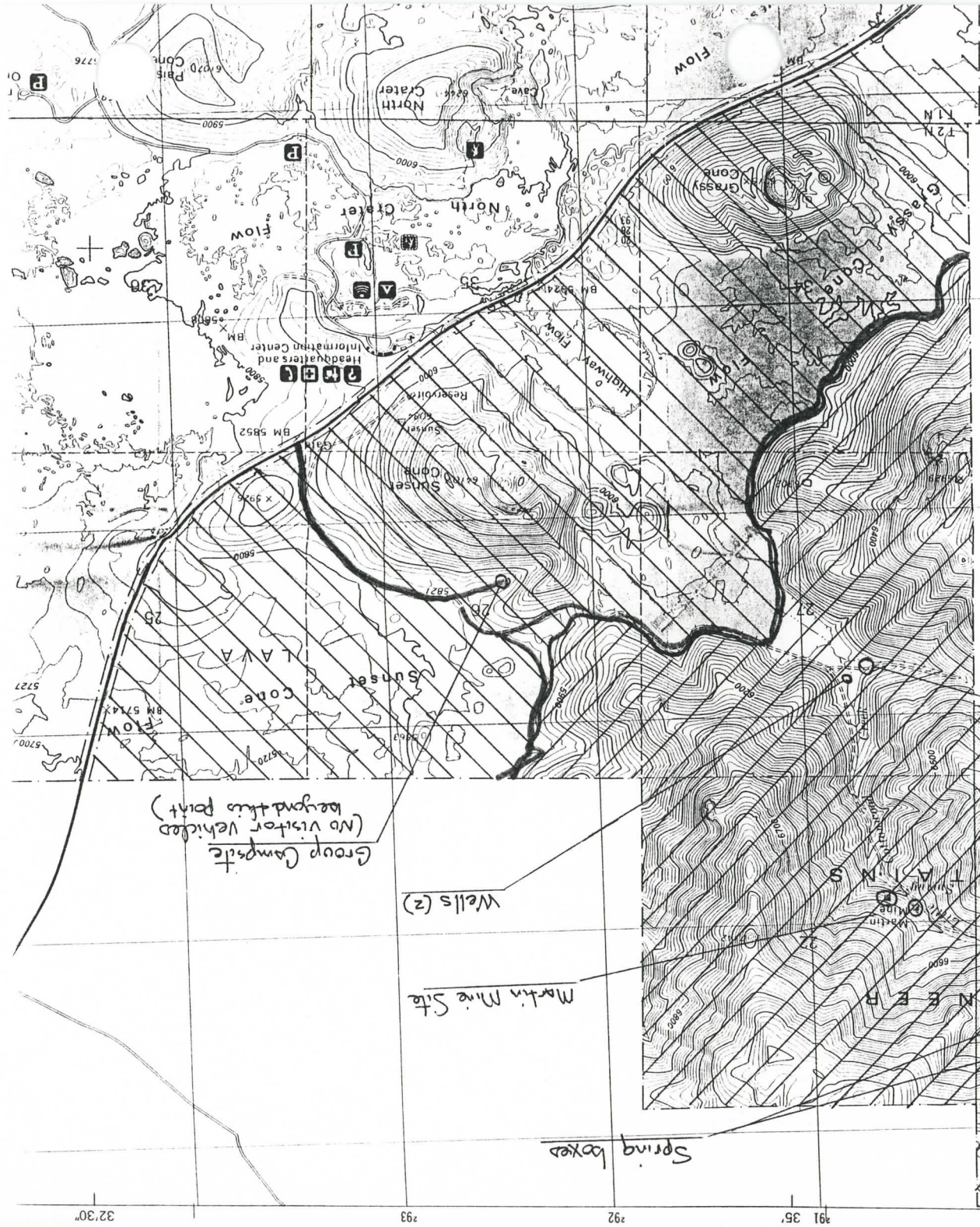
5. Research Camp (permit required): Researchers operating with a valid collection permit approved by the CRMO superintendent may use the research camp. Access and restrictions to sections of the North End will be specified in

their Research permit.

6. Work Crews: SCA or other work crews will be stationed at the group site or the research camp and travel to work sites. Spike camps will not be permitted at other locations within the North End.

7. Cross-Country Skiing: Visitors may cross-country ski anywhere within the Natural Environment Subzone.

8. Watershed Protection Zone Exceptions: The road may be used for administrative or research access. Groups or individuals, under the direct supervision of a CRMO employee, may enter this area for the purposes of interpretation, maintenance, environmental education, or resource management.



- Natural Environment Subzone
- Watershed Protection Subzone
- Road open to Group Camp
- Cutox

Open to hiking & Mt. Bikes

Group Campsite (No visitor vehicles beyond this point)

Wells (2)

Martin Mine Site

Spring boxes

Research Camp