



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Craters of the Moon and the Great Rift

A long history of Expansion

- **1924**, President Calvin Coolidge created Craters of the Moon National Monument, preserving 53,545 acres in Idaho;
- **1926**, the Arco Advertiser reported that new discoveries might enlarge the monument's boundaries as much as one hundred square miles and support reclassification as a National Park;
- **1928**, another presidential proclamation doubles the monument to twice its size, adding the northern unit;
- **1961**, Senator Frank Church (D-ID) introduced legislation to add the 5361 acre Carey Kipuka to the Craters Monument – however, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands suggested that a more appropriate vehicle for such an addition would be through the Antiquities Act;
- **1962**, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation expanding the monument to include the Carey Kipuka;
- **1964**, Passage of the Wilderness Act mandates that all National Park Service sites be studies for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Craters of the Moon wilderness inventory work begins in 1965);
- **1966**, Public Hearings on the Wilderness proposal for Craters were held in Arco, ID according to the National Park Service "in general everyone favored the agency's wilderness proposal;
- **1969**, Monument Superintendent Paul Fritz proposed expanding the boundaries to include the Great Rift, Wapi and Kings Bowl lava flows (300,000 additional acres) and a reclassification to national park status;
- **1969**, Senator Frank Church introduces a proposal to establish wilderness in Craters of the Moon National Monument;
- **March 1970**, Representatives Orval Hansen and James McClure introduce wilderness legislation for Craters that calls for additional lands to be added to the original proposal including Big Cinder Butte;
- **October 1970**, President Nixon established 43,243 acres of wilderness in Craters of the Moon National Monument, the first wilderness in the park system;
- **1986-1987**, Craters of the Moon Development Inc., a group of local businessmen and park supporters from southern Idaho, revived the idea of a Craters of the Moon National Park and adding additional acres;

- **Spring 1987**, Idaho State Legislature memorialized the "US Congress to redesignate Craters of the Moon National Monument as Craters of the Moon National Park;
- **Fall 1987**, Representative Richard Stallings (D-ID) requested a formal study by the Park Service to look at a change to National Park status;
- **1988**, Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus also urges the Park Service to undertake a reclassification study and expresses his support for expansion of Craters;
- **1989**, as a result the Park Service completed a review that concluded that the Great Rift system was a viable "addition to the national park system" but that it did not meet national park status and "would best fit in the monument category";
- **Fall 1989**, Stallings introduces legislation to designate certain public lands in the State of Idaho as Craters of the Moon National Park and the Great Rift National Preserve (The parks and preserve proposal included many of the areas in the current expansion proposal, a total expansion of 443,280 acres);
- **1989-1990**, Idaho's congressional delegation requested that the Park Service draft a study of alternatives to look at a proposal based on Stallings legislation and public hearings were held in southern Idaho;
- **1991-1992**, Congressional, administrative, agency, and state officials met with local citizens to draft compromise legislation that would leave Craters a National Monument while expanding its boundaries to include the Great Rift;
- **1992**, A University of Idaho study evaluated possibilities for "A National Park in Idaho" and looked proposals for Craters of the Moon and the Great Rift areas. The study concluded that "National Parks truly are the crown jewels of America's resource heritage, and Idaho appears to have five natural resource areas that are nationally significant".
- **1993-2000**, no action on Craters expansion until 2000 when Sec. Of Interior Babbitt reinitiates the discussion