NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY SUMMARY

CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

IDAHO



AUGUST 2018

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF A RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY

A Resource Stewardship Strategy (RSS) is a strategic plan, intended to help park managers achieve and maintain desired resource conditions over time (see NPS Management Policies 2006 [§2.3.2]). As part of a park's planning portfolio, a resource stewardship strategy serves as a bridge between the park's foundation document, other plans, and everyday management of its natural and cultural resources.

More specifically, a resource stewardship strategy is a dynamic planning tool used to set stewardship goals and track progress in achieving and maintaining desired natural and cultural resource conditions. All resource stewardship goals and activities should be based on science, law, NPS management policies, and the long-term public interest.

Essentially, a resource stewardship strategy establishes a framework and a coordinated process for

1. evaluating and summarizing existing information about priority park resources (including key issues, stressors, and threats),
2. using science and scholarship to establish stewardship goals for priority resources,
3. integrating natural and cultural resource management to achieve stewardship goals, and
4. determining what stewardship activities are needed to get us "from where we are to where we want to be."

This information provides a basis for making informed resource management decisions for specific project proposals and for developing and revising annual work plans over time.

A resource stewardship strategy is not a static document or one-time effort. Rather, it is a dynamic framework that should be routinely updated as conditions change; new issues, stressors, or threats are identified; and activities are accomplished. A resource stewardship strategy is reviewed by NPS subject-matter experts and decision makers; however, it is not a publicly reviewed decision document.

The resource stewardship strategy process also provides an opportunity for a park to take an integrated approach to resource management by capitalizing on overlapping opportunities among and within disciplines or addressing larger parkwide issues. Taking an integrated approach can result in more effective stewardship for resources through the use of science, scholarship, research, policy, interpretation, and direct management.

INTENT OF THIS SUMMARY DOCUMENT

This summary document is intended to provide readers with a snapshot of the resource stewardship strategy for Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. For the sake of simplification and abbreviation, this unit of the national park system will also be referred to as "the park" or CRMO in this document. The document serves as a communication tool that complements the dynamic and evolving RSS desktop application that is actively used for resource management. This summary is not intended to describe all of the elements in the resource stewardship strategy, but instead focuses on those components of the strategy that are essential for communicating information about the park's plan to address key management issues and seize opportunities for those resources identified as priority natural and cultural resources.

This document includes a summary of key issues, stressors, and threats affecting park resources, brief descriptions of the park's priority resources and their components, stewardship goals for priority resources, and stewardship activities determined to be high priorities for the next three to five years. The document concludes with a brief description of future RSS implementation.

It is important to remember that implementation of the resource stewardship strategy is an ongoing process, with necessary updates and revisions occurring as resource and management conditions change and stewardship activities are carried out.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

The following brief description of the park was adapted from the park's foundation document, which was approved in 2014.

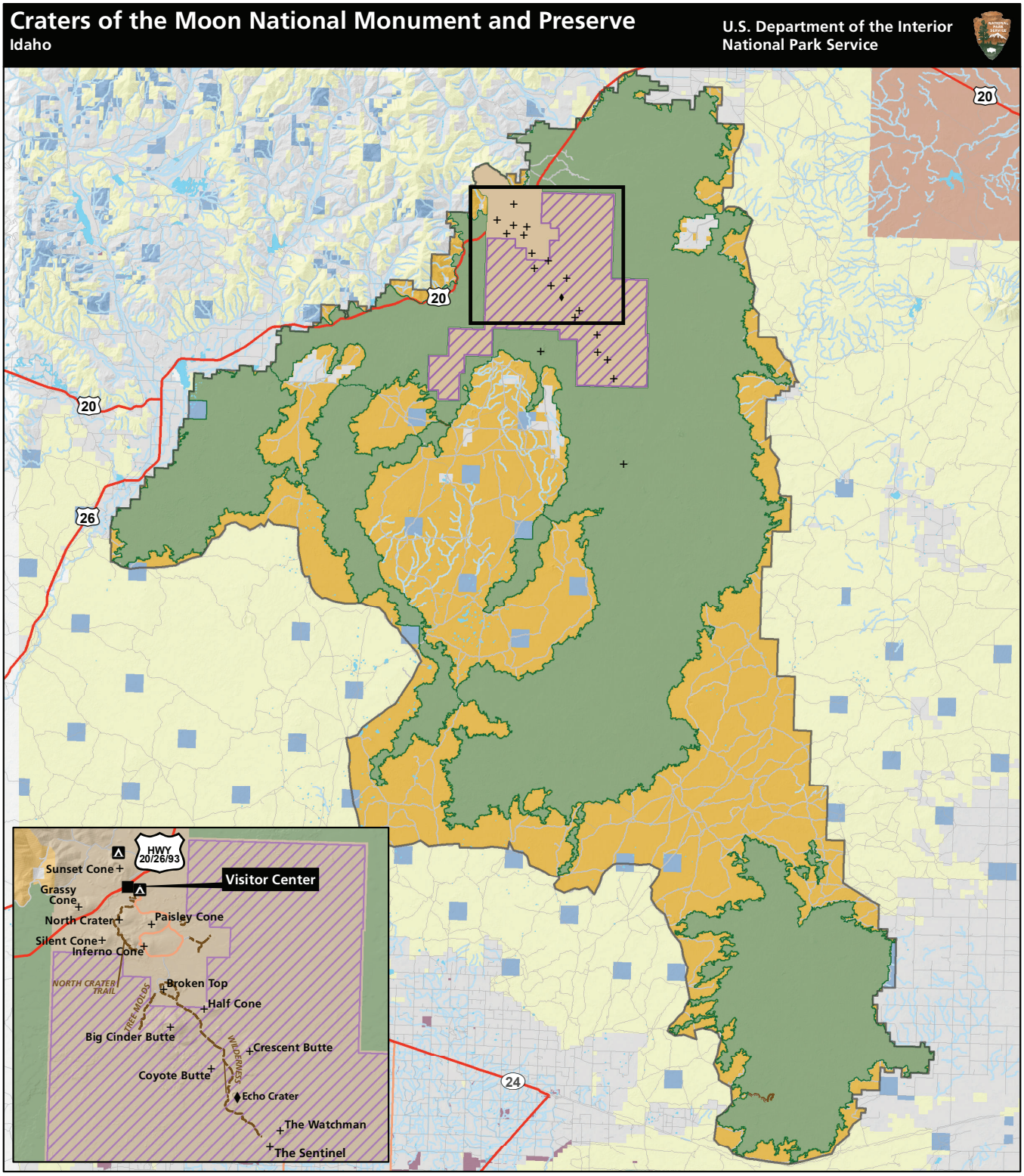
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is located in south central Idaho in Blaine, Butte, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Power counties. It is within a one- to two-hour drive of Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and other population centers along the Interstate 84 (I-84), I-86, and I-15 corridors. President Calvin Coolidge established Craters of the Moon National Monument on May 2, 1924, for the purpose of protecting the unusual landscapes of the Craters of the Moon Lava Field. This "lunar" landscape was thought to resemble that of the moon and was described in the presidential proclamation as "a weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself."

The park contains the youngest and most geologically diverse section of basaltic lava terrain found on the Eastern Snake River Plain, an extensive area of volcanic formations that reaches across southern Idaho east to Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming. It includes three distinct young lava fields: Craters of the Moon, Kings Bowl, and Wapi. The Craters of the Moon lava field is the largest basaltic lava field of predominantly Holocene age (less than 10,000 years old) in the conterminous United States.

Many features and structures associated with basaltic volcanism are represented in the Great Rift region, including various kinds of lava flows, volcanic cones, and lava tubes. Other features include explosion pits, lava lakes, squeeze-ups, basalt mounds, an ash blanket, low shield volcanoes, and various lava tube cave features. Some lava flows within the Great Rift volcanic rift zone diverged around areas of older lava and rejoined downstream to form isolated islands of older terrain known as "kipukas." In many instances, the expanse of rugged lava surrounding these small pockets of soil has protected the kipukas from people, animals, and even nonnative plants. As a result, these kipukas represent some of the last undisturbed vegetation communities on the Snake River Plain.

Young (dominantly Holocene) lava flows and other features cover about 450,000 acres of the monument. The remaining 300,000 acres in the monument and preserve are also volcanic in origin but are older in age and covered with a thicker mantle of soil. This older terrain supports a sagebrush steppe ecosystem consisting of diverse communities of grasses, sagebrush, and other shrubs and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. Both the older and the younger lava flows include lava tube caves, older volcanic formations, and volcanic buttes.

Both the Great Rift region and sagebrush steppe ecosystems also contain a wealth of cultural resources. Prehistoric hunting and plant gathering areas, along with food storage areas, date back to around 8,000 years ago, well before the last volcanic eruptions, which were probably witnessed by the Shoshone people. Resources from the more recent past represents the land's history of Basque sheepherding camps, cattle grazing, exploration, and recreation.



Produced by NPS Denver Service Center Planning

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE RSS FOR CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

This RSS represents the collaborative efforts of staff from the park; the NPS Pacific West Region (PWR), the NPS Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Directorate; the NPS Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate (including the Climate Change Response Program); and the NPS Denver Service Center, Planning Division. It is based on information about park resources that was available at the time of RSS development and on the experience and professional judgment of resource specialists.

In developing the resource stewardship strategy, the project team followed a five-step process established by a national NPS working group that formed to provide direction and oversight for RSS efforts nationwide. First, the team gathered and evaluated existing information about park resources to determine the current condition of resources and status of information. Next, they identified and assessed key issues, stressors, and threats that are impacting park resources or could do so in the future. The team then identified priority resources and their components for this resource stewardship strategy. They subsequently set stewardship goals for each priority resource. Finally, the team identified stewardship activities aimed at achieving those goals and prioritized activities to implement within the next 3 to 5 years. The organization of this summary document parallels this RSS development process, which is described in more detail in internal NPS documents, including the RSS Development Guide prepared in 2016. Some key terms that are used throughout this summary document are defined on the next page.

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Activity: One or more initiatives that strive to achieve a short-term stewardship goal. On its own, an activity produces a specific deliverable or outcome. Such activities may include assessments, documentation, identification, maintenance, operations, resource protection, thematic studies, cataloging, evaluation, interpretation, planning, training, data recovery, education, inventory, monitoring, research, survey, treatment, restoration, or other types of management.

Desired Conditions: A park's natural and cultural resource conditions that the National Park Service aspires to achieve and maintain over time and the conditions necessary for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate those resources.

Priority Resource: A cultural or natural resource or value that the National Park Service manages or monitors to maintain a park unit's purpose and significance, to address policy/law mandates, or to address scholarly and scientific research needs or findings.

Priority Resource Component: An aspect or attributing resource that is integral to the functionality, importance, or condition of a priority resource and can be practically managed or monitored over the next 3- to 7-year horizon. Priority resource components are included, or nested, under the associated priority resources.

Stewardship Goals: Measurable and achievable directions for maintaining or improving priority resource information and/or condition. Stewardship goals guide the National Park Service in its aim to enhance resource information; improve or maintain resource condition; address stressors; or achieve other park stewardship needs such as increasing collaboration with partners or expanding education, interpretation, and other programming related to the priority resources in coordination with other park planning activities.

Strategy: A tactical path forward defined through achievable actions that maintain or improve aspects of a priority resource / component. Strategies start with a stewardship goal and include a comprehensive set of activities to achieve that goal. Strategies are logically organized, science/scholarship-based, well documented, and reviewed by subject-matter experts. The typical timeframe for a executing a strategy is short term typically 3 to 5 years, depending on a park's needs.



KEY PARK ISSUES, STRESSORS, AND THREATS

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve faces a variety of issues, stressors, and threats that affect park resources or may potentially affect park resources in the future. These include factors that are related to climate change and those that are unrelated. Key issues are management concerns that directly relate to park resources and their conditions. Stressors are factors that exacerbate change in resource conditions, while threats are immediate or potential factors that may negatively impact park resources in the future but do not currently affect park resources. The identification of key issues, stressors, and threats helped drive the selection of priority resources for this resource stewardship strategy. Furthermore, the National Park Service considered key issues, stressors, and threats when setting stewardship goals for priority resources and when developing and prioritizing stewardship activities that respond to those goals.

Table 1 identifies key issues, stressors, and threats, their potential implications, and resource types affected.

Table 1. Key Resources Stressors and Affected Priority Resources

ISSUE, STRESSOR, OR THREAT	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE TYPES AFFECTED
CLIMATE CHANGE: Temperature	Changes the ranges of plants and animals. Projected increases in wildfire frequency. Fine particulates on ground-level ozone. Increase freeze-thaw frequency. Invasive species. Altered visitation patterns and all associated changes to resource impact.	Vegetation, wildlife, water resources, geology (caves)
CLIMATE CHANGE: Precipitation	Decline in snowfall and increase in rainfall; Reduced snow/ice in caves and eventual melt in spring. Flooding. Moisture content and quantity. Vegetation distribution. Soil moisture. Fire regime. Wilderness stewardship. Changes to invasive species.	Vegetation, wildlife, water resources, geology (caves), hydrogeology, ecological processes (wildfire), historic structures, archeology
CLIMATE CHANGE: Extreme Storm Events (Frequency and Intensity)	Storm frequency for 20-year storms could increase to every 4 to 6 years; Increased weathering of historic structures and archeology. Erosion of cinder fields.	Historic structures, archeology, geology (cinder fields/gardens), water resources
CLIMATE CHANGE: Drought and Extreme Temperature Events	Tree mortality. Reduction in productivity of native/wild foods. Increase in wildfire frequency by up to 25%. Limber pines are at risk from increased aridity and temperature increases. Waterholes are susceptible to drought.	Vegetation, wildlife, water features (waterholes)
CLIMATE CHANGE: Altered Hydrology Effect on Streamflow	Aquatic species ranges and survival. Hydrology next to cultural features (culverts, roads). Stream geomorphology and rates of erosion; drying streams.	Water resources and processes, wildlife (aquatic invertebrates)
CLIMATE CHANGE: Altered Hydrogeology	Potential changes in the timing and amount of water inputs into caves.	Water resources, geology (caves), vegetation, wildlife

Table 1. Key Resources Stressors and Affected Priority Resources (continued)

ISSUE, STRESSOR, OR THREAT	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE TYPES AFFECTED
LACK OF BASELINE RESOURCE INFORMATION (AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE)	Lack of consideration in planning. Park has a lot of I&M data on natural resources but needs more. Lack of institutional knowledge. Lack of cultural resources information.	Cultural resources (across disciplines/topics), soundscapes, geology (caves), vast tracts of landscape not researched, scenery, water features (ephemeral pools), aquatic species, wildlife (invertebrates), vegetation (mapping and extent of cheatgrass)
WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION (HISTORIC AND PRESENT)	Fire suppression on adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands affects park; risk to north end of park to high intensity fires. Invasive species spreading. Increased landslides and downed trees. Threats to rare species. Kipuka degradation. Altered water and air quality.	Vegetation (e.g., cheatgrass infestation and kipukas), soils, historic structures, undocumented cultural resource sites (archeology and prehistoric and historic sites), wildlife, air quality
NONNATIVE PLANTS	Displacement of native communities. Changes in fire frequency. Altered habitat. Decreased access for treatment of historic structures and archeological resources. Cheatgrass infestation of kipukas. Tumble mustard blocking off cave entrances.	Vegetation (including kipukas), wildlife (including pollinators), archeology (including historic sites), geology (including caves)
NONNATIVE/INVASIVE ANIMALS	Rock pigeons move into caves.	Geology (caves)
PATHOGENS	High risk for white-nose syndrome for the park's diverse bat populations. Potential plague and hantavirus. Avian diseases.	Wildlife (including avifauna, bats, possibly small mammals)
WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST	Risk of blister rust fungal outbreak in limber pine population. To date, the impacts have been limited/isolated.	Vegetation (limber pine)
HABITAT FRAGMENTATION	Severed critical pronghorn migration routes, and perhaps elk, mule deer, etc. movement, including at NPS/BLM borders. Wildfire regime changes effects on migrations. Encroachment and inholdings at the landscape scale.	Wildlife (large mammals), vegetation (kipukas)
VISITOR USE: Increases in Visitation Volume	Human induced noise. Increased intensity and altered patterns affecting multiple resources. Increased human disturbances to wildlife behavior. High season/volume pushes into the shoulder season more. Littering increases.	Air quality, vegetation, wildlife, geologic features, soundscape
VISITOR USE: Social Trails (From Parking Lots and Official Trails) and Climbing	Direct impacts to resources (compaction, displacement) in concentrated locations. Increase in social trails impacts geologic features (compaction of geologic feature, breaking off pieces, poaching of pieces). Damage to archeological sites in lava tubes.	Geology, vegetation, archeology (undocumented resources)
VISITOR USE: Soundscape	Seasonal, event-driven increase in motorcycle noise. There is an increased intensity in certain areas—patterns are changing; not a big issue.	Soundscape
VISITOR USE: Visitor Collection of Volcanic Rocks	Data gap exists on extent of issue. In addition to volcanic rocks, archeological artifacts could be poached as well.	Geology, archeology

Table 1. Key Resources Stressors and Affected Priority Resources (continued)

ISSUE, STRESSOR, OR THREAT	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE TYPES AFFECTED
VISITOR USE: Illegal Cave Entry	Threats to bat hibernacula, maternity roosts, and potential introduction of white-nose syndrome. Lack of enforcement of restricted caves. Entry into caves could also disrupt known and unknown archeological sites.	Wildlife (bats), archeology
VISITOR USE: Vandalism, Littering/Dumping, and Theft	Looting from cave that is now under NPS management. Target practice shooting. Dumping of toxic wastes or pollutants.	Ground disturbance impacts to cultural resources; toxic materials could impact vegetation and wildlife
VISITOR USE: Vehicle/ Animal Mortality	Dozens of large mammals per year (elk, mule deer); Certain road segments are problematic.	Wildlife (mainly large mammals); species of Management Concern (pygmy rabbits, sage-grouse, marmots, short-eared owls)
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE INTRUSIONS INTO PARK	Big issue at Wapi at southern end; meandering ATV trails. ATVs can impact prehistoric and historic sites. Vegetation and wildlife can also be affected (weed infestation, seed spreading, crushed burrows).	Geology, soundscape, archeology (prehistoric and historic sites), vegetation (weed seed), wildlife, wilderness character
TRESPASS LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Grazing on BLM and trespass into park brings invasive plants.	Vegetation (kipukas)
UTILITY LINES ALONG BOUNDARY	Visual resources in park are impacted, particularly because of wide open landscape.	Views and viewsheds, wildlife (raptors)
POACHING OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS	A history of poaching on north end (Quickshot Canyon"); no longer a big issue.	Wildlife, vegetation
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SURROUNDING LAND USE AND PRESENCE/VISIBILITY	Areas of urban and agricultural land uses could fragment habitat and wildlife migration, alter viewsheds, extract groundwater, introduce invasive plants, disturb native plant communities, alter soundscape, and degrade wilderness character.	Air quality, viewshed (including Peaks to Craters Scenic Byway), cultural landscapes, wildlife (pronghorn migration), wilderness character, natural soundscape, night skies, water resources (groundwater, water quality), vegetation (native plants)
NIGHT SKIES: Regional Development and Surrounding Land Use	Degradation over time from surrounding urbanization. At Inferno Peak from 2007 to 2009 there was a trend, although small, towards brighter conditions. Anthropogenic light pollution ratio increased from 0.03 to 0.05 and then 0.08.	Wildlife (specifically for bats and other nocturnal wildlife), wilderness character, biodiversity, dark night skies
AIR POLLUTION: Visibility/ Regional Haze	Views are sometimes obscured by pollution-caused haze. Average natural visual range is reduced from about 165 miles (without the effects of pollution to about 125 miles because of air pollution. The visual range is reduced to about 65 miles on high pollution days.	Air quality, scenic views of the expansive scenery, Peaks to Craters Scenic Byway, dark night skies, wilderness character
AIR POLLUTION: Ozone, Human, and Vegetation Health	Ground-level ozone sometimes reaches levels that can make breathing difficult for sensitive groups and cause injury to sensitive plants. Ozone-sensitive plants include aspen, black cottonwood, Scouter's willow, white blazingstar, and spreading dogbane.	Air quality, wilderness character, biodiversity, sagebrush steppe ecosystem, vegetation (kipukas, ozone-sensitive plant species), visitor and staff health

Table 1. Key Resources Stressors and Affected Priority Resources (continued)

ISSUE, STRESSOR, OR THREAT	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE TYPES AFFECTED
AIR POLLUTION: Nitrogen and Sulfur Deposition	Natural communities are at risk for harmful effects of nutrient enrichment from excess nitrogen deposition that is above critical loads for lichen and herbaceous vegetation. Arid shrublands are particularly vulnerable to risk of exotic grasses and forbs.	Air quality, wilderness character, biodiversity, sagebrush steppe ecosystem, vegetation (kipukas), wetlands
AIR POLLUTION: Mercury/Toxics Deposition	High mercury concentrations in birds, mammals, and amphibians can result in reduced foraging efficiency, survival, and reproductive success. Many pesticides and PCBs are carcinogens or have been implicated in chronic diseases, reduced IQ, and altered behavior.	Air quality, wilderness character, biodiversity, wildlife, vegetation (kipukas), wetlands, visitor and staff health
MISCELLANEOUS SOUNDSCAPE THREATS	Roadway impacts to wilderness soundscape. Hay farming has caused increases in truck traffic.	Wilderness character, wildlife (especially wildlife communication, particularly that of sage-grouse when in leks, as well as breeding and establishment of territory), natural soundscape
NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE: Overflight Effects	Military jets, civilian planes, airlifts, and recreational drones all contribute to an increase in noise and visual disturbances that degrade the experience of the natural soundscape, dark night skies, and wilderness.	Natural soundscapes, dark night skies, wilderness character
DISTURBED LANDS/VEGETATION FROM PAST EVENTS	Past mining, borrow pits, and other ground disturbances remain, which continue to leave these areas prone to weed infestation.	Vegetation, wildlife, viewsheds
LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES TO UNDERSTAND THE BREADTH THAT EXISTS IN THE PARK: Includes Lack of 110 Surveys in Kipukas and Information on the Collapsed Hunting Blinds. Some Sites are a Combination of Prehistoric and Historic	Lack of information of known and unknown archeological resources. Limited ability for park management to preserve archeological resources.	Archeology
LACK OF IN-HOUSE TRAINING AND EXPERTISE ADEQUATE FOR FIELD MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES: Including Documentation and Maintenance Treatments	Park's deferred maintenance is increasing. Technical assistance can only be offered by external sources.	Historic structures, including Mission 66 Complex
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ON TWO PRE-MISSION 66 WOOD STRUCTURE: A Log Equipment Shed and a Log Comfort Station	Wood components of historic structures, particularly the maintenance shed, deteriorate; structures' integrity is diminished.	Historic structures

Table 1. Key Resources Stressors and Affected Priority Resources (continued)

ISSUE, STRESSOR, OR THREAT	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE TYPES AFFECTED
LACK OF CONSULTATION/ RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSOCIATED TRIBES	Resource management decisions lack the perspective and input from American Indian tribes.	Ethnographic resources (though none are documented), archeology
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS CATALOGUING BACKLOG: Difficult to Locate Where Collection Items Are (Records are Scattered at More Than Five Non-governmental Facilities, Most of Them Universities)	Park staff and outside researchers are unable to know the extent of the records in the collection. Inconsistent standards for records held at nongovernmental institutions leads to confusion about their contents.	Museum collection and archives
LACK OF NPS DOCUMENTATION ON HISTORIC DISTRICTS: Cultural Landscape Report needed for both Goodale's Cutoff and the Mission 66 complex.	Lack of knowledge and treatment recommendations on cultural landscapes and historic districts.	Historic structures







PRIORITY RESOURCES AND COMPONENTS

Priority resources drive the entire RSS process by focusing attention on those park resources that are critical and could most benefit from management direction within the next 3 to 5 years. Typically, the priority resources for a resource stewardship strategy may include those that are defined in a foundation document as fundamental or other important resources, as well as additional resources that park staff believes are necessary to maintain the park's purpose and significance, address policy or legal mandates, or address scholarly and scientific research needs. Certain priority resources are standalone, while others may be subdivided into one or more components. The identification of priority resources and components guides the development of stewardship goals and activities in subsequent steps of RSS development. Parsing out the components of each priority resource helps resource managers tailor these goals and activities to more directly target the resource condition or understanding of its constituent parts. Collectively, this component-level stewardship works to improve the condition or understanding of the broader umbrella priority resource.



Table 2 includes a list of priority resources and their components for the CRMO resource stewardship strategy. Each priority resource is described in greater detail in a summary narrative that follows the table. These brief narratives provide additional information on the individual components of each resource, resource condition, relevant issues, stressors, or threats, and current management.

Table 2. Priority Resources and Their Components

PRIORITY RESOURCES	COMPONENTS
ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESOURCES (TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES)	- Baseline Documentation - Cultural Anthropology
ARCHEOLOGY (PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC)	- Archeological Collections - Archeological Sites
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS	- Goodale's Cutoff - Mission 66 Complex
DARK NIGHT SKIES	- Dark Night Skies
FEDERAL LISTED SPECIES	- Greater sage-grouse
FIRE PROCESSES	- Fire Processes
GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND PROCESSES	- Caves - Geologic Features and Processes
HISTORIC STRUCTURES	- Log Structures - Mission 66 Structures
HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES AND PROCESSES	- Hydrogeological Features and Processes - Streams and Other Surface Waters

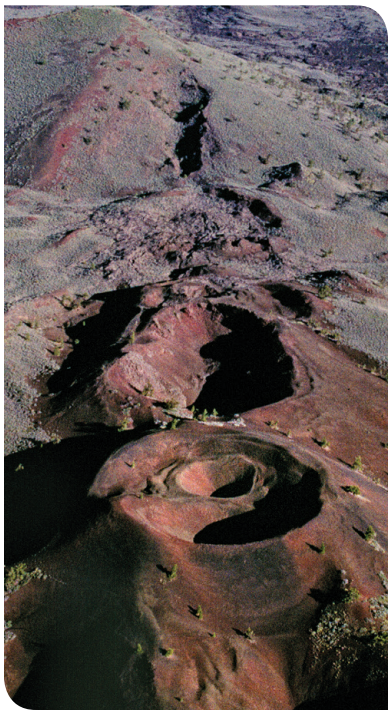
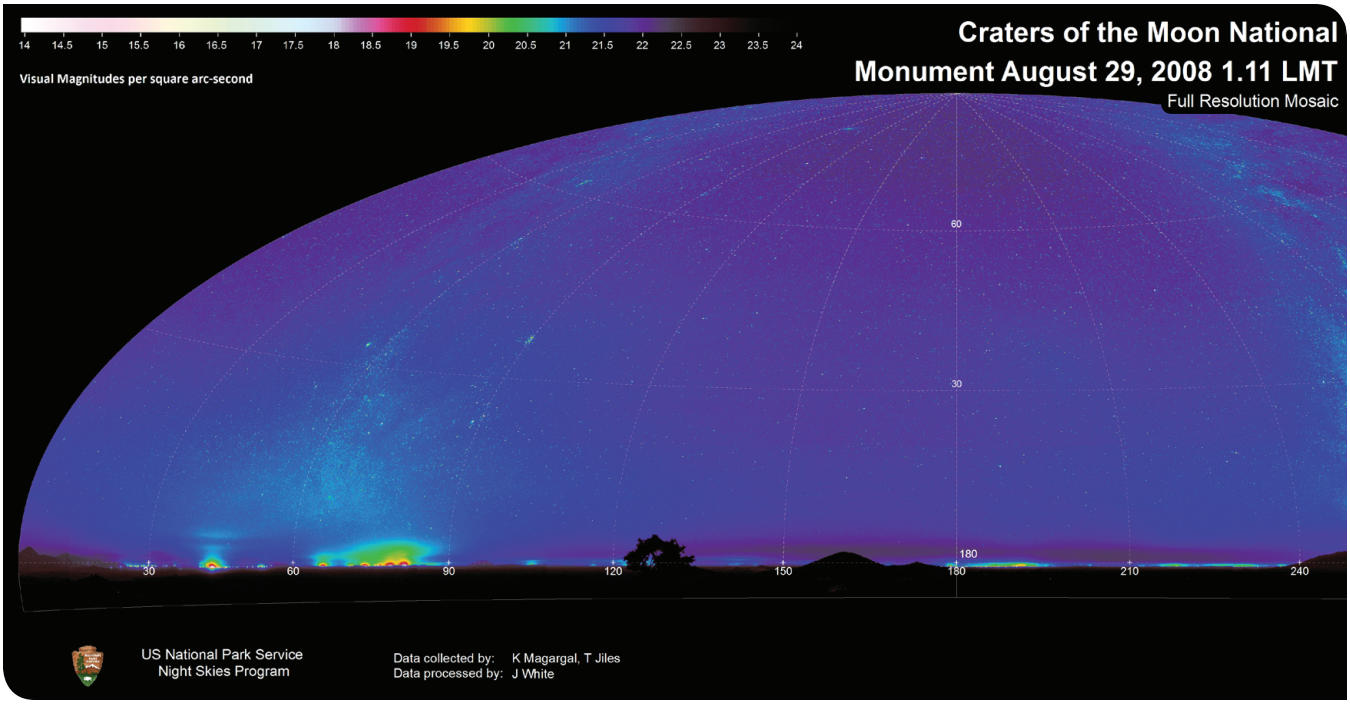




Table 2. Priority Resources and Their Components (continued)

PRIORITY RESOURCES	COMPONENTS
INFORMATION RESOURCES	- Climate Change Information - General Resource Data Collection and Management - Geographic Information Systems and Related Geospatial Resource Data (For Both Natural and Cultural Resources) - Library Resources
MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES	- Archives - Collections Held in non-NPS Facilities - Natural History Specimens - NPS Museum Facilities
NATIVE VEGETATION COMMUNITIES	- Cinder Gardens - Parkwide Vegetation - Sagebrush Steppe Plant Community, Including Kipukas - Woodlands: Lumber Pine, Utah & Rocky Mountain Junipers, Aspen
NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE	- Natural Soundscape
SCENIC VIEWS	- Scenic Views
WILDERNESS (DESIGNATED AND RECOMMENDED)	- Natural and Cultural Resources That Contribute to Wilderness Character
WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT	- Amphibians and Reptiles - Birds - Invertebrates - Medium to Large Mammals - Small Mammals





PRIORITY RESOURCE SUMMARIES

AIR QUALITY

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is a Clean Air Act Class I area. This designation provides special protection for air quality; sensitive ecosystems; and clean, clear views. Clean air enhances the color and contrast of the park's landscape features, allows visitors to see great distances, enhances panoramic views of the naturally dark night skies, and contributes directly to ecosystem, visitor, and staff health. Sources of air pollution in the park include coal-fired power plants, vehicle exhaust, agriculture, smoke from fires, and road dust. Overall air quality warrants moderate concern along with most air quality indicators including: visibility, ozone human health, ozone vegetation health, nitrogen deposition, and mercury/toxics deposition. Sulfur deposition is in good condition. Overall air quality and all air quality indicators are relatively unchanged (no statistically significant trend) for the most recent 10-year period analyzed (2006-2015).

ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESOURCES (TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES)

No ethnographic studies have been conducted within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. As a result, information on the park's anthropological resources remains limited. More information is necessary to conduct tribal consultation and identify opportunities for improving management of significant resources. Up-to-date documentation, such as an ethnographic overview and assessment, would enable park staff to better understand the potential for ethnographic resources related to the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute tribes that claim the park within their historic cultural area.

ARCHEOLOGY (PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC)

Resources and sites in Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve have yielded artifacts from as far back as 8,000 years ago. These include prehistoric hunting and plant gathering areas, along with food storage areas, of the ancestors of today's Shoshone-Bannock and Paiute tribes. Archeological resources from the more recent past represent the land's history of Basque sheepherding camps, cattle grazing, exploration, and recreation. Despite these findings, less than two percent of the park has been surveyed to meet today's archeological survey standards. The majority of the surveyed areas are in the developed areas and the northern portion of the park. The archeological site types are clearly understood, but the distribution of these site types throughout the park remains unknown.



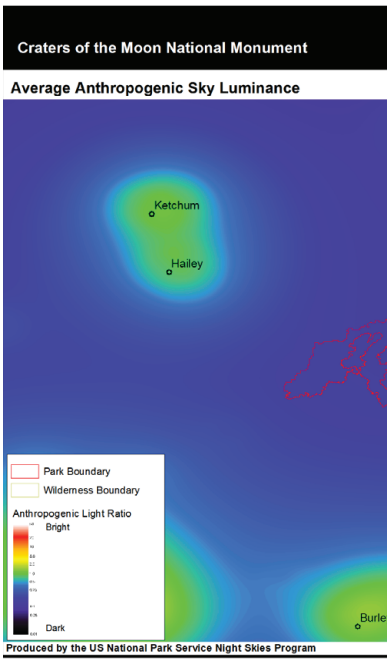


CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is home to two recognized cultural landscapes. The first, Goodale's Cutoff, represents the alternate route of the Oregon Trail that skirted the northern edge of the Craters of the Moon Lava Field. Portions of Goodale's Cutoff are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The second landscape, the Mission 66 Historic Complex, includes the park's visitor center, employee residences, and a maintenance building. It is one of the earliest examples of Mission 66 complexes in the National Park Service and is the only one within the state of Idaho. The complex is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In February 2018, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Idaho National Register Review Board evaluated the nomination for the complex. As of May 2018, the state historic preservation office concurred that the nomination meets criteria for the national register, and the package is being submitted for nomination.

DARK NIGHT SKIES

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve offers access to some of the highest quality dark night sky conditions in the Western United States. The night sky has been a source of wonder, inspiration, and knowledge for thousands of years and continues to offer visitors of the park an opportunity to stargaze and enjoy the natural landscape and wilderness in a naturally dark setting. The naturally occurring cycles of light and dark are also key attributes of ecosystem function, particularly considering that nearly half the wildlife species on earth are nocturnal. Currently, low levels of light pollution impact the park's natural night skies. Although the park is in proximity to Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls, the population growth and development in each city has been relatively low or minor and the light pollution from the built environment has been slow. Thus, the effect on the park's dark night skies has not worsened in recent years.



FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES

Federally listed species include plants and animals that are listed as endangered, threatened, or candidate under the Endangered Species Act and, thus, receive special protections. At the time of this document printing, the occurrence of federally listed species in the park is not clear. Therefore, the National Park Service plans to monitor for the potential occurrence of listed species in the park and will set forth necessary stewardship goals and activities when species occurrence is identified. Because the US Fish & Wildlife Service classified the Greater sage-grouse as a candidate species for listing until 2015 (when the listing was determined to be unwarranted), park staff have already instituted a suite of sage-grouse management activities.

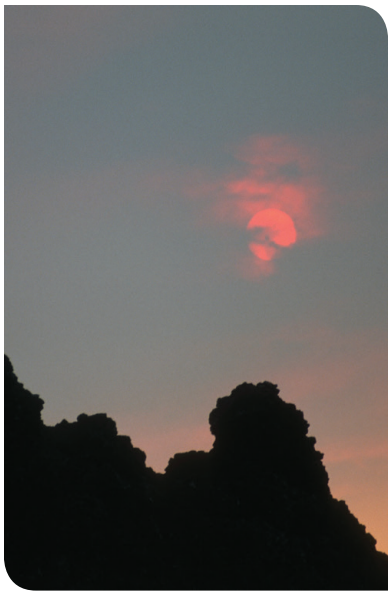


FIRE PROCESSES

Fire is recognized as an important ecological process and is part of the natural history that shaped the vegetation communities of the monument and preserve. However, historical natural processes are so altered that fire now poses a threat to permanently changing floral and faunal communities and natural processes. For this reason, all wildland fire is suppressed at CRMO and prescribed fire is not a tool currently used.

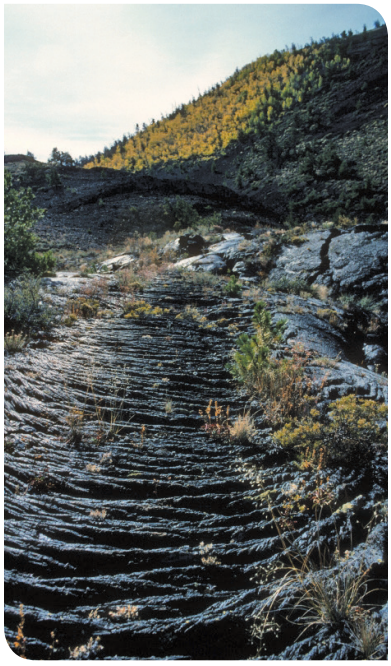
The influence of fire at the park is consistent with other areas of the Snake River Plain. Following fire, cheatgrass consistently invades and replaces native shrub species, resulting in significant sagebrush steppe habitat loss. Cheatgrass alters natural fire regimes and increases fire frequency, and native vegetation is unable to recover without extensive rehabilitation efforts. Cheatgrass is found throughout the monument and preserve and is the dominant vegetation type in many burned areas.

Over the past five years, CRMO has averaged five fires a year. Typically the area of NPS lands affected by these fires is small (<25 acres), while areas of the BLM monument routinely see areas affected in excess of 40,000 acres. The most recent fire management plan for CRMO predates expansion and covers only the NPS monument.



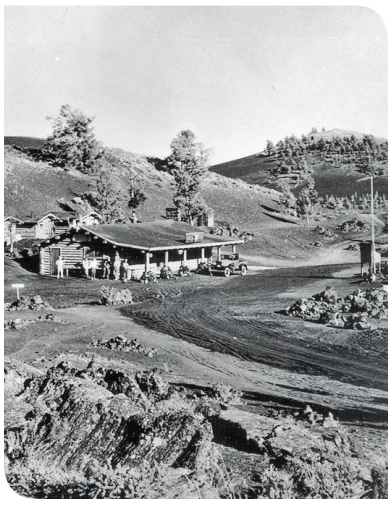
GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND PROCESSES

The tremendous diversity of basaltic volcanic geologic features and active geologic processes are one of the defining resources of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Volcanic features in the park include the Great Rift (eruptive and non-eruptive fissures), cinder cones and flats, spatter cones, lava tubes and caves, and lava flows. While crustal extension and seismicity and past basaltic volcanism helped create the landscape preserved by the park, ongoing geologic processes help perpetuate the natural systems that provide habitat for plants and animals in the park. These secondary geological processes include the mass movements (slumping, soil creep, etc.), windblown deposition of loess, and weathering and erosion. The remoteness and limited access to most of the park limits direct human impacts. Geological features and processes, including paleontological features, caves, and soils, are generally considered to be in good condition.



HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Historic structures at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve have two time periods. The first encapsulates two log structures, a storage building/warehouse and a comfort station, built during the 1930s. They are the only remaining structures at the park from this period. The second includes the buildings constructed at the park between 1957 and 1958 as part of the Mission 66 program. The buildings were constructed with concrete masonry with split-faced pumice blocks of earth-tone color on the exterior.



HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES AND PROCESSES

The water resources of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve consist of both surface water features and processes and groundwater features and processes. Both the surface water and groundwater systems are heavily influenced by the volcanic geology of this unique landscape. Surface water is quite limited in this semi-arid landscape. Leach Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek are the two predominant perennial streams in the park, located in the northern portion of the park. These creeks capture surface runoff from the Pioneer Mountains and also carry water that reaches the surface via groundwater seeps and springs. The water quality in these streams is generally good and stable per recent monitoring efforts. Surface water resources also include the vernal pools, or water holes, that collect in rocky geologic formations during wet years and year-round snow/ice deposits in lava tube caves and pit craters. These water features are very dependent on climate conditions but are critical attributes to the park's ecological systems as well as to American Indians who occupied these arid lands in the past. Also, given the relative scarcity of surface water in the park, groundwater aquifers play a very important role in the park's ecosystem, particularly in late summer and fall when surface water is most limited. Thus, ongoing monitoring of underground aquifers is important to determine the condition, such as groundwater quality, aquifer volume, and aquifer depth.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

In general, Craters of the Moon's information resources are in good condition. CRMO has current climate change projections, trend and vulnerability information (Gonzales and Reiner 2017). This includes predictions for changes in wildfire, biome shifts, limber pine, invasive plants, kipukas, pika, marmot, bats, and other species. Natural resource data is collected with defensible scientific methods, usually with Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory & Monitoring (UCBN I&M) peer approved protocols. Geospatial resource data is current with a few minor exceptions. CRMO has been a leader in adopting IRMA as an online library for all resource records and data and estimates over 90% of records have been uploaded. The monument and preserve currently has 330 vertebrate species, 1,003 plant species, 155 lichen species, and 567 invertebrate species entered into the NPSpecies. Efforts are ongoing to enter invertebrates and plants. Cultural data is maintained in a variety of secure databases and paper information stored appropriately in secure locations.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is home to more than 4,666 museum collection items, ranging from archeological artifacts and natural history collections to photographs and administrative archives. The park archives include documents dating back to the 1920s pertaining to the establishment of the monument along with photographs from early exploration of the monument through the present. Collections are managed by professionally-trained NPS staff, who ensure the long-term maintenance of collections in specialized facilities. The museum collections and the facility located at the monument are in good condition.



NATIVE VEGETATION COMMUNITIES



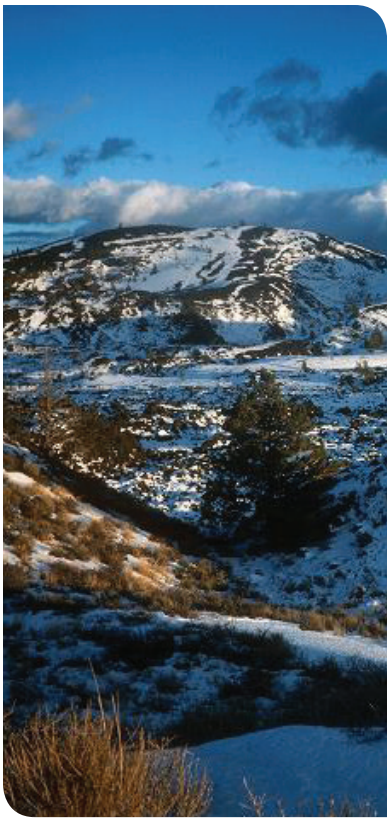
The vegetation of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve lies atop or between relatively young lava flows in a region known for harsh climatic conditions (temperature and wind), resulting in uniquely-adapted and diverse native plant communities. The variation of plant species, density, and community type (and their successional stages) across the landscape correlates to the wide variation in the volcanic features and associated soil substrates. This variation of vegetation also depends on the availability of soil and water, aspect, air temperature, and exposure to wind. While more than 1,000 different species of plants exist in the park, the most predominant vegetation community is the sagebrush steppe, which encompasses more than 100,000 acres of mapped vegetated lava. More than 500 kipukas, or isolated islands of vegetation communities surrounded by lava and largely undisturbed by modern human activity, are interspersed between the lava flows. Given their uniqueness and generally undisturbed condition, kipukas are a notable management concern for the park. The cinder gardens, and shrub, juniper, and limber pine communities also deserve unique attention. In addition, the montane communities of aspen and Douglas-fir woodlands and riparian cottonwoods also contribute to the park's vegetation diversity, as well as its management needs. While the vegetation communities in the park are generally in good condition, the infestation of nonnative, invasive plants, primarily cheatgrass, continues to be a significant management challenge.



NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE

The acoustic environment of Craters of the Moon is unique and plays an integral role in visitor experience and ecological function. The value and condition of the natural soundscape relates to the visitor's enjoyment of being out in nature, wilderness character, ecosystem health, and wildlife behavior and communication. Generally speaking, the natural soundscape at the park is in good condition relative to nonurban criteria. However, among other stressors, increases in commercial and military aircraft traffic continues to degrade the natural soundscape of the park.





SCENIC VIEWS

Current vistas from the park range from nearly pristine to somewhat modified because of the existence of roads, utilities, and agricultural development visible from some viewpoints. Scenic views are sometimes obscured by pollution-caused haze. Average natural visual range is reduced from about 165 miles (without the effects of pollution) to about 125 miles. The visual range is reduced to about 65 miles on high pollution days. The biggest impairment to visibility at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve comes from wildfire smoke. Impacts vary wildly depending on the severity of the fire season and proximity of fires. Many park visitors climb to the top of the Inferno Cone for the 360-degree views of the volcanic features of the Great Rift, the view over the Snake River Plain, and the numerous mountain ranges. Viewshed analyses have not been completed.

WILDERNESS (DESIGNATED AND RECOMMENDED)

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve became the first national park unit with designated wilderness in 1970. The park possesses highly valued qualities of wilderness character, including untrammeled, natural, and undeveloped areas with outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation, and unique scientific and educational opportunities. Approximately 95% of the park is a wilderness study area or designated wilderness. The overall natural component of wilderness character is good, but there are negative factors such as noise intrusion and visible development that result in at least a moderate level of concern.



WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve provides habitat to a widely diverse array of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles amidst a rather harsh environment of climatic extremes (in temperature, precipitation, and wind). Most of the wildlife found in the park are directly associated with the predominant sagebrush steppe natural community, its kipukas, and/or the volcanic geologic features of this unique landscape. Nearly 250 species of animals are present or are probably present in the park, per the NPSpecies online database. Some species with the greatest management concern currently include the Greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, fringed myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat. These and other species are being affected by habitat degradation and/or fragmentation resulting from the infestation of cheatgrass, various recreational uses, adjacent agricultural land uses, grazing, road development and use, and powerlines. Most notably, sagebrush habitat that is lost during wildfires is often replaced with an infestation of cheatgrass and other nonnative plants, which greatly alters the native plant community make-up and succession, and, thus, habitat value. Monitoring of wildlife populations and habitat value is essential to determine the seriousness of these threats. Likewise, human disturbances from recreational caving, vandalism, and destruction of habitat pose the greatest threat to the park's bat populations. The largest known threat to all bat species of North America, white-nose syndrome, is of particular concern in the bat populations that inhabit many of the park's lava tube caves. Additional monitoring of bats, and possible impact mitigation, is thus essential. Lastly, climate change threatens to significantly affect the range of a variety of wildlife species found in the park (e.g., pika). Despite these notable, ongoing threats, the overall condition of wildlife populations in the park seems to be somewhat stable at this time.





STEWARDSHIP GOALS

Stewardship goals are essential to the RSS process because they articulate what managers are working to achieve for a park's natural and cultural resources and provide both the framework to structure activities later in the RSS process and the time frame needed to reach them. Long-term goals are defined as those that park staff wish to accomplish in a 10- to 20-year time frame. Short-term goals are those that are attainable in a 3- to 5-year time frame.

Stewardship goals focus on

1. improving quality and/or completeness of current resource information and documentation of one or multiple priority resources;
2. improving or maintaining the conditions of one or multiple priority resources;
3. reducing issues, stressors, or threats that are adversely affecting priority resources; or
4. addressing other management needs for resource stewardship, such as increasing collaboration with partners or expanding education and interpretation related to the park's priority resources.

An important consideration in establishing goals is to determine the appropriate level of knowledge and information and the desired condition for each priority resource and component. Long-term stewardship goals typically bear a strong relationship to broad, qualitative direction for resource management that are set forth in legal mandates, NPS mandates, or established park management documents. Short-term goals tier off long-term goals and set more specific targets for resource management. Short-term goals help drive the development of stewardship activities.

The RSS project team identified a wide array of stewardship goals, based upon the current and desired status of information and resource conditions, as well as key issues, stressors, and threats, and other management considerations. Long-term and short-term goals are also included in the RSS desktop application, in addition to this summary document (table 3).





Table 3a. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Air Quality

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
AIR QUALITY	Good overall air quality condition status with stable or improving trends. Eliminate all human-caused visibility impairment by the year 2064, where the average visibility is < 2 deciviews above natural conditions. Seek to perpetuate the best possible air quality for the protection of park air quality related values (AQRVs). Remain in attainment for the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).	- Active collaboration with other federal, state, regional planning organizations, and stakeholders to reduce air quality impacts in the park from sources of air pollution. - Assessment of the impact of new and existing sources of air pollution may have to park resources and communicate effects to regulatory entities at state and US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). - Leverage CRMO's air quality story in park planning documents and project proposals.
AIR QUALITY	Maintain the long-term air quality data record, through continued in-park monitoring of visibility, ozone, and deposition, and increase understanding of air pollution impacts.	- Improved understanding of air quality through continued monitoring, updating the air quality summary, identifying sensitive resources, assessing future research needs, and educating park staff about impacts to park resources via continued collaboration with PWR, NPS ARD, and other partnerships. - Provide information about air pollution impacts to NPS management, air regulatory agencies, the public, the scientific community, and other stakeholders via continued collaboration with PWR, NPS ARD, and other partnerships.

Table 3b. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Anthropological Resources (Traditional Cultural Properties)

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION	Improve management of resources by completing baseline documents (traditional use study; ethnographic overview and assessment; and ethnographic resource management plan) and associated ethnographic resource documentation for the park.	- Complete an ethnographic overview and assessment.
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	Improve and maintain relationships with affiliated tribes and other interested groups.	- Maintain efforts to meet consultation requirements, while expanding outreach to engage with the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute on shared interests at the park.

Table 3c. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic)

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS	Complete descriptive analysis of 100% of the collection. Assess provenience and provenance and share the information in professional literature.	- Secure funding for archeological analysis.
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES	Develop baseline documentation (Section 110 surveys). Strive for 25% to 35% of the monument and preserve.	- Identify which specific areas to survey (kipukas, trails, and prehistoric and historic camps).
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES	Protect known sensitive archeological sites.	- Protect Baker's Cave.

Table 3d. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Cultural Landscapes and Historic Districts

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
GOODALE'S CUTOFF	The cultural landscape is preserved and maintained following a treatment plan of an up-to-date cultural landscape report.	- Complete inventory of Goodale's Cutoff.
MISSION 66 COMPLEX	The cultural landscape is preserved and maintained following a treatment plan of an up-to-date cultural landscape report.	- Complete inventory of Mission 66 Complex.

Table 3e. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Dark Night Skies

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
DARK NIGHT SKIES	Improve the condition of dark night skies in the park and hold the line.	- Identify how anthropogenic night light from park operations impacts the resources (i.e., wildlife) in the park. - Maintain updated understanding and evolution of the resource. - Reduce anthropogenic light from park operations, neighbors, and nearby communities.

Table 3f. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Federal Listed Species

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE	Sustained sage-grouse viability within potential range under climate change.	- Improved knowledge of population status and trends. - Reduction of impacts from visitor use management, highways, facility planning, fire management, and other management activities and uses. - Understanding of sage-grouse vulnerability to climate change and corresponding potential adaptation needs.

Table 3g. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Fire Processes

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
FIRE PROCESSES	Adapt fire management in the park to address fire-adapted biodiversity, other park management goals, and environmental constraints (e.g., climate change, landscape fragmentation, weeds/fuels), while also minimizing the extent of stand-replacing fires.	- Apply best management practices for fire prevention. - Reduce fuel in Douglas-fir and aspen stands to reduce risk of crown fire. - Update NPS fire management plan (parkwide) and explore possibility of a joint NPS-BLM plan.
FIRE PROCESSES	Improve public understanding of fire, its benefits, its use in resource management, and how the National Park Service responds to fire.	- Improve public understanding of fire processes and their importance.

Table 3h. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Geologic Resources and Processes

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
CAVES	Identify and protect caves throughout monument and preserve via a standardized system for identification and assessment.	- Maximize cave research and identify efficiencies via partnerships. - Protect known caves via cave closures and other enhanced protection means. - Develop written and tested protocol for cave identification, cave map production, cave dimensions, cave resource assessment, etc.
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Increased knowledge and long-term monitoring of geological processes.	- Collaborate with USGS, NASA, Geological Society of America, Idaho Geological Survey, NRCS, academia, and other outside researchers. - Expand understanding of geologic features and processes in areas most affected by visitor use.
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Preserve the geologic features (volcanic, paleontological, soils, etc.) and natural geologic processes associated with them while minimizing human-caused erosion and impacts from park facilities/operations.	- Minimize human-induced impacts to the park's geologic features through good visitor management (such as accelerated erosion, trash, etc. resulting from visitor use or management activities) and facilities/ operation management.

Table 3i. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Historic Structures

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
LOG STRUCTURES	Improve the condition of historic log structures through the application of appropriate treatments. Evaluations are up-to-date and meet the standards of Section 110 of the NHPA.	- Assess condition and stabilization needs of historic log structures.
MISSION 66 STRUCTURES	The historic structures are preserved and maintained in good condition with historic integrity (per List of Classified Structures), with consideration for unavoidable disturbance or natural deterioration and a changing climate.	- Complete the documentation and treatment reports for the structures.



Table 3j. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Hydrological Features and Processes

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
HYDROGEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Improved understanding of hydrogeological systems and their significance (incl. groundwater aquifers).	- Improved understanding of hydrogeological systems and their significance (incl. groundwater aquifers).
STREAMS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS	Improved understanding of status and trends of water quality in Little Cottonwood Creek.	- Continued water quality monitoring through I&M program.

Table3k. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Information Resources

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION	Integration of climate change science into natural and cultural resource management.	- Continue improving park sustainability and environmental leadership through the park's climate friendly parks action plan. - Continue and increase integration of change information on park management. - Identify historical impacts and future vulnerabilities of climate change on priority resources. - Improve public and staff understanding and literacy of climate change and its effects. - Understand long-term climate trends.
GENERAL RESOURCE DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT	Improved knowledge of natural and cultural resources to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Collect data via a defensible scientific method (best practices). - Improve data quality and management to support project management and inform resource management (e.g., digital records, etc.) - Improve opportunities to access, use, and interact with natural and cultural resource data for park and public.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED GEOSPATIAL RESOURCE DATA: For both Natural and Cultural Resources	Functioning systems support the effective creation, maintenance, use, and preservation of geospatial data.	- Improve opportunities to access, use, share, and interact with geospatial data.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED GEOSPATIAL RESOURCE DATA: For both Natural and Cultural Resources	Geospatial data sets are accurate and complete, as per NPS data standards, with metadata that meet FGDC standards.	- Develop geospatial data sets and improve data quality and management.
LIBRARY RESOURCES	Park maintains an up-to-date accessible research library system for park staff and visitors.	- Update digital, online, and physical library system to include significant/prominent information relative to the park.
LIBRARY RESOURCES	Park staff follows Standard Operating Procedures for archiving park reports, documents, records, etc. in the park's archives library.	- Adhere to library record management standards.

Table 3l. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Museum Collection and Archives

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
ARCHIVES	Continue to process archival and manuscript collections. Baseline documents for collections specified in DO-28 and DO-24 are complete and up-to-date.	- Bring archives up to NPS standards and make collections accessible.
COLLECTIONS HELD IN NON-NPS FACILITIES	Complete repository agreements with non-federal repositories holding CRMO collections.	- Ensure off-site collections are protected.
NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS	Improve Information for the management of natural history specimens for research and education. Museum records are completed to service standards. Accession records must be completed for a select group of materials. Park staff access to digital museum records is implemented.	- Condition of specimens is good, and they are protected. - Improve knowledge of location, condition, and use of CRMO legacy specimens.
NPS MUSEUM FACILITIES	Consolidate CRMO collections for effective management (potential consolidation at HAFO).	- Assess space needs for CRMO collection and plan for consolidation at another NPS-owned and operated museum facility. - Improve access and care of CRMO collections.

Table 3m. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Native Vegetation Communities

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
CINDER GARDENS	Maintain cinder garden plant communities within potential range under climate change.	- Improve monitoring of human effects on cinder gardens and develop strategies to minimize impacts.
PARKWIDE VEGETATION	Maintain vegetation communities throughout park within potential ranges under climate change and excess nitrogen deposition.	- Expand collaboration of local and regional agencies/institutions for early invasive plant detection and control efforts. - Improve and update understanding of vegetation characteristics and drivers and response to disturbances and stressors. - Reduce the adverse effects of invasive plant species.
SAGEBRUSH STEPPE PLANT COMMUNITY INCLUDING KIPUKAS	Maintain sagebrush plant community and kipukas within potential range under climate change and excess nitrogen deposition.	- Improve collaboration for landscape-scale restoration for fire and ecosystem processes under climate change. - Improve knowledge of trends in steppe community species composition and cover. - Improve spatial knowledge of sagebrush / kipuka community vulnerability to climate change in cooperation with the BLM. - Reduce the adverse effects of fire on steppe plant communities.
WOODLANDS: Limber Pine, Utah and Rocky Mountain Junipers, Aspen	Maintain woodland plant communities within potential range under climate change.	- Improve knowledge of limber pine pathogens. - Improve knowledge of trends in woodland stand structure and composition (aspen and limber pine). - Improve spatial knowledge of woodland community vulnerability to climate change. - Reduce the adverse effects of invasive plant species.

Table 3n. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Natural Soundscape

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE	Improve the condition of the acoustic resource and hold the line.	- Identify how anthropogenic noise (stressors and threats) impacts the resources (i.e., wildlife, wilderness) in the park. - Identify the condition of the acoustic resource. - Reduce noise from park operations, neighbors / nearby communities, flight operators, and park visitors.

Table 3o. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Scenic Views

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
SCENIC VIEWS	Protect, improve, and monitor views important for natural scenery and cultural resources to maintain or improve visual character, both within the park and across park boundaries.	- Build and maintain partnerships with park neighbors and other stakeholders, understanding shared visual values, increasing awareness and coordination for actions to protect and improve views. - Improve understanding of the scenic view resources via ongoing/ repeated inventory and assessment of important views (both within the park and outside park boundaries) and associated values to inform visual resource goals and protection strategies. - Minimize in-park intrusions, alterations, and visual contrast to scenic view, to the extent possible. - Provide opportunities for visitor access to and understanding of park views.

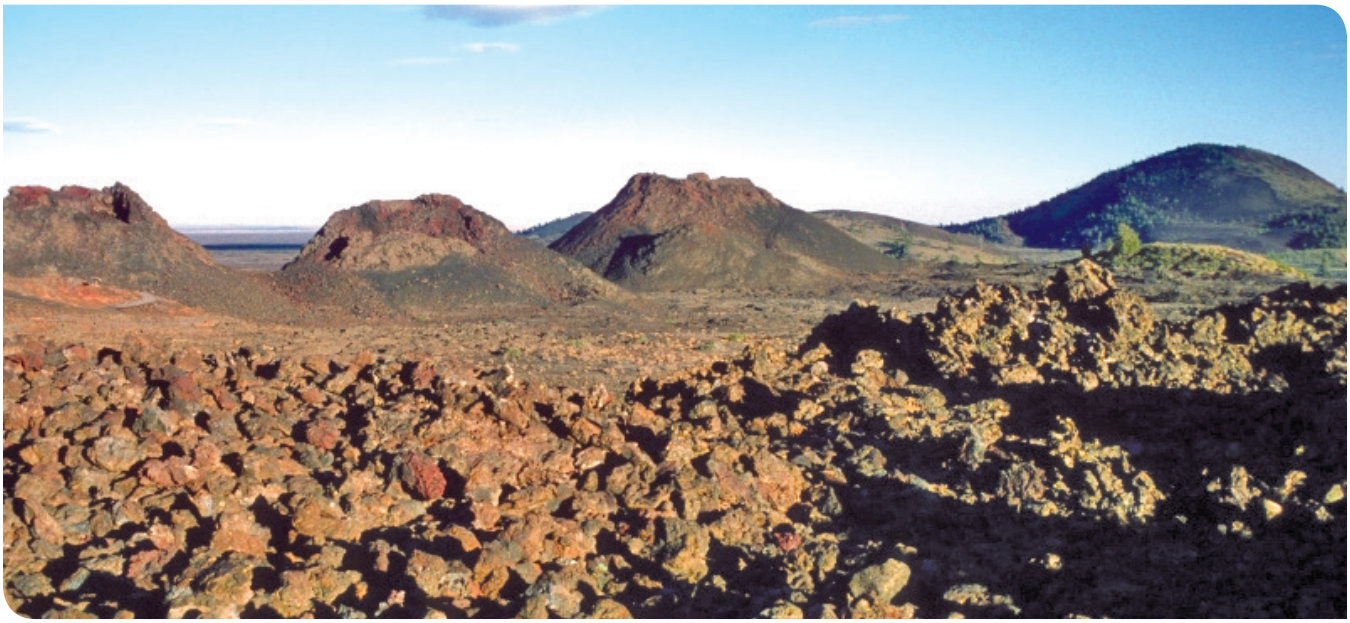


Table 3p. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Wilderness (Designated and Recommended)

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO WILDERNESS CHARACTER	Protect and improve qualities of wilderness character.	- Improve / maintain natural quality of wilderness throughout the park (includes sound and night sky, air quality). - Meet requirements of Wilderness Act and NPS Wilderness policy related to designated and recommended wilderness.

Table 3q. Long-Term and Short-Term Stewardship Goals — Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

COMPONENT	LONG-TERM GOALS	SHORT-TERM GOALS
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES	Sustained species viability within potential ranges under climate change.	- Improve knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of (amphibians and reptiles) to help guide management at the landscape level.
BIRDS	Sustained species viability within potential ranges under climate change.	- Improve knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of (bird species, etc.) to help guide management at the landscape level.
INVERTEBRATES	Sustained species viability within potential ranges under climate change.	- Improve knowledge of ranges and abundances of (invertebrates) to help guide management at the landscape level.
MEDIUM TO LARGE MAMMALS	Sustained species viability within potential ranges under climate change.	- Better understanding and reduction of adverse effects on medium to large mammals from visitor use/presence. - Improve knowledge of ranges and abundances of medium to large mammals to help guide management at the landscape level. - Preserve habitat connectivity at a landscape scale inside and outside of park boundary for medium to large mammals, while considering climate change.
SMALL MAMMALS	Sustained species viability within potential ranges under climate change.	- Identify potential refugia and most vulnerable areas for small mammals under climate change (geospatial data). - Improve knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of bats to help guide management at the landscape level. - Improve knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of pikas to help guide management at the landscape level. - Reduce adverse effects on bats and bat habitat from visitor use.

HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Stewardship activities represent the primary product of the RSS development process, providing the park with a roadmap for investing both human and financial resources in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. They are logically organized, based on science and/or scholarship, well documented and reviewed by subject-matter experts. Activities are aimed at achieving short-term goals and may also strive to reduce stressors on priority resources and components.

The RSS project team identified a wide array of management activities to consider over the next 3- to 5-year horizon. While the RSS desktop application includes all of the activities identified for each priority resource component, the following tables present only those activities that park staff determined to be high priority in the next 3 to 5 years, along with associated short-term goals (table 4). The team considered a variety of factors when determining priorities, including feasibility and impact of the management activity, urgency, potential funding opportunities, and sequencing in relation to other activities. Medium and low priority activities are still valuable approaches for achieving resource objectives, but they are generally less urgent or represent secondary approaches. Many of the medium and low priority activities may rise to the level of high priority in the coming years, as stewardship activities are implemented, stewardship goals are achieved, and resource conditions change over time.

Table 4a. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Air Quality

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
AIR QUALITY	Be an environmental leader by improving park sustainability. Continue improving park sustainability and environmental leadership through the park's climate friendly parks action plan, demonstrating the park's commitment to do its part for sustainability, air/water quality, and climate change.	- Continue park Energy and Waste Reduction Guidelines for park staff and volunteers.
AIR QUALITY	Improve understanding of air quality through continued monitoring, updating the air quality summary, identifying sensitive resources, assessing future research needs, and educating park staff about impacts to park resources via continued collaboration with PWR, NPS ARD, and other partnerships.	- Continue operation of the in-park IMPROVE, CASTNET, and NADP monitoring stations, while seeking a partnership to assist sampling and maintenance.

Table 4b. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Anthropological Resources (Traditional Cultural Properties)

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION	Complete an ethnographic overview and assessment.	- Collaborate with the Shoshone-Bannock on scoping the project. - Scope the project and secure funding for the ethnographic overview and assessment.
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	Maintain efforts to meet consultation requirements, while expanding outreach to engage with the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute on shared interests at the park.	- Develop an approach of regular communication with the tribal heritage committee.

Table 4c. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic)

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES	Identify which specific areas to survey (kipukas, trails, prehistoric and historic camps).	- Develop a predictive model for site identification.
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES	Protect Baker's Cave	- Collaborate with tribes and BLM on the preservation of Baker's Caves.

Table 4d. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Cultural Landscapes and Historic Districts

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS	Complete inventory of Mission 66 Complex.	- Scope the Cultural Landscape Inventory project and enter into the Project Management Information System.

Table 4e. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Dark Night Skies

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
DARK NIGHT SKIES	Identify how anthropogenic night light impacts the resources (i.e., wildlife) in the park	- Assess how wilderness character, species of special concern (small mammals), and other park resources are being impacted by light pollution.
DARK NIGHT SKIES	Maintain updated understanding and evolution of the condition of the resource.	- Collect all sky night sky data at one long-term site and expand to other sites because of the large geographic area.
DARK NIGHT SKIES	Reduce anthropogenic light from park operations, neighbors / nearby communities.	- Become an International Dark Night Sky Place. - Identify and prioritize partners to work with to reduce light pollution that occurs outside of the park boundary and begin making those connections (e.g., develop a park partner action strategy (Idaho National Laboratory).



Table 4f. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Federal Listed Species

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE	Improve knowledge of population status and trends.	- Continue sage-grouse lek monitoring for Idaho Fish & Game. - Data-mine and synthesize existing information on sage-grouse (from organismal health to autecology and synecology) from past research and conduct additional needed research to gather information on seasonal sage-grouse use/habitat. - Implement I&M sage-grouse monitoring protocol.

Table 4g. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Fire Processes

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
FIRE PROCESSES	Fuel reduction in Douglas-fir and aspens stands to reduce risk of crown fire.	- Evaluate Douglas-fir and aspen stands and reduce fire fuel as needed to reduce the risk of crown fires, especially the increased risks under climate change. - Evaluate and revise tree thinning strategies based on soil moisture, tree health, stand integrity, and projected fire behavior.
FIRE PROCESSES	Updated NPS Fire Management Plan (parkwide) and explore possibility of a joint NPS-BLM plan.	- Complete fire management plan update (with BLM).

Table 4h. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Geologic Resources and Processes

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
CAVES	Protection of known caves via cave closures and other enhanced protection means.	- Develop decision-making criteria for cave closures.
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Written and tested protocol for cave identification, cave map production, cave dimensions, cave resource assessment, etc.	- Develop proper protocol for locating and identifying caves by consulting with GRD and other national and state parks with lava tube caves.
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Collaborate with USGS, NASA, Geological Society of America, Idaho Geological Survey, NRCS, academia, and other outside researchers.	- Identify most significant geological resource data gaps in park and specific questions park needs to answer, which will inform which outside entities and which data the park needs to pursue first.
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Minimize human-induced impacts to the park's geologic features through good visitor management (such as accelerated erosion, trash, etc. resulting from visitor use or management activities) and facilities/operation management.	- Develop strategy to minimize visitor impacts at Inferno Cone.

Table 4i. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Historic Structures

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
LOG STRUCTURES	Assess condition and stabilization needs of historic log structures.	- Secure funding to bring a historic architect and engineer to the park to complete the assessment.

Table 4j. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Hydrological Features and Processes

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
HYDROGEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND PROCESSES	Improve understanding of hydrogeological systems and their significance (incl. groundwater aquifers).	- Pursue a technical assistance request from WRD for a comprehensive water resource summary report for the park.
STREAMS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS	Continue water quality monitoring through I&M program.	- Continue water quality monitoring of Little Cottonwood Creek through I&M program.

Table 4k. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Information Resources

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION	Continuing and increased integration of change information on park management.	- Integrate climate change into the resource stewardship strategy.
CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION	Identify historical impacts and future vulnerabilities of climate change on priority resources.	- Work with partners to conduct spatial climate change vulnerability analyses on key resources that identify vulnerable areas and potential refugia.
CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION	Understand long-term climate trends.	- Maintain temperature, precipitation, and snowpack time series from weather stations and snow courses in the park.
GENERAL RESOURCE DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT	Data is collected via a defensible scientific method (best practices).	- Establish and implement a peer review process for data collection.
GENERAL RESOURCE DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT	Improved data quality and management to support project management and inform resource management (e.g., digital records, etc.).	- Complete a data management plan.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED GEOSPATIAL RESOURCE DATA: For both Natural and Cultural Resources	Develop geospatial data sets and improve data quality and management.	- Maintain core base datasets. - Maintain fire and fuels Rx history.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED GEOSPATIAL RESOURCE DATA: For both Natural and Cultural Resources	Improve opportunities to access, use, share, and interact with geospatial data.	- Maintain and improve base maps. - Upgrade GPS and related data collection equipment.
LIBRARY RESOURCES	Adhere to library record management standards.	- Implement a record management system.
LIBRARY RESOURCES	Update digital, online, and physical library system to include significant/prominent information relative to the park.	- Update the Integrated Resource Management Application.

Table 4l. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Native Vegetation Communities

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
PARKWIDE VEGETATION	Expansion of collaboration of local and regional agencies/institutions for early invasive plant detection and control efforts.	- Continue coordinating with cooperative weed management agencies. - Continue working with EPMTs.
PARKWIDE VEGETATION	Reduction of the adverse effects of invasive plant species.	- Continue ongoing invasive plant management efforts (i.e., targeted species and/or locations, including early detection and rapid response).
SAGEBRUSH STEPPE PLANT COMMUNITY, INCLUDING KIPUKAS	Improved knowledge of trends in steppe community species composition and cover.	- Continue I&M sage steppe monitoring program for monitoring of native plant composition. - Provide I&M with target species list of noxious weeds to help I&M watch for on early detection.
SAGEBRUSH STEPPE PLANT COMMUNITY, INCLUDING KIPUKAS	Reduction of the adverse effects of fire on steppe plant communities.	- Collect native plant materials (pre- and post-fire). - Replant sagebrush post-fire - Treat cheatgrass after fires on steppe.
WOODLANDS: Limber Pine, Utah, & Rocky Mountain Junipers, Aspen	Improved knowledge of limber pine pathogens.	- Continue I&M pathogen monitoring of limber pine, which includes assessments of blister rust, pine beetle, and mistletoe infestations. - Continue internal park surveys of white pine blister rust and pine beetle on limber pines.

Table 4m. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Natural Soundscape

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE	Identify how anthropogenic noise (stressors and threats) impacts the resources (i.e., wildlife, wilderness) in the park.	- Assess how wilderness character, species of special concern (e.g., Greater sage-grouse), and other park resources are being impacted by anthropogenic noise.
NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE	Identify the condition of the acoustic resource.	- Collect baseline acoustic data and update modeled results.

Table 4n. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Scenic Views

COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
SCENIC VIEWS	Improved understanding of the scenic view resources via ongoing/repeated inventory and assessment of important views (both within the park and outside park boundaries) and associated values to inform visual resource goals and protection strategies.	- Conduct a visual resource inventory using the NPS ARD protocol to identify scenic quality and importance of views and establish baseline condition. - Investigate/understand existing conservation easements.

Table 4o. Short-Term Stewardship Goals and High-Priority Stewardship Activities — Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

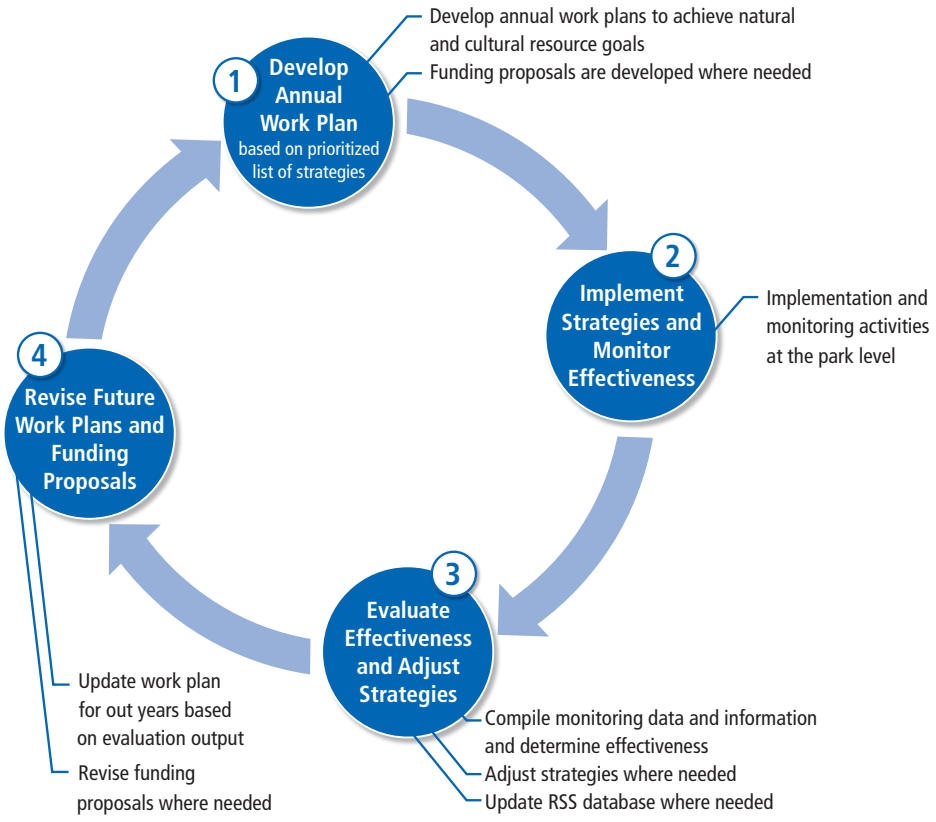
COMPONENT	SHORT-TERM STEWARDSHIP GOAL	HIGH-PRIORITY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY
BIRDS	Improved knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of (bird species, etc.) to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Continue in-house breeding bird survey.
INVERTEBRATES	Improved knowledge of ranges and abundances of (invertebrates) to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Continue collaboration with Idaho Fish & Game and invertebrate researcher(s) to compile and synthesize compiled data. - Continue to populate NPSpecies with butterfly and moth data. - Data-mine past research data collections on pollinators to identify species in park, and consider possibilities for additional survey needs.
MEDIUM TO LARGE MAMMALS	Better understanding and reduction of adverse effects on medium to large mammals from visitor use/presence.	- As park fence repairs occur, replace and maintain repaired areas with wildlife-safe fencing.
MEDIUM TO LARGE MAMMALS	Improved knowledge of ranges and abundances of medium to large mammals to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Study of pronghorn migration patterns and timing.
MEDIUM TO LARGE MAMMALS	Preserve habitat connectivity at a landscape scale inside and outside of park boundary for medium to large mammals, while considering climate change.	- Work with neighboring land owners/agencies to maintain priority landscape-scale habitat connectivity corridors by avoiding developing in these areas, applying wildlife-safe fencing, etc. while considering climate change.
SMALL MAMMALS	Improved knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of bats to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Continue collaboration with the Southeast Idaho Bat Working Group and broader Idaho Bat Working Group regarding monitoring and information sharing. - Continue hibernacula studies of Arco Tunnel.
SMALL MAMMALS	Improved knowledge of wildlife ranges and abundances of pikas to help guide management at the landscape level.	- Continue collaboration with university research of pikas. - Continue I&M pika monitoring and pursue data sharing across park units (for example, Lava Beds and Lassen Volcanic) regarding low elevation pika populations.
SMALL MAMMALS	Reduction of adverse effects on bats and bat habitat from visitor use.	- Collaborate with other cave managers to develop a coordinated education campaign regarding white-nose syndrome. - Continue screening/permitting of recreational use of five publicly-accessible caves to minimize white-nose syndrome.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY

The stewardship goals, activities, and other pertinent information of the resource stewardship strategy is managed and updated regularly using the RSS desktop application. This information will assist resource managers in determining what, how, when, and where resource management occurs in the park and will assist the parks' resource management staff in developing annual work plans. These work plans will be an important planning tool for park staff to determine what they will be able to realistically tackle over the coming years.

Long-term implementation of the resource stewardship strategy includes park managers monitoring resource information and conditions in order to evaluate the effectiveness of resource stewardship strategies over time. Regular monitoring of RSS progress will provide park managers an opportunity to evaluate whether the stewardship activities are making progress towards identified goals and consider whether adjustments are needed. See figure 1 for more information on the cyclical nature of this process. In addition, routine communication with the public is another important aspect of the implementation process. These outreach efforts are intended to improve public awareness about the science and strategies used to protect the park's diverse resources and values over time.

Figure 1. RSS Implementation Process



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Resource Stewardship Strategy for Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, please contact:

Superintendent, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve at:
PO Box 29
Arco, ID 83213
crmo_superintendent@nps.gov
(208) 527-1310







As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.

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RSS

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP STRATEGIES

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