

Craters of the Moon National Monument
Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan
October, 1989

Prepared by Shelley Sparhawk

Approved:


Superintendent

Date 11-2-89

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Description of Area	2
Current Use/Condition	3-4
Management Objectives	5
Management Techniques/Issues:	
LAC/Opportunity Classes	6-7
Use Regulations	8-9
Management Practices	10-13
Appendix A:	
Literature Concerning Group Size	
Appendix B:	
Literature/Permit Procedures for Stock Use	
Appendix C:	
Permit Procedures/Visitor Handout for Hikers	

Introduction:

As stated in the Craters of the Moon National Monument enabling legislation of 1924, the monument "contains a remarkable fissure eruption together with its associated volcanic cones, craters, rifts, lava flows, caves, natural bridges, and other phenomena characteristic of volcanic action which are of unusual scientific and general interest". Approximately 80% of the monument is contained within the designated wilderness area established by Congress on October 23, 1970. Craters of the Moon was one of the first National Park Service areas to receive wilderness designation. This area was designated wilderness because of the unique geologic features and outstanding opportunity for solitude. This 43,243 acre~~s~~ area is subject to management guidelines set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act and NPS management policies.

The mandate set forth in the Wilderness Act states that these areas are to be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character".

The Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area is a pristine area with minimal human influence and truly outstanding opportunities for wilderness solitude. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to manage the area to preserve the wilderness character and prevent impacts, rather than to try to restore that character through mitigation of impacts.

This management plan also includes backcountry areas which are undeveloped and essentially natural in character that are not within the designated wilderness area. Therefore, the term "backcountry" includes but is not limited to that portion of the monument that is designated wilderness.

Description of Area

The majority of the monument is backcountry /wilderness in character. It includes approximately nine miles of the Great Rift, a weak zone in the earth's crust which resulted in the area's geologic phenomena. The backcountry contains many geologic formations associated with volcanism, including cinder cones, lava flows, spatter cones, fissures, and tree molds.

Elevations in the backcountry range from 5330 ft. to 7725 ft. Although water sources do exist in cracks and lava tubes, there is very little water and it can be intermittent and unreliable. The climate is arid with summer highs in the nineties (F) and winter lows below 0 (F). Average annual precipitation is 16 inches, with most moisture in the form of winter snows.

Although much of the area may appear rather barren, vegetation grows in cracks where soil accumulates and on older cinder cones and lava flows where soil has developed. The major vegetation types are sagebrush/grass complexes which are the climax community for the Snake River Plain. Other common vegetation types are the limber pine/bitterbrush complexes.

Mammalian species in the wilderness range from small rodents and bats to mule deer and coyote. Historically, grizzly bears and bighorn sheep inhabited the area.

The Bureau of Land Management proposed Great Rift Wilderness Area (341,000 acres) surrounds the Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area on the south, west, and east. This area is currently managed under the BLM Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

A Baseline Resource Inventory was completed in 1988. This inventory included vegetation, wildlife, and lichen species within the backcountry and wilderness portions of the monument.

Current Use/Condition

Most visitors to the monument appreciate the backcountry as part of the scenic beauty. Only a limited number of hikers and backpackers use the wilderness area. Access is primarily from the developed portion of the monument. The Great Rift is the most heavily used portion of the backcountry. An abandoned fire road extends approximately 5 miles south from the Tree Molds Parking Lot to the northwest side of Sentinel Cone. This old road/trail is the main access route into the wilderness.

DAY USE: Most hiking groups are small, from one to five people. An exception is educational groups of 15 to 20 hikers which sometimes use the wilderness. Day use is minimal based on trailhead parking use and personal observation of rangers in the backcountry.

OVERNIGHT USE: Overnight camping requires a special use permit. For the period 1984-1988, the wilderness received an average of approximately 120 user nights per year. Groups are usually small, averaging two to three per party. Under regulations established in 1984, large groups (12-18 people) do occasionally camp in the wilderness. Generally, groups stay out only one or two nights since all water must be carried in.

Camping is not permitted in the North End Unit, except in the Group Campground. Day use in this area is light.

At present, there are no established campsites. The only restrictions on campsite selection are: 1) parties must camp within the wilderness boundary (except in winter); 2) camping is not permitted within one mile of the Tree Molds Trailhead; 3) open fires are prohibited. The Echo Crater area receives the majority of the camping use. There are approximately 4 camp areas inside Echo Crater that have been established by use and show minimal impacts. The main impacts are bare ground areas, a minimal amount of litter, rock wind breaks, and fire rings (although fires are not permitted). The bare ground areas are primarily due to removing rocks rather than vegetative damage, although some vegetative damage has occurred.

The only signs of recent human impact are along the trail corridor into the Echo Crater area, in Echo Crater, and the route into Carey Kipuka from BLM lands. A cement water trough at Little Prairie Waterhole, spent aircraft ammunition casings, and campsites in the Fissure Butte area are remnants of historic use.

The remainder of the wilderness area is virtually pristine. Few people camp beyond Echo Crater and only a small percentage day hike beyond this area - mainly to Fissure Butte, and very rarely to the Vermillion Chasm area. Signs of human impact are almost nonexistent.

HORSE USE: Two stock parties, with 6 and twelve head, have requested a permit since 1984. Neither of these groups travelled beyond The Sentinel.

WINTER USE: During periods of snow accumulation (mid-November to mid-April), the Loop Drive is closed to motorized vehicles. In many ways, the frontcountry becomes the backcountry since visitors must ski or snowshoe to travel beyond the headquarters area. Day use is common on weekends with good conditions (as high as thirty skiers per day), while weekday use is sporadic. Overnight use is rare since fires are not permitted and temperatures are frequently below zero. Visitors usually camp in the Caves Parking Lot, where overnight use is allowed with a permit only during the winter. Wilderness use is almost nonexistent in the winter months because users must ski or snowshoe several miles just to reach the wilderness boundary.

Management Objectives

- To preserve and protect the wilderness resources, including the primeval character and influence referred to in the Wilderness Act. To protect the natural processes and relationships from human impacts.
- To provide for visitor use with maximum freedom; using the minimum restrictions necessary to protect and preserve the wilderness resource and the wilderness experience for all visitors.
- To encourage wise visitor use by education, example, and management.
- To develop an active monitoring program to provide data for management decisions. To mitigate any impacts in order to maintain current resource conditions.
- To manage the wilderness area within the regulations/guidelines established by the Wilderness Act, the NPS 12-Point Plan, NPS Management Policies, the Servicewide Task Force on Wilderness Policy and Management, and the Pacific Northwest Region Wilderness Management Program.
- To encourage research within backcountry/wilderness areas to increase knowledge of the ecosystem without impacting the ecological or social resource.
- Ultimately, to pass on the wilderness resource for future enjoyment.

Management Techniques/Issues

Limits of Acceptable Change:

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) system is a decision/management process in which emphasis is on acceptable resource conditions. Once those conditions are identified, management decisions are based on preserving or achieving those acceptable conditions. It is a nine step process as listed below:

- 1) Identify area concerns/issues
- 2) Define opportunity classes
- 3) Select indicators of resource and social conditions
- 4) Inventory current conditions
- 5) Specify standards for indicators from step 3
- 6) Identify alternative opportunity class allocations
- 7) Identify management actions for each alternative
- 8) Evaluate/select an alternative
- 9) Implement management actions and monitor resource

At the current levels of use and resource condition, it is impractical to implement the LAC System at Craters of the Moon National Monument. However, some of the steps and concepts are important in any wilderness management plan. An active resource monitoring program will be instituted to assure resource protection.

Opportunity Classes:

In order to provide a variety of wilderness and backcountry experiences, three opportunity classes have been defined within the CRMO backcountry (see figure 1 for map):

Backcountry: The Backcountry Opportunity Class includes all undeveloped and essentially natural areas outside the boundaries of the wilderness area. Camping is not permitted in this class except in the Group Campground and, during the winter months, at the Caves Area. Day use and associated impacts are moderate. Day use does not require a permit, except in the North End Unit. In this opportunity class, more human impacts and social contacts are acceptable than in the other two opportunity classes.

Primitive: The Primitive Opportunity Class is the portion of the wilderness area along the trail area from the Tree Molds Parking Area to the Sentinel area, including the Echo Crater camping areas and the Yellowjacket, Bears Den, and Little Prairie Waterholes. This is the primary wilderness day and overnight use area. It receives the majority of the wilderness visitor use and impacts, although both are minimal. This area also has the highest potential for social encounters in the wilderness area, although encounters are rare. A moderate amount of human impact and social contacts are acceptable in this opportunity class. Portions of this opportunity class are already impacted, thus management strategy is to restrict impacts to previously impacted areas. Horses (day use only) are permitted on the trail in this area. Overnight users will be encouraged to camp at Echo Crater.

Pristine: The Pristine Opportunity Class is the remainder of the wilderness area which receives very little use and impacts of man are virtually unnoticeable. A minimum of human impacts and social contacts are acceptable within this area. Management strategy will be to disperse any use to avoid impacts. Campers will be encouraged to camp where no sign of previous impact exists, to limit stays to one night in any particular site, and to leave the area unimpaired. Horse use is not permitted in this area.

Current conditions in all three opportunity classes are well below any standards that might be set. Current low levels of use and untrammelled natural resource conditions make it impractical to establish LAC standards at this time. As such, a short-term (5-10 years) management objective is to monitor visitor use and maintain current conditions. Conditions will be monitored annually and the management strategy re-evaluated every other year to determine if an LAC system is warranted.

Use Regulations:

PERMITS: A backcountry permit is required for any party planning to backpack (overnight) into the wilderness or camp at the Caves Area (during winter months). A permit is also required for day use in the North End and for day use by horse parties. No hikers or bicycles are permitted in the North End Unit during hunting season.

GROUP SIZE: Research has shown that large parties cause more resource damage than small parties. Social impact on the experience of solitude is also greater with large groups. It is particularly important to establish group size limits to minimize ecological damage in areas where impact is likely to occur rapidly, such as relatively undisturbed areas. The Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area is a virtually undisturbed area. A size limit of 12 people per party has been established to preserve these pristine conditions.
(See Appendix A for list of references)

STOCK USE: A special permit is required for backcountry stock use and users must register at the Visitor Center. Party size is limited to 12 head and overnight stays are prohibited. A permit will be issued for only one stock group per day. Stock is restricted to a designated route as specified in the permit, and must comply with all applicable CFR regulations. The designated route is entirely within the primitive opportunity class. Grazing of stock is generally not an issue since overnight use is prohibited. If parties wish to feed horses during their day trip, pelletized feed must be carried in. Grazing is not permitted. Each group is responsible for cleaning the loading/unloading area after the trip. (See Appendix B for research and permit procedures pertaining to stock use)

PETS: Pets are not permitted in backcountry/wilderness areas.

CAMPING: Although no designated campsites exist, the Echo Crater area contains several campsites established through use. Any backpackers who wish to camp within the primitive opportunity class will be encouraged to use these sites to limit the amount of resource damage.

Within the pristine opportunity class, backpackers will be encouraged to disperse use by camping on areas that do not appear to have been used before. They will also be asked to camp for only one night in any given site and to leave little sign that the site was used when they leave.

Camping is not permitted within one mile of the Tree Molds Parking area.

Camping is not permitted in the backcountry opportunity class, including the North End. There are two exceptions: the Caves Area during winter months and the Group Campsite within the North End Unit.

WATER: Since 1920, many of the waterholes have dried up or appear to be doing so. There is no reliable source of water. The limited amount of water present in the wilderness is very important to wildlife, especially birds. Drinking from waterholes also presents the possibility of contracting Giardia or other health hazards. For these reasons, all visitors are urged to carry enough water to sustain them for the duration of their stay. A minimum of two gallons per person per day is recommended during the summer.

CAMPFIRES: Woodfires are prohibited throughout the monument to preserve the resource. Backpackers are encouraged to carry a stove.

CACHES: The storage of water, supplies, and/or equipment by the public is not permitted.

SANITATION: As a general principle of minimum impact, anything that is carried into the backcountry will be carried out also. Litter will not be disposed of in the backcountry.

Proper sanitation requires that human waste be disposed of in cinder fields at least one hundred yards from any water source. The "cathole" method of burying human waste will be used.

AIRCRAFT AND MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT:

Wilderness: Public use of mechanical and motorized equipment, including bicycles and aircraft, is not permitted within the wilderness area.

Backcountry: Bicycle use will be permitted in the North End of the monument beginning in 1990. A permit must be obtained at the visitor center. Bicycles must remain on established roadways at all times. No permits will be issued for bicycling in the North End during hunting season. Bicycles are not permitted elsewhere in the backcountry. Public use of other mechanical and motorized equipment is not permitted in any backcountry areas, including the North End.

Management Practices:

EDUCATION/INFORMATION: Education to promote wise and safe wilderness use is imperative for resource protection. Every party issued a backcountry permit will be given the wilderness handout (appendix C). Information on the following topics will be emphasized to both day and overnight hikers:

- Resource protection/minimum impact techniques
- Regulations concerning backcountry use
- No water in all backcountry areas
- Hazards of backcountry travel, especially those unique to volcanic areas; precautions to be observed, including equipment/clothing necessary

Information is provided to all visitors in the park newspaper distributed at the entrance station.

Wilderness issues and values have been emphasized in interpretive programming. With a movement toward focusing most interpretive programs on resource management concerns, this topic will continue to receive attention in the future.

There are plans to include the topic of wilderness in two future publications.

TRAINING: Training is a very important aspect of any management program. All park employees should receive training in wilderness values, resources, management tools, and minimum impact techniques. Any employee may be called upon to provide information to the public concerning wilderness. Employees must teach the public through example when working or recreating in the wilderness area. Exploration of the backcountry during off-duty hours is encouraged to provide accurate and timely information to the public.

Seasonal employees are given a one day orientation to the wilderness during the seasonal training session. Wilderness legislation, values, regulations, and minimum impact techniques will be emphasized in addition to the exposure to this particular wilderness area.

TRAILS: Trails will not be constructed or maintained in the wilderness. The area is relatively flat and many game trails exist. An abandoned fire road serves as a trail from the Tree Molds Parking Area to the northwest side of Sentinel Cone. Hikers will be encouraged to use this fire road and game trails to prevent further resource damage.

An exception to this policy will be made for the Tree Molds Trail, which will receive minimal maintenance to provide for visitor safety and to prevent resource degradation.

PATROLS: At current use levels, an intensive schedule of backcountry patrols is not warranted. However, several patrols will be made into the wilderness annually to monitor use and resource damage. Any fire rings or wind breaks in Echo Crater will be destroyed and litter removed. These actions will be documented, conditions and use monitored to determine if increased patrols are needed.

SIGNS: Signs will be kept to a minimum in backcountry areas. Signs will be placed at the main access points along the wilderness boundaries to inform hikers that they are entering a wilderness area. Only signs for trail orientation will be installed within the wilderness area. Approval will be obtained through the park wilderness coordinator for installation of any signs within the wilderness area.

No mileage will be posted for destinations under one mile in backcountry areas and no mileage will be posted within the wilderness. Signs and posts will be constructed of unpainted wood with routed and burned-in one inch Gothic capital letters. Posts will be firmly implanted at least 24 inches deep. The base of the sign text will not be more than 24 inches above ground level. Signs will not be affixed to trees, rocks, or other natural features.

AIRCRAFT AND MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: No non-emergency administrative use of mechanical and motorized equipment (including bicycles) within the wilderness area will be permitted. Any non-emergency administrative use of this equipment (with the exception of vehicles and bicycles in the North End) in the backcountry opportunity class will be timed to cause the least disturbance to the solitude.

Visitor use of any mechanical and motorized equipment is not permitted in wilderness or backcountry areas (except for bicycle use in the North End).

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION: Relationships will be developed with BLM personnel managing the adjacent Great Rift Wilderness Study Area to identify common concerns and increase consistency in management practices.

SEARCH AND RESCUE: Since the monument has proprietary jurisdiction, the Butte County Sheriff is primarily responsible for search and rescue operations. The monument maintains a rescue cache capable of outfitting a six-person crew and provides back-up assistance and equipment to the Sheriff as directed. A National Park Service liaison will work with the sheriff to insure that resource damage is kept to a minimum, particularly within the wilderness area. SAR operations will be reported in accord with the Pacific Northwest Regional Emergency Operations Plan.

FIRE MANAGEMENT: The current Fire Management Plan provides details as to specific policies and procedures concerning fire management. Constraints imposed by wilderness designation will be considered in any fire management decisions.

AIR QUALITY: The air quality of the wilderness area will be managed for minimal degradation as required for Class 1 areas in the Clean Air Act. The Craters of the Moon Air Management Plan is scheduled for completion and will provide specific policies and procedures.

CAVE MANAGEMENT: Caves or lava tubes within the backcountry area will be managed in accordance with policies and procedures in the Cave Management Plan.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT: Vegetation, particularly exotic species, will be managed according to policies and procedures contained in the Vegetation Management Plan. Minimum tool considerations will be important in decisions concerning the wilderness area.

RESEARCH: Research of the ecological communities in the backcountry is encouraged provided that the physical, biological, and social resources are not compromised. As a general rule, research that could be successfully conducted outside the monument will not be permitted. A special permit is required for any research projects.

MONITORING: An active resource monitoring program will be instituted to determine use and impact levels. Photo points will be established at the Echo Crater campsites to provide annual documentation of conditions. Several hikes will be made into other portions of the wilderness each year to document resource conditions.

Overnight use levels will continue to be tabulated from backcountry permits on a monthly basis. Annual use data will be monitored to determine when a complete LAC program is needed:

Factor: Amount of overnight visitor use

Indicator: Annual number of user nights

Standard: Increase of more than 25% in three year average values for annual user nights

Management Action: Evaluation of need for full LAC program with establishment of additional factors, indicators, and standards.

Monitoring of permanent vegetation transects and deer and bird censusing, as part of the Baseline Resource Inventory, will continue in backcountry and wilderness areas.

Use and conditions will be monitored to determine if re-evaluation of sanitation management procedures are necessary.

Air quality monitoring will continue at present or increased levels.

REVIEW: At a maximum interval of two years, all monitoring data will be analyzed and the Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan will be reviewed and/or revised.

APPENDIX A: Literature Concerning Group Size Limits

- Cole, David N. Research on soil and vegetation in wilderness: a state-of-knowledge review. In: Lucas, Robert C., compiler. Proceedings-national wilderness research conference: issues, state-of-knowledge, and future directions; 1985 July 23-26; Fort Collins, CO. General Technical Report INT-220. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1987: 135-177.
- Cole, David N.; Petersen, Margaret E.; Lucas, Robert C. Managing wilderness recreation use. General Technical Report INT-230. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1987. 60p.
- Lime, David W. Large groups in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area-their numbers, characteristics, and impact. Research Note NC-142. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station, 1972. 4p.
- Lucas, Robert C. Use patterns and visitor characteristics, attitudes, and preferences in nine wilderness and other roadless areas. Research Paper INT-253. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1980. 89p.
- Roggenbuck, Joseph W.; Watson, Allan E.; Stankey, George H. Wilderness management in the southern Appalachians. Southern Journal of Applied Forestry. 6:147-152; 1982.
- Stankey, George H. Visitor perception of wilderness recreation carrying capacity. Research Paper INT-142. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1973. 61 p.
- Stankey, George H. A comparison of carrying capacity perceptions among visitors to two wildernesses. Research Paper INT-242. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1980. 34 p.
- Stankey, George H.; Schreyer, Richard. Wilderness visitor attitudes and behavior: a state-of-knowledge review. In: Lucas, Robert C., compiler. Proceedings-national wilderness research conference: issues, state-of-knowledge, and future directions; 1985 July 23-26; Fort Collins, CO. General Technical Report INT-220. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1987: 246-293.

Appendix B: Literature and Permit Procedures Pertaining to Stock Use

- Cole, David N. Research on soil and vegetation in wilderness: a state-of-knowledge review. In: Lucas, Robert C., compiler. Proceedings-national wilderness research conference: issues, state-of-knowledge, and future directions; 1985 July 23-26; Fort Collins, CO. General Technical Report
- Cole, David N.; Petersen, Margaret E.; Lucas, Robert C. Managing wilderness recreation use. General Technical Report INT-230. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1987. 60 p.
- DeBenedetti, Stephen H.; Parsons, David J. Protecting mountain meadows: a grazing management plan. Parks. 8(3): 11-13; 1983.
- Hendee, John C.; Catton, William R., Jr.; Marlow, Larry D., Brockman, C. Frank. Wilderness users in the Pacific Northwest-their characteristics, values, and management preferences. Research Paper PNW-61. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1968. 92 p.
- Lucas, Robert C. Use patterns and visitor characteristics, attitudes, and preferences in nine wilderness and other roadless areas. Research Paper INT-253. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1980. 89 p.
- Lucas, Robert C. Visitor characteristics, attitudes, and use patterns in the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex, 1970-1982. Research Paper INT-345. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1985. 32 p.
- Parsons, David J. The recovery of Bullfrog Lake. Fremontia. 7(2): 9-13; 1979.
- Stankey, George H. Visitor perception of wilderness recreation carrying capacity. Research Paper INT-142. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1973. 61 p.

Stankey, George H.; Schreyer, Richard. Wilderness visitor attitudes and behavior: a state-of-knowledge review. In: Lucas, Robert C., compiler. Proceedings-national wilderness research conference: issues, state-of-knowledge, and future directions; 1985 July 23-26; Fort Collins, CO. General Technical Report INT-220. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1987: 246-293.

Thornburgh, Dale A. Responses of vegetation to different wilderness management systems. In: Lucas, Robert C., compiler. Proceedings-national wilderness research conference: current research; 1985 July 23-26; Fort Collins, CO. General Technical Report INT-212. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station; 1986: 108-113.

Special User Permit - Stock Parties

I. General

A. Introduction

A Backcountry Use Permit is required for use of horses within the monument. A permit is required for each party and for each visit. There is no charge for the permit. The purpose of this permit is to minimize adverse impacts and to ensure compliance with special requirements.

B. Conditions and Restrictions

The use of horses within the monument is allowed for visitor enjoyment under the following conditions and restrictions:

- Day Use Only - Overnight stays with stock are prohibited.
- Group Size - Parties are limited to a maximum of 12 head of stock.
- Number of Groups - A permit will be issued for only one stock group per day.
- Registration - Users must register at the Visitor Center.
- Designated Route - Use is allowed only on the designated trail within the Primitive Opportunity Class of the wilderness area. Travel off the designated trail is prohibited. See attached map for route.
- Rest Stops - Animals should be dispersed along the trail when stopping.
- Clean Up - Each party is responsible for cleaning the loading/unloading area when visit is completed.
- Feed - Grazing is not permitted. Pelletized feed must be carried for any feeding.

In addition, users must comply with all current regulations, particularly 36 Code of Federal Regulations 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals.

Section 2.16 reads as follows:

The Following are prohibited:

- (a) The use of animals other than those designated as "pack animals" for purposes of transporting equipment.
- (b) The use of horses or pack animals outside of trails, routes, or areas designated for their use.
- (c) The use of horses or pack animals on a park road, except: (1) where such travel is necessary to cross to or from designated trails, or areas, or privately owned property, and no alternative trails or routes have been designated, or (2) when the road has been closed to motor vehicles.

- (d) Free-trailing or loose-herding of horses or pack animals on trails, except as designated.
- (e) Allowing horses or pack animals to proceed in excess of a slow walk when passing in the immediate vicinity of persons on foot or bicycle.
- (f) Obstructing a trail, or making an unreasonable noise or gesture, considering the nature and purpose of the actor's conduct, and other factors that would govern the conduct of a reasonably prudent person, while horses or pack animals are passing.
- (g) Violation of conditions which may be established by the superintendent concerning the use of horses or pack animals.

A Partial List of Other Pertinent Regulations

- All wood fires are prohibited within the monument. Charcoal fires are restricted to grates provided in the campground.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Collecting or destroying any natural or cultural object is prohibited.
- Horses are not permitted in the campground.

APPENDIX C: Backcountry Permit Procedures

Backcountry Permits

11/89

Approximately 80% (43,243 acres) of the monument is designated wilderness area. The Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area was established by Congress on October 23, 1970. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as "undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character...with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable...which has outstanding opportunities for solitude". This designation carries special management responsibilities for Craters of the Moon. The act states that these areas are to be "protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions".

The Backcountry Use Permit System was established to ensure visitor safety and to protect the wilderness resources. Wilderness use at Craters of the Moon is very light and the wilderness area is relatively pristine. By requiring a permit, contact with users before they enter the wilderness is ensured. The user can be informed of potential safety hazards, pertinent regulations, and minimum impact techniques. Statistics from the permits are collected to monitor visitor use and to make management decisions.

Opportunity Classes

For management purposes, the backcountry/wilderness at Craters has been divided into three opportunity classes (see attached map). Each opportunity class is managed in a slightly different manner.

BACKCOUNTRY: all undeveloped areas outside the designated wilderness area.

PRIMITIVE: The portion of the wilderness which receives the most use and the most impacts.

PRISTINE: the portion of the wilderness which is virtually untouched by man.

Permits

-A permit is required for overnight use in the wilderness area; for horse use in the wilderness area; and for day use in the North End (including bicycle use). No permits will be issued for the North End during hunting season in the fall.

-Permits are free.

-Each party must obtain a permit and carry it with them.

-Permits for wilderness use should be issued by personnel familiar with the wilderness area.

-The permit is completely filled out as shown on the attached examples. The hiker is given the top white copy with the attached wire. The other two copies are turned in to the Resource Management Specialist.

Camping

BACKCOUNTRY OPPORTUNITY CLASS: No camping permitted, except in Caves Area during the winter and in the group campsite.

PRIMITIVE OPPORTUNITY CLASS: Encourage people to camp in Echo Crater. There are several nice campsites that have been established by use within the crater. To minimize resource damage, it is best if people utilize these sites rather than create new ones.

PRISTINE OPPORTUNITY CLASS: Since this area is so pristine, the management objective here is to disperse use. People should camp in areas that show no sign of previous campers and leave no sign that they have camped there. Towards this end, a particular campsite should only be used for one night.

Bicycle Use

Bicycles are permitted for day use in the North End only. Bicycles must remain on established dirt roads at all times. No permit for bicycling will be issued during hunting season in the fall.

A permit will be completed in the same manner as for hikers or stock use. Under Primary Method of Travel note "Bicycles". On the Campsite name space on the right half of the permit write "Day use only".

Bicycles are not permitted off of paved roadways in other portions of the Monument.

Regulations

- Pets are not permitted in wilderness or backcountry areas.
- Wood fires are not permitted in the monument. Backpacking stoves must be used for cooking.
- Party size is limited to 12 people.
- For Horse party regulations, see specific horse use sheet.
- No visitor use of mechanized or motorized equipment is permitted in the wilderness or backcountry areas (EXCEPT for bicycle use in the North End).
- No caching of equipment/supplies by visitors is permitted.

Safety

-Drinking water is not available in the wilderness area. There are a few waterholes, but there is not much water. This water is very important to the wildlife and may also contain parasites, bacteria, etc. During hot weather, hikers should carry at least two gallons of water per person per day.

-Visitors must understand the inherent dangers of cross-country travel in lava areas. The lava is uneven and sharp. Summer temperatures can be very hot on the black lava - much hotter than in the visitor center area. Route finding can be difficult.

In winter, route finding is much more difficult. Snow can hide holes in the lava. Winter temperatures can be extremely cold.

-Visitors should be advised to take a topographical map and compass.

Minimum Impact Techniques

-Everything that is carried into the wilderness should be carried out. Keeping the wilderness pristine is everyone's responsibility.

-Human waste will be disposed of in cinder areas using the "cathole" method. Waste will be buried 6 inches deep and at least 100 yards from any waterholes.

-All natural resources, including wildlife, are protected. Hikers should "leave only footprints and take only photos".

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING A BACKCOUNTRY PERMIT:

FILL PERMIT IN COMPLETELY!

See examples of hiker, bike, stock permits on following pages.

Visitors name and address are needed.

To Visit: is always CRMO

Complete both start and finish dates.

Location of entry/exit: usually Tree Molds Lot or Highway 20

Primary Method of Travel: foot, horse, or bicycle

Number of People/Number of Stock: fill in appropriate numbers. A stock group will have both people and stock spaces completed.

Campsite Name: fill in appropriate area name and number of nights at each site for overnight permits.

In the space below campsite name, note any pertinent regulations. Usually this is "no wood fires" and "carry water". Sometimes "no pets" would apply. For Horse/bicycle permits, write "day use only". For bikes, also write "remain on established roads".

In the remarks section, note any vehicle description and license number (including state).

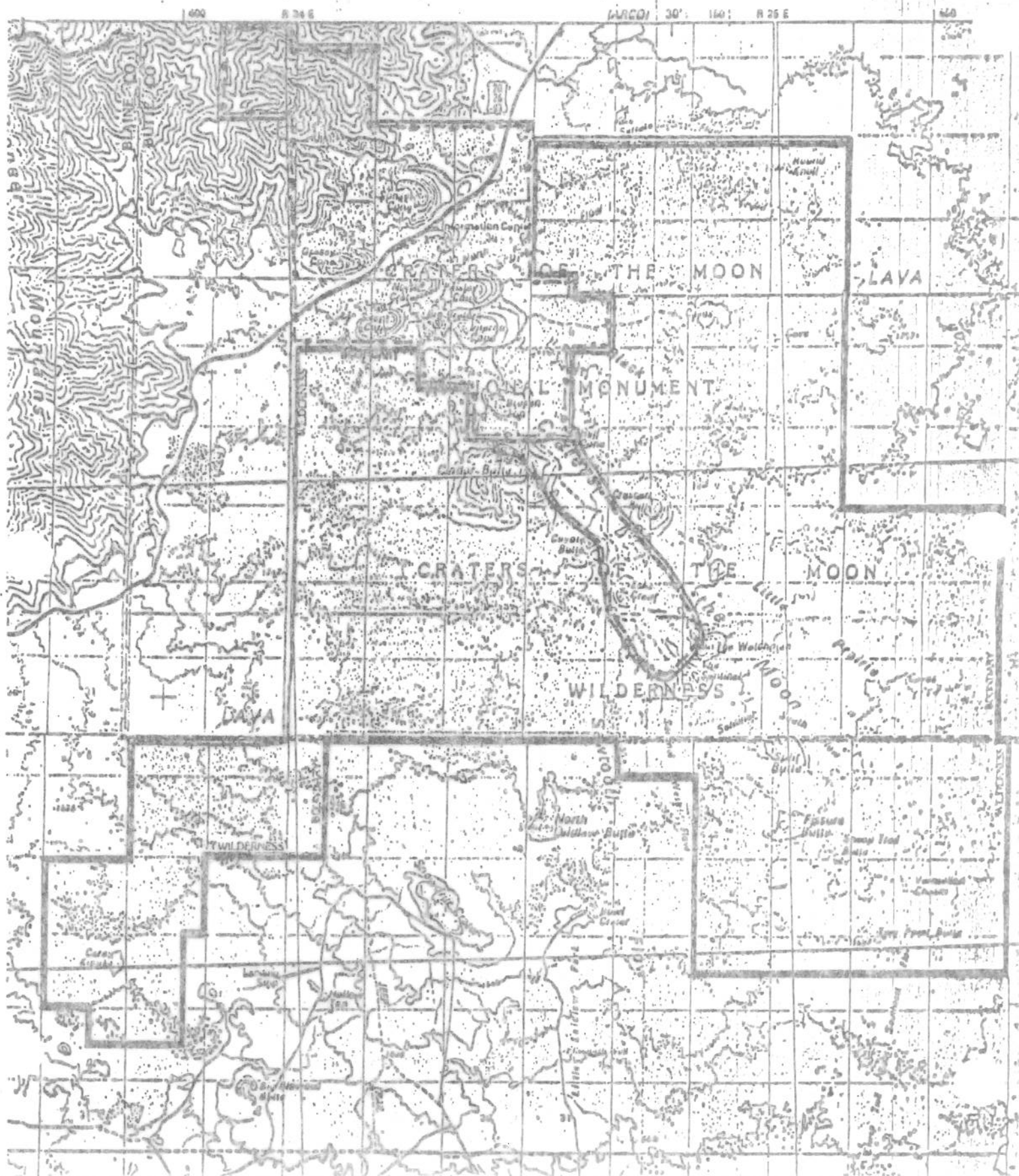
Be sure to have the hiker sign and date the permit. The issuing ranger should also sign the permit.

REMEMBER:

- Bikes are ONLY permitted on established roads in the North End.
- Only one stock group permit will be issued per day.
- Group size is limited to 12 people or stock.
- No permits will be issued for the North End during hunting season in the fall.
- Stock and bike groups cannot stay overnight.
- A BACKCOUNTRY USE HANDOUT WILL BE GIVEN TO EVERY GROUP OBTAINING A PERMIT.

- Backcountry
- Primitive
- Pristine

FIGURE 1: Opportunity Classes





BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT

The visitor must have this permit during the visit.

When signed, this single-visit permit authorizes.										CAMPSITE NAME		ZONE-- SITE	NIGHTS
NAME <u>Joe Hiker</u>										DAY USE			
ADDRESS <u>PO Box 4810</u>										ONLY			
CITY	<u>Any</u>	ID	ZIP	<u>83499</u>	1	2	3	4	5				
To visit	<u>CRMO</u>				6	7	8	9					
Give best estimate of start and finish dates				FROM MO/DAY	<u>06</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>					
				THROUGH MO/DAY	<u>06</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>					
Location of entry <u>Hwy 20</u>					18	19	20						
Location of exit <u>Hwy 20</u>					21	22	23						
Primary method of travel <u>Bikes</u>					24	25							
Number of people in group					26	27							
Number of pack or saddle stock					28	29							
Number of watercraft or other craft					30	31							
REMARKS <u>Yellow Honda (CO) TBX745</u>										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	
										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	
										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	

FASTEN THIS TAG TO YOUR PACK, SADDLE, BOAT OR TENT



BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT

The visitor must have this permit during the visit.

When signed, this single-visit permit authorizes.										CAMPSITE NAME		ZONE-- SITE	NIGHTS
NAME <u>Joe Hiker</u>										DAY USE			
ADDRESS <u>PO Box 4810</u>										ONLY			
CITY	<u>Any</u>	ID	ZIP	<u>83499</u>	1	2	3	4	5				
To visit	<u>CRMO</u>				6	7	8	9					
Give best estimate of start and finish dates				FROM MO/DAY	<u>06</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>					
				THROUGH MO/DAY	<u>06</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>					
Location of entry <u>Tee Molds Lot</u>					18	19	20						
Location of exit <u>Tee Molds Lot</u>					21	22	23						
Primary method of travel <u>Stock</u>					24	25							
Number of people in group					26	27							
Number of pack or saddle stock					28	29							
REMARKS <u>Blue Chevy truck</u>										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	
										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	
										DATE <u>6/10/89</u>		7/1/89	

FASTEN THIS TAG TO YOUR PACK, SADDLE, BOAT OR TENT

APPENDIX C: Visitor Handout

HANDOUT IS BEING DEVELOPED. WILL BE INCLUDED UPON COMPLETION.



BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT

The visitor must have this permit during the visit.

When signed, this single-visit permit authorizes.

NAME Joe HikerADDRESS PO Box 4810CITY Any ID 83499To visit CRMO 9280Give best estimate of start
and finish datesFROM
MO/DAYTHROUGH
MO/DAY06100612Location of entry Tree Molds LotLocation of exit Tree Molds LotPrimary method of travel FootNumber of people in group 06Number of pack or saddle stock 28Number of watercraft or other craft 30

CAMPSITE NAME

ZONE—
SITE

NIGHTS

Echo CraterSplit Butte Area* No Wood fires* Carry Water

REMARKS

Yellow Honda (CO) IBX 745

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE

(VISITOR'S SIGNATURE)

Joe Hiker

(ISSUING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE)

Sue Ranger

79 | 80

FASTEN TO YOUR PACK, SADDLE, BOAT OR TENT