



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds National
Monument

1 Indian Well HQ
Tulelake, CA 96134

530-667-8100 phone
530-667-2737 fax

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release

David Hays 530-667-8107

Historic Views Being Restored in Battlefield Sites

To reduce the chance of a damaging fire and to return the area to how it looked during the Modoc War of 1872-1873, Lava Beds National Monument has initiated a project to clear western juniper trees from its historic battlefields. Most of the work will be done in the Gillem's Camp, Canby's Cross, and Captain Jack's Stronghold areas. Once complete, the fuel loading, or amount of woody fuel a fire can burn, will be greatly reduced. This will help the Monument manage fires to prevent them from causing harm to the significant historic and archeological resources in the area. Due to the many historic stone walls dating from the Modoc War and other archeological resources in the area, only hand crews are working on the project. No heavy equipment is being used. The limbs and tree trunks from the trees will be allowed to lay on the ground and dry over the next year, then carefully burned to reduce the volume of debris.

Historic photos taken during the 1872-1873 Modoc War show few juniper trees growing in the battlefield area. Only after many years of wildland fire suppression, livestock grazing, and other changes in land use have the trees begin to grow. These historic photos have served as a valuable guide to restoring the battlefields to a historically accurate appearance.

Photos can be downloaded and freely reproduced from:

http://forestmaps.org/NPS/Juniper_Photos/

For more information, please contact David Larson at 530-667-8106, or David Hays at 530-667-8107.

Lava Beds National Monument's mission is to preserve and protect the significant natural and cultural resources associated with Lava Beds and provide for the public understanding, education and enjoyment of these resources, including wilderness resources and research.

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