National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

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Superintendent's Compendium Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

Daniel T. Buckley , Superintendent

Introduction to the Compendium

The purpose of the compendium is to provide the public and park employees with a document that lists the special designations, closures, public use limits, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent. The Superintendent's authority to implement these provisions is found in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 1.5(a). The compendium is available to the public on the park website and upon request. The compendium will be reviewed and updated annually or as needed to ensure adequate protection of the park's resources, provide for public safety and enjoyment and to address changes in public use patterns.

The provisions found in this compendium constitute only one of many tools designed to manage and protect Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. It is important to utilize this document in conjunction with Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, which includes the full text of National Park Service regulations, including those authorizing the provisions outlined in this compendium. Chapter I, Parts 1-7, of Title 36, include sections addressing resource protection, public use, recreation, boating, vehicles and traffic safety, commercial operations, and special regulations. These regulations are applicable on all federally owned lands and waters within the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and on lands under the administrative control of the National Park Service. In addition, certain regulations found within Title 36 are applicable on non-federally owned lands under the legislative jurisdiction of the United States.

"Determinations of Effect" are explained in the appendix section.

It is the intent of this compendium, in conjunction with park brochures, maps, signs and other media, to help provide the public and park employees with a clear understanding of park rules and regulations. Any questions or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Superintendent's Office. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

36 CFR § 1.4 DEFINITIONS

Wilderness – Lands designated by law as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
Backcountry- This term refers to primitive, undeveloped portions of parks including but not limited to wilderness and wilderness study areas.
Off-road motorized vehicle (AKA: ORV, ATV, UTV) - any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, or other natural terrain.
Unmanned Aircraft (AKA: UAS, UAV, "drone") – a device used or intended to be used for flight in the air without direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including recreation or commerce.

I. 36 CFR § 1.5 CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

GENERAL:

The Superintendent may temporarily close park roadways, parking areas, facilities, waters, and all or portions of the park when such actions are deemed necessary to ensure public safety, protection of resources, or the avoidance of visitor use conflicts. The posting of signs, maps, media announcements, and the use of barricades and/or gates will identify such closures.

Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative polices, the Superintendent has established the following rules, designations, conditions and restrictions on the following park activities; **36 CFR § 1.5 (a)(2)**:

Public Use Limits:

1. The maximum number of people permitted to occupy the Group Campsite is 30.

This group size limit is due to the parking and tent site capacity of the Group Camp.

2. Limit of 12 stock animals per backcountry permit issued for day use of pack stock.

This limit on the size of stock groups protects resources by limiting trampling and maintains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

3. A valid day-use backcountry permit is required for all persons to access the National Monument lands (See attached map of "North End') north of Highway 93.

See Determination in the appendix.

4. Camping outside of designated areas within Craters of the National Monument without a valid backcountry camping permit is prohibited (reference designated camping areas General Regulations III(a) of this Compendium.

5. All caves within the boundary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve are closed to recreational caving with the exception of:

   a. The Indian Tunnel, Beauty, Boy Scout, and Dew Drop caves in "Caves Area" are open with a valid cave permit to unrestricted recreational caving.
   b. Buffalo Cave along the Broken Top Trail is open with a valid cave permit to unrestricted recreational caving.
   c. All cave research requires a research permit, which stipulates protocols to prevent the spread of White Nose Syndrome to park caves. Researchers must carry a copy of the permit with them while in the cave and traveling through the park to and from the cave.

The Superintendent has determined that White Nose Syndrome is a threat to the cave bats of Craters of the Moon national Monument and Preserve, and every effort should be made to prevent or slow its spread to the park. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead federal agency in wildlife conservation have issued protocols that are designed to prevent the spread of the suspected causative agent of the syndrome.

First documented in New York in 2006, White Nose Syndrome has spread rapidly across the United States, killing more than one million bats. The fungus associated with White Nose Syndrome, Geomyces destructans, has now been detected as far west as Oklahoma, and is expected to continue spreading. While the fungus is transmitted primarily by bat to bat contact biologists suspect it could be transmitted inadvertently by humans. Fungal spores can be transferred from cave sediment to clothing and equipment, and transported to unaffected areas. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service implemented at a nation-wide closure of all caves within the National Wildlife Refuge System in September 2010. In August 2010, the United States

Forest Service implemented a Forest-wide closure of caves on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in eastern Idaho.

The Superintendent has determined the closure of all caves (with the exception of the five caves listed above that can be accessed with a valid cave permit) is the best available method to meet the National Park Service mission to conserve the wildlife in the parks for the enjoyment of future generations.

6. Operation of motorized vehicles not licensed for highway use, including all off-road motorized vehicles, on park roads is prohibited.

See "Determination based upon CFR 1.5(a) (2) Closures and public use limits" in the appendix.

7. Engines on passenger carrying busses must be shut down when not underway and parked in designated parking areas.

This restriction is needed to reduce unnecessary noise and air pollution.

8. Commercial vehicles exceeding 8'6" in width, or longer than 75' are not permitted on the Craters Scenic Loop Drive past the Visitor Center unless authorized by the Superintendent.

This closure to over-sized vehicles is required due to the narrow and confined road widths found in many sections of the loop road.

9. Transport of hazardous, combustible or flammable petroleum products in commercial vehicles is prohibited on the Craters Scenic Loop Drive past the Visitor Center parking area unless authorized by the Superintendent.

This closure is needed to protect resources from spills resulting for vehicle accidents on the narrow width loop road.

10. The use of Segways or similar gyroscopically controlled devices in lieu of manual or motorized wheelchairs is allowed by persons with disabilities who would otherwise only have the option of using a manual or powered wheelchair with the following restrictions:

    - A person using a Segway or similar gyroscopically controlled device in Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve would be medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life functions. A permanent disability is a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
    - Persons claiming disability will show proof of medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law following the guidelines in effect for obtaining an America the Beautiful – Access Pass, e.g: a statement by a licensed physician; a document issued by a Federal agency such as Veterans Administration; Social Security Disability Income; Supplemental Security Income; or a document by a state agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency.
    - Segways may be used in front country areas on sidewalks, formalized paved overlooks and campgrounds, although terrain may limit their success.
    - Segways may **not** be operated along the edges of major roads, or used on major roads (due to congestion, visibility and speeds of vehicles operating in these areas).
    - Segways may **not** be operated at speeds greater than 2-3 mph, the equivalent of a walking pedestrian.

    These public use limits are required to protect pedestrians on sidewalks and trails.

- Launching, landing or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.
    - Definition: The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quad-copters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

The Superintendent has determined the unrestricted use of unmanned aircraft is incompatible with the mission to protect park resources and to ensure visitor enjoyment within the park. Unrestricted use of unmanned aircraft could impact sensitive wildlife, result in unnecessary noise, and pose a potential danger to park visitors. This prohibition complies with the NPS Director's Policy Memorandum 14-05 (Unmanned Aircraft--Interim Policy; June 19, 2014).

11. The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to electronic cigarettes ("vaping"): all public buildings, offices, caves, and the Lava Flow Campground Amphitheater.

Limitations on e-cigarettes are required to protect employees and visitors from second-hand nicotine.

Closures:

- Off-trail travel, including foot travel, is prohibited in the Spatter Cones/Big Craters area and in the North Crater Flow Trail area.
- Entry into posted sections of caves is prohibited.
- Bicycles are prohibited on all trails within the NPS Monument, with the following exceptions:
    - Bicycles are allowed on established roads in the North End, with permit.
    - Bicycles are permitted on the Loop Road paved surfaces during winter when the road is closed to vehicle traffic and before snow grooming operations have commenced for the season.

All public use and entry into any zone posted "CLOSED" is prohibited. This shall include, but not be limited to areas closed for construction activities, areas closed due to emergency conditions, areas closed due to hazardous conditions that may affect public health and safety, and resource areas closed for protection in accordance with 36 CFR 1.5(c). Termination of temporary restrictions, limits, or closures shall be accompanied with the removal of the posted notices.

Note: Written determinations and maps of closures are provided at the end of this compendium.

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:

- §1.5(d) The following activities related to Public Use Limits:
    - Access to National Monument land north of Highway 20/26/93 (excluding lands within Craters of the Moon National Preserve).
    - Use of stock animals
    - Accessing any cave
    - Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (taking plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)
- §2.10(a) The following camping activities:
    - Overnight camping in the Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area.
- 2.50(a) Special events (ex. a sports event, pageant, public spectator attraction, entertainment, wedding, ceremony, and similar events)
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views (groups sizes of 25 or less do not require a permit)
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
- §2.62(b) Memorialization (Scattering ashes from human cremation)
- §5.1 Advertisements - (Display, posting or distribution.)
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).
- §5.5(a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television
- (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

The use of wildlife and/or varmint calls, audio attractants or other artificial or natural means of attracting or disturbing wildlife are prohibited within Craters of the Moon National Monument. CFR 36 1.5 (a) (2)

This restriction is required to prevent disturbance of wildlife.

In all areas of the Monument and Preserve, the viewing of wildlife at night with the use of an artificial light is prohibited. 36 CFR 1.5(a), 36 CFR 2.2(e)

This restriction is required to prevent disturbance of wildlife and deter poaching.

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

(a) The following sites and areas within the National Monument are designated for camping activities as noted.
- Designated sites within Lava Flow Campground
- Group Site
- Backcountry camping is permitted in the wilderness with a backcountry permit
- Backcountry camping is permitted in the Devil's Orchard, Tree Molds and Caves parking areas with a backcountry permit during the winter closure of the Craters Scenic Loop Drive due to snow.

(d) In all developed camping areas, food, garbage, and equipment used to cook (dirty tableware or cookware must be washed or store as a food item) or store food , when not in use or attended, must be stored in a

vehicle or camping unit made of solid, no-pliable material, in designated food storage lockers, or in the case of garbage (waste food and empty food containers and wrappers) in bear resistant trash receptacles.

In developed areas, all food items must be stored in one of the following;

- Bear resistant food storage lockers where provided
- Inside of a building
- Inside of a hard sided vehicle with doors and windows closed

Food storage requirements are needed to prevent wildlife, including bears, from obtaining human food and associating humans and/or gear as a source of food.

36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

Designated Areas and Receptacles:

1. Lava Flow Campground fire grills - charcoal only

2. Established outdoor fire rings at government housing or designated campsites.

3. Wood stoves in government buildings

Fire use limitations are required to protect natural vegetation from being gathered for firewood and prevent wildfires.

(a)(2) Lanterns using liquid fuel or compressed gas are not permitted in caves.

Limitations on use of lanterns fueled by liquid or compressed gas are to protect the public from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by burning fuel in a confined space.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Dogs, cats and other pets on a leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restraint are permitted in the park with 100 feet of the edge of established roads or parking areas open to the public, and are permitted within established campgrounds and picnic areas; domestic dogs, cats and other pets are prohibited in the backcountry and on established trails.

(a)(5) Within campgrounds, campsites, residential areas, sidewalks, parking areas, lawns, and around buildings, pet feces must be removed and properly disposed of by the person responsible for the pet. Within the National Preserve, dogs are permitted off leash or otherwise unconstrained while being used in support of hunting in accordance with State law.

(e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:

- Permanent employees are allowed no more than two pets
- Pets are not allowed in seasonal quarters

Limitations on pets are required to protect wildlife from being chased or harassed by unrestrained dogs or cats.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

(a) The following animals are designated as pack animals:

- Horses
- Burros
- Mules
- Llamas

(b) The use of horses or pack animals is permitted on the following trails, routes or areas:

- Wilderness Trail (Tree Molds trailhead to near Sentinel Butte with a day use backcountry permit.

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

- No feed for stock animals shall be provided in the park
- No grazing of stock animals in the park
- Backcountry use with pack stock limited to the period between sunrise and sunset.
- Pack animals are not permitted in designated campgrounds or campsites.
- Tying stock to any feature resulting in injury or damage to the feature, vegetation or soil is prohibited.

Limitations on stock use are required to protect native vegetation and minimize the introduction of exotic invasive weeds.

36 CFR §2.19 – WINTER ACTIVITIES

(a) Cross country skiing, snow shoeing, snowboarding, and tobogganing are allowed on park roads when closed to motorized vehicles and snow cover permits.
(b) Persons travelling by foot or snow shoe on designated winter use trails groomed for cross country skiing shall stay within those portions of the groomed trail designated and posted for their use.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking (this includes cigarettes, cigars, and pipes):

- Smoking is prohibited in all public buildings, offices, caves, and the Lava Flow Campground Amphitheater.

Limitations on smoking are required to protect non-smokers from second hand smoke and other hazardous and/or noxious emissions. During periods of high fire danger, the Superintendent may designate additional areas of the park as non-smoking.

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Entrance Fee Areas: *Craters Scenic Loop Drive*

(c) The collection of recreation fees will be suspended during the following periods:

- When the Craters Scenic Loop Drive is partially or totally closed due to snow, construction, etc.
- For camping fees when road access to the campground is closed by snow.

36 CFR §2.51 – PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETING
The following areas are available for public assemblies and/or meetings:

(see attached map- Appendix A)

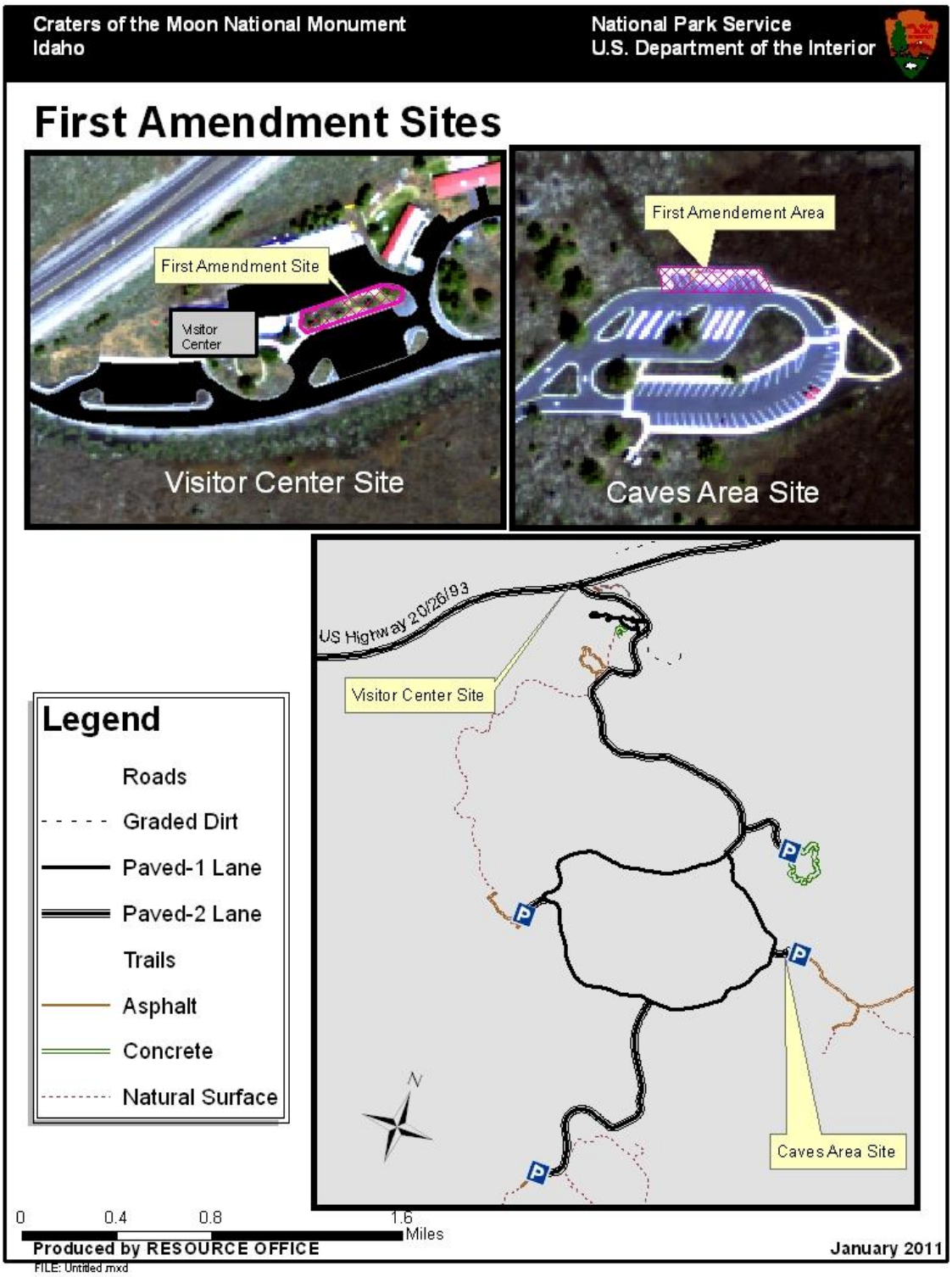
- Visitor Center Site (Grassy picnic area east of the Visitor Center)
- Caves Area Site (North side of parking area)

<u>36 CFR §2.52 – Sale and Distribution of Printed Material</u>

The following areas are available for sale/distribution of printed material:

(see attached map- Appendix A)

- Visitor Center Site (Grassy picnic area east of the Visitor Center)
- Caves Area Site (North side of parking area)


Craters of the Moon National Monument
Idaho
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
First Amendment Sites
First Amendment Site
Visitor Center
Visitor Center Site
First Amendement Area
Caves Area Site
US Highway 20/26/93
Visitor Center Site
Caves Area Site
Legend
Roads
Graded Dirt
Paved-1 Lane
Paved-2 Lane
Trails
Asphalt
Concrete
Natural Surface
N
0
0.4
0.8
1.6
Miles
Produced by RESOURCE OFFICE
January 2011
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36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(a) Authorization from the Director of the National Park Service is required to install a monument, memorial, tablet, structure, or other commemorative installation in a park area.

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains in the following areas, and/or according to the following terms and conditions:

- The scattering of human ashes from cremation is allowed pursuant to the terms and conditions of a special use permit as outlined below:
    - The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.
    - The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 100 yards from any trail, road, developed facility, or body of water.
    - The scattering of remains from the air is to be performed at a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above the ground.
    - No scattering of remains from the air is to be performed over developed areas, facilities, or bodies of water.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

Bicycle use is permitted on park roads and parking areas

The following additional routes have been designated for bicycle use:

- All designated administrative roads within the North End area of the National Monument north of Highway 20/26/93
- On the Craters Scenic Loop Drive during periods in the spring when the road is partially cleared of snow but not yet open to motor vehicles.

Determination based upon 36 CFR 1.5 (a)(1), 1.5(c) Closures and Public Use Limits and 1.6 (a) Permits

1. A valid day-use backcountry permit is required to access the National Monument lands (See attached map of "North End') north of U.S. Highway 20/26/93.

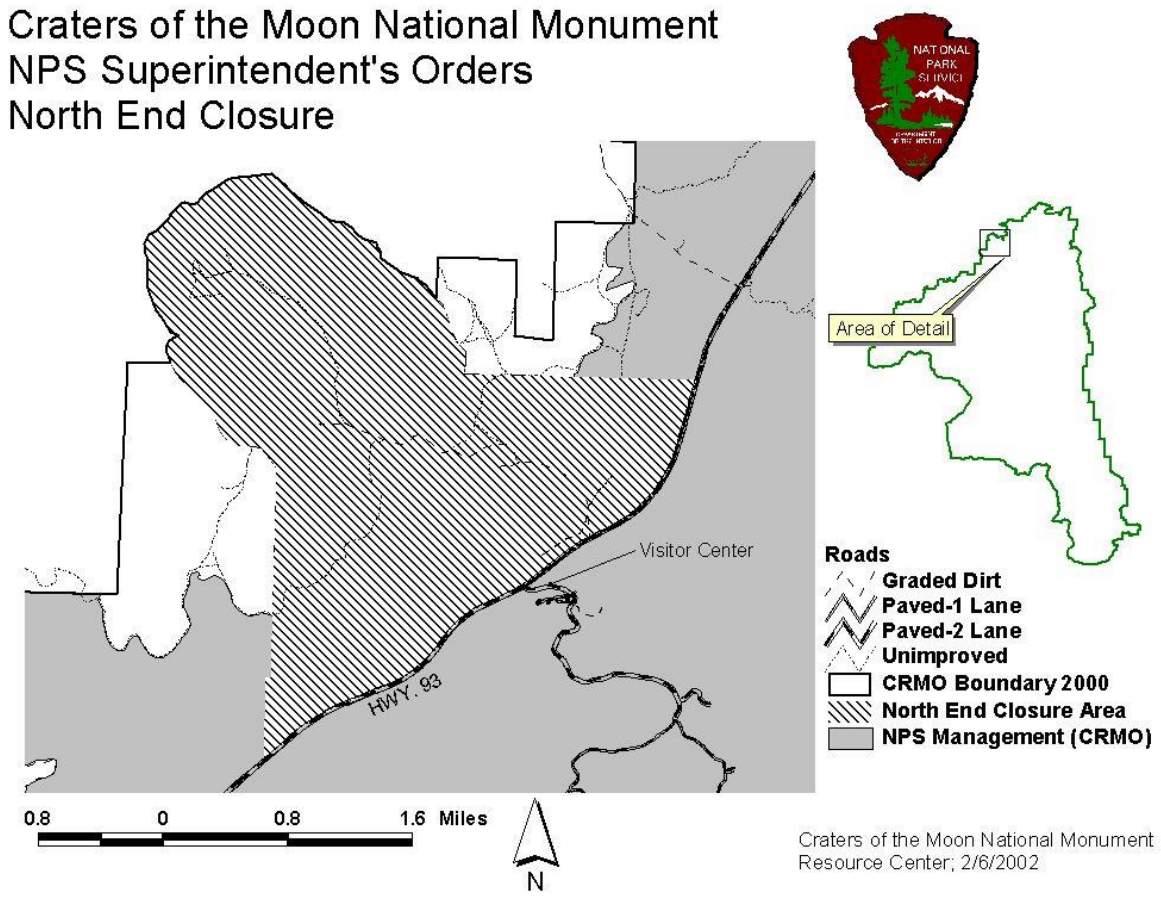
Public access to all areas of the National Monument north of Highway 20/26, 93 is restricted to protect sensitive biological.

Several caves within the North End area shelter one of the few recorded maturity colony sites for Townsend's big-earred bats (*Plecotus townsendii*) in Idaho. Female bats raising their young are vulnerable to human disturbance during the period from April 30 to September 30 and will abandon caves because of human activity.

Public travel within the North End area is restricted to bicycles on designated roads or foot travel during daytime hours (sun-up to sun down). Groups authorized to camp in the Group Campsite may only operate motor vehicles on the road to and from the highway to the Group Campsite. Any access beyond the Group Campsite requires a day use backcountry permit.

Access to the North End requires a valid National Park Service backcountry permit. Permits will be available without charge at the Visitor Center during normal business hours. National Park Service employees are authorized to issue permits. Day use backcountry permits will not be issued during periods when ungulate big game rifle hunting is authorized by state law on adjoining lands.

All caves within the North End are closed to public entry.


Craters of the Moon National Monument
NPS Superintendent's Orders
North End Closure
Visitor Center
HWY. 93
Area of Detail
Roads
Graded Dirt
Paved-1 Lane
Paved-2 Lane
Unimproved
CRMO Boundary 2000
North End Closure Area
NPS Management (CRMO)
0.8
0
0.8
1.6 Miles
N
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Resource Center; 2/6/2002

Determination based upon 36 CFR 1.5 (a)(1), 1.5(c) Closures and Public Use Limits and 1.6 (a) Permits

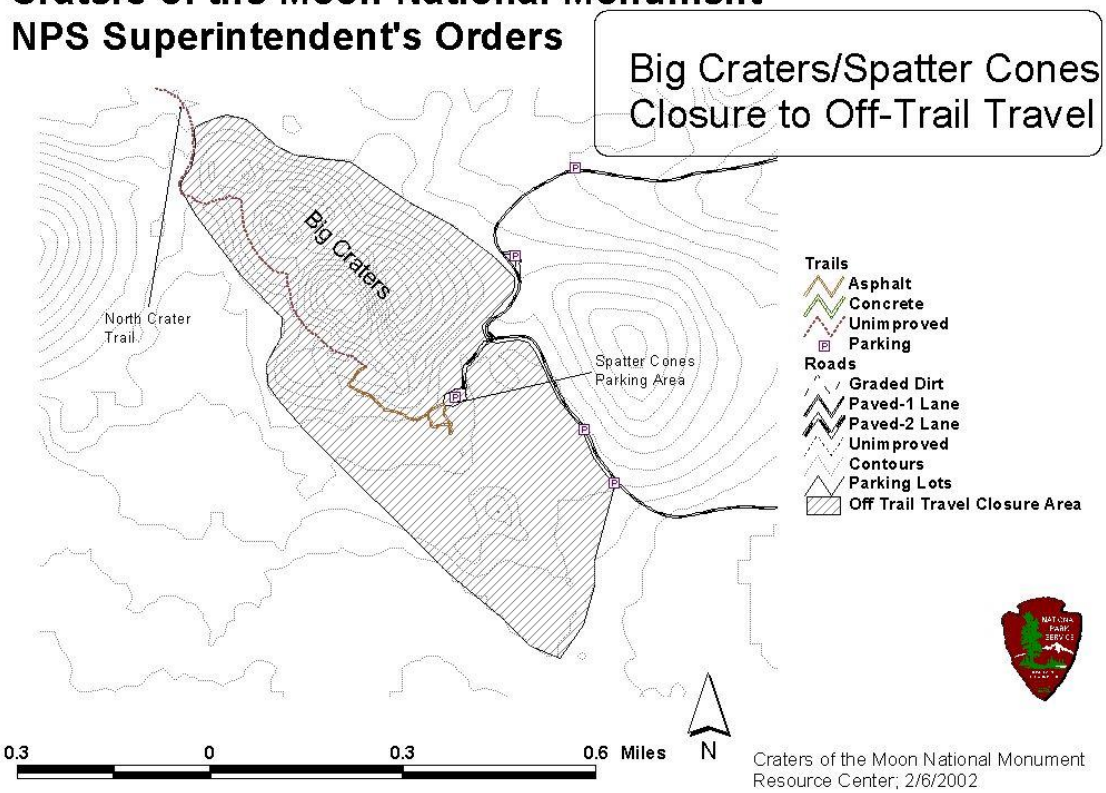
Off-trail travel is prohibited in the Spatter Cones/Big Craters area and in the North Crater Flow Trail area.

Spatter Cones: The spatter cones are the icons of the monument, but by their very nature of formation are fragile and vulnerable to damage. Comparison of modern photographs with historic photographs shows a loss of elevation of approximately two feet as a result of anthropogenic disturbance. The spatter cones are steep sided and poorly consolidated, which not only makes them vulnerable to human damage, but also makes them hazardous for humans to climb on because individual globs of ejecta being used for hand or foot holds can break loose easily. In addition, the spatter cone vents have connections to the Great Rift in the subsurface. However, these passages can be blocked by snow, rock fall, or snow and rock fall plugs (like usually seen at snow cone), which can fail resulting in a precipitous fall of 75 ft. or more. In addition, some of the deeper vents are lined with delicate mineral encrustation and vulnerable to damage by climbers. Both because of the vulnerability of the monument's icon geologic features to damage and also because of safety concerns the spatter cones area is closed to off-trail use.

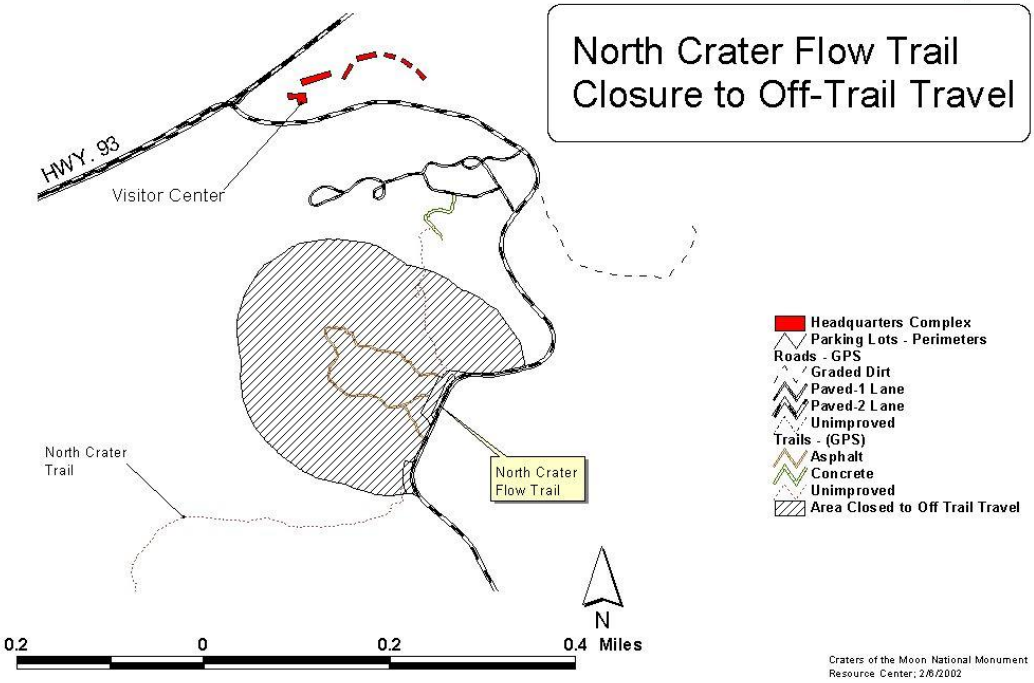
Big Craters: The northeast rim of Big Craters represents a significant falling hazard. Parts of the rim are fairly well agglutinated, while other parts are loose cinder. It is not hard to picture someone starting to slide on the rim and not being able to stop before the precipitous drop into the crater. Most of the sides of the cone complex are at the normal angle of repose and some zones armored with spatter are above the normal angle of repose. This makes them particularly vulnerable to downslope movement, the passage of a single person can generate a trail and puts the hiker at physical risk. For protection of the cinder cone and human safety, the cone complex is closed to pedestrian traffic with the exception of the southwest rim trail.

North Crater Flow Trail: This trail is one of the most highly used trails in the monument, seeing tens of thousands of visitors per year. It showcases pahoehoe ropes, which are fragile and vulnerable to destruction. It also showcases a pressure ridge with outstanding squeeze-ups of lava that came up along the tension fracture in the top of the ridge and poured down the side. In the past there was a squeeze up in this area know as the "Devil's Sewer", but it was lost due to human vandalism. Glassy surface crusts on the pahoehoe are also vulnerable to damage from foot traffic. To protect these resources, the North Crater Flow Trail area is closed to off trail use.

Craters of the Moon National Monument
NPS Superintendent's Orders



Craters of the Moon National Monument
NPS Superintendent's Orders



Determination based upon 36 CFR 1.5 (a)(1), 1.5(c) Closures and Public Use Limits and 1.6 (a) Permits

Entry into closed sections of caves is prohibited.

Entry into Surprise Cave is prohibited unless authorized by permit issued by the Superintendent.

History of closures: The process began when the park geologist, Doug Owen, observed ceiling instabilities in some of the high visitation caves which could potentially put visitors at risk. Mining Engineer Phil Cloues, NPS Geologic Resources Division, examined the high visitation caves for hazards based upon of his specialized training and experience in rock properties and mechanics. Phil did so on May 17 & 18 of 2000 and noted several ceiling stability concerns, and as a result, temporary closures were implemented immediately. During the temporary closures, Joel Despain, a cave specialist with Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Scott and April Earl of the Idaho Cave Survey also examined the caves. The park used the information and recommendations of all these subject matter specialists to make the management decisions and actions described below and completed in 2001.

Beauty Cave- the backroom of Beauty is closed at the start of the crawlway at the back of the front room and at the backdoor entrance with barriers and signs. The ceiling in the backroom is very unstable and a ceiling failure has the potential to propagate all the way to the surface forming a new skylight. Closure will remain in effect until such time as frost wedging or other natural processes cause ceiling failure.

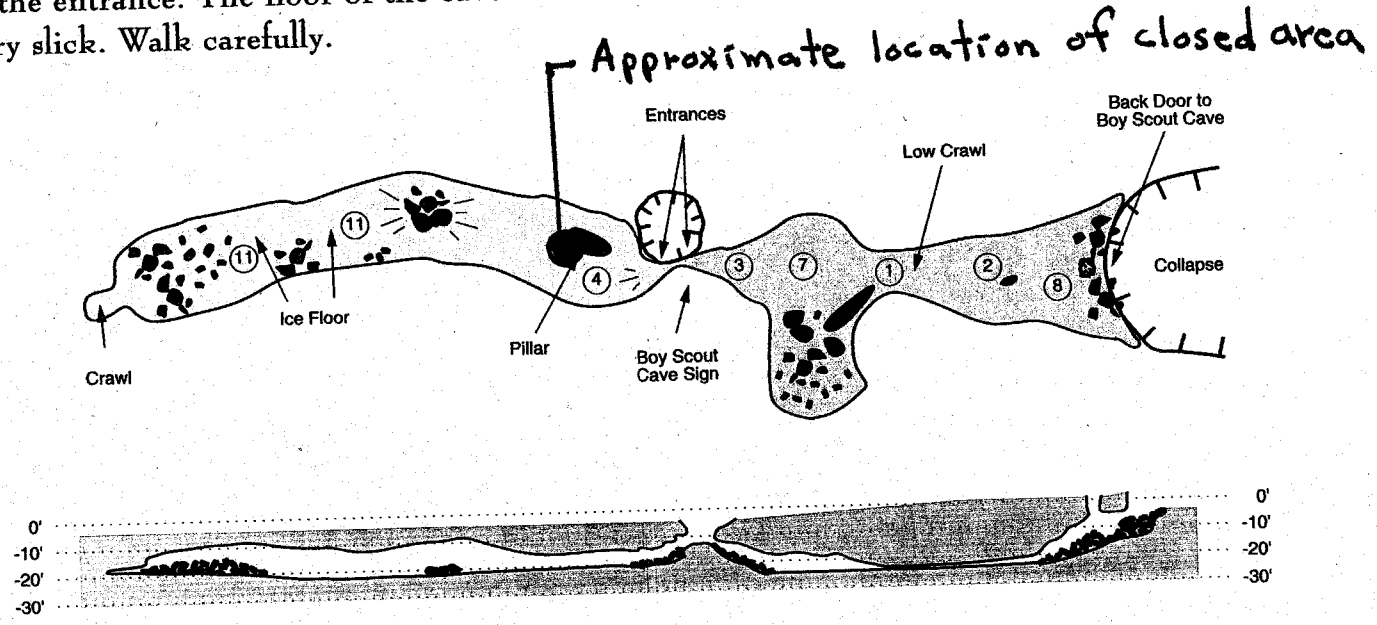
Surprise Cave- the entrance to Surprise is extremely unstable and collapse could seal the cave shut, potentially trapping people not caught in the initial rock fall inside the cave. Cave is closed at entrance with barriers and signs.

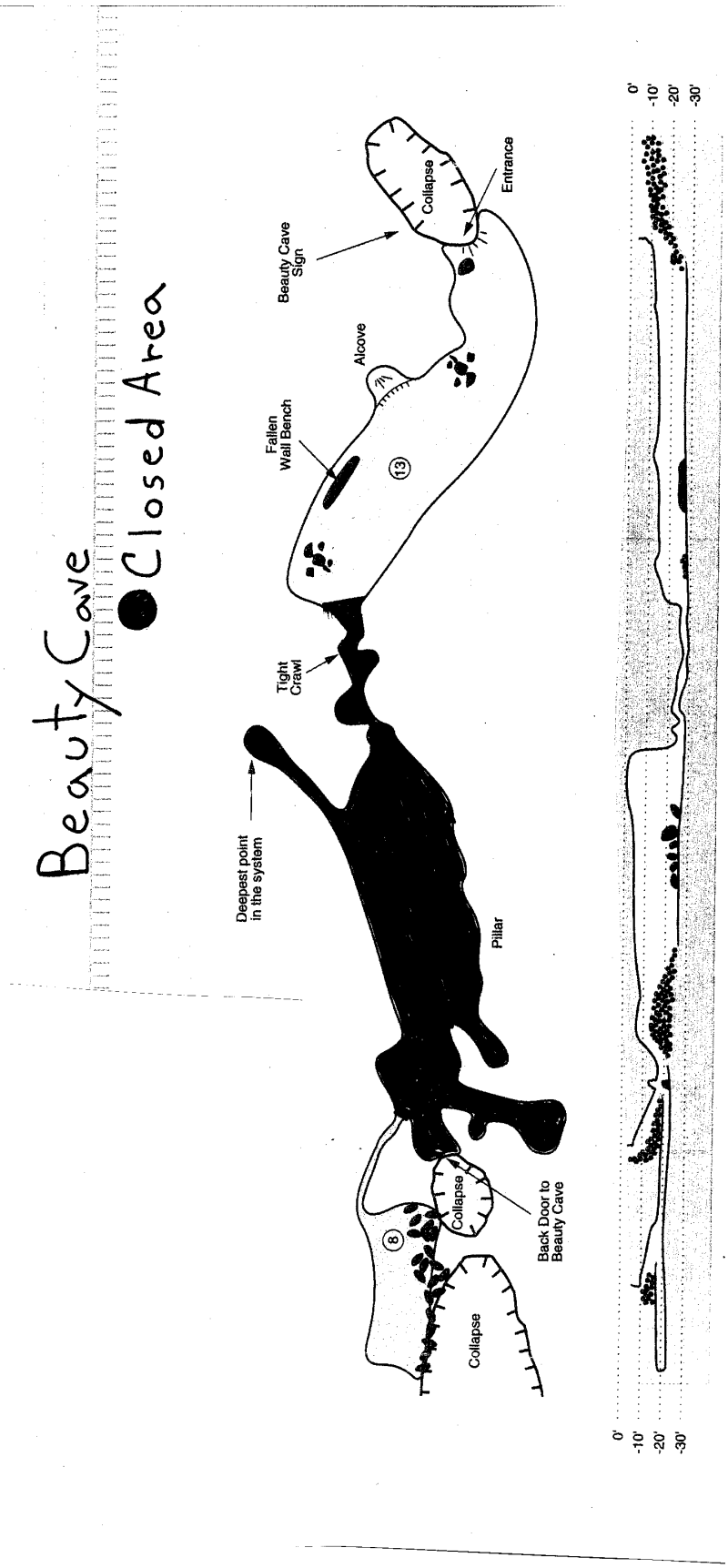
Buffalo Caves- the backdoor to Buffalo is closed with barriers and signs, the rest remains open. The ceiling of the backdoor area is very thin and in a process of failing as evidenced by the floor debris. Light can be seen through failed portions of the ceiling. Closure will remain in effect until nature takes its course.

Boy Scout Cave- a ceiling block in the south room, which is not well anchored in the front, but appears well constrained in the back has been cordoned off and signed to keep people from passing beneath it. Loose rock at the entranceway to the north room has been removed. All of Boy Scout, which was temporarily closed, has been reopened with the exception of the cordoned off area.

BOY SCOUT CAVE

This cave retains ice year-round. You must crawl over loose rock to enter, due to the low ceiling at the entrance. The floor of the cave is a sheet of ice covered by several inches of water, and is very slick. Walk carefully.




Beauty Cave
Closed Area
Deepest point in the system
Tight Crawl
Fallen Wall Bench
Alcove
Beauty Cave Sign
Collapse
Entrance
13
Pillar
Collapse
Back Door to Beauty Cave
8
Collapse
0'
-10'
-20'
-30'
0'
-10'
-20'
-30'

Determination based upon 36 CFR 1.5 (a) (2) Closures and public use limits

Operation of off-road motor vehicles on park roads is prohibited.

Off-road motor vehicles include all-terrain vehicles, utility-terrain vehicles and any other motorized vehicle designed for off-highway use, which are not registered and licensed for highway use in Idaho.

Summary: The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 4.2 (a) covering traffic and the use of vehicles adopts traffic laws of the State the park area falls within. In January 2009, Idaho State law SB 1098 adopted new registration requirements for the use of off-highway vehicles. The new law permits the operation of off-road motor vehicles on non-highway roads located on federal lands unless closed to such use by the federal land management agency with jurisdiction. It also permits unlicensed minors to operate off-road motor vehicles on park roads. This law legalized operation of state registered off-highway vehicles on all but state and federal highways in Idaho. The law (Section 6 (11)) also exempts persons under sixteen years of age from state driver's license requirements if operating an ATV, UTV, motorbike or specialty off-highway vehicle or motorbike on roads on federal or state land where the road is not part of the highway system of the state of Idaho when the person is supervised by a licensed adult operator and the road is open for such use. State law recognizes the authority of local jurisdictions including federal land management agencies to close roads within their jurisdiction to use of off-road motorized vehicles. This addition to the Superintendent's Compendium closes park roads to off-road motor vehicles and continues a long established policy to limit motor vehicle use on park roads to highway vehicles.

Rational:

Public Safety: Off-road motor vehicles including ATVs and UTVs are not designed for use on paved or public roads. Manufacturers of such vehicles provide explicit warnings (both stickers on vehicles and in owner's manuals) not to operate these vehicles on public roads and paved surfaces. *Tips and Practice Guide for the All-Terrain Vehicle Rider* published in 2008 by the ATV Safety Institute states "*Remember, ATVs are intended for off-road use only. Never operate an ATV on public roads, and always avoid paved surfaces. ATVs are not designed for use on public roads and other motorists may not see you. ATVs are not designed to be used on paved surfaces because pavement may seriously affect handling and control*." Use of these vehicles, and in particular by unlicensed minors on public roads places users and other motorists at unacceptable risk.

Legal: Executive Order 11644 – Use of off-road vehicles on public lands requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop and issue regulations providing for administrative designation of specific areas on public lands in which off-road vehicles may be permitted or not permitted. CFR 36, Section 4.10(b) states that routes and areas for off-road vehicle use shall be promulgated as special regulations. Routes may only be designated in national recreation areas, national seashores, national lakeshores and national preserves. Since the operation of off-road vehicles is limited to routes designated by special regulations and no routes for off-road vehicle use have been designated by special regulations and provisions of CFR 36 do not permit designation of routes within national monuments, the operation of off-road vehicles anywhere within Craters of the Moon National Monument is prohibited by Executive Order and federal regulation. This addition to the Superintendent's Compendium clarifies the intent of the Executive Order and continues long standing park regulations and policy in place prior to changes to state law in 2009.

The Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve management plan approved in 2006, states "All authorized roads on NPS-administered portions of the Monument and Preserve will be open only to bicycles and highway licensed motorized vehicles travel and will be designated as "park roads"."

Off-road vehicle means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. The term includes all of the following;

“Motorbike” means any self-propelled two (2) wheeled motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, excluding tractor, designed for or capable of traveling off developed roadways and highways and also referred to as trailbikes, enduro bikes, trials bikes, motocross bikes or dual purpose motorcycles.

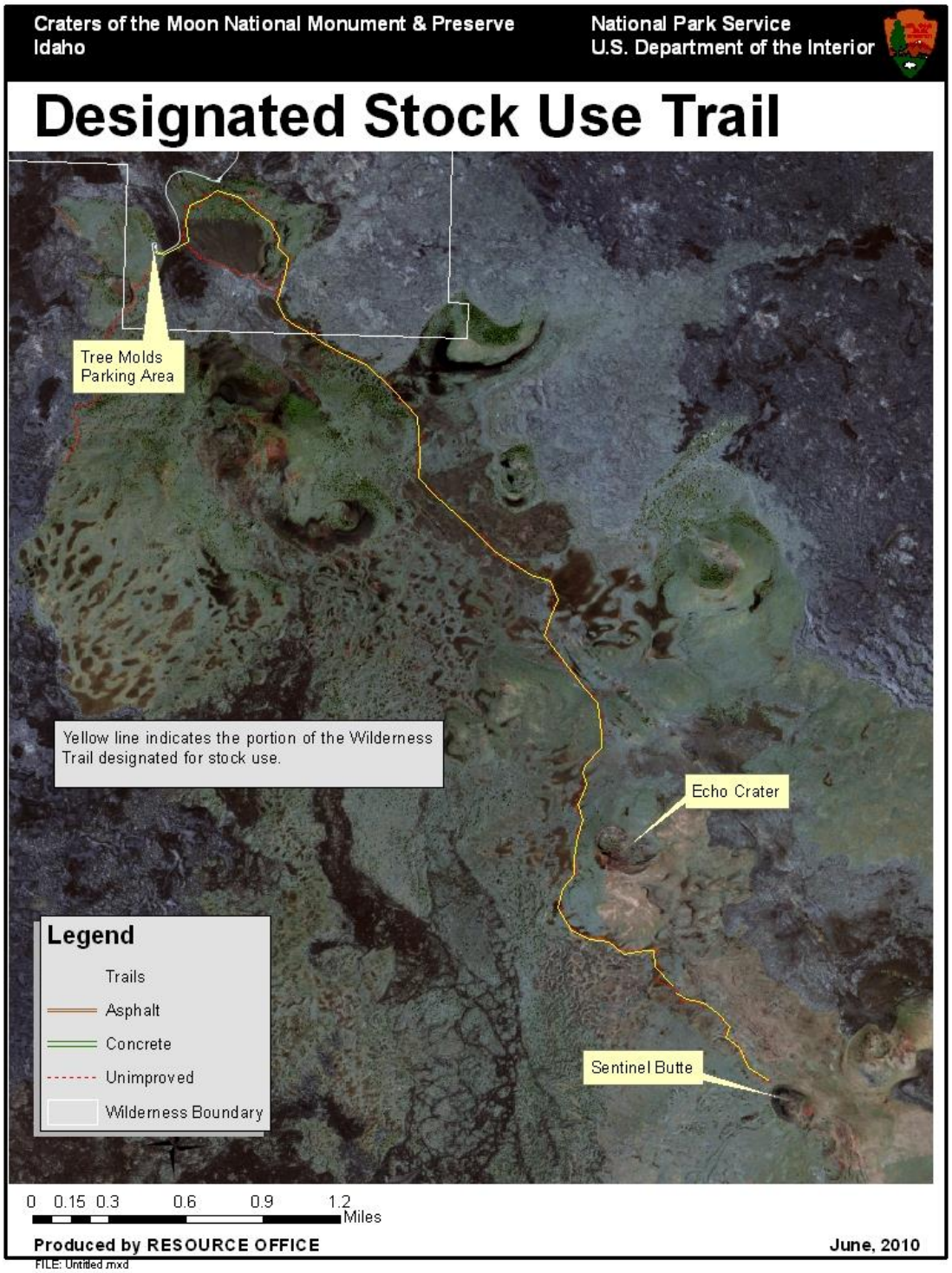
“All-terrain vehicle (ATV)” means any recreation vehicle with three (3) or more tires, under nine hundred (900) pounds and fifty (50) inches or less in width, having a wheelbase of sixty-one (61) inches or less, has handlebar steering and a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.

“Utility type vehicle (UTV)” means any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, motorbike or snowmobile as defined in this section designed for and capable of travel over designated roads, traveling on four (4) or more tires, maximum width less than seventy-four (74) inches, maximum weight less than two thousand (2,000) pounds, and having a wheelbase of one hundred ten (110) inches or less. A utility type vehicle must have a minimum width of fifty (50) inches, a minimum weight of at least nine hundred (900) pounds or a wheelbase of over sixty-one (61) inches. Utility type vehicle does not include golf carts, vehicles specially designed to carry a disabled person, implements of husbandry as defined in section 49-110(2), Idaho Code, or vehicles otherwise registered under title 49, Idaho Code.

“Specialty off-highway vehicle” means any vehicle manufactured, designed or constructed exclusively for off-highway operation that does not fit the definition of an all-terrain vehicle, utility type vehicle or motorbike as defined in section 67-7101 Idaho Code.

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground that meets the federal motor vehicle safety standards as originally designed, and includes a converted motorbike, but does not include a motor-driven cycle, a motorbike, a tractor or a moped as defined in 49-114(11).

2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

(c) The use of horses or pack animals is permitted on the following trails, routes or areas:

- Wilderness Trail (Tree Molds trailhead to near Sentinel Butte with a day use backcountry permit.