



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds  
National Monument

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## Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2012

### Lava Beds National Monument Announces the Re-Opening of the Newly Renovated Mushpot Cave



TULELAKE, California—In the 1960's, Lava Beds National Monument began providing guided tours and programs in one of its most popular caves, Mushpot. Mushpot Cave is a long-time favorite of park visitors, because of its easy access and proximity to the Visitor Center. Visitors can enjoy the cave either as part of a guided tour, or on a self-guided walk.

Mushpot Cave, named for an unusual formation near the cave's entrance, is a terrific example of the multi-level lava tube cave network located throughout the Monument. The cave was closed for several weeks this past summer for renovation and Superintendent Mike Reynolds is proud to announce that the cave is now open with some major improvements. The purpose of the project was to make the cave safer for visitors and enhance visitor experience in the cave by improving the lighting, interpretive signs, and the amphitheater. The renovation added new spot lighting for the cave's unique features and added measures to warn visitors when approaching areas with low ceilings. The project upgraded the cave's amphitheater, and added an emergency lighting system, new rails in areas of safety concern, and energy and cost efficient LED rope lighting along the path to better illuminate features and walkways. Even though the cave has been greatly improved, visitors must carry a flashlight with them into the cave. Flashlights can be borrowed for free from the Visitor Center between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email [labe\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:labe_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/labe](http://www.nps.gov/labe). Also, visit the park's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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